

4D PNR Board of Directors Meeting
March 22, 2025

Attendees: Edwin Ives, Chris Woodruff, Kurt Laidlaw, Alan Murray, Robin Peel, Byron Osborn, Russ Segner, Magnus Christerson, Dennis Terpstra, Lee Marsh, Bob Kenworthy, Mike Stepner, Larry Sloan, Jack Hamilton

Agenda approved by acclamation

Minutes of last meeting approval moved by Bob Kenworthy, seconded by Ed Ives. Approved

Officers' Reports

Superintendent: Nothing to report

Ass't Superintendent: Working on Spring Meet, which will be held May 31, 2025 at NW Railroad Museum, Snonqualmie. More detail under old business.

Treasurer: Our 25K CD is making between \$600 and \$700 per year in interest

New officer signatures at Key Bank have been completed. This is the last meeting before Robin starts the budget process. Robin will be telling groups that if they do not submit a budget this year, their budget will be zeroed out. Too many groups are either saying give us what we had last year, without a breakdown of what they plan to spend it on, or not submitting a budget. Robin will send out requests for budgets by the end of May.

Robin showed the simplified Income Statement he produces along with a simplified balance sheet. He wanted feedback from the board if they wanted to see them or the full documents. The consensus was to get both. (See attached report)

Committee Reports

Office Manager: We have 3 new members, 8 30 days late, 10 60 days late and 24 renewals for a total of 430 members. Byron got a box of magazines from NMRA to pass out. Bob Kenworthy requested that Byron send out a list of just new members each month so the board can track them. (See attached report)

Communications: Magnus reported for Anton. During the revamp of the website last year they instituted an interactive calendar of upcoming events. The clinic chairs need to provide input to the calendar. Some clinics are doing a great job, but some are not sending info to Anton to get into the calendar.

Education: Cole Van Gerpen introduced himself to the board. He sent a document to all the board members with his plans and asked for feedback and input from everybody. He will work with Bob Kenworthy on the Spring Meet.

Layout Tours: Lee, reporting on behalf of Burr, mentioned that participation and presenter numbers have dwindled. They are struggling to find layouts for upcoming tours in April and June. Lee and Burr will reach out to the Bremerton clinic, Alan Fisher, and Keith Lyons. Mike suggested Fircrest N Scale group, which does in-person layout tours for potential collaboration. Jack recommended contacting Dave Yadock for a list of members with achievement program certificates, as these indicate existing layouts. The group also discussed reaching out to Canadian members and the Fairbanks and Anchorage groups in Alaska for potential tours. Lee concluded by asking if the group wants to continue the virtual layout tour program, and members expressed support for its continuation.

Achievement Program: No report but Greg Wright provided a written report of the trip to Fairbanks.(See attached report)

Clinics

Seattle North - No report

Westside - No report

Skagit Valley - Alan reported that the clinic has been working with a local historical group to build a Christmas layout. At the last meeting they had around 16 people working on various scenery projects that they took home to finish.

Tacoma - Kurt reported that Ken Levine gave a clinic on resistors for LED lighting. The meeting was recorded by Byron and is available on the 4D website.

Mt. Vernon - No report

Olympia - No report, but the clinic was recorded and is available on the 4D website.

Eastside - Russ said the Eastside clinic was about photo stacking. It was not well attended due to technical difficulties (Russ forgot to get the word out). Russ also brought up the issue of finding it difficult to get people to do clinics, which seems to be a universal problem across clinics.

The board discussed the importance of clinic chairs being active participants and providing updates. Mike proposed that each team member reach out to their respective clinic chair to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities. Kurt suggested that clinic chairs should ask someone else to represent them if they cannot attend. The team agreed to follow up with the clinic chairs and ensure they are submitting reports or have someone stand in for them. Alan mentioned that some clinics advertise on the Grab Iron, which could be used as a report. The board also discussed the possibility of moving the Board of Directors meeting to a weekday to accommodate clinic schedules. The downside to that is that Mike works swing shifts. Action taken: The following people will reach out to the clinic chairs about participation in the board meetings

- Larry Sloan - Lisa Murray
- Jack Hamilton - Bill Hupe
- Alan Murray - Rich Blake
- ?? - Al Carter

Modular Groups

High Railers - Ed listed the shows that High Railers have been attending and stated that the group was able to sell some of the excess equipment they had for \$300. They have gained a couple new members. They have set up a date to go down to Portland, OR on the last weekend in April to run trains on a person's layout who Ed met at the Ridgefield show.

4DNTRAK - Dennis and Kurt reported on the shows the group have attended. The group has pick up 3 new members. Dennis explained that the group offers young people at the shows the opportunity to run trains on the layout. When they are done they are presented with a certificate naming them a Junior Engineer on the Pacific Northwest Railroad and are given the choice of 2 railcars from the group's extras. Dennis also noted that Bill Fassett stopped by the layout in Monroe and ended up giving Dennis a Golden Spike, a scenery AP certificate and an electric AP certificate. One of our new members also received a Golden Spike, scenery and electrical AP certificates.

HO Free-mo - Larry reported the group was at Monroe and will also be at the Puyallup Spring Fair. He is looking for people to help fill time slots for the show. The show is 10-13 April and 17-20 April.

HO Modular - No report

Bremerton Northern - Jack said the Mall had been sold, but the BN has a 1.5 lease so they will be there a while. The group has an HO layout, N scale layout, American Flyer layout, Lionel layout and a Märklin layout. They get around 200-250 on weekends. Good recruiting and good retention.

On30 - Alan reported the group was at Puyallup and Monroe. They had problems with Wi-Fi at Monroe and had to use plug in throttle part of the time. The group is using JMRI to do operations on the layout and it seems to work well. They will be participating at Ilwaco in late July.

ETE -The ETE group reports a busy and successful period, participating in several shows including the History Museum, Ridgefield, Puyallup, and Monroe. They recruited 13 new members during this time. The group experienced some Wi-Fi issues at larger venues and is working on solutions. They plan to attend the Chehalis show on April 5-6. A planned visit to Seattle Children's Hospital with their child-friendly Märklin layout was postponed due to a family emergency but is expected to happen next month. Kurt suggests writing an article about the Children's Hospital layout for publications, and Jack recommends contacting David Yadock to declare it a regional public project for volunteer credit. Chris took an action to write up the story of what they are doing at the Children's Hospital for the Grab Iron or Switchlist.

Old Business

2027 NMRA Convention - Robin provided an update on the 2027 NMRA convention to be held in Tacoma. The NMRA has approved the bid and signed contracts with the convention center and hotels. Robin suggested appointing a chair or co-chairs to lead the convention planning, transitioning from the bid phase to execution. The board nominated and confirmed Robin and Magnus to continue on as the Co-chairs for the convention. He outlined potential core teams needed, including administration, facilities,

marketing, and program execution. The board needs to identify and select suitable candidates for the leadership roles soon. Jack emphasized the importance of having co-chairs and allowing them time to understand the requirements and build their team. (See attached report)

Spring Meet Status - Bob confirmed the Spring Meet will be at the Northwest Railway Museum on May 31st. Bob outlined changes from last year, including more member-led clinics and additional sessions after the annual meeting. The board voted to donate \$2,000 to the museum, payable on May 1st, regardless of whether they use the train service.

New Business

Alaska Trip Reimbursement - The board discussed reimbursing Greg Wright for his expenses related to a trip to Fairbanks, Alaska to conduct Achievement Program evaluations. The total cost was around \$940, including airfare and lodging. Dennis moved to reimburse the full amount, which is seconded and approved. Mike will have Greg submit receipts and a reimbursement form to Robin when he returns. The board also discussed the need to budget for similar trips in the future and potentially seek NMRA subsidies, given their division's unique geographic challenges. It's noted that part of the trip's purpose was to train local members to conduct evaluations, reducing the need for future travel.

Nomination Committee - The board discussed nominations for open positions, including two board positions and an assistant superintendent role. They plan to seek nominations through a Constant Contact email, giving members a week to respond. They also discuss improving NMRA visibility at train shows and potentially offering clinics at various venues

Replacement for PSC Show - The board also discusses finding a replacement for the PSC event, which was a significant source of revenue. They consider options for hosting their own train show or finding alternative venues.

The board agreed to meet more frequently, every two months instead of quarterly, with the next meeting scheduled for May 17th as an in-person gathering. Byron took an action to see if we can use the NW Railroad Archives in Burien.

Respectfully submitted April 6, 2025

Kurt Laidlaw

Secretary, 4D PNR Board of Directors