

DIVISION 8 MEETING MINUTES 2/24/07

The foremen's meeting was called to order by President Ray Byer at 10:05 AM at Papa Ben's Train Store. The following officers and foremen were present. Ray Byer- President, Division 8 Director, SanJacinto MRR Club & BARF, Ronnie Pendleton - Secretary & San Jacinto MRRC, Peter Bryan - Division 8 Treasurer & HALS, Jim Long - Vice President & San Jacinto MRR Club, Tom Marsh - Division 8 Editor & N Crowd, Bob Leeper - Gulf Coast RR Museum, Tracey Mitchell - San Jacinto MRR Club, Loren Nuefeld - LSR 2008 Convention Chair, Michael Little - BARF & San Jacinto MRR Club, Leslie Eaton - NANOS, Robert Eaton - NANOS, Ronald Burns - San Jacinto MRR Club, Phillip Stewart - San Jacinto MRR Club, Don Formanek - NUTS and Gordon Lawson - NWX.

Meeting Minutes

A copy of the minutes from the last meeting on 1/13/07 was passed around to all in attendance for review. There were no corrections or revisions, and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Peter Bryan gave the report. There is a total of \$5,195.42 in the treasury.

Old Business

The issue of dues and membership came up for discussion again. President Byer reviewed the Division Constitution and By Laws concerning the articles on dues and membership. After much discussion on the matter, Leslie Eaton made a motion to change the Article II Section 2 of the Constitution to reflect the changes. After more discussion Leslie rescinded her motion. It was proposed that the changes to Article II need to be published before being voted on. President Byer and Vice President Jim Long will review the Constitution and By Laws for the correct wording of the new proposals. Leslie volunteered to type up the new changes to be published.

Club Attendance To Division Meetings

President Byer reported that he has contacted 13 of the clubs in the Division that haven't been sending a foreman to the meetings. He said that he has called and left messages, but hasn't heard back from them yet. He said that there are currently 10 active clubs in the Division. Editor Tom Marsh showed a new update for the club directory that he is working on.

Report On Waybill

Editor Tom Marsh reported that on the last mailing of the Waybill he received back 3 undelivered copies. One person sent money to pay for the cost of the publication. There were 30 people that responded back that they preferred to receive future issues via e-mail. Peter Bryan suggested that the next issue should have a headline on the front page of the upcoming events. There were discussions on a deadline date and it was agreed that it should be 6/16/07. Next publication date will be sometime around 6/18 - 25/07. President Byer said that we need to include the updated list of clubs and contacts in the next issue. Tracey Mitchell volunteered to help Ray on updating the club directory. Tom said that he would like to have articles from the clubs for inclusion in the next issue. Ray also suggested that extra copies be printed for the local hobby shops.

Report on LSR Mid Winter Meeting

Tracey Mitchell reported that part of the meeting was on the past LSR conventions, and ideas were discussed on how to improve those in the future. The upcoming convention at Round Rock promises to be a good convention for 2007. The hotel facilities are nice with plenty of room for the contest, 43 clinics, auctions and other activities. There are no local restaurants around the hotel, so attendees only have the hotel for meals. Tracey reminded everyone that all Division functions are covered by the NMRA insurance. The only requirement is that the President of the LSR be notified before the function, due to the insurance regulations. Tracey reported that the 2009 LSR convention will be held in Dallas, TX. Finally Tracey said that he has been appointed to handle the duties of the LSR Yahoo group coordinator. President Byer reported that he asked about funding for the Division. According to the LSR the Division will receive no funding from the LSR.

The Division will be responsible for their own fundraising, which has been in the past by hosting conventions.

Division Fundraising

President Byer opened the discussion on the subject. He said that some people are interested in having a train show, but he questioned do we have enough people that are willing to do the work that is required. Peter Bryan asked why was there a need for a train show, when Division 8 will be hosting the LSR convention next year. Loren Nuefeld suggested that we wait until we have a need for additional funds for the Division and then have a fundraiser. Discussion was closed on the issue.

Modeling With the Masters

Discussion on the proposed idea by Leslie Eaton of having a monthly or bi-monthly clinics for NMRA members was next on the agenda. It was suggested that this be a free event. Tracey Mitchell said that knows of several people that would volunteer to put on a clinic. Mike Little suggested that we could have clinics for those who are working on the NMRA Achievement Program at these events. President Byer said that anyone else who has any good ideas could send him an e-mail.

Operating Sessions

Peter Bryan announced that 8/11/07 from 1:00PM - 5:00PM has been set for operating sessions on local area layouts. Peter encouraged members of the local clubs and novices are welcomed. The sessions can accommodate about 30 operators. Jim Long suggested that we have some experienced operators to help out the novices during the sessions. Leslie Eaton suggested a clinic on operations before this event. Peter will give updates on this as they become available.

Youth Membership Program

Peter Bryan reported that the one youth (Leighton Mooreland) who was nominated for the program, will be able to attend the 2007 LSR convention for free.

2008 LSR Convention Report

Loren Neufeld reported that the convention is scheduled for 6/18 - 22/08. The convention will be held at the Holiday Inn on the SW Freeway at Sam Houston Toll Road. The hotel is currently undergoing a renovation. The tentative price for rooms will be somewhere around \$70.00 with a cap of \$85.00. The convention fee will be around \$60.00 - \$70.00. Loren is working on having 6 month NMRA memberships available for non NMRA members who want to attend. The LSR commemorate will be named after Ben Pearlman's Railroad. The planned car will be a caboose and they will be in HO and N scales. There will be a \$25.00 surcharge for convention attendees who don't stay at the convention hotel. The operating sessions will have a \$10.00 refundable deposit after the operating session is over for each evening. Loren will be holding quarterly progress meetings on the convention planning.

New Business

The need for a replacement Division 8 display for the train shows and conventions was discussed. After discussion a motion was made by President Byer and seconded by Peter Bryan. The motion was approved by all.

The next meeting will be on 5/5/07 @ 10:00 AM at Papa Ben's Train Store. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Leslie Eaton and seconded by Jim Long and approved by all. Meeting closed @ 11:26AM.

Respectfully Submitted
Ronnie Pendleton Secretary Division 8