

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

Purpose: Garden State Division (GSD) Staff Meeting
Date/Time: Saturday, September 20, 2014
Place: Home of Ciro Compagno
Attendees: Ciro Compagno, Bruce De Young, Tom Casey, Anthony Piccirillo, Bob Dennis, Tom Wortmann, Jim Walsh

Not in attendance: Jim Fawcett, Joe Calderone, Andy Brusgard, Jim Homoki

Meeting was called to order at 9:40 AM

September 20, 2014 - Motions Submitted and Approved.

- (2014.9.20.1) Appointment of Jim Walsh as GSD Secretary**
- (2014.9.20.2) Rail Pass paid by GSD for new members recruited at the LDsig/Opsig/RPM meet**
- (2014.9.20.3) Rail Pass paid by GSD for new members recruited at the Fall meet**
- (2014.9.20.4) Winter meet – Marine Corps League – Staten Island – Feb 7 – snow date Feb 21**
- (2014.9.20.5) Jim Homoki will replace Joe Calderone as editor of The Whistle Post**

Reports were presented:

President's Report Ciro – We have had some very good meets and discovered formats that work. For continued successful meets, we should maintain the course that we are on. It is a good foundation for 2015 and beyond.

Vice-President's Report Bruce – Unfortunately, a last minute cancellation of our summer venue left us with no summer meet. The Fall meet is at the 4H center and although it is a good location, there are concerns.

One issue for our Division organization is Recruitment

We should move it to the membership – engage the membership to participate in recruiting new members.

Secretary's Report - Jim Walsh indicated that the nominations need to be worked out because the ballot must appear in the Winter issue of The Whistle Post. Tom W. noted that National has a procedure the same as the Regional – they use a mail-in ballot. We have had changes in our By-Laws. We have a new process and we will begin after the Fall meet. We need to start soliciting for nominations.

MOTION –Approved – Appointment of Jim Walsh as GSD Secretary.

Copies of the minutes of the last BOD meeting were distributed for all to read. Some changes were noted including removal of actual values in the coverage of the Treasurer's Report. Although the values were removed from the minutes, the actual values appear in the statements that are available on request. The Minutes were Approved as amended.

The BOD minutes should keep the summary of Motions for the meeting in the opening part of the document. Anthony suggested that he and Jim Walsh would work on a comprehensive summary of all Motions from the meetings of the last year.

Treasurer's Report - Year to date balance remains the same. Action from the last meeting for Bob to report on investigating options for CD will be completed soon. We must keep some cash on hand and the rest could be invested. Another option for Bob to consider is a mutual fund.

We received a check from the NER and it is the largest amount so far. The check was accompanied by a letter from the NER. The letter indicates 3 major components of the funds received in the check. Ciro noted that the NER is making good use of the funds and distributed it to the divisions.

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Ciro has ACTION to distribute a scan of the letter from the NER that came with the check and distribute it to the BOD members. The Treasurer's Report was Accepted.

Education Committee and AP Reports - We are up to date on Certificates and several were given out at the NER convention. Of the divisions in the NER, the GSD was second in the number of Golden Spike and AP certificates in the year between the 2013 and 2014 conventions.

Three AP certificates and one merit award will be presented at our Fall meet. If somebody is not present at the meet, the certificate is given to a neighbor.

Bruce spoke about Jim Walsh assuming the responsibility for getting the awards from Newton Trophy. Anthony will provide the information to Jim. One of those awards is the Mallory award and Bruce indicated that he will not be getting that award this year. There are other GSD members in the running. Bruce discussed an initiative at the National level called Edutrain – a collection of clinics in a catalog that will be available for all of the NMRA. It is a good program but the Edutrain is developing slowly. He explained that our membership is dying at the National level – membership is decreasing below 19000 – it is now in the 18000's. There is no initiative for recruiting at the National level.

Getting new people into the hobby and NMRA will grow the hobby and NMRA but Bruce noted that there are many current model railroaders who are not in the NMRA. The NMRA could grow by each of us recruiting one these model railroaders into the NMRA. The local division defines the experience for the membership.

Event Report - Ciro noted that Jim Homoki was appointed as Events Chairman but events are executed in a decentralized manner depending upon the event location. Bruce thinks that we still need an events chairman. As a director you need to keep your eyes open to locate new venues. We need to find new locations to keep things fresh. Consider a capacity requirement of 60 to 80.

Ciro has been doing much of the coordination and plans to replace Jim Homoki as events coordinator. ACTION – Ciro to provide a description of Events Chairman for email.

Tom W will have a PDF flyer on the web site for the next meet. Ciro will be updating the flyer before it is posted.

Ciro passed out the EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES CHECKLIST for the Fall meet

Bring long extension chords – not sure about power distribution at the Fall meet.

Need tables for Bring & brag, white elephant and model judging

Also, bring in old NMRA magazines to the next division meet to circulate to potential new members.

Bob noted that the retractable banner is still waiting on finalized images. Ciro will meet with Tom W and finalize them.

Tom W explained that our current projector screen is old and he would like to do market research on a projection screen for purchase by the GSD.

ACTION – Tom W to research on the projector screen and report at the next meeting

Do we have a backup bulb for the projector? Yes but we do not transport it – too fragile.

LDsig/OPsig/RPM meet – There will be a GSD table to promote NMRA & the GSD. We need to have a minute to address the group at the meet.

MOTION – Approved - Rail Pass paid by GSD for new members recruited at the LDsig/Opsig/RPM meet

Bruce mentioned that at the Cleveland convention, BOD at National announced that the Rail Pass program will be limited to once in a lifetime

MOTION - Rail Pass paid by GSD for new members recruited at the Fall meet

Discussion: Make it one-on-one at the door

Amended Motion Approved

ACTION – Tom W will look into adding GSD logo on the Rail Pass application and send it to Anthony Push for Fall meet – Bring a Friend – Add it to the flyer – Ciro will work with Andy

Start working with more vendors with Rail Pass placement

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NEXT EVENT – Marine Corps League on Staten Island for February with a minimum of 3 layouts (could be 5). Ciro's suggestion is to make it early in February.

MOTION - Approved - Winter meet on Staten Island. Donate up to \$200 for Feb 7, 2015 date with snow date of Feb 21.

Tom W asked about having a "make and take" clinic as a alternative option to the layout tours – cost would be about \$10 for a kit – certain number of participants.

ACTION – Tom W will research it and prepare a proposal for presentation to the BOD – cost, timing and details.

SPRING MEET – dual meet with NJD and we are hosting. Approach Jim Homoki about Hillsborough Center. We can work in our annual business meeting and it should not take very long.

SUMMER MEET - Bruce will check on the Sterling mine.

Bob Dennis spoke about a contact with Metro north Division.

ACTION – Bob Dennis to research a Dual Meet with Metro North Division.

We need to determine a date for Fall 2015 GSD Meet.

ACTION –Tom Casey to research the conflicts and calendar items for late September, October or early November and determine possible dates for our Fall 2015 meet.

Membership & Club Chair's Report - Tom Casey presented info back to January 2012 with full member and Rail Pass subdivided. In 2012, our membership was 260 and now it is down to 230. It is in decline just like the NER. Life Membership is up due to a relocation. At the National level Life memberships are decreasing regularly.

3 MER members are incorrectly identified as NER and Ciro is working on the correction.

Tom distributed a handout on our Membership. He explained that Rerailed means that a member dropped off 30-60 day and then came back.

ACTION – Tom Wortmann to help Tom Casey get an email on NERGSD.com

Anthony's suggestion on the report is to collapse past years to year only – not showing months

In the handout for Rail Pass members: ½ convert to a full member for a year and 1/3 remain for the long term.

ACTION – Tom Casey to email Bob Dennis sending the 30 and 60 day list

Referring to the last BOD minutes: Bob Dennis is tasked to call people on the 60 day past due list.

Whistle Post Report. –

MOTION – Approved - Nomination of Jim Homoki to replace Joe Calderone as editor of WP

There will be a transition with Jim and Joe working together. Jim Homoki will have the flexibility to do what is necessary for him to get the job done. We must provide input to the newsletter on time.

Old Business - Bob Dennis brought a Build a Memory layout that he constructed. It fits under a full size bed and has casters. It is a simplified version of the layout proposed by the National but they stopped their project. We want to use it to promote the hobby. It is a "How To" project and it could inspire people to build one. Anthony noted that Joe had suggested that it be visible to the public. Show it and provide instructions and Bill of Materials. One Suggestion was to raffle them off.

We need a coordinator – Maybe Joe would do it. Ciro will pursue soliciting a coordinator. Bob Dennis will function as co-coordinator until a coordinator is found.

The layout could be on display with the GSD at the November Greenberg show

ACTION – Bruce to contact Bob Tumieleiwicz to determine availability at the November Greenberg train show.

Jim Walsh distributed a Draft Summary Spreadsheet for the Survey Results.

It will be completed for the next meeting and submitted as an article in the next WP.

New Business - We all can have email addresses for receiving email – NERGSD email It can be forwarded. It is great for receiving email but not so good for sending it.

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ACTION – Tom W will set up an email system for us on the NERGSD website and he will support us. Congratulations to Bob Dennis for being elected as GSD representative to the NER
Bruce said that for the AP program, he needs a group from a location to organize a day like the one that was done on Staten Island previously.

Ciro said that he will start pushing to get more from different board members. He will ask those that do less to do more. It will be help us as an organization.

Meeting adjourned around 12:55 pm.

NEXT BOD MEETING 15 NOV 2014 NYSME – At 8:30 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Walsh

Jim Walsh, Secretary NMRA/NER/GSD