

**PIEDMONT DIVISION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT
February 8, 2011**

Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. at Old Hickory House, Tucker, GA, by Howard Goodwin, Superintendent.

Board Members Present *as taken from the sign-in sheet (11)*: Rick Coble, Howard Goodwin, Charlie Crawford, Mike Deaton, Gary Jarabek, Bill Zawacki, David Gelmini, Scott Chatfield, Paul Rankin, Joe Sullivan, Peter Youngblood

Absent (3): Bob McIntyre, Scott Povlot, Chris White

Quorum Present

Committee Chairs, Division Members, and Visitors Present *as taken from the sign-in sheet (15)*: John Blanchard, Randall Watson, Joe Nichols, Sr., Rick Wade, Del Kittendorf, Diane Kittendorf, Paul Boehlert, Edward Laity, Mike Scupin, John Stevens, John Travis, Tom Banks, Joe Gelmini, David Gilly, Joe Nichols, Jr.

Officer and Director Reports

Administration—Rick Coble

Paul Rankin made a motion to accept the Minutes to the January meeting. Seconded by Charlie Crawford. Motion Passed.

Rick has heard from all committee chairs and will complete the 2011 Committee List by the March meeting.

Finance—Chris White (report submitted in advance)

Bill Zawacki made a motion to accept the January Financial Report. Seconded by Gary Jarabek. Motion passed.

Chris distributed the January Financial Report prior to the meeting and included the following comments:

I have not had any preliminary indication of the Auction results, but they will be included in the February report.

The results may be summarized as follows:

We received a donation during the month.

We incurred expenses for the Timetable, Video Library, Holiday Party, Train Show, and general organizational expenses (tax forms preparation and mail box rental).

Chris also distributed the 2011 Proposed Budget.

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Operations—Charlie Crawford (report submitted in advance)

Due to the cancelled January Meeting there will be some re-arranging of clinicians.

Working to complete 2nd quarter open houses.

Hope to be in the storage space after the meeting. I will inquire about a month to month arrangement rather than 1 year with a free month.

Membership – Paul Rankin

The Piedmont had a presence and took the membership booth to the North Atlanta Trade Center train show in Norcross and *Trains Trains Trains* at the Southern Museum in Kennesaw. The division will be at the World's Greatest Hobby show the weekend of the 12th. Paul is sending out "thanks for your interest" letters to those who signed up on our interest sheets.

The division membership booth needs a new NMRA logo and new meeting photos. Paul will review and discuss with the BOD.

Committee Reports

Achievement Program—Bob McIntyre (Report submitted in advance)

AP - Certificates (if members bring them) will be handed out for Civil Engineering, Brian Glock, Volunteer, L.B. Groover, and Volunteer for Dave Butts. Randall Watson was named assistant AP Chair for the Piedmont Division. This goes along with Scott Povlot who is already on the Committee. We are on track for the March Contest. Due to Bob's absence Randall will look for a suitable alternate spot in the Elk's Lodge to place the entries.

Peachtree Express— Bob McIntyre (Report submitted in advance)

Bob has asked his co-chairs, Perry Lamb and David Gelmini, to set up a convention meeting in February.

Piedmont Pilgrimage - Bob McIntyre (Report submitted in advance)

The Committee will be handing year medallions and new layout owner certificates at the February meeting. Operator assistance letters will be mailed this month. A new budget has been submitted to Chris White for 2011.

Member Aid— Bob McIntyre (Report submitted in advance)

Nothing to report.

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Advertising and Promotion/Division Apparel—Gary Jarabek (report submitted in advance)

Advertising:

Monthly Meetings

NMRA submitted through May 2011 Issue

Railroad Model Craftsman submitted through May 2011 Issue.

Trains.com submitted through May 2011

Train Show

Trains.com

NMRA February and March issues

Railroad Model Craftsman February and March issues.

Company Store:

There are only med and XL of old style short sleeve polo shirts left to sell. These will be sold at \$28.00.

New polo shirts in stock at the price of \$33.00, complete size range.

Our new polo shirt was short lived. It has been discontinued. I have selected another shirt to replace it. We will now have three different styles of polo shirts.

Large to 2XL available in long sleeve denim shirts. Order placed for more denim shirts.

There is 1 vest left. I have been searching for a new vest source without much success.

Caps are also in stock.

Mugs will be distributed to new NMRA members.

There is one mistake shirt left (med) for sale at \$33.00.

Model Train Show (2011) –Joe Gelmini (report submitted in advance)

- We are currently 95% sold/confirmed (252 of 266 planned vendor tables).
- We were adversely affected by the WGH show being in Tampa the same weekend as ours, "losing" 36 vendor tables from Florida folks who ordinarily come to our show. However, we have picked up many first-time vendors and seemed to have overcome the Florida challenge.
- The final deposit to Galleria is due Feb 18.
- We will have seven modular display layouts plus the Kid's Layout, representing G, O, S, HO (two), N and Lego. First-time displays include the Garden Gauge Society, Atlanta Interlocking and Middle Georgia Model RR Club.
- Our TV ad is complete and will appear on local Atlanta stations the week before the show.
- WGH on tour will be at Cobb Galleria Feb 12-13. It will be interesting to see how this huge show will affect attendance at our show. WGH has been very cooperative in helping us promote our show.
- We have contracted with an outside vendor to do our table set-up. This should negate the problem we had last year with Galleria's use of many six-foot tables instead of eight-footers, and resulting in vendor table space rebates.

Good and Welfare –Joe Gelmini (report submitted in advance)

Sympathy card sent to owner of Misty Mountain RR on the death of his son.

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Division Video Library – David Gelmini

No Report

Division Book Library-Stephen Leydon

Books Owned:	387
Books Loaned To:	1
Total Books:	388
Uncirculated:	318
Circulating:	61
MIA:	9
Total Books:	388

The library acquired 11 new titles in January 2011. These books are new and cover multiple railroads.

Timetable-Rick Coble (report submitted in advance)

The Q2 Timetable deadline is March 12, the Saturday after our division meeting. There is an exception for The Model Train Show. I would like those items no later than March 23. At this time, I am reserving two pages for coverage of the show.

It is important that we keep the page count down since the Q1 edition went well over budget.

Website-Scott Povlot

The website received 15,087 page requests in January 2011.

Scott distributed a separate report with web traffic history before the meeting.

Auctions-Howard Goodwin

Final numbers, which will also include the net from concessions, will be available in March.

The next auction is scheduled for August 13.

Facilities - Alan Mole/Howard Goodwin

Howard Goodwin distributed information about a new meeting location. See new business.

Audio-Visual Production & Promotion Committee-Peter Youngblood (report submitted in advance)

- The A/V Committee purchased the two VGA Cables per last month's BOD meeting.
- As discussed by A/V Committee Chair Peter Youngblood with SER President Joe Gelmini, the A/V Committee will coordinate a date to visit Macon State College, the SER convention site, for the purpose of establishing what equipment will be transported to videotape & record the "Judging the AP" convention symposium May 20th.

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Audio-Visual Production & Promotion Committee (continued)

- The second CD in the two disk set containing all Achievement Program materials and forms from the NMRA website has been sent courtesy of the Piedmont Division to all SER Superintendents to help promote the AP/MMR program and its 50th Anniversary. These CD's are now also part of the Piedmont Division Library.

Old Business

Division Storage Unit-Charlie Crawford

Charlie Crawford has investigated and recommends the rental of a storage unit for division videos, books, A/V equipment, etc.

Charlie signed a month to month contract. It can be canceled upon 15 days written notice or 2 day in person notice. The first month rent is free, but there were assorted costs (set up fee, lock). Librarians will be set up as access card holders.

Raffle Layouts 2011 and Beyond- Howard Goodwin

The 2011 raffle layout is on display at TrainMaster Models in Buford. It will be moved to the Cobb Galleria on the Friday of the train show.

The Chattahoochee Express Operating Group is working on the 2012 layout and estimates that it will be completed at the end of June. This layout could be displayed at various locations in the division.

Hospital Layout – Tether Collection - John Travis

During 2010, Bob Chambers sent Howard Goodwin a proposal to assist with the installation of a layout at the Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville. The layout would be housed in the pediatric wing of the hospital and is being championed by Russell Tether, son of a retired doctor at the hospital. John Travis represented the Piedmont Division in a meeting in November 2010 to discuss issues and ideas on the layout.

John sent Russell Tether ideas based on discussions about the layout (brief summary below):

- The purpose of the display is to "Provide an interactive neighborhood for kids".
- The layout will be housed in the Pediatrics Unit of NE Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville, Ga.
- It will reside in a custom display case suitable for children and will be an interactive, operating layout with operating accessories, sounds and lights. Trains run on timer which is started by pressing a button. Kids would also be able to operate the accessories.
- Trainmaster Models has offered space to work on the layout and install completed sections in the display case.
- John is looking for members interested in designing a museum-quality "G" or "O" scale layout, including cost and man hour estimation of the project.
- Del Kittendorf offered to contact potential volunteers about design and construction of the cabinet, perhaps at cost.

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Hospital Layout (continued)

After additional discussion, Gary Jarabek moved that a *committee be established to investigate the costs of building a display layout for the Tether project. This would include a preliminary design, having the display case built to safety and commercial specifications, estimate for cost of constructing layout (with all materials, rolling stock and accessories) and estimated man hours needed from the Piedmont Division for completion of the project. The results will be provided to both the Tether family and the BOD.*

Seconded by Charlie Crawford. Motion passed. John Travis will organize the committee and oversee this phase of the project.

Policy for Accepting Layouts

Joe Sullivan has composed a draft policy for accepting donations and is incorporating feedback into a revision. The plan was previously sent to a handful of members for comments. Joe has sent the draft policy to the entire BOD for review and comments. This has been added to the March agenda.

Outreach Program

With the number of potential public appearances by the division increasing, a program to find volunteers and match them to the opportunities is needed. Joe Sullivan stepped forward to start an outreach program. As of this meeting, no one has stepped forward to take this position.

Promotion of Peachtree Express at the 2011 Narrow Gauge Convention-Howard Goodwin

Howard Goodwin has been in touch with an organizer of the 2011 Narrow Gauge Convention, to be held September 7-10 in Hickory, NC, about participating in the 2011 Narrow Gauge Convention in Hickory, NC. The division could offer clinicians and other assistance. Howard is looking for participants.

Train Magazine for Kids (Howard Goodwin)

Kalmbach has introduced a magazine aimed at children. Howard Goodwin has contacted Kalmbach Publishing about multi-copy pricing for non-profit organizations.

Minimum order is 50 copies.

Copies can be given away as promotional items only. Not for resale.

In addition, we cannot give copies away at shows where retailer may be selling copies.

Kalmbach has sent a dozen copies for review. Howard distributed the copies to the BOD. BOD members will discuss purchase of the magazine at the March meeting.

Boy Scout Merit Badge Program Expansion to Kennesaw (Howard Goodwin)

Prior complications with the expansion of the BSA program to Kennesaw were resolved in January.

Bill Ello is assisting Howard Goodwin with the Kennesaw program. Our first program is tentatively set for June 2011.

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2011 Budget (Chris White)

Chris White needs to hear from all committee heads concerning the 2011 budget.

Division Achievement Program Day (Peter Youngblood)

Peter Youngblood proposed holding a Piedmont Division Achievement Program Day in 2011 in conjunction with the MMR/AP program's 50th Anniversary.

Peter has discussed this with Bob McIntyre. The Division will use one of the TrainNCamp dates. Perry Lamb and Scott Chatfield will discuss and select a date for the AP Day event.

Enhancements to Company Store - Web (Gary Jarabek)

At the Strategic Planning Meeting, Gary Jarabek submitted a proposal outlining updates to the company store page on the website. Gary requests time and resources from the web team.

Trains! Trains! Trains! (Howard Goodwin)

Paul Rankin, Joe Sullivan, and Peter Youngblood represented the Piedmont Division at "Trains, Trains, Trains", a one day program initiated by the Kennesaw Museum held Saturday, January 22, 2011. 722 guests came through the museum, many leaving with Model Train Show flyers. The museum wants to hold this event again, with the Piedmont Division participating.

Operations Weekend (Joe Sullivan)

Joe Sullivan has previously proposed an operations weekend for operating groups in the division, in which operating group members would operate on layouts in other operating groups. Joe will survey the membership in March. He is also planning a rules class in conjunction with the program.

Diamond Club Donation (Joe Gelmini)

Joe Gelmini asked that the Piedmont Division consider making a donation to the NMRA for the Diamond Club project. The project will offer expanded web content to NMRA members, starting with digitizing the Kalmbach Memorial Library photo collection. Joe Suggested waiting until after the results of the Model Train Show are in before discussing.

New Business

Facilities - New Location (Howard Goodwin)

Howard Goodwin proposed consideration of moving to a new location to accommodate growing attendance. After investigation, Howard proposed looking at a move to Marietta. Perry Lamb's church is a potential new location.

The facility can accommodate both the BOD and general meetings. Howard distributed additional details to the BOD prior to the meeting.

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Facilities – New Location (continued)

Members of the BOD and meeting attendees discussed the potential move.

Howard Goodwin tasked Alan Mole, facilities chair, to:

1. Find the geographic center of the division.
2. Survey Membership on what they are looking for in a facility.

Once these tasks are complete, Alan will report to the BOD.

Library Budgets (David Gelmini)

David Gelmini proposed separating the video and book library budgets. Separate budgets will allow each librarian to better monitor costs.

David Gemini made a motion to separate the book and video library budgets. Seconded by Peter Youngblood. Motion passed.

The Meeting Adjourned 6:54 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Coble, Director of Administration