

# PIEDMONT DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

**JANUARY 12, 2021**

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM by Superintendent Perry Lamb virtually via Webex.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Doug Alexander, Sally Bando, Jim Datka, Gary Fish, Jim Foley, Jim Hobbs, Bob Kelshaw, Perry Lamb, Hank Primas, Raymond Stewart, Peter Thomas, Jim Travis - **QUORUM PRESENT**

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** none

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS, DIVISION MEMBERS AND VISITORS PRESENT:** Rick Coble, Mike Deaton, Steve Funsten, Howard Goodwin MMR, Chuck Hoesch, Walt Lilies, Charlie Mason MMR, Conrad Mora, John Stevens, Ovidiu Trifanescu

## OFFICER AND DIRECTOR REPORTS

**SUPERINTENDENT – Perry Lamb:** It is expected that we will continue having virtual meetings through June 2021, with hopes of an outdoor gathering in July. There is only about a 20% chance that the March Model Train Show will occur due to the continuing and worsening COVID pandemic.

Our Division should be proud of our response to the pandemic as being the first NMRA Division to begin meeting virtually and for the success of the Virtual Piedmont Pilgrimage.

**ADMINISTRATION – Jim Datka:** MINUTES from the November 10, 2020 meeting were distributed. No comments or corrections were offered. Motion to approve Bob Kelshaw; Seconded by Jim Travis. Approved.

**FINANCE – Jim Foley:** Report and 2021 Budget sent. The IRS has assessed a fine of \$2640 for the delay in filing our 2019 taxes. Our IRS 990-EZ was due in May and was filed in November. Jim will be asking that this fine be rescinded. He will be asking Diane Martin for documentation explaining her illness as justification.

Jim intends to begin the process to obtain 501(c)(3) status in February and asked for assistance from anyone interested.

Given the possible cancellation of the March Train Show and its magnitude on our budget, a motion was made by Jim Travis to delay the acceptance of the 2021 Budget until the February meeting. Seconded by Jim Foley. Approved.

**OPERATIONS – Sally Bando:** Report sent. Thanks to Walt for putting together the Virtual Holiday Party and the of Toys for Tots collection at 3 locations in the metro area. The January Golden Spike show has been cancelled. The February 9<sup>th</sup> Super Museum Days at the Chatsworth Depot is still scheduled at this time.

**PERSONNEL/MEMBERSHIP – Gary Fish:** Report sent. Ten members are currently in arrears. Gary has contacted two he personally knows and they will be renewing. He said that reminding them of our virtual meetings was effective in encouraging renewal. Walt offered to contact one he knows and Gary will be contacting the others. Board members whose memberships are coming due shortly were reminded to renew to continue to hold their positions.

Gary is concerned that some members may be having difficulties logging into the Webex virtual meetings. Keeping the membership connected is key to renewals. Perry will review the logon instructions sent last year and will forward it to Doug for an email blast before the next meeting. Contact info will be included for those needing more assistance.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**2021 MODEL TRAIN SHOW – Hank Primas:** Hank has set February 1<sup>st</sup> as the go/no go decision for the March 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> event. The decision will be based on four statistics reported on rates of infection of the COVID pandemic. Unfortunately, the numbers are headed in the wrong direction at this time. Scale Trains has advised that they will not be participating. Only three small vendors have made commitments to attend. Hank advised that the Clarence Brown Conference Center has offered to refund our deposit or to apply it to a future event if we need to cancel the March 2021 event.

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**TRAIN 'N CAMP - Perry Lamb:** Report sent. Registration for the virtual *Model Railroading 101* on January 30<sup>th</sup> is open. Please share this class info through your social media accounts. We currently have registrations from Canada and Australia.

**PILGRIMAGE – Mike Deaton:** Report sent. The 47 layouts included in the Virtual Pilgrimage have been viewed nearly 38,000 times—an average of more than 800 views/layout! About 10% of the visitors are outside of North America, with strong participation from the UK, Australia, Germany and New Zealand. Only one layout owner has requested his tour be removed. The other 46 continue to be online and viewed. Thank you letters, annual stickers and certificates are being sent out.

**WEBSITE – Bob Kelshaw, Rick Coble:** Bob asked that anyone interested in assisting with the revision of our website to contact him. He noted that he has several people he would like on this team and will be contacting them. Perry noted the national and international participation in our programs and asked that Bob review our website for any immediate change that may be needed to support this far-flung audience.

**ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM – Charlie Mason:** Report sent. Raymond Stewart has earned three Merit Awards for his track work which fulfills one of the requirements for an AP Civil Certificate. Article and photos sent to Jim Datka for the *Timetable*.

**MARKETING – Sally Bando:** Report sent. The Train 'N Camp and Model Train Show in Cartersville are actively being promoted. The Train Show is included in the calendars of *Model Railroader* and the NMRA's *Club Car* as well as other publications. No additional Facebook advertising for the show will be placed pending the February 1<sup>st</sup> go/no go decision.

**TIMETABLE – Jim Datka:** Report sent. The Q1 2021 Timetable is delayed but will be released the week of January 17<sup>th</sup>.

**GOOD AND WELFARE – Chuck & Mary Ann Hoesch:** Report Sent.

**NAME BADGES & PHOTOGRAPHY - James Bando:** NTR

**DIVISION VIDEO LIBRARY – Jack Spangler:** NTR

**DIVISION BOOK LIBRARY - Stephen Leydon:** NTR

**MODEL RAILROAD & DIVISION HELP – Ovidiu Trifanescu:** NTR

### OLD BUSINESS

Jim Foley intends to begin the process to obtain 501(c)(3) status in February and asked for assistance from anyone interested.

### NEW BUSINESS

Special recognition for Peter Youngblood was discussed. It was decided to include a special tribute to him in the Q1 *Timetable*—Walt and Perry will be interviewed for this article.

Doug has requested a CD of Virtual Pilgrimage tours that can be run on monitors at HobbyTown. He will provide a list of layouts he would like to Mike who will then contact owners for permission. Board will then vote on approval as the Division owns the copyrights.

Sally reported that a former Piedmont member, Nikhil Jammalamadaka, has published a book: *Confessions of a Teenage Railroad Enthusiast*. It is available on Amazon.

Jim Travis moved to adjourn, seconded by Bob Kelshaw. **Meeting Adjournment** at 6:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Datka

Director of Administration