

**Purpose:** Garden State Division (GSD) Staff Meeting  
**Date/Time:** Saturday, June 25, 2022  
**Place:** Home of Jim Homoki  
**Attendees:** Mark Moritz, Jim Homoki, JP Mikesh, Andy Brusgard, Bob Dennis, Paul Harbord, and Jim Walsh in-person and Steve Ascolese, Ciro Compagno and Tom Casey online  
Absent: Nobody

Meeting started around 9:30 AM.

### **No Motions Submitted at the Meeting**

### **Reports were presented:**

President's Report – Mark said that the NER board meeting is on July 10 and therefore nothing to report yet. Mark needs somebody to run the meeting on July 16 because he has a conflict and Jim H is on vacation. Bob D will run the event. Mark noted that the people identified to Christina Zambri for the new communications group are Jim and Mark. Andy explained that Christina is putting together a list of all the staff members in the regions and divisions who work the digital info. Andy also mentioned that Christina is now a full member of the NMRA - previously she was a Staff member. She now wants to apply for some AP certificates.

NER REPORT – Ciro had nothing new since our last meeting. Mark indicated that the NMRA has been fairly inactive this summer. Bob mentioned that there was a revision to the At Risk policy. We will need to address it on a case-by-case basis. Mark said that we need to have it in the Whistle Post with a link back to the content on the NMRA National website. We start implementing the policy at our next meet.

Vice President's Report – Jim H had nothing to add.

Secretary's Report - Jim W distributed DRAFT minutes of the BOD meeting of 16APR2022 previously by email. There were no comments or corrections for the document and it was accepted as written. Jim also asked about our attendance number at the joint meet. Andy responded that it was 38.

Treasurer's Report – From the last report, we had an outflow of \$184 but Ciro successfully sold the ITLA kits for \$150 and so now we are at \$34 as predicted in the previous report. We also sold some locomotives. Bob D also filed a Form 990-N with the IRS as he does every year. The treasurer's report was accepted.

Education Committee and AP Chair Reports – Mark has had no request for any evaluations for the achievement program and he has no program activity to report. We have Andy's new information that Christina Zambri wants to work on some AP certificates. Jim W and Scott Gothe are working toward Author. Mark is working on Chief Dispatcher and Bob D is working on scenery. Tom Wortmann needs one more certificate to qualify for Master Model Railroader and he is working on his Cars certificate. This fall, Ciro will submit the paperwork for his Association Official certificate. That will be his third AP certificate.

Events Report - SUMMER EVENT: July 16 – Things are set up for the meet at The Model Railroad Club in Union. We will also have a contest for the completed ITLA make-and-take kits. It will be by popular vote. We need to remind members about the contest in our promotion of the meet. Mark will include it in the Constant Contact email. The prize will be a \$50 ITLA gift certificate. The clinics are by Kai Ebinger and Bob Nalbene. Kai's clinic will be about paper and card modeling. Bob's clinic will be about the operations at The Model Railroad Club. We will also have a bring and brag at the meet and an operating session in the afternoon at the club. Addressing the question of serving lunch, we decided

not to serve lunch and the members will get lunch on their own. Paul recommended allowing 90 minutes between the meet and the operating session. Ciro made a point that at the meet, we must have an announcement about returning from lunch and the time when the operating session will start. FALL EVENT: Firehouse in Hope, NJ on October 8. Dave Olesen will present a clinic on installing CTC on his layout. Bill Schaumburg will also be presenting a clinic. LAYOUT TOURS: Tony Koester has agreed to open his layout but he has conditions related to COVID-19. Attendees visiting Tony's layout must be fully vaccinated with one booster and we will be keeping an eye on the COVID-19 situation to check that things do not get worse. Other layouts are Dave Olesen and Ted Pamperin. We need to distribute signs to the layout hosts. Ted Pamperin still has a sign from a previous open house. Dave Olesen will need a sign and we will need to collect it. Ciro called and left a message for Ed Suhy but he did not get called back. He will follow up. Joe Valentine has a layout nearby and he will host an open house. We briefly discussed Phil Chiavetta's layout.

WINTER EVENT: Jim W asked if anybody contacted Fred Dellaiacono to find out about the Oakland library. Mark will call Fred. Paul will contact the Hawthorne library. The date will be the end of February and we would need to have an option for the following week in case of snow. Another option mentioned was the firehouse in Mount Tabor. We liked the Oakland library and already had 2 meetings there. Paul noted that an advantage of the Hawthorne library is that it is one level with no stairs and the meeting room has direct access from the outside. We will get the information and make a decision at the next meeting.

SPRING EVENT: It will be a joint meet and we will be hosting. We usually go to Hillsborough when we host the joint meet. Jim H will check on it when we get closer to spring. When we meet there, the layouts have been Jim H, Bill Chapin, Pacific Southern and maybe Joe Calderone.

SUMMER IDEA: Bob D said that he would like to go back to the Sterling Hill Mining Museum in Ogdensburg, NJ. We had our Summer 2012 meet there. That is a good venue for a summer meet. Mark asked when we would need to contact the mine to schedule a meet for next summer. Ciro will check to see how we would arrange a meet at the Sterling Hill Mining Museum in Ogdensburg, NJ. Last time, we also had lunch at picnic tables outside the mine. It was a good location.

Clinic Report – We just discussed the clinics for Summer and Fall. Other clinics for future meets - Rich Newmiller and Angela Sutton. She previously did one on layout planning for the Pennsylvania Railroad Technical & Historical Society. Jim W asked if anybody has a clinic or ideas for a clinic.

Membership Report – Andy did not have much to report other than Christina Zambri becoming a full member. 12 members renewed, 1 member 30 days behind and 1 member 60 days behind. Andy continues to send out emails and make telephone calls if required.

Whistle Post Report – Jim H asked Bob Nalbome if he had some photos and he got them recently. Jim W just sent Jim H an article and description of Kai's clinic.

#### Old Business:

- BOD members outreach – Mark questioned if we need to keep it on the list since we are doing it on an ongoing basis. Mark recently invited Jim Espaillat to his house and Mark asked if anybody else has done any outreach. Andy mentioned the tables at the shows, which work out very well. Andy makes contact with members on a regular basis. Andy will divide the membership list by zip code and distribute the lists to the board members at the next BOD meeting. We will use the lists in continuing our member outreach. There was also a discussion of having 4 or 5 printed copies of the Whistle Post available at GSD meets. Ciro said that he could print the copies and bring them to our meets..
- RPM / Craftsman Structures Meet: We discussed the possibility of holding the event in November 2023. Jim H described the activities required to run the event. He said that you really need a committee of at least 5 people to put it on. It is similar to putting on a convention. For the facility, we will need 3 clinic rooms, model exhibition area and vendor space. Jim H will have a discussion

with Ted Dilorio about the RPM meet. He will report at the next BOD meeting and we will decide about the RPM meet.

- GSD online apparel shop – Bob D and Steve A spoke about the activity. Mark suggested that they make an announcement at the next GSD meet about a few GSD promotional items and see if anybody is interested.
- Tom C photo for Leadership page on GSD website – Photo taken from the screen at this meeting and it will be posted. Take this item off the list.
- Post Approved Revision of GSD Bylaws with Donation Policy – already done take it off the list.
- Contact Tim at The Model Railroad Club about the Summer meet – This was done. Andy noted that he posted an updated list on Dropbox for needed items. He also asked if somebody could get the coffee and donuts. Paul will bring the laptop and asked about the PowerPoint for the meet.
- Paul- Get information about hosting our server in the cloud or having a backup – Paul checked it out and said that it was not going to be a viable option. Mark responded that we still need a way to backup our files. JP is working on getting a location in Pennsylvania to backup the system in Hope, NJ. Mark asked how much it would cost for us to have a backup in the cloud. We will wait to hear about JP's progress at the next meeting.
- Put in Matching Funds application for our winter meet make-and-take. – Ciro reported that our application was approved and now we must submit the receipts. Then they will issue a check to Bob D. Bob will submit the receipts. He also reported that we received a check for \$5.64 from the Amazon Smile program. He reminded us to sign up for Amazon Smile and list the Garden State Division as your designated charity. Mark suggested that we make an announcement at the next GSD meeting to tell the membership about Amazon Smile and how to get the donations to go to the GSD.
- Find out status of the NER matching fund program for member events. – Ciro related that the NER has a program similar to the matching fund program of NMRA National that we applied for with our winter meet make-and-take. Ciro said that the NER is still developing the program but they are taking applications. After we receive our check from National, Ciro plans to submit to the NER for additional reimbursement. The National program reimburses 50% of our expenses up to \$200 and we will apply for additional reimbursement from NER.
- Contact Ed Suhy about opening his layout – Ciro called Ed and left a message but he will follow up with Ed.
- Contact Dave Olesen, and Ted Pamperin - DONE: remove from list.
- Contact Tony Koester about opening his layout - DONE: remove from list.

That completes the Old Business.

New Business:

- Discussion of our website domain registration. It is set up for autopay with Andy's card but it will be changed to a GSD card.

We need a date for the next BOD meeting. Since our next GSD meet is October our meeting will be in September. The week before the convention Saturday 10 SEP is not good for everybody but Sunday 11 SEP is OK.

Next BOD meeting: Sunday – 11 SEP 2022 at NYSME – hosted by Andy Brusgard. 9:30 AM start.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jim Walsh*

Jim Walsh, Secretary NMRA/NER/GSD