

MINUTES
Board of Directors' Meeting
4th Division, PNR, NMRA
November 2, 2013

***Attendees:** Al Lowe, Paul Pellegrino, Mike Stepner, Jim Merriam, Michael Highsmith, Kurt Laidlaw, Alex Brikoff, Tina Brikoff, Russ Segner, Sherman Stevens, Ed Liesse, Ken Liesse, Gay Liesse, David Yadock, Ed Ives, Rob Jones, Jack Hamilton, Jeannie Melvin*

Supt. Ken Liesse called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of last meeting; it was seconded and passed. Ken noted that Ed Liesse has JJ Johnston's proxy for this meeting.

Officers' reports

Superintendent: PSX 2014 will be at La Quinta in Tacoma, 06/18 – 06/23. There will be three tours: Tacoma Rail, Mt. Rainier Scenic Railroad, and the Northwest Railway Museum in Snoqualmie. (see the website at PSX2014.com.)

Asst. Superintendent: No report

Secretary: Nothing to report.

Treasurer: Sherm Stevens presented the current budget and bank account report. Sherm will meet with Al Lowe and Russ Segner to get PayPal set up on the PSX2014 convention website. A motion was made to accept the report; it was seconded and passed.

Committee and Program Reports

Education. Alex Brikoff is working with Paul Pellegrino of OmNiRail on the BSA merit badge for model railroading. A scout needs to meet the requirements to get the blue card; then report to the counselor for testing/approval. NMRA already has a formal merit badge program; Jack Hamilton will send it to Paul.

Alex is working on the idea of a video library of clinics and needs a release form for the clinicians. Jack says NMRA already has such a form, and they also have a large library of about 50 clinics, so check those first before making videos for the 4D.

Publications. Al Lowe: Our YahooGroup is still not right but being looked at. Spammers are signing up but cannot post nor harvest members' email addresses. The *Grab Iron* is still inserting random pictures.

Membership. Rob Jones. Now has the information at Eastside Trains; he has talked to some eastside schools about posters.

PSC. David Yadock: The GI has the PSC poster now. There will not be a banquet, as there was no response. Invitations have been sent for groups to attend. He wants the membership table to have a small layout. Jack H will have a Build a Layout N scale

module available by the show. Can we have money for the Playmobile layout that comes from Wenatchee?

Office Manager. Ed Liesse, co-manager, says Pacific Northwest Region has about 1550 members, which is declining. Be sure to tell him about changes to email. When member leaves, a follow-up questionnaire is sent; most today say they cannot afford it anymore.

Modular Groups

Hi-Railers. Ed Ives: The 4D bought John Salzetti's modules. They had to be rewired, so they went to a field in Roy to tear apart and fix. They were going to Lynden, but at last minute they had to rent a UHaul to get everyone there. They went to Maple Valley also.

HO Module Group. No report.

4dNTRAK. Al: "We bit off more than we can chew – but then we chewed it up anyway!" This summer they built carts specifically for the trailer, which makes loading easier. They built a big yard 28' long, with 1,200 feeders and 120 turnouts. Next show is GTE at Puyallup on Nov. 15-18. They will hook up with Mt. Rainier for a layout of about 50x70 feet.

OmNi Rail. Paul Pellegrino: membership is increasing. They are working on a linear layout rather than a loop. They will be ready for GTE. Funds originally requested for yard were shelved; they diverted some to building of loops and membership. Ken does not have a problem with changing the purpose of the funds. Any comments? Questions? (There were none.) They had \$3200; used about \$250 for advertising in magazines and had business cards made. Can we add their site to the 4D site? Al will do that.

NMRA West Region Director's report. Jack Hamilton, NMRA West Director. NMRA news. They are selling the headquarters building in Chattanooga: too big and worth cash to the NMRA. Tennessee Valley Railroad Assn. has offered to buy it. Staff is being moved to another place in Chattanooga.

The CA State Railroad Museum raised about \$500,000 and building of the gallery is starting. No non-dedicated money will be spent. Kalmbach Library will eventually combine with the Museum Library. It is still being negotiated, but it will be world-class research resource.

Restructuring: NMRA will be 501(c)(3) and all divisions will be under the aegis. If a division is already incorporated under 501(c)(3), there will be little or no change, except we will not have to do a WA state report if we do not want to if we are incorporated already. We may let that lapse. Treasurer's reports will be sent to NMRA.

Sherm will generate a tax-free gift letter and send to any donor. Be sure to get the name, address, and amount. We cannot value goods; donor must do that.

NMRA is now sending eBulletins. Working on update to Strategic Plan. Will address long-range plan at January meeting. Suggestions came from the members at the Region and Division levels. They are working toward a vertical integration organization.

PSX 2014: all layouts open to tour should have a minimum of a Golden Spike for the convention. Jack is working on that with the rest of his AP mafia.

Unfinished Business

Bremerton Northern is putting application for membership in 4D on back burner.

New business

1. Ed Ives. Are we going to have door prizes at PSC? He has some HO cars to get rid of. Ken suggested he use for PSX 2014 door prizes.
2. Ken. Announcement: he is resigning, due to the burdens of his schooling. Per bylaws, Russ Segner will now be the president.
3. Russ: I will need a lot of help from the other board members now. PNR and 4D are both movers and shakers nationally. How do we address declining membership and education? Russ has appointed Mike Highsmith as the Assistant Superintendent. Motion to approve the appointment was seconded and passed.

Russ: I am curious about communication within the Division. Clinics, module groups, etc. have meetings but often they do not know what each other is doing. He talked with Dave Kreitler. What about putting together a more interactive site for the Division. Would Dave be interested in working out something like this? Yes. Russ wants to put together a group of 5-6 people over the next three months to address this issue. Mostly for the NMRA members, but accessible to public. See Ravelry for an example of a good online communication method.

Russ would like to re-look at the business plan for the Division. He will tell us more later.

Russ told Rob J. he has volunteers for the membership table for Boeing Swap Meet.

Alex said he rejoined NMRA in 2010. The directory is not available now due to security concerns. He has no way to get hold of other members. So: could we look at having a 4D directory? Russ's idea of a Ravelry-type site would cover that.

Jack noted that National is looking at reviving a directory of people who are available for visits when someone comes to their town.

4. Ken reminded us that Jack says we must push the PSX 2014 attendance. We must have displays at all clinics and shows. Also push the RailPass for people who do not want to pay the full price.

We must have the plastic holders for brochures and flyers; need to buy them and put them around in hobby shops, at clinics, and at shows. The 4D will buy them and allow them to be used for the PSX. A motion was made to buy six of them. Discussion: is six enough? Do we get the small flyer size or the flyer/poster size?

Russ amended the motion: Buy six small ones and six large ones. The motion as amended was seconded and passed.

Ken: will order the "So You Bought a Model Train" flyers in black and white to have for the Boeing Swap Meet. He wants to order about 2000. The board agreed.

5. Jack said there has been discussion of how to improve visibility of members/officers at conventions, meetings, etc. Do we want to have a dedicated space with an officer available? How about a special name badge? The Coast Division CA did this and the badges must be worn. This allows anyone to have access to an officer at any event.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed and the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m. The next meeting has not been determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Melvin, Secretary