

4D PNR Board Meeting 2025 09 27 at 17:00

Quick recap

The meeting began with administrative matters including approval of previous minutes and financial updates, with discussions about bank accounts, donations, and website management. The group reviewed various organizational activities including convention planning, layout tours, and modular group updates, with particular focus on the NMRA convention in Chattanooga and the status of different modular groups. The conversation ended with discussions about organizational policies, convention logistics, and future planning for events including a potential return to the Pacific Science Center, along with decisions about communication platforms and administrative positions.

Next steps

- [Nominating committee: To be formed in the next couple of months to prepare a slate for elections in February/March and look beyond one year for succession planning.](#)
- [Bob: To continue coordinating with the program committee for the convention.](#)
- [Robin: To reach out to Anton to get admin credentials for the website.](#)
- [Robin: To work with Larry to onboard him as the new Education Director.](#)
- [Larry: To take over as Education Director and familiarize himself with the role responsibilities.](#)
- [Larry: To connect with Jack about the clinician list for upcoming events.](#)
- [Larry: To follow up with Jack Hamilton about the Bremerton Northern layout tour.](#)
- [Treasurer: To renew the CD at Chase Bank when it matures.](#)
- [Treasurer: To remove Kurt as a signatory from the bank accounts once a new secretary is appointed.](#)
- [Kurt and team: To sell donated items at the swap meet and provide proceeds to the 4D.](#)
- [Bob and Sheila: To attend the NMRA convention in Chattanooga, Tennessee.](#)

Summary

NMRA Convention Planning Discussion

The meeting began with technical difficulties as participants struggled to join the Zoom call. Once the meeting started, Robin proposed a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, which was approved by the group. Bob Kemorthy reported on his work related to conventions and coordinating with the program committee. The group discussed the upcoming NMRA convention in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Bob mentioned that he and Sheila had registered to attend.

Financial Status and Account Updates

Robin reported on the organization's financial status, noting that their liquid assets in banks total approximately \$140,000, with about \$26,500 in Chase Bank, \$5,500 in Chase checking, \$8,000 in Chase savings, and around \$96,000-100,000 in the LPL account. He mentioned renewing a CD at Chase Bank for 5 months at 3.5% interest, earning about \$1,500 over 18 months.

Robin also noted that Kurt had resigned as secretary and needed to be removed from the bank account signatories, but suggested waiting to make this change until a new secretary is appointed to avoid the inconvenience of changing bank accounts.

Donations and Website Management Updates

The meeting discussed recent donations, with Scott donating \$600 from selling donated items. Robin noted that while donations were lower than previous years, they still exceeded NMRA membership rebates. The group discussed website management issues, with plans to work with Anton to provide admin credentials to multiple people for better content updates. Larry expressed interest in the education director position, which Cole had vacated, and was confirmed as the new education director.

Layout Tours and Certification Updates

Robin discussed the challenges of organizing layout tours, noting a decline in attendance since the COVID-19 pandemic. He mentioned reaching out to potential presenters and the process of posting content on the Grab Iron website. Robin also reviewed updates on the Achievement Program, highlighting the progress of several members towards various certifications. He expressed concern about the lack of reports from some local clinics and encouraged follow-ups with meeting chairs.

Clinic and Modular Group Updates

The group discussed various clinic and modular group updates. Lou confirmed the Mount Vernon Senior Center clinic meets monthly until October, with Al Cartner seeking a replacement. Russ reported on the Eastside Clinic's Zoom meetings, which continue to struggle with attendance. Ed expressed concerns about the storage of 10 new modules under construction, while Dennis shared updates on Amtrak's upcoming shows in London and Maple Valley, highlighting improvements made to their modules and trailer. The group also discussed a diorama project and various modular layouts, with plans for displays at upcoming shows.

Modular Groups' Operations and Policies

The meeting covered updates from various modular groups, including HO modular, European Train Enthusiasts (ETE), and ON30. Lou reported on the HO modular group's activities and requested permission to charge additional annual fees to address cash flow issues, which Robin confirmed was previously prohibited but might be allowed with board approval. Magnus shared ETE's plans for six shows and their current membership of 66.

The group discussed:

- Updating the policies and procedures manual, particularly regarding the ETE modular group and reimbursement for visiting Alaska for the AP program.
- The group discussed the status of the ETE Modular Group's application for NMRA group status, with Magnus confirming that new policies and procedures would cover their requirements. They agreed to clarify the mechanics of onboarding the ETE as part of 4D and address the handling of ETE's assets, with Robin taking the action to review meeting minutes and summarize next steps. Robin agreed to draft a statement for Chris regarding the club's formal application.

NMRA Convention

Regarding the NMRA Convention, Magnus requested 4D's help with marketing materials, pending the NMRA's new branding release on November 1st. The convention teams are meeting bi-weekly on Wednesdays, with individual teams focusing on operations, programming, and marketing, while Legacy Banner and Sheds Plus have expressed interest in sponsoring the event.

Convention Planning and Logistics

The board discussed convention planning, including a \$200 NMRA matching grant for marketing, which Magnus and Robin will track and coordinate. They also addressed convention logistics, such as contacting Tacoma Rail for layout tours, with Robin agreeing to forward the contact information to Magnus and the relevant convention team. The board considered recruiting Bert Craig as the new secretary, with Magnus suggesting an informal meeting to get to know him better, while Robin expressed uncertainty about the recruitment process for board positions.

Board Secretary and Donations Discussion

The board discussed the need to find a new secretary and agreed to contact potential candidates, with Kurt offering to provide a job description. They approved a budget of up to \$250 for a plaque to thank Al Carter for his long service to the Marysville Clinic, with Bob Stafford offering to write the text. The board also addressed the need to provide support to Jack Hamilton following the death of his wife, with a suggestion to collect donations from 4D members rather than making an official organizational donation.

Science Center Train Show Planning

The group discussed potentially returning to the Pacific Science Center for a train show, with Magnus reporting they signed a LEGO exhibition for next summer and have limited space available. Robin and Magnus agreed that before pursuing the show, they need to get consensus from modular groups about their willingness to participate and what interactive activities they could offer for

children. The group also discussed logistics challenges including parking and space constraints, with Magnus noting the Science Center is aware of these issues.

The conversation ended with a discussion about using groups.io for email communications, with Magnus offering to consolidate the NTRAC group's paid account into a 4D group account that could be used by multiple subgroups.