

Minutes of the Fourth Division Board of Directors Meeting Saturday, May 9, 2009

The meeting was **called to order** by Superintendent Dennis Hill at 1:09 PM at the Yankee Grill in Renton. Present were Superintendent Dennis Hill, Assistant Superintendent Jim Byerley, Director Norm Curtis, Director Walt Huston, Director J.J. Johnston, Treasurer Sherman Stevens, Video Chair Stu Rogers, Education Chair Ed Liesse, Publisher Al Lowe and member Ken Liesse. With six of seven voting officers present, a quorum was met.

The **minutes** of the previous BOD meeting of February 21, 2009, were approved as distributed through the 4DPNR web site.

OLD BUSINESS

Clinic Reports

Eastside – JJ Johnston – doing just fine! JJ is going to try a different format at the next meeting by having the clinic in the first part of the meeting, then the other normal items. Several clinicians have expressed the desire to be on at the beginning of the clinic, not later.

Tacoma – Walt Huston – all is well in Tacoma!

Module Reports

N Scale – Al Lowe – group will be going to Portland for the national N Scale convention June 17 – 21.

HO Scale – Norm Curtis – group was at the Great Train Expo in Puyallup, but were upstairs. Elevator can only hold one person and module at a time and is very slow. The escalators turn off shortly after the show closes and can't be used easily. Not the best of arrangements. The World's Greatest Hobby show in November will be using the Expo Hall which is much bigger and on one floor.

Brief pause for ordering lunch!

New modules have been added by new members –good! Also have a few young people in the group, one boy whose mother helped tear down after the last show. Some just come to operate and then leave. N Scale group has a rule in their By-laws: If you run, you have to set up or tear down!

Education – Ed Liesse – had contact with a member living in Australia wanting to share clinics and clinic information in the new clinic/clinician library we want to develop. Also had contact with a professor at Central Washington University who sent copies of clinics she developed with Jim Murrie for inclusion in the library. Max Magginess and Walt Huston have information to include and Stu Rogers offered material as well. We're still in the process of collecting and will be contacting previous clinicians for inclusion.

Treasurer's Report – Sherman Stevens – emphasize Education whenever possible. It's a strong statement as part of our 501-c-3 non-profit IRS status! Financially, 4D is doing ok. Several contributions have come in: friend of Jim Byerley donated \$500, restricted to Educational endeavors; the Washington State History Museum (Tacoma) donated \$1200; the Western Washington Fair Grounds is returning \$4800 of our deposit for the cancelled train show. This is still a \$1200 loss, but much better than it could have been. Education should have a line item in the new budget. Additional discussion indicated that maybe the Clinics and the Modular Groups should be shown as items under Education, but all should have their own line item figures, not included in the Education numbers. He is finishing up Form 990 for submission by May 15. Motion to approve report was made and passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Treasurer Sherman Stevens requested approval to purchase a new copy of QuickBooks. There is a new version available for non-profit organizations which would meet our accounting needs better than the old copy he now is using. Motion to spend up to \$450 for new copy of QuickBooks for non-profits was made and passed.

Video Librarian Stu Rogers requested approval to purchase additional cases for video tapes and storage boxes. He has received approximately 400 video tapes from Mike Shaw plus others already on hand that need to be put in the standard video tape case. With fewer video tapes being produced the cases are getting in short supply. Storage boxes are needed to store the original copies of the video tapes. It was suggested that we should no longer make duplicate copies of video tapes but make DVD copies instead. No action taken on this suggestion. Motion to spend up to \$600 for video tape cases and storage boxes was made and approved.

A question was raised as to the whereabouts of a DVD recorder purchased several years ago. Recommended to check with Tom Enloe.

Elections – Superintendent Dennis Hill reported that according to the Bylaws, elections should have happened a month ago! Motion made to waive the Bylaws election dates for 2009 only to allow the election ballot to be in the June Grab Iron with ballots returned by July 1 was made and passed.

Candidate statements are needed from Stu Rogers, Jim Byerley, Bill Hupe, Ken Liesse, and Al Lowe as soon as possible for inclusion in the June Grab Iron with the ballots. Ken Liesse removed himself from the candidate list

Tri Fold Handout – Publisher Al Lowe had an example to distribute using material submitted by Ken Liesse. Various suggestions were made for changes to the format. Al will work with them and send them out (e-mail) to the BOD. He will also research pricing for copies.

PNR 2010 Convention Committee – Superintendent Dennis Hill discussed the need for immediate action on setting up the committee and finding a chair. Stu Rogers indicated interest in the position, but wanted more information about what all it entailed. Dennis, Ed Liesse and Ken Liesse will meet with Stu before the Tacoma Clinic to enlighten him. Norm Curtis also expressed interest in the Registrar's position. More discussion with Norm will be forthcoming. The date for the convention was set for September 16 – 18, 2010 with Wednesday, September 15 for the PNR BOD meeting and evening welcoming gathering. Treasurer Sherman Stevens will look into establishing a separate for the convention. A location is still to be determined and other chair positions on the committee.

AP Promotion and 4D Contests – Superintendent Dennis Hill announced that 4D now has a Contest Chair – David Faussett. David is a regular attendee at the Tacoma Clinic. He will be the Contest Chair for the PNR 2010 convention. CJ Riley will work with him in the contest room handling the AP portion of the contest.

Grab Iron – Superintendent Dennis Hill reported that 4D is subsidizing the Grab Iron about \$1200 per year. Discussion revealed a suggestion to possibly reduce the mailed copies to every other month. Other ideas were to raise the mailing price to subscribers and look into increasing the advertising rates. It was suggested to check with Mike Slease (Advertising & Circulation guru) for additional ideas and possibilities to reduce the subsidy costs.

Bylaws changes – Superintendent Dennis Hill reported that he was finding conflicting information in the current Bylaws and had some recommended changes that should be voted on by the members. Further discussion revealed several additional changes that would be required. The Superintendent asked Ken Liesse to review the suggested changes for correctness of wording.

The intent was to have the Bylaws changes ready for the June ballot in the Grab Iron. This may have to be held to a later date for vote.

Treasurer Sherman Stevens reported he has been asked for copies of the material 4D used for obtaining the 501C3 non-profit status with the IRS. 5th Division PNR and Roger Ferris, for the Swamp Creek & Western club, have requested copies. His question was whether he should be charging for the copies. After discussion, a motion to charge for the reproduction of the material used in applying for the 501C3 status and mailing (if applicable) was made and passed.

Recognition Meeting – Superintendent Dennis Hill stated we needed to have a recognition meeting at one of the clinics next month to recognize certain members for their efforts. A site should be selected soon for notification of the meeting in the June Grab Iron. Dennis will find the site.

Next meeting – the next meeting of the BOD will be Saturday, August 8 at the Yankee Grill in Renton. This will be the budget meeting so all officers, clinic chairs, module chairs, publications group, education chair, contest chair and any others with budget considerations should submit a copy of their requests to the Superintendent and Treasurer by Saturday, July 25.

A **motion to adjourn** the meeting was made and passed at 3:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Liesse
Secretary, pro tem