

**PIEDMONT DIVISION, BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**19<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

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 commented on the reduced attendance and the fact that this particular meeting was being held on a third Tuesday of the month instead of the second.

Board Members Present (11): Peter Youngblood, MMR, Matt Coleman, Joe Sullivan, Walt Liles, Norman Lundin, Chuck Hoesch, Perry Lamb, Joe Nichols Jr., MMR, Joe Maiuro, Royal Bruce, and Chris White.

Board members absent (3): Jim Travis, Charlie Crawford, MMR, and Alan Mole.

**Quorum Present**

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

Del Kittendorf, James and Sally Bando, Bill Zawacki, MMR, Dottie Maiuro, Rick Coble, Howard Goodwin, MMR, Martin Guldner, Mike Deaton, David Gelmini, Tyler Gelmini, Randall Watson, Gary Jarabek, Ann Lundin, Doug Alexander, and Mike Cummings.

**Officer and Director Reports**

**Administration - Chris White** The April 2015 Minutes were approved following a motion by Joe Maiuro and seconded by Perry Lamb.

**Finance – Joe Sullivan** Joe submitted the financial report by email for April 2015. The April financial report was approved by the Board following a motion by Walt Liles and seconded by Joe Maiuro. In addition a Motion by Joe regarding the allocation of assets as detailed in the covering letter of his email report was approved.

**Operations—Walt Liles** Walt submitted the April report by email and reviewed the major portions of his report at the meeting. Walt also asked for volunteers for the monthly member Open Houses, generally held on the Sunday following the Division monthly meeting, which had been limited in recent months.

**Personnel/Membership - Royal Bruce** – Royal presented his April report by email. April attendance at our new venue was 96, with an average of 131 for our first three meetings. During April he signed up 4 new full members and 5 new RailPass members.

**Committee Reports** These reports had been emailed to all Board members. These committee reports were accepted on a motion by Perry Lamb and seconded by Joe Sullivan.

**Website - Scott Povlot** – Scott submitted a report by email. There were 1546 page views on the Division website during April.

**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. In addition, first notices had been sent out to potential hosts for the Piedmont Pilgrimage to be held later this year. George Bloodworth would kick off the pike-ad campaign at the May general Division meeting.

**Achievement Program – Randall Watson** Randall submitted a report by email. There would be 5 AP certificates awarded at the May general division meeting, and also the prestigious MMR award to Howard Goodwin – number 556. (Ed. Note. Howard was presented with his MMR award at the general meeting to a fine standing ovation by all those present. Peter also commented that Bob McIntyre's tireless efforts regarding the AP program were certainly coming to fruition.)

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

**2016 Model Train Show –Joe Gelmini** Joe submitted a report by email. Joe reported that he had received confirmation from the Galleria that the 2016 Train Show will be held on the weekend of March 12 and 13, 2016 but was not yet sure of our assigned exhibit hall. He was expecting a contract during the next few weeks.

**Boy Scout Merit Badge Program (Duluth and Kennesaw) – Howard Goodwin.** Howard submitted an email report. Following the resignation of John Stevens having served as Boy Scout Coordinator for the Division and the Duluth venue for many years – Howard announced that he had volunteered to assume John’s position and will now coordinate the Merit Badge Programs at both the Duluth and Kennesaw venues. The next Kennesaw class is scheduled for July 25<sup>th</sup> and the next Duluth class for September 26<sup>th</sup>. Howard also called for increased assistance and asked for additional volunteers to be trained to assist in the running of these merit badge classes.

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

**Name Badges & Photography - James Bando** – James submitted a report by email. James prepared two new Division badges.

**Division Video Library - David Gelmini** – Nothing to report.

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

**Train N’ Camp - Perry Lamb** – Joe Sullivan held a great clinic on tree construction at his house on Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup>, with eight members signed up and four attending.

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

### Old Business

**Action List - Peter Youngblood** - Peter reviewed the May Action List and commented on the extraordinary efforts of all committee heads (and other members) in completing the vast majority of assignments on the list and within the schedule. Peter would be adding the Chatsworth event to his June Action list.

**Nominating Committee Proposal – Chuck Hoesch** Chuck had emailed a report with a detailed proposal regarding the nominations of officers and directors of the Piedmont Division. Members of the committee who had participated in the recommended Bylaw changes were Alan Mole, Rick Coble, Perry Lamb, Matt Coleman, and David Gelmini. Chuck summarized both the Proposal letter and the actual proposed amendments that he had circulated to the Board. Peter asked for questions and comments. Chris White praised the committee for completing an outstanding job on what had previously been a somewhat divisive issue. The recommended changes would keep the present system of voting at the November meeting, but would allow members who were not able to be present at the November meeting to request a voting form and to submit their vote prior to the November meeting. He did however indicate that he was disappointed that the proposal apparently included in paragraph 2 the option to mail notices to all members and indicated he was not in favor of this. Chris was then politely reminded by Rick Coble and others that this language had been in the Bylaws for many years and was not part of the Committee’s recommendations. Chris was suitably chagrined, but did indicate that we should remove that option as part of the proposed changes. Chuck Hoesch proposed that the Board accept the changes included in the committee’s recommendations and was seconded by Norm Lundin. All Board of Directors present voted in favor of the motion. This Bylaw change recommendation must now be published in the Timetable and then voted on by a majority of the membership attending a general Division meeting.

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

**Ronald McDonald House Charities – Peter Youngblood.** Peter informed the Board that with the absence of any volunteers, that he would table this program for the time being.

**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 but was making progress in having the program apply to in patients at the Center.. Joe will continue to meet to establish this program.

### New Business

**Pilgrimage Budget – Gary Jarabek** Gary reminded the Board that during the 2015 Budget process the Board had decided to cut the Pilgrimage budget by \$1000 because of the concern of a large negative 2015 budget. However, following the highly

successful 2015 Train Show he asked the Board to reconsider their previous actions. The Pilgrimage Committee has reviewed their requirements and will make serious efforts to reduce the cost of the Pilgrimage Booklets – the major expense. They have also increased their advertising revenue projection by an increased effort to sell pike ads and local model shop ads in the Booklet. The committee was seeking an additional \$400 for the Pilgrimage. On a motion by Joe Sullivan and seconded by Perry Lamb this motion was approved.

***Ed and Alice Delattre's Donations to the Division and the SER - Peter Youngblood*** Peter reminded the meeting that the Delattres had previously donated \$2000 (\$1000 in 2015 and \$1000 in 2016) to allow active military servicemen to join the NMRA without paying for their dues. They have now made an additional offer of another \$2000 (\$1000 in 2015 and \$1000 in 2016) to allow non-active veterans to join the NMRA without cost. This will allow 27 veterans to join the NMRA with the present fee structure. The only condition was that all applicants have to be brand new NMRA members – not previously lapsed members.

***The sad loss of Diane Kittendorf – Peter Youngblood*** Peter reminded those present of the very sad loss of Diane Kittendorf and gave Del and all their family the sincerest commiserations of the Piedmont Division membership. Diane had been a very active member attending almost every Board and General meeting for many years. Diane had also served with distinction as a Member of the Board of Directors of the Division. Doug Alexander informed the Board that he proposed to recognize Diane's contributions in the next issue of the Timetable and asked for any information that would assist him with this endeavor.

***Joe Gelmini Health Status – David Gelmini*** Joe had previously sent a letter to many of his friends in the Division regarding his health status. David summarized Joe's situation for all those present and indicated that Joe would really appreciate all our thoughts and prayers.

***New program for Video and Book Libraries – David Gelmini*** David informed the Board that he and Steve are working on a new computerized cataloging system for the libraries and would need funds to achieve this program. On a motion from Walt Liles and seconded by Chris White the Board approved an expenditure up to \$250 for David's program.

***Meeting Adjournment*** Joe Nichols, Jr. proposed and Perry lamb seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Confirmed by acclamation and the **Meeting was adjourned at 6.45 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

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