

PIEDMONT DIVISION, BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

October 14th, 2014

Meeting called to order at 6:04 p.m., Old Hickory House, Tucker, GA by Peter Youngblood, MMR, Superintendent.

Board Members Present (14): Peter Youngblood, MMR, Gary Jarabek, Chris White, Joe Sullivan, Walt Liles, Norman Lundin, Chuck Hoesch, Scott Chatfield, Perry Lamb, David Gelmini, Alan Mole, Paul Rankin, Joe Nichols Jr., MMR, 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 (29)*:

Randall Watson, Del and Diane Kittendorf, James and Sally Bando, Joe Gelmini, MMR, Bill Zawacki, MMR, Dr. Joe Nichols Sr., MMR, Steve Funsten, Bob Hess, Tom Banks, Mike Deaton, Doug Alexander, Lenny Polinsky, Victor Pitrowski, Tyler Gelmini, Jim Travis, William Smith, John Travis, Charley Space, Ken Rayman, Joe and Dottie Maiuro, Ovidiu Trifanescu, Paul Voelker, Joe Surowiec, Jim Hobbs, Ed Laity, and Scott Povlot.

Officer and Director Reports

Administration - Chris White.

The September 2014 Minutes were approved following a motion by Chuck Hoesch and seconded by Joe Sullivan.

Finance – Joe Sullivan Joe submitted a financial report by email for July 2014. There were no questions or comments on Joe's report. The September financial report was approved by the Board following a motion by Alan Mole and seconded by Paul Rankin.

Joe Sullivan also presented a preliminary 2015 Budget. After some discussion Joe indicated that he would prefer not to include non-recurring items in the Budget as these had not been sufficiently planned and presented to the Board in detail. It was agreed that Joe would call a meeting of the Finance Committee to review the 2015 Budget in detail, and that Joe would report back to the Board at the November meeting.

(The Finance Committee met on the 3rd November and reviewed the entire budget – line item by line item. Joe will present the revised budget based on this meeting for Board consideration and approval on Tuesday 11th November).

Operations—Walt Liles Report submitted by email. September was again an extremely busy month and he reviewed the September activities. Walt emphasized the experimental 3-clinics-in-one held at the September monthly Division meeting. This was well received and will be more effective at the new meeting location. Walt then reviewed the schedule for the next few months. (See written report.)

Personnel/Membership - Paul Rankin – Paul submitted an email report. We had 108 attendees for the September meeting, increasing our 12-month rolling average to 103 attendees – the first time that average had reached 103.

Committee Reports These reports had been emailed to all Board members. Peter had suggested that a number of committees and reports now be eliminated. For example, Convention Cars – Sally Bando reported that all HO cars had been sold and that Joe Gelmini still had approx.20 N cars.

There were no additional comments submitted by Committee Heads.

Timetable - Doug Alexander – Doug summarized the printing and distribution of the 4th Quarter 2014 Timetable – emphasizing the reduced cost of printing.

Website - Scott Povlot – Scott submitted an email report. 676 “unique” visitors to the webpage in September with 2310 “page views”. The latest Timetable had been posted to the web, along with October's contest information, and notice of the Pilgrimage.

Pilgrimage, Advertising, and Promotion/Division Apparel - Gary Jarabek - Emailed report. The Pilgrimage Booklet was completed and distributed ahead of schedule. Postcards have been mailed. Host packages were distributed at the monthly meeting. We now have 80 layouts on the Pilgrimage following 2 cancellations.

Achievement Program – Randall Watson Emailed report submitted. Golden Spike Award to Ann Lundin. The Fall Division AP contest will be held as an adjunct to the general meeting.

Good and Welfare –Chuck & Mary Ann Hoesch – One letter was sent during the month.

2014 Model Train Show –Joe Gelmini Emailed report submitted. Revised 2015 Train Show budget submitted to Joe Sullivan. Joe is working with Scott Povlot to update The Train Show website. No TV ads planned for the 2015 Show. We have sold 24% of vendor tables.

Boy Scout Merit Badge Program (Duluth) - John Stevens – The Duluth switching layouts need some upgrading and repair in the Spring. Estimates included in the 2015 Budget submitted to Joe S.

Boy Scout Merit Badge Program (Kennesaw) – Howard Goodwin – Nothing to report

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

Name Badges & Photography - James Bando – Report submitted. Four name badges made.

Division Video Library - David Gelmini – Nothing to report.

Division Book Library - Stephen Leydon – Nothing to report.

Volunteer Coordinator - Walt Liles – This report will be eliminated

Convention Cars – Alan Mole – This report will be eliminated. See above.

Member Aid – Ovidiu Trifanescu – Nothing to report.

Relocation Committee – Norm Lundin. Contract requirements for the new meeting location are almost complete. Norm also updated the Board on Ann's health situation – which was now much improved.

Old Business

2014 Action List - Peter thanked the Board and the committee Heads for an outstanding job in completing 28 items on the Action List through September – with only 6 remaining. See latest Action List emailed to all Board members and committee heads.

Clinic DVD – Three clinics have been placed on the Convention website. When the remaining clinics are loaded, an email blast will be sent to all 2013 Convention attendees.

New Business

Wounded Warriors – Peter Youngblood. Peter suggested that the NMRA could assist returning veterans requiring rehab by giving a break on dues and encourage them to participate in model railroading, which would be a great way to occupy the recovering mind and body.

USO – Peter Youngblood. Peter informed the Board that Randall Watson routinely visited the USO to welcome back returning vets. Peter suggested that old model railroad magazines may be a great incentive for some of these returning vets and requested donations from Division members accordingly.

GNRR – Joe Gelmini Joe reported that although approx.. 40 members had indicated interest in this Rail-fan event, the GNRR had indicated that they could only handle 15 visitors at a time. Joe had informed all interested parties.

2015 Elections – Peter Youngblood Peter detailed the candidates for the upcoming elections for Officers and Board Members in November.

SER Elections – Alan Mole Alan informed the Board that the SER were planning for on-line voting because the membership was so widely distributed. He asked if the Division would test the system.

New Meeting Location – John Travis John requested additional clarification of the relocation of the meeting venue and was informed that the relocation had been discussed in detail at the August meeting.

Joe Nichols Jr. proposed and Walt Liles seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Confirmed by acclamation and the **Meeting was adjourned at 6.34p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,
Chris White, Director of Administration