



LOS ANGELES DIVISION BUSINESS MEETING

Meeting held On-Line via Go to Meeting App

Date: June 25, 2020, 7:00 P.M.

ATTENDING:

<u>Superintendent</u>	Vic Cavalli	<u>Clerk Paymaster/Achievement</u>	James Keena
<u>Director</u>	Mona Raymer	<u>Webmaster/Editor</u>	Tim Johnson
<u>Member Aide</u>		<u>Graphics</u>	Scott Sackett
<u>Membership Recruitment</u>	Bob DeMoss	<u>Membership Retention</u>	Vic Cavalli
<u>Non-Rails</u>	Edna Keena	<u>Assistant Non-Rails</u>	Dottie Sanders
<u>PSR Vice President</u>	Pat Raymer	<u>Facebook</u>	Kevin Spady
<u>Others Present</u>	Ron Westlund		Mike O'Brian

Call to Order

Superintendent Vic Cavalli called the L. A. Division Advisory Board meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes of the May 28, 2020 were approved unanimously with no corrections.

Financial Report

The Division currently has the following funds as of the June 18, 2020 Union Bank statements:

Checking	\$13,173.41
<u>Savings</u>	<u>\$5,102.98</u>
Total	\$18,276.39

Available funds are expected to be reduced due to the canceling of the Van Nuys Local 2020 Convention. This is due to transferring registrations over to the PSR 2021 Orange Blossom Special Convention as well as issuing refunds for registrations, Hobo breakfast, tours and extra fare clinics.

Membership

The Los Angeles Division currently has 207 members. We have been having an 83% renewal or re-rail of memberships. Vic Cavalli indicated that he would like to have a dissatisfaction survey sent to find out why members did not renew. It was mentioned that some decline in renewal could be due to financial reasons due to loss of jobs and income because of government stay at home restrictions.

Due to the cancelation of the National NMRA Convention, the NMRA has begun virtual online clinics and tours utilizing Facebook, U-tube and Zoom applications.

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting Date and Time

It was suggested that a consistent scheduled meeting date and time be established for the Advisory Board. It was agreed upon to set to the meeting time as second Thursday of each month at 8:00 P.M. via the Go to Meeting Application. Therefore, the next meeting would be scheduled for Thursday, July 9, 2020 at 8:00 P.M.

Great Train Show

The Los Angeles County Fairplex has canceled all events through the end of September, although the Fairplex and the Great Train Show still show an event scheduled to be held weekend of August 8 - 9, 2020. Due to the concerns for the health of members, it was agreed that the L. A. Division would not host a table at this event if it were to be held. Bob DeMoss agreed to send a letter to the Great Train Show informing them that we would not be attending this event, but would consider attending future events.

Los Angeles Area Prototype Modelers Meet

Jeff Smith of RailMaster Hobbies has indicated that he is still planning on hosting the Los Angeles Area Prototype Modelers Meet on Saturday, October 3, 2020. The event will be at the same church in Bellflower provided that the County would allow the gathering.

At this time physical distancing and face masks would be required. RailMaster Hobbies is the main sponsor of the event with the L. A. Division being a co-sponsored for NMRA insurance purposes.

Frosty Freight

The South Coast Botanical Gardens Los Angeles Division Frosty Freight Modular Meet is planned for the weekend of December 5 & 6, 2020. The Gardens are open to the public, but COVID-19 restrictions on utilizing the meeting hall where we normally set up the modular layout may preclude us conducting the event. Maintaining physical distancing between layouts and sanitation of common used items after each use such as our Time Saver Layout, Wooden Toy Train Play Set and Coloring Table for children would be impractical.

Scott Sacket will survey the various modular layout clubs to see if there is even any interest in attending due to the County restrictions and report back at the next meeting.

Buddy System

Mona Raymer suggested that we possibly implementing the Pacific Coast Region Buddy System. It is a program to welcome new members to the NMRA with a one on one relationship. Discussions ensued to where actually various members would be willing to volunteer to be mentors instead focusing on various specialties, such as layout design, track laying, electrical, DCC, painting, scenery, weathering, etc.

Vic Cavalli indicated that he wants to expand the L. A. Division new member welcome letter to include a list of officers and mentor contacts.

The following persons volunteer to be mentors:

Mike O'Brien, Tim Johnson, Scott Sackett, Kevin Spady, James Keena and Ron Westlund.

OLD BUSINESS

Storage Unit for Division Supplies

Discussion continued regarding the storage of L. A. Division supplies that are currently kept as various members' homes. It was suggested that a storage unit be looked into for centralizing the Divisions' assets, which includes projectors, screens, sound system, banner and display stands. Due to the large amount of plastic models intended for Hobo Auctions, Raffles and Door Prizes, a climate control air conditioned storage unit is mandatory.

Based upon preliminary investigation, the cost of a 5' x 10' climate controlled storage unit would be around \$105 to \$110 per Month. This would be an annual yearly cost to the Division of approximately \$1,320.00. The most affordable units are located along the 605 freeway between Long Beach and City of Industry. It was pointed out that this annual storage unit cost could deplete the L. A. Division's assets in a little over ten years.

It was suggested that some of the older model train items that the Division has accumulated over the years for hobo auctions be sold. This would reduce the amount of supplies that need to be stored to just actual event items such as projectors, screens, sound system, banner and display stands.

This item was table for further discussion by the Advisory Board.

Los Angeles Division On-Line Present

The NMRA has launched the NMRA-X via Facebook and NMRA U-Tube Channel. The San Diego and Cajon Divisions held a joint shared layout tour meeting via the Zoom App. Mike O'Brien reported that the Zoom App provides meetings up to 40 minutes for free. Monthly subscription fee is \$15.00 for unlimited length meetings.

The Glendale Model Railroad Club use Zoom each Monday evening for a virtual open house that show trains running on the layout.

The San Diego Division hold monthly virtual meeting the second Saturday of each month using Zoom. They are presenting on-line power point clinics and virtual layout tours.

An administrator needs to be chosen and the application needs to be purchased and installed on a computer. The administrator can assign others to host events on the Zoom App.

Tim Johnson stated that the Go to Meeting App has many of the same features as Zoom and has a monthly subscription cost of \$14.00. It was pointed out that many people are now more familiar with the Zoom App due to the extensive advertising and use during stay at home restrictions.

This item was tabled for further discussion as to which application to purchase to utilize for the Los Angeles Division on-line presence.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting will be Thursday, July 9, 2020 at 8:00 P.M. via “Go to Meeting App.”

Motion to Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned at 8:46 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted by

James L. Keena
Los Angeles Division
Chief Clerk Paymaster