

**PIEDMONT DIVISION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT
October 11, 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 (12)*: Rick Coble, Howard Goodwin, Scott Povlot, Charlie Crawford, Chris White, Joe Sullivan, Bill Zawacki, Gary Jarabek, David Gelmini, Peter Youngblood, Scott Chatfield, Paul Rankin

Absent (2): Mike Deaton, Bob McIntyre

Quorum Present

Committee Chairs, Division Members, and Visitors Present *as taken from the sign-in sheet (13)*: I.D. Jackson, Del Kittendorf, Randall Watson, Ron Gough, Walt Liles, Len Polinsky, Vic Pitrowski, Paul Voelker, Ed Laity, Bob Wood, Kevin Bush, Jim Brown, Tom Banks, Joe Gelmini

Officer and Director Reports

Administration—Rick Coble

Rick Coble sent a request to committee chairs for a list of committee members. The DOA is required to have that information on record.

A motion was made by Joe Sullivan to approve the September 2011 minutes. Seconded by Gary Jarabek. Motion passed.

Finance—Chris White

Chris distributed the September Financial Report as an Excel spreadsheet. He has the following comments:

- We received a check from Trainmaster for the credit card charges for the auction. This completed the auction results.
- The raffle lost money for the month (As I recall, this is the first time we actually lost money).
- HG purchased electrical items for the switches for the Kennesaw Merit Badge layout.
- Miscellaneous expenses included rental of our storage unit and bank fees.
- CD rates remain extremely low. I will leave the decision to the next Treasurer on how to invest this sum of money - after the March Train Show.

A motion was made by Gary Jarabek to approve the September 2011 Financial Report. Seconded by Bill Zawacki. Motion passed.

Operations—Charlie Crawford

Working on clinics and layout tours for the 2nd Quarter of 2012. This month's raffle will be gift certificates for Riverdale Hobbies. Last month for the first time we did not cover the cost of the raffle gift certificates. I would recommend we hold the drawing immediately after the break and see if it improves. If this continues I would recommend we cease the meeting raffles.

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Operations—continued

Charlie asked the BOD to address the following items regarding the change of meeting location:

We evidently cannot meet at the church in Marietta in March due to a Lenten Concert Series event. I have asked Perry to inquire whether there might be similar event(s) in December.

Howard Goodwin said that he will meet with Church staff to discuss calendar.

The AV committee has requested a walk-thru to see what AV set-up will entail at the church location. *Peter Youngblood will coordinate.*

Meeting length and cost. The previously report rental cost of \$85 is based on finishing the meeting and leaving the church by 9:30 p.m. Based on current meetings, we run past 9:30, with tear down of A/V equipment taking place after the meeting is completed. The church charges an additional \$50 for each 30 minutes past 9:30.

Ideas to hit the 9:30 deadline included:

Starting the meeting at 7:00.

Typical BOD meetings to not adjourn until close to 7:00. Attendees must travel from the BOD meeting site. Selection of a site for the meeting is critical. Previously discussed, this was noted by Joe Sullivan and Chris White. Having food brought into the meeting has been discussed.

Tighten up announcements, including requiring announcements to be submitted three days prior to the meeting. Also, standard announcements could be displayed in a PowerPoint Presentation.

The alternative venue resolution adopted in September states that a new committee will continue to look for alternative venues. Chris White reported that Steve Funsten, owner of Blue Ox Trains, suggested a Roswell location.

Charlie Crawford also noted the additional items from the Strategic Planning Meeting to be addressed:

Raffle. He has noted a downward trend in raffle participation. Many folks are leaving prior to the drawing. Charlie suggested once per quarter and moving the drawing to the end of the break. I.D. Jackson noted that we barely break even, and lost money from the September raffle.

Auctions. Charlie suggested one auction per year, with a meeting swap meet to replace the second auction. Multiple members noted that the auctions are open to the public and provide fellowship.

Peter Youngblood suggested one auction per year without the swap meet. He asked if the Winter auction is more profitable.

Charlie recommended having the January Auction, then visiting the topic after the March show.

Personnel/Membership - Paul Rankin

Attendance at the September meeting was 92.

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Committee Reports

Peachtree Express— Bob McIntyre

The next meeting is scheduled for later this month. Currently the discussion is on Convention cars. We are looking to have someone head up the project.

Piedmont Pilgrimage - Bob McIntyre

The Tour will start this month. We are looking for a big turnout for visitors.

Member Aid— Bob McIntyre

No requests

Achievement Program-Bob McIntyre

We will be handing out the final Certificate (cars) for Bill Zawacki. Peter Youngblood will be awarded the Certificate for Chief Dispatcher. This will be his 10th Certificate!

Advertising and Promotion/Division Apparel - Gary Jarabek

Advertising:

Monthly Meetings

NMRA submitted through January 2012 Issue

Railroad Model Craftsman submitted through January 2012 Issue.

Trains.com submitted through January 2012

Since there was a change in dates for the Marietta location, after the last months BOD meeting I have all the above submissions for the Elks Lodge location.

Pilgrimage

NMRA submitted for October and November

Railroad Model Craftsman submitted October and November

Trains.com through November

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.

Putty polo shirts only 2XL remain at the price of \$33.00, 2XL.

Blue polo shirt is in stock. Complete size range (med to 3XL).

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

Vests have been sold out.

Caps are also in stock.

Mugs will be distributed to new NMRA members.

Aprons

At this month's meeting I will pass around to the members a signup sheet for those who are interested in purchasing the aprons. They will have the option of either the canvas apron at \$6.00 or the denim apron at \$8.00. We will not stock any aprons. All future aprons will be on special order only.

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Model Train Show (2012) –Joe Gelmini

- Vendor Tables 62% sold/reserved.
- 1st vendor mailing will go out week of October 4
- A committee meeting will be held October 11, Old Hickory House BBQ, 4:30 PM

Good and Welfare –Joe Gelmini

- Sympathy card to wife of member John Lawhorn, who passed away September 23.
- Sympathy card to member Mark Thomann, whose mother passed away September 23
- Kathy Devaney scheduled for open heart surgery October 4. Prayers requested. It is reported that as of Sunday, October 9, Kathy is recovering well.

Howard Goodwin has started a short round of radiation treatment. Howard is in high spirits.

Website - Scott Povlot

The website received 13,073 page requests in September 2011.
Scott distributed a separate report with web traffic history before the meeting.

Boy Scout Merit Badge Program (Duluth) - John Stevens

- I am still working on the Girl Scouts of America (GSA) program. No real progress to report.
- We had 27 scouts in attendance at the September 17th program in Duluth. Five hundred seventeen (517) scouts have now earned the merit badge through a Piedmont Division Program. I presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Rick Coble and Howard Goodwin for having been a Merit Badge Counselor to 500 scouts. I also presented an O Scale Locomotive set to Will Carroll from Troop 536 for being the 500th scout to earn the merit badge through a Piedmont Division Program.
- We have been asked to set up the switching layouts for the SRM Model Railroading Day in support of the Piedmont Pilgrimage. There is also a possibility we will be doing a Cub Scout Program that day. I will be looking for 3-5 counselors to help out for the day.
- The 2012 dates for the scout program will be determined in late December.

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

Nothing new to report.

Name Badges - James Bando

I made four name tags this month.

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Division Book Library - Stephen Leydon

Books Owned:	409
Books Loaned To:	1
Total Books:	410
Uncirculated:	372
Circulating:	38
MIA:	0
Total Books:	410

Old Business

Hospital Layout – Tether Collection - John Travis

Cabinets are to be installed Wednesday October 12. The project is ready to proceed to the next phase.

Operations Jamboree (Joe Sullivan)

The first annual Piedmont Division OpsJam was held on September 24, October 2 and October 8, 2011. The committee wishes to thank the hosts, Joe Gelmini, Howard Goodwin, Charlie Crawford and Gary Jarabek as well as their dispatchers. The committee also wishes to thank Milt Burge and Perry Lamb who volunteered to host sessions which were later cancelled.

Joe presented all hosts and participants with Piedmont Division aprons.

While the effort got off to something of a slow start, a good time was had by all. Based on substantial positive feedback from many of the guest operators, the committee urges the Board to continue the OpsJam effort on an annual basis, although some changes may be made. The most important change would be to move the event to mid-spring, probably April of 2012.

Facilities - Howard Goodwin

The first Marietta meeting will take place in February. A church scheduling conflict (Lenten activities) makes the church unavailable the second Tuesday of the month. Marietta meetings will take place in February, April, and June. Tucker meetings will take place January, March, and May.

Member notification by postcard, penciled in for December, will be examined for timing prior to the first Marietta meeting.

See the Director of Operations section for additional discussion items.

2012 NASG Convention (Howard Goodwin)

The National Association of S Gaugers is holding its 2012 convention in Chattanooga August 8th - 11th. Howard Goodwin received an email concerning participation.

Howard Goodwin is attending on behalf of the NMRA. This is a good opportunity to promote Peachtree Express as well as the NMRA. He is looking for others to assist in Chattanooga.

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Atlanta Parenting Magazine (Howard Goodwin)

The 2011 Atlanta Parenting Magazine's Family Block Party took place October 8, 2011. Walt Liles, who coordinated our activity at the event, reported a large crowd, with the average age of children being 1-4 years of age.

Raffle Layout

The possibility of displaying the layout and selling raffle tickets at a November Train Show was discussed. We may be required to pay for space if we are selling tickets. Paul Rankin has inquired with the show manager and is waiting for a response.

Chris White noted that transportation is tough on the layout. Joe Sullivan recommended not taking the layout to the November show.

Peter Youngblood is working towards showcasing the layout on a morning TV show. Walt Liles recommended creating a YouTube video about the layout.

2014 Layout

Kevin Bush is storing the 2014 raffle layout.

Division Aprons- Joe Sullivan

See division apparel report for additional information.

Member Privacy - Rick Coble

The SER passed a confidentiality policy at its Fall 2011 BOD meeting in Gatlinburg. The policy adopts the NMRA policy and adds region-specific items to the policy. Rick sent a draft division policy to the BOD and committee chairs prior to the Piedmont BOD meeting.

Peter Youngblood moved that the Piedmont Division adopts the confidentiality policy, as written by Rick Coble. Seconded by David Gelmini. Motion passed.

Timetable/Pilgrimage Printing Costs - Howard Goodwin/Rick Coble

Tom Scott printed the Q4 2011 Timetable and Piedmont Pilgrimage booklets with the division supplying the paper, resulting in a significant savings for the division.

Strategic Planning Meeting

The Division's Strategic Planning Meeting took place September 25th at the Old Hickory House in Tucker. A set of ideas and recommendations were sent to the BOD and committee chairs.

TrainNCamp Clinics (Howard Goodwin)

Howard Goodwin has scheduled a pair of TrainNCamp scenery clinics to be held at HobbyTown Kennesaw. Part 1 will be held October 29, with Part 2 held December 3. Times are 11 am to 4 pm.

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Auction of Digitrax Zephyr System (Bob McIntyre)

Digitrax has donated a Zephyr system in support of the Piedmont Pilgrimage. The system will be auctioned in October.

New Business

Holiday Party

Need a volunteer to coordinate the December Holiday party. Mike Deaton, who has coordinated recent parties with his wife, Julie, will be contacted.

SER Fall Meeting (Joe Gelmini)

SER President Joe Gelmini gave the BOD a report of the Fall SER BOD meeting, held October 8 in Gatlinburg, TN.

Auction Software (Bill Zawacki)

Bill Zawacki proposed the purchase of auction software for both the silent and live auction as long as it also supported the white elephant sale tables at the train show.

Paul Rankin moved that the Piedmont Division purchase software to be used with auctions and the company store. Seconded by Peter Youngblood. Motion passed.

The Meeting Adjourned at 6:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Coble, Director of Administration