

**PIEDMONT DIVISION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT
April 12, 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 (13)*: Howard Goodwin, Rick Coble, Peter Youngblood, Joe Sullivan, Mike Deaton, Charlie Crawford, David Gelmini, Chris White, Bill Zawacki, Gary Jarabek, Paul Rankin, Scott Chatfield, Scott Povlot

Absent (1): Bob McIntyre

Quorum Present

Committee Chairs, Division Members, and Visitors Present *as taken from the sign-in sheet (18)*: Perry Lamb, Ron Gough, Bob Wood, Joe Nichols, Sr, Diane Kittendorf, Del Kittendorf, Ed Laity, Ken Raymond, Jim Wolfe, John Travis, Paul Boehlert, Randall Watson, Victor Pitrowski, Len Polinsky, John Blanchard, Joe Gelmini, David Gilly, I.D. Jackson

Officer and Director Reports

Administration—Rick Coble

Peter Youngblood made a motion to accept the minutes to the March 2011 meeting. Seconded by David Gelmini. Motion passed.

The follow up report for the **2010** raffle, as prepared by Chris White, was sent to the Cobb County Sheriff's department March 11, 2011.

Finance—Chris White

Chris distributed the March Financial Report and a summary of the 2011 Train Show results prior to the meeting and included the following comments:

- The 2011 Train Show returned a net income.
- Misc. Income included table rental from vendors for the 2012 Train Show, a great start.
- Gary purchased new shirts in February, sold them all in March, and bought some more at the end of the month.
- John Stevens purchased a number of freight cars for the Boy Scout switching layouts.
- Perry Lamb received payments from clinic attendees.
- Misc Expenses include Georgia State Registration; two months rental of our storage unit and shelves for the unit; and expenses for the 2012 Raffle Layout (Chattahoochee Express), a plaque for the model contest Best in Show, and new books for the library.

Bill Zawacki made a motion to accept the March Financial report. Seconded by Joe Sullivan. Motion passed.

Chris White introduced the draft 2011 budget, previously distributed to members of the Board of Directors. Peter Youngblood made a motion to accept the budget as proposed by Chris White. Seconded by Gary Jarabek. Motion passed.

**PIEDMONT DIVISION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT
April 12, 2011**

Operations—Charlie Crawford

Charlie is starting to book clinics for 2012. We will be raffling two gift certificates from Trainmasters.

Charlie has run into a problem with the storage facility. The local manager now denies he said post 10 PM access would be available. Charlie can look for another facility, but is unaware of another locally. We do not have a lease, but Charlie needs to give them 15 day notice.

Committee Reports

Achievement Program—Bob McIntyre

Certificates for the March Model contest will be awarded. There are two Merit Awards.

Peachtree Express— Bob McIntyre

2013 Convention - We are updating the website. It will be replaced with the new one Scott Povlot is working on. The video has been updated and will be posted on the new website. Chris White is working with National on coming up with a registration fee. Chris White is also developing a budget. We will be able to get reimbursement for items that have already been purchased.

Piedmont Pilgrimage - Bob McIntyre

Nothing new to report.

Member Aid— Bob McIntyre

Nothing new to report.

Advertising and Promotion/Division Apparel - Gary Jarabek

Advertising:

Monthly Meetings

NMRA submitted through July 2011 Issue

Railroad Model Craftsman submitted through July 2011 Issue.

Trains.com submitted through July 2011

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.

The third style polo shirt is in stock. Last month we sold out of the new shirt the first time it was offered.

Med to 2XL available in long sleeve denim shirts. .

There is 1 vest left.

Caps are also in stock.

Mugs will be distributed to new NMRA members.

**PIEDMONT DIVISION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT
April 12, 2011**

Model Train Show (2011) –Joe Gelmini

Financial results from the 2011 show did not approach 2010 results:

- Ticket sales were down from 2010, and expenses were up.
- Table revenue was down due to late cancelations.
- Expenses, especially advertising, were up.
- We believe two factors worked against us: Saturday weather of 83 degrees/beautiful skies; and World's Greatest Hobby on Tour at the same venue five weeks prior to our show.
- On the plus side, those that came were spending money. Every vendor Joe spoke with did well in sales. The train show committee met to discuss the 2011 show and begin planning for 2012 on April 12.
- Based on 2011 results, the train show committee recommends staying with one hall for 2011. There will be no show in 2013 due to Peachtree Express and the National Train Show. The NTS could help us in 2014.
- The 2012 show will be held the third weekend of March (3/17 and 3/18).
- The results of surveys of guests revealed that television did not generate the best return based on costs. 2012 advertising will be reviewed.

Raffle Layout

John Travis noted that raffle layout costs have trended upward. John and Ron Gough suggested that a budget be developed for each layout.

Howard Goodwin responded that a budget will be an important duty of the new raffle layout chair, I.D. Jackson. He will work with the builders of the layout to develop the budget.

Good and Welfare –Joe Gelmini

Get well card to John Kelly following heart surgery.

Division Video Library – David Gelmini

Still updating database for video library and hope to be all logged in by June.

Timetable-Louie Gomes / Rick Coble

Rick Coble completed his final edition as timetable editor.

Website-Scott Povlot

Scott reports 28,161 page requests during March 2011. He has updated the web site with the Timetable and schedule. Scott distributed a separate report with web traffic history before the meeting.

**PIEDMONT DIVISION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT
April 12, 2011**

Boy Scout Merit Badge Program-John Stevens

1. We are still working on getting all counselors reregistered with the AAC. I hope to have this process completed in the next 30 days.
2. I have been asked to hold a Round Table type discussion on presenting a merit badge program at this year's National Convention in Sacramento in July. I will be using pictures of our program as one way to present the program. I will also be participating in a similar program led by Bill Ello at the SER Convention in Macon.
3. Our April 30 program at the Southeastern Railway Museum is full. I believe this session is going to be audited by members of the Southern Museum of Civil War & Locomotive History to see what it is we do.
4. In the past, I have been asked about a program for the Girl Scouts of America (GSA). The BSA has 129 merit badges including Railroading. The GSA has 117 badges but none for railroading. But, the GSA allows local councils to develop five or six badges for their council. Once the badge is developed, other councils can also use it. A council in NC has developed a badge for Railroading that looks amazingly like the BSA program. I think we could do our current program with no changes and we would fulfill the requirements for the badge. I have been in contact with the local council about presenting a program. A decision won't be made by the time of the meeting. I am hoping a decision is made by the end of the month so they can also audit our program.
5. There is already interest in the June Kennesaw program. I don't think there will be an issue in filling up the proposed 20 slots. I just need a date so I can open up registrations.
6. The fall session at the Southeastern Railway Museum will be September 17.

Auctions-Howard Goodwin

The next auction is scheduled for Thursday, August 11, 2011 at the First Presbyterian Church in Marietta.

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

The A/V Committee as a whole visited Macon State College, the SER Convention site, on Friday March 25th. Arranged by SER President Joe Gelmini and Macon State College Coordinator Christina Catlett, the purpose was to establish the on site A/V equipment to be used for clinics, etc. The equipment is state-of-the-art and more than adequate for SER Convention needs. Separately, it was decided by the Committee what video taping equipment would be brought by its members for video taping and recording the "Judging in the AP" clinic/seminar given by MMRs Bob Beaty and Dr. Joe Nichols, Sr... The edited DVD will be archived with the SER and the Piedmont Division and made available for educational use.

This evening's "AP Civil Engineering" clinic given by Brian Glock is the first in a series of AP clinics the A/V Committee members will be video taping and recording.

Old Business

Raffle Layouts 2011 and Beyond- Howard Goodwin

The Chattahoochee Express Operating Group is working on the 2012 layout and estimates that it will be completed at the end of June.

**PIEDMONT DIVISION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT
April 12, 2011**

Hospital Layout – Tether Collection - John Travis

At the February 2011 BOD meeting, the BOD approved the *establishment of a committee to investigate the costs of building a display layout for the Tether project* at the Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville. John Travis agreed to organize the committee and oversee this phase of the project.

The project remains on hold, pending the appointment of a project manager from the hospital.

John is still in need of additional volunteers (4). Howard will make an announcement at the General Meeting.

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. Howard would like to take the Peachtree Express booth to the convention.

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

Our first program is tentatively set for the 18th or 25th of June. Howard Goodwin requested funds to purchase switches for the switching modules. A motion to approve the purchase of switches, in an amount of up to \$400, was made by David Gelmini. Seconded by Scott Povlot. Motion passed.

Howard Goodwin has obtained a Zephyr system from Digitrax and is contacting Bachman about cars. He will also discuss obtaining cars with Del Kittendorf.

Division Achievement Program Day (Peter Youngblood)

The Division Achievement Program date is tentatively scheduled for August 27, 2011 at HobbyTown USA in Kennesaw.

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 needs time from the web team to complete the changes. This has been placed on the back burner for the immediate future.

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. He is also planning a rules class in conjunction with the program. Joe proposes an early fall date. He will work with Gary Jarabek to avoid conflicts with the Piedmont Pilgrimage.

Diamond Club Donation (Joe Gelmini)

Joe Gelmini previously asked that the Piedmont Division consider making a donation to the NMRA for the Diamond Club project, to be discussed after the Model Train Show.

Because this is not in the current budget, Joe Sullivan recommended budgeting for a Diamond club donation in 2012.

PIEDMONT DIVISION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT
April 12, 2011

Scott Chatfield made a motion that the Piedmont Division donate to the Diamond Club. Seconded by Scott Povlot. Motion failed.

Facilities - New Location (Alan Mole)

Alan was unable to attend the April BOD meeting and sent the following:

First of all, the reports of the two surveys conducted last month. BOD Survey highlights:

1. Not surprisingly, nearly everyone at the BOD meeting tries to come to every meeting!
2. 80% indicated that distance was not a factor in coming to meetings (or not).
3. Over 80% like the Elks Lodge facility and over 70% prefer not to move.
4. Over 90% eat at the meeting place.
5. 70% would continue to come to meetings in Marietta.
6. However 52% indicated that distance would be a factor for not coming to meetings.

Quick member survey:

There were 70 responses and 40 said they would attend a meeting in Marietta.

Suggested Action

1. Speak to the Elks lodge about table/chair set up to maximize the space. Chris White and Alan planned on checking with the Elk that receives the monthly rental payment to see who does the set up and whether there would be an additional charge for doing it differently.
2. Given the Marietta location a try sometime during the summer. Does no harm to experiment and at least it will provide plausible arguments for those who prefer not to move.
3. Develop a new survey for all members to see what we can do to encourage greater participation.

New Business

John Travis is still in need of additional volunteers (4) for the Tether Collection hospital layout project. Howard will make an announcement at the General Meeting.

Bill Zawacki made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Peter Youngblood. Motion passed.

The Meeting Adjourned 6:57 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Coble, Director of Administration