

Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m., Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church, Sandy Springs, GA by Peter Youngblood, MMR, Superintendent. Peter welcomed all the officers, board members, committee heads and other Division members to the meeting and informed those present that it would be a very busy evening – including the Fall Division Model Contest, distribution of Pilgrimage Host information, and a surprise birthday party for Randall Watson on his 70<sup>th</sup>.

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

Board members absent (1): Perry Lamb. **Quorum Present**

Committee Chairs, Division Members, and Visitors Present *as taken from the sign-in sheet (19)*:

Bill Zawacki, MMR, Dottie Maiuro, Rick Coble, Howard Goodwin, MMR, Rob Dodds, James Bando, Sally Bando, Gary Jarabek, Dr. Joe Nichols, Sr., MMR, Randall Watson, Paul Voelker, Tom Banks, John Stevens, Scott Povlot, Martin Gulden, Del Kittendorf, David Gelmini, Tyler Gelmini and Steve Funsten.

### **Officer and Director Reports**

**Administration - Chris White** The September 2015 Minutes were approved following a motion by Chuck Hoesch and seconded by Matt Coleman.

**Finance – Joe Sullivan** Joe submitted the September financial report by email. The September financial report was approved by the Board following a motion by Alan Mole and seconded by Chuck Hoesch. Joe then submitted a Division Budget for 2016 based on discussions at the Strategic Planning Meeting held on October 10<sup>th</sup>. There was some discussion and a few details would be finalized in the immediate future. On a motion from Matt Coleman and seconded by Chuck Hoesch, the 2016 Budget was provisionally approved, assuming satisfactory discussions with Gary Jarabek (Pilgrimage expenses), Howard Goodwin (Boy Scout expenses), Scott Povlot (Website expenses) and David Gelmini (Video Library expenses). There may be other discussions with Committee Heads. Joe was pleased to report that the 2016 Budget would be positive – assuming the changes included above would be minimal.

**Operations—Walt Liles** Walt submitted the September report by email and he reviewed the major portions of his report at the meeting. The SRR 4501 Excursion through Georgia was a great success, but unfortunately the return trip from Atlanta to Toccoa had to be cancelled because of very heavy rain in NE Georgia. Walt anticipated a very busy October and an even busier November (Model Railroad month!)

**Personnel/Membership - Royal Bruce** – Royal presented his September report by email. September attendance at our new venue was 98 including one visitor. The Piedmont Division, at latest count, had 419 NMRA members. Royal also reported that two veterans to date had taken advantage of the generous Delattree donation to the SER and the Division. Walt Liles informed the Board that the Division membership had dropped from 450 to its present level and encouraged all attending to be very proactive in their efforts to recruit new NMRA members. Walt especially emphasized the upcoming Pilgrimage Open Houses when many potential new members will be visitors to the 77 model railroads.

**Committee Reports** These reports had been emailed to all Board members. These committee reports were accepted on a motion by Joe Maiuro and seconded by Chuck Hoesch.

**Website - Scott Povlot** – Scott submitted a report by email. There were 1669 page views and 591 total visits on the Division website during September.

**Pilgrimage, Advertising, and Promotion/Division Apparel - Gary Jarabek** - Gary submitted a report by email. Gary summarized the Company Store inventory and also listed the advertising for the Monthly Division Meetings. For the Pilgrimage, we now have 77 layouts for this year with an unusual high number of last minute cancellations.

All Operating Assistants have now been assigned and the post cards would have been mailed by the 10<sup>th</sup> October. Host packages would be handed out at the Division General Meeting.

**Achievement Program – Randall Watson** Three certificates have been received and will be handed out at the Division meeting. He is waiting to receive 6 outstanding certificates from National.

**Good and Welfare –Chuck & Mary Ann Hoesch** – Email report submitted. Three letters were sent during September.

**2016 Model Train Show –Joe Gelmini** Joe submitted an email report. Vendor mailings have begun and will be completed by 23<sup>rd</sup> October. The 2<sup>nd</sup> payment to the Galleria has been made.

**Boy Scout Merit Badge Program (Duluth and Kennesaw) – Howard Goodwin.** Howard submitted a very detailed email report. The Duluth class was held on September 26<sup>th</sup> with 24 scouts earning merit badges. The next Kennesaw program will be held on January 9<sup>th</sup> 2016 and is already full. Howard anticipates that the Division's 1000<sup>th</sup> Boy Scout Merit Badge will now be presented at the Duluth program in April 2016.

**Audio-Visual Production & Promotion Committee-Peter Youngblood, MMR** Nothing to report.

**Name Badges & Photography - James Bando** – James made 9 Division name badges during September and also prepared 30 name tags for the Boy Scouts..

**Division Video Library - David Gelmini** – David again informed the Board that he had received a donation of additional VHS tapes. He will now start working on changing as many of these as possible to the DVD format. David also commented that high interest in the Video Library continues.

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

**Model Railroad & Division Help – Ovidiu Trifanescu** – Nothing to report.

### **Old Business**

**Action List - Peter Youngblood** - Peter had emailed the October Action List. He again thanked all the Board and Committee Members for their diligent efforts in completing nearly all the assignments on the 2015 Action List. He plans to prepare and distribute a 2016 Action List in the near future.

**Wounded Warrior Project – Jim Travis.** Jim has made many unsuccessful attempts to contact the WWP both nationally and local with minimal interest by WWP. It was decided at the Strategic Planning Meeting to discontinue this effort.

**The Shepherd Center – Joe Nichols, Jr.** Joe has continued to find the “right” contact at the Shepherd Center with minimal success. Peter and Joe agreed to discontinue this effort for the time being. Peter informed the Board that the Ronald McDonald House effort would be brought up again in the New Year. They really would like our assistance with their program, but previously Peter had no success in finding a Board or Committee Member to lead this effort for the Piedmont Division.

**Adairsville – Charlie Crawford.** Charlie informed the Board that Adairsville was looking for modular layouts and also for assistance with funding their event. Charlie recommended that we not participate.

### **New Business**

**2016 – Peter Youngblood.** Peter reviewed the Strategic Planning Meeting and thanked all those members who attended. Peter distributed a proposed calendar of events for 2016. Unfortunately, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in February conflicts with our church host activities. Peter is looking at alternative dates –possibly Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February or Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February.

Peter proposes that the Division hold at least one social event which would include member's wives/partners. This could possibly take the form of a picnic or similar event. This will be discussed and scheduled in the New Year.

***Payments to the Division - Peter Youngblood*** We recently went to the use of credit card machines at the Train Show both for attendees and the White Elephant Store. The Division has other activities that request payment from others to the Division and we presently restrict this to cash or checks. These include Boy Scout payments, GJ clothing payments, Auctions, and possibly others. Credit card machines have to be paid for on a monthly basis and these expenses make this alternative unacceptable. Peter suggested that the Division open a PayPal account in order to be able to receive payments. Joe Sullivan has offered to review this – and other alternatives – to accept non cash payments. The “Square” system has been suggested by Del Kittendorf and this will also be reviewed. It has to be accepted that more and more people only use credit cards and that the Division has to have a satisfactory and economical method of accepting non cash payments.

***A Piedmont Division Calendar – Howard Goodwin*** Howard had suggested to Peter that the Division have an Annual calendar that would be given to or sold to Division members. This generated a lengthy discussion regarding need, acceptability, and cost. Peter concluded from the discussion that this suggestion did not have sufficient Division Board support and suggested this not be considered at this time.

***Member Expenses - Joe Sullivan*** The Piedmont Division has a long term understanding that the Division is a volunteer organization and that members do not receive any reimbursements for travel expenses, etc. However, Joe Sullivan suggested that the cost of printer ink should be reimbursed. If a Division member has substantial printing to do, then the normal process is to have it done by Office Depot, Fed Ex, etc. and submit an expenses charge for printing expenses. If a member wishes to use his own printer, than Joe would accept expenses for ink cartridges. The By Laws allow for the Treasurer to accept and pay for all expenses less than \$100 without prior Board approval.

***Meeting Adjournment*** Matt Coleman proposed and Chuck Hoesch seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Confirmed by acclamation and the **Meeting was adjourned at 6.51 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

***Chris White***, Director of Administration