

Minutes of Division 8 Meeting for January 13, 2007

The foremen's meeting was called to order by President Ray Byer at 10:00 AM at Papa Ben's Train Store. The following officers and foremen were present. Ray Byer - President & Div 8 Director, Ronnie Pendleton - Secretary, Peter Bryan - Treasurer, Loren Neufeld - LSR Convention Chair, Kelly Russell - LSR Convention Co-Chairman, Ed Dibble - Northwest Crossing, Tracy Mitchell - San Jacinto MRRC, David Ray - O Scalers, Byron Spampinato - Narrow Gauge Cartel, Ronald Burns - San Jacinto MRRC, Don Formanek - NUTS, Bob Leeper - Gulf Coast Chapter NRHS, Gordon Lawson - Vistor, Tom Marsh - N Crowd, Bob Eaton - Vistor, Leslie Eaton - NANOS and Rusty Paulas - S Scalers

Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the last meeting on 10/21/06 were read. There were no corrections or revisions, and the minutes were approved as read.

Introduction of New President

Ray Byer introduced himself as the new Division 8 President. Ray talked about his background and his involvement in the hobby. Ray said that he currently belongs to the Bay Area Railroad Fellowship, N Crowd and San Jacinto MRR Clubs.

Treasure's Report

Peter Bryan gave the Treasurer's report. It was reported that the Division has a current balance in the checking account of \$5,125.42 and \$45.00 in petty cash, for a total of \$5,170.42. All of current obligations have been paid and there hasn't been any activity since the last report. The report was approved as read.

New Business

Loren Neufeld gave a preliminary report on the upcoming LSR convention. Information packets were passed out containing proposed plans and a schedule of events. The convention dates are June 18 - 22 2008, and will be held at the Holiday Inn on the Southwest Frwy at the Sam Houston Tollroad. A room rate of \$72.00 per night for convention attendees was given by the hotel. Convention registration fee's would be around \$55.00 to \$60.00. Proposed events for the convention are evening operating sessions on 8/18,19 & 20 2008, silent auction, model contest, a super layout tour of layouts on the north side of Houston, picnic at HALS on 8/19/08 and a banquet on 8/21/08. Loren said that there were several chairmen slots still open. Other activities for the convention are switching layouts for attendees to sharpen their skills on, along with T Track layout contest and prototype tours. There were discussion on a possible commercial vendors show during the convention. Loren said that there would be an effort to get more local modelers and clubs to attend, and solicited ideas for more advertising. Don Bozman has volunteered to contact the local clubs for help. Don will be informing the local clubs that if they have any members that haven't joined the NMRA yet, they can join for a six month period at a reduced membership rate.

Publication of the next newsletter was the next item for discussion. Tom Marsh mentioned that the Division has a page on the LSR website, but it hasn't been updated since 2005. Tom contacted the webmaster and it will be updated. There was some discussion on getting the next issue of the Waybill published. Tom Marsh volunteered to assume the editor duties for the Division. He said that he would facilitate getting all the articles, the editing and publishing. Tom solicited reports from all of the foremen of all the participating local clubs in the region to be included in the Waybill. It was suggested

that the first two issues be printed and mailed to all 284 members of the Region. Finally a suggestion was made to e-mail future issues out as a cost saving measure.

Old Business

Bob Leeper brought up the next issue, concerning that there needs to be changes to the Division Constitution. The wording needs to be changed from "dues" to "fees". Bob made the motion and it was seconded by Leslie Eaton. A question was asked if the vote needs to be by the full membership of the Division. A check of the Constitution was made and it did require that 2/3 thirds of the membership in attendance needs to vote on any proposed changes. President Byers said that the next meeting will be a general membership meeting called for that issue. Bob removed the original motion and Leslie withdrew her second, and discussion was tabled.

The next order of business was discussion of identifying which clubs were in the Division and have been sending representatives to the past Division meetings. President Byers said that Article 4 of the Constitution requires that each club should be represented by a foreman or proxy. There were 10 clubs in attendance at this meeting. President Byer made a motion that the clubs that were at this meeting are in good standing and the clubs that weren't would be dropped. These clubs would be given notice that they can attend the next meeting and present their reasons why they should be returned to good standing. There are 23 clubs in the Division and President Byer said that he would contact the non participating clubs and ask that they attend the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Don Hand and the motion was approved by all.

The issue of the Division 8 dues was brought up next. Basically the Division will get no monetary support from the NMRA or LSR in the future. There was discussion about what are the mandated duties. The question will be asked at the LSR Mid Winter meeting. Peter Bryan said that the Division had collected dues in the past at \$5.00 per year or \$12.00 for three years. No dues have been collected since three years ago. Currently the only other source of revenue for the Division comes from the LSR convention. This lead to the next topic for discussion which was fundrasing for the Division. Ray Byer suggested that the Division could participate with the San Jacinto Model RR Club at their annual Train Show and host a second day. There was discussion about the Division hosting there own train show and the local clubs would help with the event. Freight car sales was floated about as a possible fundraiser. Field trips was suggested as a way to attract people to attend, but the last Division trip only broke even on meeting the expenses. A final suggestion was to have a modeling with the masters seminar, where Master Modelers would donate their time and the Division would charge a nominal fee for those attending. Leslie Eaton and Tracey Mitchell said that they would look into it.

Upcoming events was the next topic. Ray Byer suggested we have a membership drive at Zube Park with HALS co-hosting. Peter Bryan suggested that an evening run with a catered meal held during the summer months would generate interest. Another idea was a progressive dinner/layout tour of local modelers. The Division could charge a small fee to offset the expenses for the layout owners. Peter Bryan suggested that the Division host a members only operating sessions. This would be a way for the novice operators who are interested in operations could develop their skills on some of the local model railroads. Peter said that he would chair that event.

Nominations for the Youth Program sponsored by the Division were accepted. Peter Bryan made a nomination of a youth from the HALS club. The youth nominated was Leighton Mooreland who is 12 years old. Peter said that the youth had a very good knowledge of the locomotives and railroading in general. Anyone else who has a nominee will need to submit the youth's name by January 27, 2007 to Ray Byer.

Ray said that he would be contacting the local clubs in the Division for volunteers to work at the Division table during the San Jacinto Train Show on February 9, 2007.

New Business

Ray Byer said that the Division will need to hold a general membership meeting soon. It was agreed to have the meeting on February 24, 2007 at 10:00AM at Papa Ben's. There was a motion and it was seconded to approve the above date and time. The motion was approved by all.

Tracey Mitchell announced that Steve Sandifier was the newest Master Modeler in the Division. Steve is MMR # 389. Tracey said that Division 8 has the most MMR's of all the Divisions of the LSR.

Another announcement was that on January 27, 2007 the City of Tomball, Tx. will be having Tomball RR Days.

A motion was made for the meeting to adjourn, it was seconded and approved by all. The meeting adjourned at 11:34AM.

Respectfully Submitted
Ronnie Pendleton Secretary Division 8