

PIEDMONT DIVISION, BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

8th November 2016

Meeting called to order at 6:04 p.m., Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church, Sandy Springs, GA by Peter Youngblood, MMR, Superintendent. Peter welcomed all officers, board members, committee heads and other Division members. He wished all present and their families a very Happy Thanksgiving later in the month. Peter also reminded the group that Veterans Day was the upcoming Friday November 11th. All present showed suitable acclamation to all veterans present for their service to our country.

Board Members Present (13): Peter Youngblood, MMR, Royal Bruce, Jim Travis, John Falk, Joe Maiuro, Walt Liles, Alan Mole, Norm Lundin, Joe Sullivan, Perry Lamb, David Gelmini, Brian Sandberg, and Chris White.

Board members absent (0):

Quorum Present

Committee Chairs, Division Members, and Visitors Present *as taken from the sign-in sheet* (20):

Howard Goodwin MMR, Gary Jarabek, Bill Zawacki, Tom Banks, Chuck Hoesch, Dottie Maiuro, Randall Watson, Michael Fleming, Tyler Gelmini, Joe Gelmini, MMR, Jim Hobbs, Del Kittendorf, Regis Brooks, and Martin Guldner.

Officer and Director Reports

Administration - Chris White The October 2016 Minutes were approved following a motion by Alan Mole and seconded by Perry Lamb.

Finance – Joe Sullivan Joe informed the Board that in the process of preparing for his Pilgrimage Open House he had temporarily mislaid his Division financial files somewhere under his layout and therefore was not able to make a detailed presentation that evening. It was agreed that the November report together with the December report would be reviewed and approved at the January Board meeting. Joe reviewed the preliminary 2017 Budget. There were a number of options regarding the rental of various rooms at the Church for Division needs. These would be reviewed with the church personnel and a final rental number included in the Budget to be reviewed and approved in January 2017. Joe proposed that the Board meeting be held in the smaller church committee room which should have sufficient room for an average attendance at Board meeting – approximately 25-30. This was approved with Norm Lundin seconding the motion. Joe also proposed that the Division change its formal address to a UPS store much closer to our epicenter – the previous UPS store being located in western Kennesaw. This would need additional funds to be paid in 2016 of \$200. This motion was approved with Jim Travis seconding the motion.

Operations—Walt Liles Walt sent a report by email and he reviewed the major portions of his report at the meeting. The main change in the 2017 schedule was that the Chatsworth event will be held on Saturday April 8th and not in June as previously announced.

Personnel/Membership - Royal Bruce Royal sent a report by email. There were 96 members at the October meeting and the 12-month rolling average attendance is now 99 – the first time it has dropped below 100 in many months and ten below the 12-month rolling average of 109 at the beginning of the year. Royal again had sent a list by email and also circulated a list of 16 NMRA members who had not yet renewed their membership and again asked for assistance to attempt to follow up with these very recent NMRA members. The Piedmont Division total membership had dropped to 387 – again the lowest in some time. The main problem is that previous members apparently are not renewing in higher rates than previously.

Committee Reports These reports had been emailed to all Board members. These committee reports were accepted following a motion by Alan Mole and seconded by Perry Lamb. It was noted that Gary Jarabek has requested some time at the Division meeting to announce the availability of items at the Company Store.

Website - Scott Povlot – Scott sent a report by email. There were 2492 page views on the Division website during October... We also had **41,238** page views and 2999 unique visitors to the Pilgrimage website in October (ed. Note – quite an extraordinary number – especially compared to 2003 when we held the first pilgrimage when communication was mainly by word of mouth!).

Pilgrimage, Advertising, and Promotion/Division Apparel - Gary Jarabek - Gary sent reports by email.

Achievement Program – Randall Watson Randall sent a report by email. No activity during the month.

Good and Welfare –Chuck & Mary Ann Hoesch – Nothing to report in October.

2017 Model Train Show –Joe Gelmini, MMR Joe submitted an email report. We have currently –end of October- 40% of vendor tables sold and/or committed. The first mailing to vendors was sent in early November. Joe is presently updating the Train Show website for 2017 and the volunteer sign-up sheets will be ready by the January meeting.

Boy Scout Merit Badge Program (Duluth and Kennesaw) –Howard Goodwin, MMR Nothing to report.

Audio-Visual Production & Promotion Committee-Peter Youngblood, MMR NTR.

Name Badges & Photography - James Bando – James sent a report by email. He made one Division name badge during October.

Division Video Library - David Gelmini – David sent a report by email. He reported that there were no changes to the video library.

Division Book Library - Stephen Leydon – Nothing to report.

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

Train'in Camp - Perry Lamb - Perry submitted a brief report by email and indicated he would be obtaining feedback from members of possible clinic subjects for 2017.

Outreach - Brain Sandberg – Nothing of significance to report.

Old Business

2016 Action List - Peter Youngblood, MMR - Peter sent out an updated Action List for 2016.

IRS Tax designation from 501 (c) 4 to 501 (c) 3 - Alan Mole. Alan suggested that the Division wait until the New Year to make formal application to the IRS – which apparently requires three years of financial information. These years would now be 2014 through 2016. The board fully agreed with this suggestion.

Division Survey – Joe Sullivan Joe intended to review the report once more but decided that would be redundant. He did emphasize, however, that the survey did indicate that members apparently want more “hand-on” assistance and that some really desire some sort of Division layout or Division Club and clubhouse – 30 of those members returning surveys. Some members seemed interested in “min-meets” in locations like Gainesville and Dalton. All these items would be reviewed in more detail by the 2017 Board of Directors under the new leadership of Walt Liles.

2017 Elections –Chuck Hoesch. Chuck reviewed the voting process with the Board. One candidate for Director-at-Large had dropped out because of his wife’s illness. We had received 4 absentee ballots from the 387 Piedmont members with only three being valid.

Division Donations Committee - Peter Youngblood Although no formal committee head had been appointed, Jim Travis informed the Board that the committee had not yet had the opportunity to meet.

New Business

2017 Pilgrimage- Peter Youngblood Peter informed the Board that he was concerned about the potential liability of both the Division and the NMRA because a number of Pilgrimage hosts were not NMRA members. If one of these hosts should sustain an accident on their property or major damage loss they could sue both the Division and the NMRA. NMRA member hosts are covered by NMRA insurance for such eventualities but non NMRA hosts are not. He strongly urged Walt, Gary and Gary's committee to develop a program that would ensure that all Pilgrimage hosts in 2017 were fully paid-up NMRA members. 83% of 2016 hosts were NMRA members, although a number of these are clubs or museums that presumably have their own insurance. There were probably approximately 10 individual hosts in 2016 that were not paid-up NMRA members.

Peter also took the opportunity to congratulate Gary and his committee for organizing another very successful Pilgrimage. Peter had attended a number of open houses and was very impressed with all those involved – be they hosts or visitors.

Proposed 2017 Marketing Committee – Walt Liles Walt informed the Board that as Superintendent in 2017 he would propose the formation of a Marketing Committee (hopefully composed of members with some marketing experience) that would come up with ideas and suggestions on how to better market the Division to prospective model railroaders. Walt did not see this conflicting with the objectives of the Outreach Program headed up by Brian Sandberg.

Any Other Business - There was no other business.

Before calling for a proposal to adjourn the meeting, Peter informed the Board that this would be his last meeting as Superintendent. He stated that the experience had been most enjoyable, and he thanked the Board for all their support. The Board showed their thanks and appreciation to Peter by a suitable standing acclamation.

Meeting Adjournment Jim Travis proposed and Perry Lamb seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Confirmed by acclamation and the **Meeting was adjourned at 6:52 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Chris White, Director of Administration