

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

**April 18, 2017**

Meeting called to order at 6:03 p.m., Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church, Sandy Springs, GA by Walt Liles, Superintendent.

Board Members Present: Walt Liles, Perry Lamb, Brian Sandberg, Jim Travis, Peter Youngblood, Norman Lundin, Steve Funsten, Joe Sullivan, Royal Bruce, John Falk

Board members absent: Mike Fleming, Mike Cummings, David Gelmini, Alan Mole

### **Quorum Present**

Committee Chairs, Division Members, and Visitors Present *as taken from the sign-in sheet* Howard Goodwin, Paul Volker, Rick Coble, Chuck Hoesche, Gary Jarabek, Jim Hobbs, Dottie Maiuro, Joe Maiuro, Sally Bando

### **Officer and Director Reports:**

**Administration – Mike Fleming:** The Minutes from last month were emailed to the Board. There is one correction needed; Brian Sandberg was present. Motion to approve the Minutes from last month, as corrected, was made by Jim Travis, second by Joe Sullivan and the motion passed.

**Finance – Joe Sullivan:** Our account balance in the bank, briefly, exceeded \$100,000 as a result of the 2017 Train Show. The current report, with current bank balances was sent to the BOD on 04/17/2017. Our form 990 will be filed with the IRS by its due date of May 15, 2017. There was no financial summary listed in the Piedmont Division Timetable for the first quarter. Motion to approve the Finance report was made by Perry Lamb, second by Norm Lundin and the motion passed.

**Operations— Royal Bruce:** The Model Train Show was the biggest event last month. There were 70 attendees for the first Division open house of the year. Next open house is scheduled for April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Personnel/Membership – Mike Cummings:** 104 people attended the March Division meeting. Many new people were signed up at The Model Train show via the joint NMRA/Piedmont Division booth(s). Some Division members have renewed their memberships but the dues are not appearing as being paid. Walt and Mike will investigate this issue with the NMRA.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Website - Scott Povlot:** Report was emailed.

**Pilgrimage, Advertising, and Promotion/Division Apparel - Gary Jarabek:** Joe Gelmini contacted Bob Amsler, the NMRA Legal Counsel, to review insurance requirements for museums serving as layouts on the Pilgrimage. The opinion is to not worry about these sites hosting open houses as they maintain their own insurance. There is no clear direction regarding clubs that maintain their own buildings. A general thought is that these groups could become Sustaining Members of the NMRA and become covered by the NMRA Insurance Program on their own. For 2017, the Sustaining Membership prorated rate would be about half of the yearly dues. One NMRA Member, who is also a member of the North Atlanta Rail Barons, has a layout in his store. This member is covered by two different insurance agreements. Live Steam groups where visitors can actually ride on the trains are NOT covered by the NMRA insurance carrier. Walt will discuss this issue with the individual groups.

There is one new “organization” interested in hosting a Pilgrimage Open House is the Georgia Poultry Exhibition. The question is what kind of group is this; It is in a commercial building, but is it a museum, a State of Georgia official entity or something else. The manager of the site is an NMRA member. Walt Lyles will investigate.

It is possible that groups who are not otherwise eligible to participate as actual Piedmont Pilgrimage open sites can still purchase advertisements in the Pilgrimage book and advertise dates in the add itself.

**Achievement Program – Randall Watson:** Report was emailed.

**Good and Welfare –Chuck & Mary Ann Hoesch:** Report was emailed.

**2017 Model Train Show –Joe Gelmini, MMR – Actual report provided by Gary Jarabek:** This was a very good Train Show. There were about 4500 total attendees. The total profit from the show was between \$16,100 and \$16,500. About 58% of the vendor space is already either booked or paid for the 2018 Train Show.

The Galleria may start charging for parking. The rate is not expected to be cheap, along the lines of \$15.00 per something. We are starting to investigate other sites for the show where parking is free.

**Boy Scout Merit Badge Program (Duluth and Kennesaw) – Howard Goodwin, MMR:** The program for April 22<sup>nd</sup> may be canceled due to a lack of Counselors. It takes 8 counselors to successfully run each session and only 4 are available for this session. The Division is seeking additional volunteers to take on the role of Merit Badge Counselor. Howard will email out the requirements for becoming a counselor and include the url for the BSA website. All of the requirements can be completed via the Web.

**Marketing Committee – Sally Bando:** The committee is investigating tote bags for use at events like the Boy Scout Merit Badge program where the scouts are provided a number of small items and need a way to carry the items from station to station and then home. Currently the scouts are provided left over 2013 NMRA Convention bags, but we are running low on these bags.

The Garden Railroad Society will be hosting their 2018 National Convention in Atlanta. They would like volunteers to help host layout tours, work with the convention staff with events and other forms of general help. All the attendees at the convention will be asked to become NMRA members.

The Piedmont Division Membership booth is being updated with new photographs and information.

**Timetable:** The new Timetable came out on 04/18/2017. The Division is seeking a new editor.

**Audio-Visual Production & Promotion Committee:** NTR

**Name Badges & Photography - James Bando:** Report emailed

**Division Video Library - David Gelmini:** NTR

**Division Book Library - Stephen Leydon:** NTR

**Model Railroad & Division Help – Ovidiu Trifanescu:** NTR

**Train'in Camp - Perry Lamb:** The next Camp will be held on May 6, 2017 and will be Model Railroading 102 – Basic Scenery. Registration is required and limited to 8 participants. Current 4 have signed up.

**Outreach - Brain Sandberg –** NTR

### **Old Business:**

**Training Camp:** See notes above.

**Boy Scouts:** See notes above.

National Rotary Meeting: Events involving the Piedmont Division have been canceled due to a lack of transportation and distances to be traveled in Atlanta.

**ELM Program:** The local ELM staff is reviewing our proposed initial program and will reply.

**KSU Student Group:** Must have a faculty sponsor. This role can be met. There must also be at least 8 students interested in joining an organization before it can be officially recognized by the school. We are looking into that requirement at the moment.

**501( c ) 3 Status:** In order to complete this work, the group needs 3 years of “normal” IRS Form 990 results. With the completion of this year’s Form, the needed documents will be complete.

**Chattsworth Railroad Days:** This was a good event and there were a large number of displays. Chattsworth now has a dedicated caboose.

**New Business:**

**Summer Picnic:** Walt has talked to the North Georgia Live Steamers. There is a plan for that group to host our event on July 15. The Division would purchase and serve grilled meat and the members would provide the “fixins”. Stay tuned for more.

**Any Other Business:** There was no other business.

**Meeting Adjournment:** 6:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Perry Lamb