

**MINUTES**  
**Board of Directors' Meeting**  
4th Division, PNR, NMRA, October 29, 2022

**Attendees:** Russ Segner, Ed Ives, Bill Messecar, Robin Peel, Al Lowe, Alex Brikoff, Ed Liesse, Kurt Laidlaw, Lee Marsh, Jack Hamilton, Kevin Klettke, Mike Slease, Lisa Murray, Byron Osborn

Superintendent Bill Messecar called the meeting to order via Zoom at 10:01 AM. The August 20, 2022 minutes were approved as written.

**Officer's Reports**

**Superintendent:**

**Bill Messecar started the meeting by bringing before the Board a motion to nominate and approve Lee Marsh as Director on the Board to fulfill the remainder of Alex Brikoff's term set to expire in 2023. The motion was so moved, seconded and passed.**

Lee Marsh will now serve as Director on the 4<sup>th</sup> Division BOD.

**Assistant Superintendent:**

Nothing to report.

**Treasurer**

Robin Peel brought up several points for discussion from his previously submitted report: Received partial payment of \$402.00 from the PNR for the NMRA member rebate. There is a question as to whether this is a quarterly payment or not. The PNR Treasurer was unable to confirm this. Bank signatories at Chase Bank need to be changed with the new incoming leadership of the BOD. Bill Messecar needs to replace Russ Segner as signatory for 4D Superintendent Also Alex Brikoff needs to replace Bill Messecar as signatory for 4D Secretary. All trailers now have valid tabs and registration. Trailers #4 and #6 are used mainly for storage. Robin Peel and Ed Ives need to determine whether this is the best usage for these trailers.

**Robin Peel brought before the Board a motion to approve an unbudgeted expense reimbursement from the 4DNTRAK group for trailer #5 for a grand total request of \$3,276.63. This included new locks for \$598.06, four new tires for \$1,085.16 which were needed after a tire failure on the trailer coming back from the Maple Valley Train Show and additional expenses that were added in from 2019. The motion was so moved, seconded and passed.**

Robin Peel proposed that a new policy be implemented that requires the prompt submission of expense reports within 30 days. The balance of the Treasurer's reports will be archived as separate documents.

**Office Manager:**

Ed Liesse reported that 4D has 443 total members. Of our 443 4D members, 14 are 30 days behind in dues, 12 are 60 days behind in dues, 3 are new members, 1 member is deceased – Jim Newsome. We have 25 MMRs and a total of 67 Life members.

**Membership:**

Byron Osborne reported that 2 new members were contacted by email. Membership information and magazines were displayed at the Lynden Train Show.

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## **Modular Groups**

### **Hi-Railers**

Ed Ives reports that the Lynden and Maple Valley shows were good shows for the group. Applications have been submitted to the Puyallup and Ridgefield Train Shows.

Two existing members are building new modules, so module member ownership will increase from 4 to 6 members. Existing skirting for modular layout is about 24 years old and needs replacement. Marleen Pennington has volunteered to make the new skirting for the material cost of \$150.00.

**A motion has been brought before the Board to approve budget for the new layout skirting at \$150.00. The motion has been so moved, seconded and passed.**

The Northwest Railway Museum is interested having the Lionel layout on display and operating during the Museum's annual Santa event. That will require people to make the layout operational and running during the event.

### **4DNTRAK**

Al Lowe reported that the group was at both the Lynden and Maple Valley Train Shows. Good turnout at both shows. On the way back from the Maple Valley Train Show, the trailer had a tire failure which required the purchase of four new tires for the trailer. See Robin Peel's Treasurer Report for details about this expense. 4DNTRAK is expected to appear at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma during the Christmas season.

### **HO Modular**

Mike Slease reported that the group appeared at both the Lynden and Maple Valley Train Shows. There were no issues to report with any of the modules or other equipment after nearly two years of no activity. The group will appear at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma this year during the holiday season. They will also be at the Monroe Train Show in February 2023. The group would also like to appear at the Great American Train Show in Puyallup but only if the Pacific Science Center Train Show doesn't happen over MLK weekend in January 2023. The group gained 5 new members of which 3 are building new modules and 2 have joined the NMRA. Russ Segner indicated that the 4<sup>th</sup> Division should be pro-active with the Pacific Science Center to set up and host a show dedicated to trains and model railroading sometime in the spring of 2023.

### **HO Free-Mo**

No report.

### **Bremerton Northern**

Jack Hamilton reported that the group is operating at the Kitsap Mall on Thursdays and Saturdays. They have stopped taking donations due to exceeding their IRS 501 C7 requirements. Scheduled to appear at the train show in Port Angeles recently but the group's truck was broken into and instead spent the weekend being repaired. The N scale section of the group have received a sectional HO layout that will be rebuilt as an N scale traveling layout.

### **On30**

No report.

## Clinic Updates

### North Seattle

Lisa Murray reported low attendance in September due the Narrow Gauge Convention (NNGC) in Tacoma. October attendance was improved. The average attendance is about 30 people. The clinic topic was a discussion by attendees of railroad based activities this past summer. Lisa is asking for help identifying and lining up new clinics. The clinic is planning to stay virtual due to attendee requests and difficult location to commute.

### Mt. Vernon

No Report.

### Whidbey

No Report.

### Eastside

Russ Segner reported there were 16 attending at the last clinic (the core group) in October. Need to build up and develop the clinic by advertising. Currently, Russ is presenting clinics based on construction techniques used on his own layout. He would like to invite others to create and present clinics on their layouts. Russ mentioned geography as a reason to stay virtual for now with possibly a couple in-person meetings throughout the year. The clinic will continue be on the third Thursday of every month.

### Tacoma

Kevin Klettke reports an average of 14 to 20 core attendees, although last clinic only had 7 attendees. Kevin would like to adopt Greg Wright's hybrid clinic technique. Geography is also playing a large part in his ability to chair the clinic in person because of moving further away. The clinic is also having issues finding new clinicians and new clinics.

### Olympia

No Report.

### West Side

Jack Hamilton reported that the Westside Clinic has moved back to the United Way location in Bremerton and are having in-person meetings at this time. They would like the clinic to go hybrid but no time frame has been identified at this time. The attendees are positive about in-person because they like the fellowship of in-person meetings. They plan to return to the second Tuesday meetings in January 2023.

### General Discussion

Jack Hamilton repeated his request for accurate and timely clinic information to be submitted for the weekly WAZZUP mailing. Clinic chairs should conduct surveys at their clinics for input as to the type of subject matter desired for clinics.

## Old Business

### PNR Convention

Kurt Laidlaw reported on the 2023 PNR Regional Convention scheduled for May 10 through May 14, 2023, in Tacoma, WA. Two banners and rack cards have been created by Mike Slease for the PNR Convention. Kurt will send one banner to be used by the various Division Superintendents in the PNR. The logistics for sending these out will be determined after talking with Jeff Herrmann. The current budget was reviewed, and it was determined that the 4<sup>th</sup> Division could expect an approximate excess revenue of \$1,700 in addition to the \$2,000 seed money that was already received. At this time, we have \$10,000 in the bank and paid up registrants are as follows:

|    |                    |
|----|--------------------|
| 37 | Full Fare          |
| 13 | Non Rail           |
| 02 | Canadian Full Fare |
| 02 | Canadian Non-Rail  |
| 54 | Total registered   |

## **Old Business (cont.)**

Registration will increase on November 1 by \$10.00. Larry Sloan has volunteered to help with identifying and arranging self-guided Prototype tours near the convention area. The number of Clinics, Layout Tours and Non-Rail activities identified are already at expected targets. The number of registrants signed up for Modeling with the Masters (MWTM) is currently at 7. Preferred target number is 15 to 20. The project will be to build a flat car that is of AP quality.

### **NMRA National Convention 2025 Proposal**

A decision needs to be made regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> Division's bid to bring the NMRA National convention to the Northwest in 2025 or 2026. Local experienced volunteers already exist for the Convention. Most difficult task is to identify local hotel that is large enough but still able to support a nightly rate of around a \$130.00 or less. Rates closer to \$140 to \$150 are more realistic in today's market. NMRA will work with the local Host Committee to handle the hotel contract and the Train Show. Train Show needs about 80,000 to 90,000 square feet of space. Jack Hamilton and Russ Segner will have a conversation with Bob Amsler at NMRA regarding a proposal to host a NMRA National Convention in the Northwest in 2025.

## **New Business**

### **Swap Meet Donations**

Russ Segner will have four tables of stuff at the Boeing Swap Meet on November 12, 2022. Mike Sleese also has a lot to sell at the swap meet but needs to put pricing stickers on his stuff. Mike and Russ discussed pricing strategies to be completed before the swap meet opens on Nov. 12.

### **Education Chair Needed**

Jack Hamilton discussed the need to have an Education Chair in the 4<sup>th</sup> Division. Initially, this person will oversee the 4<sup>th</sup> Division Clinics to establish a common operating methodology for the various Clinics in the 4<sup>th</sup> Division. Jack Hamilton has volunteered to fill this post and create a working committee made up of all the Clinic Chairs..

### **Virtual Layout Tours**

Lee Marsh and Burr Stewart are looking for people to give virtual layout tours. They currently have Tom O'Hara lined up for December 2022 but no one beyond that. Lee called out for any ideas or contacts that might be interested in giving a tour. There is no tour in November due to a date conflict with the Boeing Swap Meet.

### **AP Dispatcher Information**

David Yadock and Jack Hamilton are requesting that when people are operating on any model railroad as railroad personnel, that they record the appropriate information on the Dispatcher's form so they can get the appropriate credit towards their AP certification.

Superintendent Bill Messecar adjourned the meeting via Zoom at 11:28 AM.

The next BOD meeting will be held virtually Saturday, January 28, 2023, at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alex Brikoff  
Secretary, 4<sup>th</sup> Division