

PIEDMONT DIVISION, BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

14th April 2015

Meeting called to order at 6:07 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. Peter delayed the start of the meeting for a few minutes because of a major wreck on I 285 impacting the arrival of some members.

Board Members Present (13): Peter Youngblood, MMR, Matt Coleman, Joe Sullivan, Walt Liles, Norman Lundin, Chuck Hoesch, Perry Lamb, Alan Mole, Joe Nichols Jr., MMR, Joe Maiuro, Royal Bruce, Chris White and Charlie Crawford, MMR.

Board members absent (1): Jim Travis

Quorum Present

Committee Chairs, Division Members, and Visitors Present *as taken from the sign-in sheet (17)*:

Del Kittendorf, James and Sally Bando, Joe Gelmini, MMR, Bill Zawacki, MMR, Steve Funsten, Dottie Maiuro, Rick Coble, Howard Goodwin, Martin Guldner, Mike Deaton, David Gelmini, Tyler Gelmini, Randall Watson, Paul Osman, Vince LaRuffa, and Paul Voelker

Officer and Director Reports

Administration - Chris White The March 2015 Minutes were approved following a motion by Alan Mole and seconded by Chuck Hoesch.

Finance – Joe Sullivan Joe submitted the financial report by email for March 2015. The March financial report was approved by the Board following a motion by Perry Lamb and seconded by Joe Maiuro.

Operations—Walt Liles Walt submitted the March report by email. Walt informed the Board of a major activity taking place on May 9th and asked for as many volunteers as possible – Amtrak Railroad Day, previously known as National Train Day. Following a motion by Charlie Crawford and seconded by Joe Sullivan, the Board approved an expenditure of up to \$200 for a banner as requested by Walt to be displayed on this important day. Walt also brought the Board up to date on the donation of the Kid's Layout donation to the Kennesaw Museum, but also requested members with Lionel expertise to volunteer in ensuring the layout would run for the Museum's own celebration of National Railroad Day on May 9th. Peter Y. took this opportunity to thank Walt for his apparently tireless efforts on behalf of the Piedmont Division and the Board showed their appreciation by suitable acclamation.

Personnel/Membership - Royal Bruce – Royal presented his March report by email. March attendance at our new venue was 136, with an average of 148 for our first two meetings.

Committee Reports These reports had been emailed to all Board members. These committee reports were accepted on a motion by Alan Mole and seconded by Matt Coleman.

Timetable - Doug Alexander – Doug submitted an email report. Peter noted that the latest addition of the Timetable had been posted on line on Monday. Doug had indicated that the issue would be printed next week

Website - Scott Povlot – Scott submitted a report by email. There were 2,526 page views on the Division website during March.

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.

Achievement Program – Randall Watson Randall submitted a report by email. There are eight certificates outstanding at National. At the meeting, Randall updated his report informing the Board that he had received the majority of the certificates and would be presenting them at the monthly Division meeting following the Board meeting.

Good and Welfare –Chuck & Mary Ann Hoesch – Email report submitted. One letter was sent during March.

2015 Model Train Show –Joe Gelmini Joe submitted a report by email. The 2015 Train Show held in March was the most successful show ever from a financial perspective. However, attendance was well below the record achieved in 2010. The Galleria has yet to confirm dates for the 2016 show, but Joe is confident that the show will be held on the weekend of March 12 and 13, 2016. Joe also informed the Board that the Train Show Committee had recently held a debriefing meeting and had discussed improvements and modification for 2016. He took the opportunity to thank all those that assisted with and volunteered at the Train Show. The Train Show Account would transfer \$15,000 to the Division account immediately, leaving approximately \$28,000 in the Train Show Account for the very high cash levels required prior to the Show.

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

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

Name Badges & Photography - James Bando – James submitted a report by email. James prepared three new Division badges. Doug Alexander had thanked James in his report for his assistance with the Timetable, especially for the many photographs of the Division events.

Division Video Library - David Gelmini – Nothing to report.

Division Book Library - Stephen Leydon – Nothing to report.

Train N' Camp - Perry Lamb – Joe Sullivan will be holding a tree making program at his house on Saturday May 16th.

Member Aid – Ovidiu Trifanescu – Nothing to report. (Position under review – see Old Business.)

Old Business

Action List - Peter Youngblood - Peter reviewed the April Action List.

Wounded Warrior Project – Peter Youngblood. Jim Travis was not at the meeting.

Ronald McDonald House Charities – Peter Youngblood. Peter again informed the Board that he has not yet had a volunteer to step up as team leader to head up this program. If you would like to lead this program please contact Peter immediately. He reminded all those present that this was a great opportunity to help those children in need as well as providing excellent outreach for our hobby. There would be nothing to set up – but the opportunity to give a presentation on model railroading between 7.00 and 8.00 pm and as frequently as time permitted.

The Shepherd Center – Joe Nichols, Jr. Joe informed the Board that the Shepherd Center was going in a slightly different direction than Joe had anticipated. We would not be meeting individually with in-patients suffering from traumatic accidents but with infrequent patient visitors to the Center. Joe is attempting to establish meetings that would hopefully clarify our assistance at the Center.

Member Aid – Peter Youngblood. Peter informed the Board that he had not received any further input from the Board regarding his proposal on a new system. Some members indicated the new list of “experts” was too long and that there possibly should still be a coordinator. However, for some reason members are not asking questions or not understanding that they have that opportunity. Bob McIntyre and Ovidiu have both had minimal requests in this position. Peter asked a member from the Mineral Bluff group in North Georgia for suggestions. They have “Layout Doctors” for members starting or working on new layouts. However, they also had a point man to assist members in finding the right “doctor” for the job. Peter suggested a new name as Model Railroad Help.

2016 Raffle Layout Proceeds to the Wounded Warrior Project – Walt Liles Walt informed the Board that after many efforts to contact the Wounded Warrior organization, it had become apparent that their rules and guidelines for assistance were quite restrictive and that he did not now believe they would be the best organization to assist with the funds from the Raffle layout. However, Walt confirmed again that NARB (North Atlanta Rail Barons) would be responsible for the 2016 Raffle Layout at the Train Show whether the layout funds would go the Division or another suitable charitable organization. Because of Joe Gelmini’s delayed presence at the meeting, Chris White summarized the position of the Train Show

Committee on Joe's behalf. The Committee considered that funds from the Train Show and the Raffle Layout should be only for the promotion of the hobby of model railroading as clearly stipulated under "Article II – Purpose" of the Division Bylaws. Joe Sullivan as Treasurer indicated that he thought that it would be inappropriate for donations to other charitable organizations to pass through the Division accounts.

Randall Watson addressed the Board stating that he was most disappointed with the position of the Train Show Committee regarding the funding of the Train Show Layout. He informed the Board that originally the construction and raffle of the layout was for the sole purpose of our outreach program to encourage others to become model railroaders. He indicated that the operating group that worked on the 2015 layout were given an original budget of \$200 and later increased to \$300. The Train Show Committee should not expect members to give funds from their own pocket to construct the layout. Joe Gelmini was not present to respond to Randall's comments.

Announcements at Division Meetings – Chris White Because of time constraints, Chris asked to table his comments until next month. As an editorial note, Chris considered that Peter and Walt did an outstanding job of streamlining the announcements, and that these new procedures should please the vast majority of members attending the monthly meeting.

New Business

Appointment of New Committee – Peter Youngblood. Peter addressed the Board on the issue of the proposed Bylaw changes regarding the Division elections in November. He was extremely disappointed with those Board members and others who had been expressing their opinions by emails in recent weeks. He informed the Board that as Superintendent his major objective was to improve the Division in as many ways as possible and that was his only objective. Following the March Board meeting he had spent considerable time at the Train Show soliciting ideas and opinions on how to best proceed with the Bylaw issue. Based on these discussions and without any preconceived goals, he had appointed a new committee to address this Bylaw issue. He informed the Board that the previous Election Committee Chairman, Bob Young, had indicated that he did not wish to serve on this committee and that he would resign from his position immediately. Peter announced the following Committee members: Chuck Hoesch, Committee Chairman, Alan Mole, Rick Coble, Perry Lamb, and Matt Coleman. Chuck informed me later that David Gelmini would also serve on this committee. Peter was quite clear that the suggestions that he included with the email to the Board were just that – suggestions – and that the Committee would be asked to review all aspects of this issue and make a presentation to the Board in the future. No time lines were stipulated.

Boy Scouts Merit Badge Judges Chris White informed the Board of his discussion with John Stevens regarding the recent shortage of Piedmont members serving as coordinators and judges at the Boy Scout merit badge programs. He expressed his considerable surprise at this situation thinking that the program had plenty of volunteers. He requested that members contact either John Stevens or Howard Goodwin if they were able to volunteer. Peter also stated that he would address the subject at the main membership meeting.

Meeting Adjournment Alan Mole proposed and Joe Nichols, Jr. seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Confirmed by acclamation and the **Meeting was adjourned at 7.10 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Chris White, Director of Administration