

**MINUTES**  
Board of Directors' Meeting  
PNR, NMRA  
June 26, 2013

Attendees:

Ed Liesse, Office Manager; Ken Liesse, 4th Division Superintendent; Gay Liesse, Office Manager; Gary Thurow, 5th Division Supt.; Larry Sebelley, PNR Convention Chair and proxy for Russ Watson, 7th Division Supt.; Walt Huston, President; Shirley Sample, Vice President; Charlie Comstock, 2nd Division Supt.; Dirk Kruysman, Treasurer; Phil Ulmen, Jr., 3rd Division Supt.; Robert Sample; Christopher Jones; Lori Sebelley; Jack Hamilton; Rich Pitter; Jeannie Melvin.

Pres. Walt Huston called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Larry Sebelley brought a letter from Russ Watson naming Larry his proxy. (In the absence of the secretary, Ed Liesse took notes.)

Walt handed out copies of the By- laws and Policy Manual with the changes that were approved last year.

There was a Motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting (2012), which was seconded and carried.

Dirk sent copies of the treasurer's report to everyone. He raised the question about the potential for reimbursement for travel to the board meeting and two nights lodging. He gave examples from his spreadsheet on projected costs and added that this year we could afford to pay it, but felt the board should vote it on every year, based on financial condition.

There was a motion that the PNR establish a reimbursement policy based on the financial condition of the region each year. Jack pointed out that the Policy Manual already has this section: J-4. After further discussion, the motion was withdrawn. A Motion was then made to suspend J-4 and have a committee of Jack, Phil and Dirk rework the section. After more discussion, the board found that a committee was not needed, at which time a Motion was made to reimburse eligible board members who request it at \$0.25 per mile and \$50 per night for two nights for lodging. This was seconded and carried. (At this point the secretary took over the note- taking.)

### **Committee Reports**

Achievement Program—Jack said the NMRA is working on a Distant Evaluation--how to earn merit awards from a distance when a modeler lives in a sparsely populated place, e.g., Alaska.

The AP Chair reported that in PNR the requirement to complete large quantities of paperwork to prepare for most AP certificates was not necessary. He pointed out that with the team visit approach now being championed, the ability of the evaluators to discuss modeled directly with the modeler replaced most of the paperwork previously considered necessary. The process has been developed and is working well in 4D and should be adopted in all other Divisions.

Conventions—There is a revised schedule for the convention venues, since the 4<sup>th</sup> Division traded with Division 2 for the 2014 convention.

Membership—Please use Constant Contact to get to new members immediately.

Publications—A new Switch List editor has volunteered, Peter Mueller of North Vancouver, BC. Welcome aboard Peter.

### **There was no Unfinished Business.**

#### **New Business**

It was suggested that we redraw the boundaries of the Region Divisions since Montana is now in two divisions. Gary Thurow and the 5<sup>th</sup> division would take all the MT members who are currently included in a Canadian region (6D). This means all of MT will be in a US division. Ken is the resident mapmaker and he will redraw the boundaries. Gary made a Motion to have eastern MT moved to the 5<sup>th</sup> Division. The Motion was seconded and approved. Gary will notify the members involved.

A Motion was made by Ken to abolish zip codes to determine the Region home Division of a member and to use county of residence instead. There has been confusion in the past, since a zip code may actually be for a neighboring state or county and also they change frequently. Ken would like to use the county of residence to determine the region a member belongs to. The Motion was seconded and approved.

President's Award—Will be announced at banquet.

Budget--Walt wants to have \$100 back in his budget: he needs \$150, not \$50. Motion to approve the amended budget was seconded and approved.

Dave Liesse would like us to consider an online registration company to handle all future conventions and wants permission to investigate it. The Board agreed this would be a good avenue to explore and gave Dave the go-ahead.

The 2015 National Convention needs to set aside time and space for a PNR BOD meeting and a PNR General Membership meeting.

Western District report from Jack—The next board meeting of the NMRA will include discussion of how to formalize training methods so they can be used everywhere. Existing clinics will be reformatted to fit the standard. The Long Range Plan is being revised now and will be the Strategic Plan with input from members: it will be drafted by members for members.

Guest speaker reimbursement—Dirk would like to have reimbursement available for guest speakers. This would include travel and two nights at the hotel.

The NMRA is now incorporated in Missouri, not Ohio; this will change the rules under which it operates. Also, the NMRA is a 501(c) 3 corporation, which means all regions, and divisions will be under their umbrella. However, the application process will take about a year or a year and a half.

2014 Convention--Ken noted that 4D traded with the 2D since they will host the

national convention in 2015. 4D proposes to hold the convention in April, May or June and they are looking at someplace between Olympia and Bremerton. He suggested that it might be held from Thursday through Saturday and the BOD meeting would be held on Wednesday afternoon rather than Wed. morning. There was a Motion to accept 4D convention bid. It was seconded and approved.

Dirk says he needs to be audited by an outside person, as it has been some years since a formal audit has been done.

The Secretary, Jeannie Melvin, will be leaving the Region at some point and hopefully moving to New Mexico, so a new secretary will be needed.

There was an official welcome to the convention from Phil Ulmen, Jr.

A Motion to adjourn was made and approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Melvin, Secretary