

**PIEDMONT DIVISION, BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**13<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

Meeting called to order at 6:01 p.m., Old Hickory House, Tucker, GA by Peter Youngblood, MMR, Superintendent. Peter wished all attending a Happy New Year and a warm welcome to the first meeting of 2015.

Board Members Present (14): Peter Youngblood, MMR, Matt Coleman, Chris White, Joe Sullivan, Walt Liles, Norman Lundin, Chuck Hoesch, Perry Lamb, Alan Mole, Joe Nichols Jr., MMR, Joe Maiuro, Royal Bruce, Jim Travis, and Charlie Crawford, MMR.

Board members absent (0): None

**Quorum Present**

Committee Chairs, Division Members, and Visitors Present *as taken from the sign-in sheet (23)*:

Randall Watson, Del and Diane Kittendorf, James and Sally Bando, Joe Gelmini, MMR, Bill Zawacki, MMR, Dr. Joe Nichols Sr., MMR, Steve Funsten, Tom Banks, Doug Alexander, Lenny Polinsky, Victor Pitrowski, Dottie Maiuro, Ed Laity, Rick Coble, Mike Fleming, Gary Jarabek, Paul Rankin, Bob Kelshaw, Howard Goodwin, Vince LaRuffa, and Scott Povlot.

**Officer and Director Reports**

***Administration - Chris White.***

The November 2014 Minutes were approved following a motion by Perry Lamb and seconded by Norman Lundin.

***Finance – Joe Sullivan*** Joe submitted financial reports by email for November & December 2014. Joe indicated that there was a minor error in the allocation of plaque charges but the overall numbers would not change. Connie McIntyre had given the Division funds to pay for the Bob McIntyre AP Award Howard Goodwin had just given Joe additional monies received at the January Boy Scout merit badge program in Kennesaw. There were no questions or comments on Joe's report. The November and December financial reports were approved by the Board following a motion by Perry Lamb and seconded by Alan Mole.

Joe also informed the Board that the Finance Committee was working on an Annual Financial Statement to be presented to all Piedmont Division members through the Timetable and possible other media. He would ask our Audit and Tax Preparer to review before submitting to the Board for its approval.

***Operations—Walt Liles*** Walt had submitted his November/December report by email. Walt thanked Dottie Maiuro for all the hard work involved in preparation of the Division Christmas party. The Board showed their appreciation to Dottie by suitable acclamation. Walt also thanked all those members who had contributed to the Toys for Tots programs. Jim Travis hauled many large sacks of toys to the program site.

***Personnel/Membership - Paul Rankin*** – Paul submitted his last email report as Director of Personnel. November attendance was 105, and the Christmas party was much lower than previously with 125 members and spouses attending. The rolling 12-month average attendance is now at 105 members. Peter thanked Paul for his excellent contributions for the last four years as Director of Personnel. The Board showed their appreciation by suitable acclamation.

**Committee Reports** These reports had been emailed to all Board members. Some reports had not been received.

***Timetable - Doug Alexander*** – First quarter 2015 Timetable was not yet published – Doug reporting that “it was still in his computer”. Doug seriously asked for help from Board members and other Piedmont members to prepare articles for the Timetable. He explained that he was the Editor of the Timetable and was not able to write almost the entire content – he really needed assistance from the membership to participate.

***Website - Scott Povlot*** – Scott submitted an email report.

***Pilgrimage, Advertising, and Promotion/Division Apparel - Gary Jarabek*** - Gary submitted an emailed report. The 2014 Pilgrimage did not break any attendance records but was still highly successful with 5224 total visitors. There was a considerable increase in the percentage of non-Division members and a notable decrease in Division members attending all

the Open Houses. Gary summarized the Company Store inventory and also listed the advertising for the Monthly Division Meetings.

**Achievement Program – Randall Watson** Randall apologized for not submitting an email report but summarized November and December activity. He would be awarding an Author's AP certificate to Charlie Mason at the Division meeting. He was expecting receipt from the NMRA for three additional certificates and also an 11<sup>th</sup> certificate for Peter Youngblood.

**Good and Welfare –Chuck & Mary Ann Hoesch** – Email report submitted. Two letters was sent during the last two months.

**2014 Model Train Show –Joe Gelmini** Emailed report submitted. We have sold 73% of vendor tables to date and Joe is presently expecting to sell out all vendor tables. The contract for the table supplier has been signed and a deposit check sent to them. A Train Show Committee meeting was held prior to the Board meeting.

**Boy Scout Merit Badge Program (Duluth) - John Stevens** – Nothing to report.

**Boy Scout Merit Badge Program (Kennesaw) – Howard Goodwin** – Howard did not submit an email report but reported to the Board that they completed another successful Boy Scout merit badge program in January with 29 attending – and one no show. The date for the next Kennesaw Boy Scout program is 25<sup>th</sup> July. Howard also reported that John Stevens will be holding a Duluth Boy Scout program on the 25<sup>th</sup> April.

**Audio-Visual Production & Promotion Committee-Peter Youngblood, MMR** An email report was submitted. The 2015 Division Train Show video has been updated and posted on the website.

**Name Badges & Photography - James Bando** – Report submitted. James prepared 5 new Division badges and also made 30 Boy Scout merit badge name tags.

**Division Video Library - David Gelmini** – Nothing to report.

**Division Book Library - Stephen Leydon** – Nothing to report.

**Member Aid – Ovidiu Trifanescu** – Nothing to report.

**Relocation Committee – Norm Lundin.** Nothing new to report. We are still planning to move the monthly meeting to the new location in Sandy Springs in February 2015. A flyer on how to get to the new meeting place would be available at the General division meeting. Walt Liles would make arrangements to thank both the Elks Lodge and the Hickory House for their outstanding cooperation for many years in hosting the Board meeting and the division meetings

### **Old Business**

**Clinic DVD** – David and Scott were not present to update the Board. They would make a final summary at the February meeting regarding the posting of as many Convention clinics to the Convention website.

### **New Business**

**Wounded Warrior Project – Peter Youngblood.** Peter had made preliminary communication with the Wounded Warrior organization in Jacksonville, FL. They would be most willing to have us assist but needed more details about our organization. Peter plans to make this one of three major programs by which the Piedmont Division can assist organizations and at the same time promote our hobby. He called for a volunteer to head up the WW program. New Board member Jim Travis volunteered to accept this assignment.

**Ronald McDonald Houses – Peter Youngblood.** This is the second organization that Peter proposes that we assist. They are not able to accept a layout because of the concern of suitable maintenance. They do encourage groups to make presentations to the cancer victim children and their parents when staying at one of the Ronald McDonald houses. Peter envisages

informative show-and-tell presentations on the subject of model railroading – possibly including a small display. At this time, Peter did not receive a Board volunteer to head up this program. If you would like to manage this project please contact Peter immediately.

***The Shepherd Center – Peter Youngblood*** The Shepherd Center is a nationally renowned rehabilitation center for seriously injured persons – mainly treating persons with serious back injuries. He proposes that Division members work with patients – again with a model railroading theme – to assist in their overall rehabilitation program. Joe Nichols, Jr. has indicated he would assist with this program but would need assistance. Again, please contact Peter if you would want to assist at the Shepherd Center.

***NMRA National Elections – Peter Youngblood*** Peter informed the Board that all NMRA members would be receiving a copy of the February issue of the NMRA magazine, which would include a ballot for this year's NMRA elections. He informed the Board that Joe Gelmini (incumbent and running unopposed) was running for the Eastern District Director. He also informed the Board that both Peter Youngblood and Paul Voelker were running for the open At Large Director position (ALNAD). There were six candidates running for this At-large position. He requested that as many Division members as possible vote in this election – which historically has a very low member participation.

***Division Elections – Alan Mole*** Alan had informed the Board at the November 2014 BOD meeting that he was planning to submit a proposal to change the Division By-Laws regarding the election of Officers and Board members – and also any issue requiring a membership vote – such as By-Law changes. He discussed his proposal in more detail. He emphasized that he did not envisage electronic balloting via the website at this time. His major concern was that members of the Division who were unable to get to the November meeting were being disenfranchised – and that all members should have the ability to vote in annual elections. He had submitted a detailed write-up – including the option of proxies. After considerable discussion Alan agreed to review his proposal and again present to the Board at the February meeting. There was much discussion about the NMRA and SER elections and whether the Division was obliged to conduct it's voting in the same manner. There was considerable and very enlightening discussion and too detailed to be included in these minutes. Comments were presented by Scott Povlot, Del Kittendorf, Joe Sullivan, Joe Maiuro, Randall Watson, Alan Mole, and Joe Gelmini. Chris White suggested that the present system was very successful and was well suited to selecting suitable candidates by those members who very regularly attend Division meetings. The NMRA and SER receive very low participation with mail-in ballots, whereas more than 100 members vote at the November meeting. Alan agreed to prepare a revised proposal for the February Board meeting. It was also mentioned that although the process of Board approval, member notification, and then member approval was required for a By-Law change, there was no urgent need for approval because the next elections would not be until November this year.

Norman Lundin proposed and Perry Lamb seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Confirmed by acclamation and the **Meeting was adjourned at 6.55p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
**Chris White**, Director of Administration