

**Board of Directors Meeting**

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m., Old Hickory House, Tucker, GA by Peter Youngblood, MMR, Superintendent.

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

Board members absent (1): Charlie Crawford, MMR

Quorum Present

Committee Chairs, Division Members, and Visitors Present *as taken from the sign-in sheet* (33): Howard Goodwin, I.D. Jackson, Mike Deaton, Del Kittendorf, Diane Kittendorf, Joe Gelmini, Dr. Joe Nichols, Sr., MMR, Ann Lundin, Mary Hoesch, Greg Williams, Ron Gough, Joe Maiuro, Dottie Maiuro, Bob Wood, Richard Hooper, Scott Povlot, Rob Dodds, James Bando, Sally Bando, Tyler Gelmini, Robert Hess, Steve Funsten, Rick Coble, Ed Laity, John Travis, James Wolfe, Charlie Space, Ken Raymond, Doug Alexander, Victor Pitrowski, Tom Banks, Bill Smith and Regan Rickson.

**Officer and Director Reports**

***Superintendent.*** Peter Youngblood opened the meeting by asking Board members to sit closer to the front so that they may more actively participate in the proceedings and discussions of the Board. He welcomed all present and introduced himself as Incoming Superintendent. He explained that we had a very long agenda and requested cooperation of all Board members and visitors to ensure that the business of the meeting was conducted in an efficient manner as possible.

***Administration***— Chris White.

The November 2013 Minutes were approved following a motion by Joe Sullivan and seconded by Alan Mole.

***Finance—I.D. Jackson***

ID apologized for not having his report and indicated he would email that evening. (He subsequently did this, but Alan Mole reviewed and informed the Board by email that there were apparently still some problems with the year-ending numbers.) Year-end 2013 results should be discussed again at the February meeting.

Chris White had emailed his report and informed the Board that the 2013 Convention Committee has accepted the final NMRA numbers and that the Convention achieved a Net Income of \$45,666.83 of which 50% was received by the Piedmont Division. This did not include funds from the Division that operated the Silent Auction, Convention Cars, Banquet Entertainment, and the Company Store. It was suggested that Joe Sullivan and Alan Mole come up with an estimate of the total Net Income of the entire Convention activities – NMRA and Division.

***Finance – Joe Sullivan*** Joe had submitted a preliminary budget but negotiations and planning were still ongoing. He planned to have a Final 2014 Budget for the Board to review and approve at the February meeting. Doug Alexander asked for approval on his Budget so that he could proceed with his plans to implement a much improved on-line sign up program. Gary Jarabek also asked for preliminary approval to proceed with purchase of items for the Company Store. Both items were preliminary approved by Joe.

At this juncture Peter Youngblood asked if any Officers or Committee Heads had any additions to their written reports submitted previously by email. All these reports were accepted following a motion by Alan Mole and seconded by Joe Sullivan.

Peter Youngblood asked if Scott Povlot had submitted a report and Scott informed the Board that he had nothing to report. He also informed Scott that he apparently had not been receiving emails regarding Walt Liles' and Peter's requests for action and had perhaps changed his email address?

*Operations—Walt Liles* Report submitted by email.

*Personnel/Membership - Paul Rankin* – Paul submitted an email report in December. Paul had nothing further to add to his report but commented that attendance was now regularly greater than 100 and very gradually increasing.

**Committee Reports** These reports had been emailed to all Board members – unless noted

*Timetable - Doug Alexander* – Report submitted

*Website - Scott Povlot* – No report.

*Pilgrimage, Advertising, and Promotion/Division Apparel - Gary Jarabek*

**Pilgrimage** Emailed report. Record attendance and many other records broken. A very successful Pilgrimage.

**Advertising:** Monthly meeting notices and Convention notices were included in Gary's email report.

**Company Store** See Gary's email report.

*Achievement Program* Randall was absent and his report had been submitted by Peter Youngblood.

*Good and Welfare –Chuck & Mary Ann Hoesch* – Emailed report submitted. Chuck had one addition – Randall Watson was recovering very well from his second knee operation.

*2014 Model Train Show –Joe Gelmini* Email report submitted.

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

*Boy Scout Merit Badge Program (Kennesaw) - Bill Ello* – Nothing to report this month.

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

*Name Badges - James Bando* – Report submitted.

*Division Video Library - David Gelmini* – Report submitted.

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

*Volunteer Coordinator - Walt Liles* – Nothing to report

*Convention Cars – Alan Mole Alan* submitted a revised update and indicated that Joe Gelmini had offered to take over the sale of the remaining N cars. Alan would continue with the HO cars.

## **Other Matters**

***Adopt a New Member Program*** Peter Youngblood introduced an “Adopt a New Member” program. This would be completely voluntary. He requested that a member introduce himself to a visitor or new member and offer to take him to the weekend layout open the weekend following the Division meeting. This would be an excellent way to inform the new member of the Division activities and to meet other members at the layout.

***Reducing Expenses – 2014 Budget*** Peter informed the Board that the annual Division Train Show was the only source of revenue for the Division (as well as NMRA's Convention held every 18-20 years). He suggested a form of amortization of these incomes whereby we could only exceed annual income by a certain amount. The present 2014 budget exceeded this amount.

He suggested that one area to reduce costs was in the Timetable where printing and mailing costs continued to increase. Doug Alexander, Timetable Editor, explained a very clear plan to gradually reduce the number of Timetables printed and mailed. Members would sign up for receiving the Timetable on line. If a member still wanted to receive a hard copy they had to contact Doug and personally request a hard copy. This program would be implemented by the publication of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter edition and would have the potential to save a large portion of

Doug's budget. Walt Liles made the motion and Paul Rankin seconded to approve Doug's plan for the Timetable. The motion was approved.

## **Old Business**

**Layout Donations** Charlie Crawford was not at the meeting and this subject would be discussed at the February meeting.

**Clinic DVD.** Howard Goodwin David Gelmini and Norm Lundin updated the Board on his subcommittee plans to proceed with the production of 2013 Convention Clinic DVDs.

**Model Railroading Magic** Walt thanked the Board for their contribution and indicated that \$225 of the \$500 approved would not be needed.

**New Member & Visitor Follow-up** Peter Youngblood informed the Board of the new sign and meeting area for new members and visitors at the monthly Division meetings. He had asked Paul Rankin and Chuck Hoesch to man the New Member/Visitor area during the break at the Division meeting.

**Bob McIntyre Award.** Chris summarized the discussion at the Strategic Planning Meeting (see minutes of SPM Meeting) and asked for approval to establish the Bob McIntyre Award in the Achievement Program. The award would be given to a Piedmont member who had submitted a model and had received a Merit Award for that model for the first time. If two or more members should achieve this then that member with the highest Merit Points would receive the award. Chris proposed that the Board approve this award, seconded by Chuck Hoesch, and the motion was approved. Randall Watson will follow up with implementation for 2014.

**Updating Division Website** Peter Youngblood asked Scott Povlot if he needed assistance and Scott indicated that he did. Rick Coble offered to assist Scott with implementation of the much needed updates.

## **New Business**

**Railroad Prototype Modelers** Joe Gelmini had heard that this group was planning a meeting at the Kennesaw Museum in September. George Eichelberger was their contact. They were looking for Division participation. Joe would follow up.

**Appointment of Director-at-Large** Peter Youngblood informed the Board that as a result of his election to Superintendent, there was now a vacancy for one year for a Director-at-Large. After serious consideration he had asked **Perry Lamb** and Perry had accepted. This information was received in a very positive manner with suitable acclamation from all present.

**Division Committee Chairmen** Peter Youngblood informed the Board that all committee chairmen would continue in their present situations. He did inform the Board that we needed a Member Aid Chairman and would be soliciting possible candidates.

**2014 Calendar and Action List** Peter had previously circulated an aggressive calendar and action list for 2014. He summarized this list and indicated he would be seeking individuals to lead these upcoming events. He also requested that all Officers and Committee Chairs to forward detailed information (email and phone numbers) for themselves and their committee members to Chris White as soon as possible. **ACTION REQUIRED.**

**Relocation Committee** Peter informed the Board of the formation of a new committee under the leadership of Norm Lundin. The other members were announced. (see Norm handout). Norman provided a handout listing the new committee and the purpose of the committee. Joe Sullivan queried the comment in the handout regarding "lease with the Elks Club was up in 2014". After some discussion it was concluded that we have a month-to-month arrangement with the Elks Club and that we do not and have never had any sort of written agreement with them. They have simply requested to keep them informed of any potential change in our use of the facility.

**New Member NMRA "Rail Passes"** Peter Youngblood had introduced this subject at the Strategic Planning Meeting. He proposed that 50 new visitors who expressed some interest in becoming NMRA members would receive a free Rail Pass to be subsidized by the Division. Following discussion of the value of the Rail Pass Program Peter had contacted NMRA Administration Manager Jenny Hendricks. She had informed Peter that the

renewal rate for Rail Pass members was 79%. Joe Nichols Jr. suggested this should be for only one family member in case visitors came with family members. Joe Sullivan proposed and Perry Lamb seconded that \$500 be included in the 2014 Budget for 50 Rail Passes for new members. Motion was approved.

**Director of Operations Budget Requests** Walt Liles had requested a budget at the Strategic Planning meeting. He wished to modify slightly because of the high expense requests for 2014. His previous request for \$750 for the “Kid’s Layout” would be covered by private donations. He did again remind the Board of the contractual agreement with the Kennesaw Museum regarding our participation in their events as quid pro quo for them to allow us to use the Museum for our Kennesaw Boy Scout Merit Badge Program. (Following the meeting, the Director of Administration asked Walt if he had a copy of this agreement as Chris White had not seen in the files. Walt offered to assist in finding a copy.) Walt asked approval for a \$300 small banner for the Division that would take the place of the Division Membership Booth for smaller gatherings. Motion proposed by Alan Mole and seconded by Perry Lamb. The motion was approved.

Walt had previously suggested that one of the Division laptops be upgraded. He was not aware that the Division owned 4 laptops - that were initially purchased to assist with the Auctions and White Elephant Sale. (It was ascertained that the laptops were presently distributed as follows; Walt Liles – 1, Joe Sullivan – 1, James Bando -2. Perry Lamb had offered to review the update situation for all four laptops and this would be discussed at the February meeting.

Joe Nichols Jr. proposed and Alan Mole seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Confirmed by acclamation and the **Meeting was adjourned at 6.52p.m.**

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