

Purpose: Garden State Division (GSD) Staff Meeting
Date/Time: Saturday, March 19, 2016
Place: Home of Bob Dennis
Attendees: Bruce De Young, Bob Dennis, Tom Casey, Tom Wortmann, Jim Walsh, Anthony Piccirillo, Mark Moritz, Andy Brusgard, Chuck Diljak, Fred Dellaiacono, Ciro Compagno

Not in attendance: Jim Homoki, Jim Fawcett

Meeting started around 9:00 AM

March 19, 2016 - Motions Submitted and Approved

(2016.3.19.1) Increase from 7 to 8 Directors at Large on the GSD Board of Directors.

(2016.3.19.2) Change the GSD Bylaws to implement the position of Immediate Past President.

Reports were presented:

President's Report – Bruce traveled to Atlanta for the mid year NMRA National Board of Directors meeting and reported a few things from that meeting. There was a committee appointed in Portland to come up with ideas in the areas of recruitment and retention at the national level. Jack Hamilton from the Seattle area volunteered to do it. He is extremely thorough and hard working. At around 100 pages, his recommendations report will be distributed to the regions and then divisions after the Indianapolis Convention. He was directed to add an executive summary and bullet points. Tom W related an idea used by the Marine Corps League: each division can make stickers with contact info inviting model railroaders to make contact. The stickers are applied to our old magazines that are left in locations like doctors waiting rooms, auto repair centers where they can be discovered by potential new members. Bruce noted that he will pass the idea on to National. Another topic from the meeting was a discussion about divisions with very few members and whether they can support their membership. Bruce convinced the National to provide a template and web hosting for the smaller divisions. There was a brief discussion of how some divisions in the NMRA are spread out over large areas and techniques used to service the members. Bruce also spoke about some of his interactions and attempts to interact with the Hudson Valley Division. Also at the mid year meeting, Bruce was asked to develop a division superintendent's handbook. He submitted the document and it is now in the review and comment phase. When approved, it will be distributed to the regions and then divisions. It represents the first time that National has defined the types of services that divisions should be providing to their members. It can be helpful for new superintendents.

Vice President's Report – Jim Fawcett did not attend the meeting.

Secretary's Report - Copies of the draft minutes of the last meeting (11/7/2015) were distributed and accepted as written. The motion was moved by Bob and seconded by Andy.

Treasurer's Report – Our financial condition remains strong. No liabilities and our main assets include \$1500 in time deposits and \$3077 in checking with a small amount in petty cash. We show a net income of \$87 for the past period probably from the last meet. Bruce noted that the Ramsey location cost us \$125 and it was a very good venue and location. The Treasurer's report was accepted (moved by Anthony and seconded by Tom W)

Education Committee and AP Reports – Bruce has 4 certificates to be awarded at the next meet – 2 are Civil certificates for Bob and Tom W and 2 Golden Spike awards for Andy Rubo and Mark Lutz. Bruce noted that Mark's layout could be considered as a possible layout for an open house. In his next President's column he will be making an appeal for layouts for tours and operating sessions in preparation for the 2018 convention. Ciro pointed out that layout information should be sent to Jim

Homoki since he maintains the home layout list. Anthony remarked that his layout could be considered as well. Bruce will be going to Ed Suhy's to evaluate his layout for Electrical and Steve Ascolese will come over after this meeting to have a structure evaluated. Bruce also reminded the board that some members may already qualify for the Volunteer certificate.

Event Report –Spring meet – Ciro reported that he has worked with Bob Clegg on the dual meet with the NJD on May 14 in Wall Township. GSD has offered the home layout of Ted Dilorio and a clinic by Chuck Diljak. Bruce informed the group that he will be out of town on that day and initiated a plan for our business meeting in his absence. Since it is a joint meet, we must conduct our meeting quickly. If Jim Fawcett cannot attend that meeting, Ciro volunteered to run it for Bruce. Ciro noted that the NMRA marketing consultant, Christina Ganzer, lives in New Jersey and will be attending the Spring Meet. Bruce met her at the meeting in Atlanta.

Summer meet – Mark volunteered to arrange the meeting in Morristown but he needs to know some dates. He suggested the first week in August – August 6. He asked what type of meet will we want to have. Bruce suggested that we can do anything that is supported by the location. Mark checked out the Morristown Museum but it will not work for us. Morristown also has the town hall building – senior citizen center - well located and reasonable. The Whippany train museum is nearby and there is a rebuilding shop in the area. Boonton renovation shops are 10 miles away. The M&E shops and train station are within walking distance. Mark is trying to get a talk by a local historian. We could have some presentations in the morning and outings in the afternoon. Lunch facilities are conveniently located to town hall within walking distance. We have an approved amount of up to \$250 for the facility.

Fall meet – We will be back in Hillsborough and Jim Homoki needs dates that would be possible for the meet. Considering events for the fall, available dates are Oct 1, Oct 15, Oct 29, Nov 12 and Nov 19 (weekend before thanksgiving). Jim Homoki had previously suggested a works in progress style meet. Hillsborough is a great facility for that type of meet.

Winter meet - Bob Dennis had suggested the Model Railroad Club Inc. in Union, NJ. We need some local layout tours as alternatives for members not participating in an operating session at the club. We will plan a date in late February 2017. Bob Dennis will coordinate with the club.

Tom W will post the August 6 summer meet date on the website as soon as Mark confirms it with Morristown. Anthony will post it on Facebook as well.

Bruce reported that the National has thousands of boxcar shells available to the divisions for any type of workshop or clinic. They are available in boxes of 50 units and the only cost is for shipping. The group decided to get 100.

Membership & Club Chair's Report - Tom C – he presented the membership list and a sheet tracking our membership since January 2013. Our membership has been slowly eroding over the years. Tom also included information for the NER and our percentage of the NER has remained fairly steady at around 14% - therefore we are experiencing the same trend as the NER – our renewal rates are fairly stable too. Another distributed sheet focuses on rail pass members and about 30% of the rail pass members renew and remain members. We retain 40% of the people who join as full members – probably more motivated.

Whistle Post Report. – Bruce reminded us that Jim Homoki would like our submittals sooner rather than later. Bruce already submitted his President's report and is ¾ complete with the AP report. He asked who will write an article on the Winter meet and determined that it will be him. Jim needs articles for the Whistle Post – modeling articles and layout construction articles. Ciro suggested that we send out an email blast to the membership soliciting articles as we did in the past. Mark was advised to write an article on how he built his award winning freight car including the research and the many scratchbuilt details.

“Erie Limited” 2018 Convention Chairman Report

Tom W spoke with several people who worked on previous conventions or head up convention committees. He said that he expects the new NER convention chairman to be a great asset for organizing and running a convention. Tom also reported that Roger Oliver is the new convention treasurer. He advised that we need to be alert for actions or inactions that will conflict with the success of our convention. John Doehring requested that we work with neighboring divisions but we need to get valuable support from them if we are locating the convention near them. In our last convention (2006) we had 31 home layouts, 21 clinics, 11 clubs, 7 operating sessions, and 2 nonrail events. There were no rail tours and railfan events due to the post 911 paranoia. We should be able to do better for our 2018 convention. For the clinics, we will need clinicians, projectors, screens, computers and volunteers to support the clinicians. It cannot just be our group performing the roles. Tom made an appeal to Bruce to go to John and determine if we are going to get help from the region. We need to be directly involved in recruiting volunteers, clinicians, home layouts and operating sessions. The solicitation may be made somewhere else but we need to know about the responses. Tom noted that according to the manual, the NER controls the advertising. Bruce suggested that we will need to negotiate these items with the region. We must control the web site and advertising. One concern is that the region will handle the money flow and it is probably not negotiable.

Tom advised that we will need a list of past and current railroad areas such as Phillipsburg. That area has an amazing wealth of inspiration including layouts and abandoned railroad bridges. We need to know about places like the Morris Canal and abandoned railroad bridges. We will need help from wives and girlfriends to help out and setting up a welcoming room, nonrail events and points of interest. We must keep wives and girlfriends happy to enhance the enjoyment of the model railroad attendees. In this regard, Bruce pointed out that the location on which he is focusing is not far from the Woodbury Common Premium Outlets shopping area. Mark pointed out that a benefit of our proximity to New York City offers the possibility of Broadway shows and museums. Andy pointed out that at the O scale national convention, the Broadway shows were a big seller. Tom insisted that anybody who volunteers for a clinic cannot be turned down. We will need the scheduled clinics as well as backup contingency clinics. We will have a list of clinics we must have, clinics we could have and the fill-ins. We must have activities all day and should never be without something to do. It could be clinics, vendors, layouts, displays, or manufacturers so that the hotel is busy from 7 AM until midnight. Even if it is just a room with a video in it, there has to be something to do. This makes it attractive and everything is planned out. If something fails, there is a fall back. Tom also said that there is no layout or tour that is too far from the hotel because they could be on the way home or to the convention. We will also need food areas around the hotel and a food location within sight of a rail crossing is ideal. We need somebody in charge of signs since there will be many signs – hotels, layouts, what is going on, update sheets, signs for the banquet tables. We will have a great need for signs in advance of the event and new last minute signs only when there are changes. Do not rely on the hotel for good directions, locations of rest rooms or even the restaurants – we need our people to do that. We need event staff circulating and asking if people need assistance.

Our first step is to find out from the region where our limitations are and what they are doing in handling the money like preregistrations. Bruce and Fred are going to start visiting hotels because we need to identify the hotels and ball park estimate of the costs to inform the region. We will identify the range of price for hotels that meet our needs that include number of meeting rooms, banquet facility, number of sleeping rooms and on site food availability. So the hotel search is the first task for the division. Fred and Bruce have a list of questions to ask at the hotels – to determine the cost and facilities available. Ciro asked when do we need to have the hotel confirmed? We need to have our proposal before the September meeting. So that at the Albany meet, they would be awarding us our bid to host the 2018 convention. For the consideration of the NER members, we should be sensitive to how far south we go for our convention. Also to create interest, we should try to get 2 or 3 big names in model railroading as clinicians.

Old Business –

- Ciro asked if we still need an events chairman. The consensus is that we could use somebody for coordination for the next few meets and the item remains open.
- Tom C to contact new clubs and get permission to publish their info. This is still open.
- Tom W and Ciro to move pictures from Yahoo to the NERGSD website. Tom mentioned that there was a format change that he needs to understand and the item will remain open.
- Item about the GSD Facebook remains open and Anthony will put links on the Facebook page and resolve the access issues that have been discussed in email.
- Tom W thought that he sent the Parsippany convention after action report to the BOD but some people did not receive it. Tom committed to resending the document to everyone.

New Business –

- Discussion of the Division Report to the NER president. Bruce completed it with help from Bob Dennis but we will maintain a template with the information for the future – due May 1 every year.
- Discussion of the upcoming election. Having more people interested in positions on the BOD than positions available, there was a suggestion to add another director at large to the BOD.

MOTION - Ciro made a motion to increase from 7 to 8 Directors at Large on the GSD Board of Directors. Tom W seconded it and the motion was approved unanimously.

- The following changes to the Bylaws of the Garden State Division are required to implement the position of Immediate Past President:

Move Section 6 Directors at Large to become Section 7 Directors at Large

Add the following as Section 6:

Section 6 Immediate Past President

- A. Upon being succeeded at an Annual Meeting, the retiring President becomes the Immediate Past president and remains on the BOD as such without further election until a new retiring President becomes the Immediate Past president.

MOTION - Ciro motioned to accept the proposed changes to the Bylaws to implement the Immediate Past President position, Tom W seconded it and it was unanimously approved.

- The need for a personal public address system was discussed. We want one with a clip on wireless microphone and maximum cost of \$500.

ACTION – Tom W will do research and report on public address systems that meet our requirements.

Bruce advised that we should keep a watch out for railroad related places of interest that could be featured for our convention or future meets.

There was a brief discussion of things to give new members in place of the Welcome CD. Bruce mentioned that another group hands out laminated cards with information on the model railroad scales.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Next BOD Meeting 11 JUN 2016 at the home of Anthony Piccirillo

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Walsh

Jim Walsh, Secretary NMRA/NER/GSD