

**BOD MEETING MINUTES OF GARDEN STATE DIVISION, NE REGION,
NMRA**

Purpose: Garden State Division (GSD) Staff Meeting
Date/Time: Saturday, February 2, 2019
Place: Home of Ciro Compagno
Attendees: Chuck Diljak, Steve Ascolese, Jim Homoki, Jim Walsh, Fred Dellaiacono, Mark Moritz, Paul Harbord, Tom Wortmann, Ciro Compagno and Bob Dennis
Not in attendance: Tom Casey, Jim Fawcett and Andy Brusgard.

Meeting started at 9:10 AM

February 2, 2019 Motions Submitted and Approved:

(2019.2.2.1) Authorize Bob Dennis to move GSD bank account from BCB to another bank.
(2019.2.2.2) Confirm Chuck's appointment of Steve to replace Jim R as a director.

Reports were presented:

President's Report – Today we will speak a little bit about the Erie Limited Convention – it was a success. The convention earned almost \$2000, we got 50% and \$1500 from the auction room. The 2019 convention in Syracuse, New York is on track but Chuck does not know if the registration is online yet. You can book the hotel. In 2020, the convention will be in Westford, Massachusetts and hosted by the Hub Division. The NER formed a finance committee for review and presentation before the board. Chuck is not on that committee but he is on the marketing committee and the marketing committee will present a new NER logo in the fall for the convention and they are working on having a regional Facebook group. The regional group will be for the participation of all of the divisions and should get more interactions. The divisions will still have Facebook pages to provide local information and announcements. There have been reports of difficulty in getting membership information from Mark Harlow, the NER office manager. We will also speak about the Mallery Award. Chuck brought the trophy with him and already sent the plate to Jim W. Bigger topic for this meeting will be all the vacancies on the board, possible replacements and our need for a Vice-President. On the 4H program, Bob will talk about that later in the meeting and we will need to talk about the summer and fall meets. For summer, there will be clinics by Mark and Jim W but where will it be and we need somebody to take the lead. For fall, Chuck was originally going to have a clinic on JMRI OperationsPro but it really needs two parts and Chuck cannot do them both in one meeting – too much time at one meeting and splitting it over 2 meets leaves too much time between clinics. Chuck received email from Dave Insley and the NER that Bill Frankenfield had visited the booth at Springfield. Chuck noted that we need to settle things with him. Chuck will contact Bill. Speaking about recent membership reports, Chuck noticed a significant dropoff after the convention. Chuck noted that we should investigate and find out if we need to take action to prevent future occurrence.

Vice President's Report – We skipped the Vice President's Report since Jim F was absent.

Secretary's Report - Jim W had distributed a DRAFT of minutes from the last meeting of November 4, 2018. There were no comments on the draft and the minutes were accepted as written. Jim W also distributed the minutes from the last business meeting (May 2018). These minutes were accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Report year end report for Jan through Dec shows that we had a net income of \$2544.40 most of it was made from the convention. Otherwise we usually just break even. Bob reminded us that we are listed with the Smile program on Amazon and that could provide us with a small flow of additional income. Bob also discussed that we would benefit from investing our money in some kind of account that pays interest. Bob would like to invest in something like CDs dividing our funds over several CDs with different start dates and maturity dates. This way it would not all be

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unavailable all the time and he could keep some liquid cash for operating the GSD. He also wants to change banks and he is considering Capital One. He will select a bank that is beneficial for the GSD.

- **MOTION:** Authorize Bob Dennis to move GSD bank account from BCB to another bank.
 - Jim W made the motion and Paul seconded it – MOTION PASSED

Treasurer's report was Accepted.

Education Committee and AP Reports – Steve had some questions from members and he will follow up on them. Tom W is working on a cars certificate. Chuck admitted that he is working on his Golden Spike and plans to get it this year. Steve will try to get his Golden Spike this year as well. Ciro said that he will start working on his electrical certificate. Chuck acknowledged that board members are working on the AP program but he thinks that Steve should address the members at our meets to generate some interest in the AP program throughout the division. Steve also reported that the NMRA national sent out information on how Achievement Program paperwork is being streamlined. Fred suggested that when Steve visits layouts during open houses, he could discuss elements that qualify or ideas for projects that could apply toward AP certificates. Steve also reported that Rich Newmiller is the recipient of the Paul Mallery award. Steve's report was accepted.

Event Report - The WINTER EVENT is in Oakland on 23 FEB 2019 and everything is set. Be sure to update the volunteer list on Dropbox indicating what you will bring. For coffee get 1 regular, 1 decaf and one dark roast. Paul will bring the laptop and the cables. We may not need a screen but we will need a projector. At the library no food or drink is permitted in the meeting room and we will need to enforce those rules. For yard signs for the open houses, Bob D asked that board members who have the signs bring them to the meet. Bob also asked for a volunteer to keep the signs and keep track of them and Mark volunteered. We will finish our business at the library about 12:30 and the layouts will be open from 1 to 5 PM.

SPRING EVENT: Municipal building in Hillsborough NJ. Jim H said that the insurance certificate came in a few weeks ago and needs to be dropped off. Rich Newmiller is presenting a clinic on his glass factory and Jim H will contact Bill Grosse about the clinic being done by the NJD. Meeting is on Saturday May 4 at 9:00 AM Jim H has a few layouts lined up Bill Chapin should be open and his is a new layout. Jim H will contact Father David in South River and maybe Rich Newmiller. Of course Jim H will be open as well. Jim H thinks that we will not be able to have model judging because he needs to close up. We can have bring and brag.

SPECIAL EVENT: Before addressing plans for the summer event, we discussed a special event – a tour of the High Line in New York City in early June. We meet at 9 AM on 23rd Street entrance to the High Line and walk to Manhattan Cold Storage and Starrett-Lehigh building of the Lehigh Valley railroad. We probably will not enter the buildings but we will walk by them. We will also pass the B&O freight house. We can get lunch on pier 66 floating restaurant. After lunch we can get a tour of the John J Harvey fireboat. The whole tour will be by Mason Logie – he is a licensed tour guide in NYC. Jim H suggested that we prepare a list of transportation options and information for the membership. Date will be June 1 and rain date will be June 8 – this is an extra or rolling meet.

SUMMER EVENT: Ed Suhy has access to a church hall out in western NJ. Jim W will be organizing this event and he will contact Ed to find out about the venue. Chuck will send Jim W an email from Ed.

FALL EVENT: It will be on Staten Island. Bob D and Ciro will take the lead on it. Maybe they can arrange with Clifton Yard and Staten Island Rapid Transit. Tom W will see if we can get the VFW post again. However, for fall he will try to get the Marine Corps League.

Ciro suggested that we ask our division members if they have a connection through membership of hall like VFW, American Legion, Knights of Columbus, volunteer firehouse etc. We can ask the members at our division meetings and then we can put something in The Whistle Post.

We also had a discussion about having a lunch for convention volunteers as a thank you for their work. On April 6, we will have the luncheon at Portobellos in Oakland and before lunch we will have a GSD BOD meeting at the Oakland Public Library.

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Membership Chair Report – Membership Reports were sent out separately – Andy sent out the report and they were accepted as written.

Whistle Post Report. – Jim H has already received articles for the next issue. He will need content by the end of March. He is in good shape and it may be a big issue. We had a discussion of distribution of Whistle Post and correct email addresses. We need to discuss it with Andy and make sure that we check at the registration table at the meets. Bob D. will print out copies of the Whistle Post for distribution at the meet to members who do not have email. The Whistle Post report was Accepted.

4H Program - The January meeting was cancelled. Bob D explained that the modelers are making some DPM modular buildings to go on a Timesaver switching layout that will be taken to various events. For the next session on February 18, the modelers will be assembling the walls using square tubing pieces to hold the corners square. Bob keeps the models after each session and brings them back for each session. Bob will paint the walls and bring them back for the March 18 session when the modelers will dry brush the walls to add the final color. Subsequent sessions will be for gluing the windows in place, making the roof and adding roof details. Many of our volunteers meet at 5:00 PM for dinner at the Bridgewater Diner. The 4H modeling club report was accepted.

Old Business:

- We still need somebody to monitor out Facebook. Andy does some things there but we really need a seasoned Facebook user to work on ours. Mark suggested an announcement at our next division event. Chuck noted that we tried that approach in the past without success. It is more than just monitoring our Facebook page, it is really maintaining it and you need to be adding content all the time to keep people coming back. Chuck also told us that the NER will be setting up a Facebook group that allows more interaction than on a page and they want the divisions to be active in the NER group. However, we will need somebody to be interacting with the NER Facebook group as well as maintaining our own Facebook page. Find a member who is active on Facebook and ask that person to work on Facebook for us. Mark asked about hiring somebody to do that job. Chuck said that would be a good idea if he could show a financial benefit that would justify the expense. Besides approaching a Facebook user about helping us with Facebook, we must discover some web developer type people to ask for help with the GSD website. The problem is that when we ask for help at the meets or in The Whistle Post we do not get any volunteers. But for the web page we need to be careful about our selection and we need redundancy. Chuck is a little involved in the NER website redesign. We all need to be on the lookout for potential help for the website or Facebook. Also related to social media, Ciro noted that he has the GSD twitter account. He used it often and most of the people who subscribe to our feed are outside our division. Ciro has been doing it for about 2 years and he is not sure of the benefit but he will keep working with twitter.
- For the new plan for locating and organizing GSD events Chuck spoke about it at this meeting and sent out a plan by email. The item can be closed.
- CLINICS – We need clinics for the fall meet and also for next year. This is another thing to make an appeal to membership during our events. Chuck would like to have less reliance on the board and get more members involved. Keep this item ongoing on our list of old business.
- Possible tour of the Highline – already discussed – we can close it.
- Andy was not present to speak about the marketing table at train shows – that is still open.
- BOARD VACANCIES Chuck spoke about potential candidates in our membership list and we discussed those members and others to consider for open director positions. People who are active in the GSD or interested in being on the board. Before addressing the director vacancies, we must address the vice-president vacancy. Bob Dennis suggested that Mark M be considered for vice president and Mark accepted. Ciro will contact potential new directors to see if they are

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interested in joining the board and running for election. The members for consideration for director positions are Scott Dunlap, Chris Oliva, JP Mikesch. Alex Nawotka and Mark Lutz. We need 3.

- We need to confirm Chuck's appointment of Steve.
 - **MOTION:** Confirm Chuck's appointment of Steve to replace Jim R as a director.
 - Jim W made the motion and Bob D seconded it – MOTION PASSED

New Business:

- Tom W mentioned that he had interest from vendors who wanted to set up tables at our convention. We did not have space for all of them. However, we may consider selling a few tables at our meets – it adds to our revenue and it is a draw for attendance. We could also start building a vendor list to use if we ever put on our own train show. For meets we must be sure that it is permitted at the venue. Another idea that was considered was a make and take clinic with a Ron Klaiss Mine Mount models building kit. Chuck will check with Ron to see if he is interested. Park Ridge may be a good location since there are not many layouts in the area.
- GSD Election. When Ciro reminded us of the election procedures, Chuck appointed Ciro as the nomination chair. Ciro will contact all board members up for election to see if they are still interested. He will also find new director volunteers to run in the election. We will finalize the election at the next BOD meeting.

Meeting adjourned around 12:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Walsh

Jim Walsh, Secretary NMRA/NER/GSD