

PIEDMONT DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

Meeting called to order at 6:18 PM by Superintendent Perry Lamb at Holy Innocents' Church. Delay due to technical difficulties with WebEx and church display system.

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Walt Lilies

COMMITTEE CHAIRS, DIVISION MEMBERS AND VISITORS PRESENT: James Bando, Russ Bundy, Rick Coble, Mike Deaton, John Stevens, Paul Voelker, Jay Wagner, Diana and Randall Watson, Peter Youngblood MMR

OFFICER AND DIRECTOR REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT – Perry Lamb: Board approved to continue at the church for the October meeting; Moved by Jim Travis, seconded by Hank. The plan is to continue with in-person meetings. Options for in-person and virtual meetings were discussed at length at the start and end of the meeting. A review of the minimum requirements for in-person venues was discussed as were a number of cost savings ideas. Concern was expressed that historically any change of venue resulted in a temporary decline in attendance. In light of current low attendance, that could be a significant impact. Decisions were tabled until the October meeting to see attendance at this meeting and at the Train Show. (Note; attendance at this meeting saw a large increase, but still well below pre-COVID.)

ADMINISTRATION – Jim Datka: MINUTES from the August 10, 2021 submitted. This included a revision from Walt concerning the monthly review of the financial impacts of in-person meetings. Motion to approve Jim Datka; Seconded by Jim Travis. Approved.

FINANCE – Jim Foley: Report sent. Facility rental for the Train Show was paid in the amount of \$6,860. Motion to approve by Jim; Seconded by Jim Hobbs. Approved.

OPERATIONS – Sally Bando: Report sent. James and Sally Bando and Chad and Jim Davis attended the Chatsworth Railroad Days. Upcoming clinics and events:

September 14— Piedmont Division Clinic: Mac McCann, MODELERS DP AIRBRUSH PAINT BY MODELERS DECALS AND PAINT LLC. Bring and Brag: CAR ARTWORK

September 16-18—L&N CONVENTION at Hilton Garden Inn in Cartersville

September 25—LIVE! TRAIN 'N CAMP: SCENERY CONSTRUCTION

September 25—ATLANTA TOY AND MODEL TRAIN SHOW at VFW Post in Acworth

October 2—North Georgia Live Steamers train rides in Conyers

October 2-3—PIEDMONT TRAIN SHOW in Cartersville

October 2-3—Possible train show in Asheville or Fletcher, NC

October 12—Piedmont Division Clinic: John Bost, WEATHERING

October 24— Open Streets Emory Village

November 9—Piedmont Division Clinic: Pete Silcox video, CLINCHFIELD RIGHT OF WAY

November 20—North Georgia Live Steamers train rides in Conyers

December 4—ATLANTA TOY AND MODEL TRAIN SHOW at VFW Post in Acworth

December 11-12—FESTIVAL OF TRAINS at Tellus Museum, Cartersville

December 14—Piedmont Division HOLIDAY PARTY

PERSONNEL/MEMBERSHIP – Gary Fish: Currently 345 paid members with 7-10 coming due shortly. Two new members from Golden Spike Show. Seeking volunteers for Train Show.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

WEBSITE – Bob Kelshaw, Rick Coble: Project progressing well with Division website preliminary requirements ready for release to web designer. Three websites will be release at same time (early 2022) because all will now be interrelated.

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PILGRIMAGE – Mike Deaton: Report sent. Thirty-six open houses will begin Saturday, October 23rd and end on Sunday, November 21st. Seven new layout virtual tour videos will be posted on the first day of the tour. Schedule is posted. Bob Kelshaw, Rick Coble and Scott Povlot have addressed critical website issues and key functionalities have been restored. Website has been updated with latest info on this year's tour. COVID related requirements for each layout is prominently posted, along with advisory to check back the day of each tour to watch for any last-minute changes. Currently have 25 pike advertisers—no other commercial advertisers are being sought. Sally is doing online promotion and Doug is doing a flyer. Tom Gordon is arranging operator assistants for open houses.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM – Charlie Mason: There will be a Model Contest at the October meeting.

GOOD AND WELFARE – Chuck & Mary Ann Hoesch: George Bloodwoth past away August 30th.

2021 MODEL TRAIN SHOW – Hank Primas: Only 14 of the 140 table have NOT been sold—should have a GREAT Train Show. The Cartersville facility has been reserved for March 11 through 13 for the 2022 Train Show.

MARKETING – Sally Bando: Report sent. Have found new venues in Cartersville to promote the Train Show. Ads running in magazines and Facebook, Georgia magazine will feature us in their calendar and be out a few days before Show. Advertising plan for Pilgrimage is coming along. Tellus Museum is set with multiple layouts. Their advertising program will be a great asset. Shows booked for 2022 include Golden Spike (1/15/22), Trains, Trains, Trains (1/29-30/22) and our Piedmont Division Model Train Show (3/12-13/ 22).

TRAIN 'N CAMP - Perry Lamb: BUILDING A WOOD STRUCTURE KIT conducted by Bar Mills staff was a great success with virtual attendees from as far away as California and Hawaii. September clinic will be in-person.

TIMETABLE – Jim Datka: Submissions for the Q4 *Timetable* are due by Wednesday September 15th. Due to length of Board meeting, a motion was circulated to replace the black and white printed Timetable with a color post card promoting our website and the “What is Model Railroading All About” pdf that was sent to the board and is now on the website. The intention is to promote joining the hobby and the NMRA. Perry seconded the motion and it was approved by email responses.

NAME BADGES & PHOTOGRAPHY - James Bando: Name badges produced since start of COVID were available at September meeting.

DIVISION VIDEO LIBRARY – Jack Spangler: NTR

DIVISION BOOK LIBRARY - Stephen Leydon: NTR

MODEL RAILROAD & DIVISION HELP – Ovidiu Trifanescu: NTR

OLD BUSINESS

501(C)(3) AND DONATION POLICY: Letter from IRS requesting additional info, much of which was included in our bylaws which had been included in original submission. Jim Foley provided clarifications in follow up letter.

NEW BUSINESS

Election: Jim Foley will run again for Director of Finance. Director of Operation needs candidate. Motion to suspend rule for in-person only election and allowance for online election was made by Jim Travis and seconded by Doug. Approved

John Stevens has been elected as a Director of the Southeastern Region.

Perry Lamb was awarded the Region's Dave Muller Award for service at the divisional level. He was recognized for his leadership in setting up and hosting virtual Division board and member meetings and extremely successful virtual Train 'N Camps.

Perry moved to adjourn, seconded by Jim Travis. **Meeting Adjournment** at 6:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Datka
Director of Administration