

MINUTES
Board of Directors' Meeting
PNR, NMRA
June 18, 2014

Attendees: Shirley Sample, Ed Molenkamp Russ Segner, Mike McGee, Robert Sample, Ed Liesse, Gay Liesse, Jack Hamilton MMR, Charlie Comstock, Gary Thurow, Dirk Kruysman, Christopher Jones, Doug Mayer, Gary Hazell, Jim Little, Russ Watson, Walt Huston, Jeannie Melvin, Didrik Voss MMR, Rose Plies MMR, Bob Stafford, Ken Liesse, Jim Trunzo, Tom Waters, Donna Hamilton.

President Walt Huston called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

A motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting was made and seconded. It passed.

The secretary, Jeannie Melvin, has submitted her resignation effective at the end of this convention due to a move to Las Cruces, NM. [Bob Stafford of the 4th Division volunteered to take on the responsibilities after the meeting was over.]

Officer reports.

The reports of both the President and Vice President were previously published and accepted. The President pointed out that he is not seeking re-election and there are no candidates for either his or the Vice President's positions. Discussion was tabled until later in the meeting. Vice President Shirley Sample said she is stepping down also.

Treasurer Dirk Kruysman handed out copies of the financial report including the budget for the next year. A motion to approve the budget was made and seconded. It passed.

Division reports were previously sent out to each board member and they were accepted.

Ed Liesse and Gay Liesse, co-office managers' report was also previously sent and was accepted. Gay said she is resigning as co-manager, but Ed will continue as office manager.

Committee/Program Reports

Jack Hamilton MMR, Achievement Program chair, said the program is working much faster and better. Each month reports are sent to all AP chairs so they know what they have pending. Jack would like to provide shirts for Master Model Railroaders in the PNR. He would like the PNR to buy shirts at \$35 each, noting this was good

publicity for the PNR. To cover this cost, a motion was made to increase the budget by \$400. The motion was seconded and passed.

A motion to allow the treasurer to balance the budget by transferring money from the Life Member account to the AP budget was made. It was seconded and passed.

Convention committee chair Russ Segner reported that all is going very well with the convention so far.

There was no report from the Education program.

Charlie Comstock, superintendent of 2nd Division, suggested making videos of clinics available to members (not on YouTube). Russ Segner said use of technology is more and more efficient, and the 4D will be investigating ways to use this in the coming year. Jack Hamilton MMR said a video does not count toward "Author" points for the AP program.

Membership chair Shirley Sample said she did not do a lot, but she did take information to various functions. Her term ends Aug. 31.

There was no report from the Publications committee.

There was no unfinished business.

New business

Jack Hamilton MMR reported on the status of NMRA liability insurance. Jack said it covers accidents on premises, not car wrecks, spilled coffee etc. The venue of an event requires proof of insurance coverage of \$1 million typically. There is talk about increasing this coverage significantly. Insurance coverage of \$5 million could cost the NMRA up to \$120,000 yr. Tacoma Rail, one of the tours on this convention, required \$5 million in coverage; it is city-run rail. The Convention Committee covered the added expense for the Tacoma Rail tour.

A discussion followed. It was suggested that a group might need to have a letter from the division superintendent stating, "the event they are sponsoring is sanctioned by the division." This typically applies to 100% NMRA Clubs. Gary Thurow says he has such a letter in his division (5th).

Ed Liesse said he was approached with the suggestion for the PNR to hold a joint convention with the Pacific Southwest Region (PSR) and the Pacific Coast Region (PCR) for 2016 or 2017. It would probably be held in the PCR in Sacramento, CA. This is centrally located and the California State Railroad Museum, which is working with the NMRA, is there. There is good access for travel, hotels, and rail activity. The cost and profits would be split three ways. Are we interested?

Discussion followed, and it was generally thought that we should table it until after the two presentations by the 2016 and 2017 PNR convention host divisions. Ed Liesse needs a decision around August. If we do this, would the division who was scheduled to host the PNR convention for that year still do that? Jack Hamilton MMR spoke against that, saying if you hold a division convention in the same year it would detract from attendance for both. The BOD agreed.

The Board tabled the issue.

[There is no regional convention in 2015 because of the National Convention being held in Portland, OR. Next year]

Gary Hazell provided a handout for the proposed 2016 convention to be hosted by the 7th Division in Salmon Arm, BC. A motion to accept their proposal was made and seconded. It passed.

Gary Thurow, Superintendent, 5th Division made a proposal for the 2017 convention to be held in Spokane, WA. The Red Lion Inn At The Park got the nod from the 5D BOD, as almost everything is in walking distance of the hotel. Shirley will be treasurer for that convention. In talks with the hotel, they said room rates will be under \$150 a night and the hotel wants a signature by 6/27/14. The groundwork is done and the convention would be held 6/7/17- 6/12/17.

A motion to accept Gary Thurow's proposal was made and seconded. It passed.

A motion to give the 7th Division the \$1000 convention money a year early was made and seconded. It passed. These funds are to be taken from the Life account.

Resumption of tabled item re: candidates for Region officers. Walt Huston said the election update was that the PNR needs officers. No one who has been nominated or approached by the nominating committee wants the job. Without a president and vice president, the board must be responsible for finding candidates and running an election.

New officers must be elected by Aug 31, 2014 to take office at the end of this term. Russ Segner wants to have another meeting so directors can discuss the problem. It was agreed to meet on Saturday at noon for a working lunch. There is a general membership meeting at 10 a.m. Saturday and the issue will be brought to that meeting. Jack Hamilton MMR said we should discuss how to get candidates to start early in an apprentice-type program so this does not happen again.

Dirk Kruysman said he will serve as Treasurer again, but only for ONE year.

The rules governing the release of membership information within NMRA were discussed by Ed Liesse and Jack Hamilton MMR. NMRA policy covers all regions around the world. For example, the name and hometown of record of a member are

accessible by the division officials but cannot be accessed by anyone else below that, including a 100% NMRA membership club. Furthermore, the information cannot be used for an event that is not NMRA sanctioned. There was a lot of discussion about the policy.

Shirley asked what to do about contacting members who are no longer at their address to update their information. She wanted to send a postcard, or letter with a return envelope, which would be returned to the division superintendent. Jack Hamilton MMR said the division superintendent is responsible for verifying member information and the first thing he or she should do is pick up the phone and call the person. Discussion noted that a mailing would be expensive and probably not very successful.

Subscription fees. NMRA has been charging for subscriptions for the SwitchList when our members renew their NMRA membership. Walt Huston asked them to stop nine months ago. HQ has taken that action and stopped that practice about a month ago. Discussion resulted in a recommendation that a rebate be offered to those who paid for subscriptions from January 2013 to date.

A motion was made to cut off refunds at January 2013. The motion was seconded and passed. Each division needs to make the announcement to their members and ask: do you want your \$6 back? Jack Hamilton MMR will also send out the information in Train Orders.

Announcements.

Jack Hamilton MMR clarified that the information email newsletter, Train Orders, is provided by him, to any division to use for communicating within the division or with other divisions. Jack will talk with Division Superintendents about Train Orders; just send him an email.

Rail pass program [there is a handout]. A Railpass holder is eligible for AP certificates but not for the designation of Master Model Railroader. Rail Pass is an Once-In-A-Lifetime benefit.

The 501(c)(3) status request by the NMRA is still under consideration from IRS.

Membership. How to improve membership will be presented at the national convention in Cleveland. How can we go about identifying potential members and recruiting them?

If any division superintendent has anything for the national board of directors, give it to Jack Hamilton MMR, via email, to pass along.

Tabled Topic:

Regarding a joint convention in 2016 or 2017, Ed Molenkamp made a motion to decline the offer for now, since the 7th Division and 5th Division have already done so much work. It was seconded and passed. Ed Liesse will tell PCR/PSC no for those years, but we might want to consider it for another year (2018?). We need more lead time, since the divisions start to prepare so early.

Walt Huston said we have five new MMRs in the Region, and he listed them all and when they received the designation. They are:

Wright	Gregory	MMR		30-Aug-13
Reardon	James	MMR		23-Sep-13
Farley	Glenn	MMR		02-Oct-13
Miller	Gordon A.	MMR		03-Apr-14
Muff	Nick	MMR	01-Jun-14	

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. It passed and the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannie Melvin, Secretary

