



## LOS ANGELES DIVISION BUSINESS MEETING

Meeting held On-Line via Zoom Application

**Date: March 10, 2022, 7:00 P.M.**

### **ATTENDING:**

<u>Superintendent</u>	Vic Cavalli	<u>Clerk Paymaster/Achievement</u>	James Keena
<u>Director</u>	Vic Cavalli	<u>Webmaster</u>	Kevin Spady
<u>Member Aide</u>		<u>Graphics</u>	
<u>Membership Recruitment</u>		<u>Membership Retention</u>	Vic Cavalli
<u>Non-Rails</u>		<u>Assistant Non-Rails</u>	
<u>PSR President</u>	Pat Raymer	<u>Facebook</u>	Kevin Spady
<u>Buddy System</u>		<u>Communication Coordinator</u>	Nick Lisica
Others Present	Mike O'Brien, Mona Raymer, Cindy Winters, Chuck Fisher, Wayne Carson		

### **Welcome**

Superintendent Vic Cavalli called the LA Division Annual Membership meeting to order at 7:06 P.M. for the Divisions' membership signed on to the Zoom meeting. He stated that he is sorry that we are not ready to meet for a meal in person due to COVID restrictions. On a good note, it appears that the COVID restrictions are slowly going away.

### **PSR President Report**

Pat Raymer, PSR President welcomed and thanked the members that signed onto this online Zoom Annual Membership meeting for the Los Angeles Division. Look forward to being able to resume normal in person events again. He explained that the PSR has obtained 501-C3 non-profit status with both California and the IRS. This non-profit status covers all four divisions of the PSR.

He has been sitting on the San Diego Convention Committee and they are moving forward with prototype tours that include Trolley facility, BNSF auto loading facility and Campo Railroad Museum tour. For the Museum tour, it would be most likely a self-driving or car pool event.

The Arizona Convention Committee did a survey and have selected Flagstaff, Arizona as the convention site for the 2023 Regional Convention. This Convention will include a tour and train trip on the Grand Canyon Railway. The Arizona Committee requested a waiver that was approved by the PSR Board to move the Convention to June 2023.

The NMRA has approved the PSR's request to hold the 2024 National Convention and Train show in Southern California. The 2024 Convention Committee is in negotiations with several venues to hold the Convention. The NMRA would oversee arrangements with the hotels, registration, bus transportation and the train show. The PSR would be responsible for providing tours, layouts, clinics and volunteers to support the event.

## **Director/ Superintendent Report**

Vic Cavalli, LA Division Superintendent stated that he would like to start having layout tours at least four times a year. These layout tours would be around 3-hours in length where the Division would provide donuts, coffee, sodas and water to those that attend. NMRA Rail Pass would be offered at a discounted rate of \$10.00, with the Division absorbing the remaining cost in an effort to encourage more persons to join the NMRA.

The Division's Zoom Sand House Chats meetings occur on the first Thursday of every month. Going forward, Regional Conventions are to be overseen and coordinated by the PSR and supported as a joint effort by all four Divisions. This would take a lot of weight off of each of the individual Divisions.

## **Financial Report**

James Keena, Chief Clerk Paymaster reported that the Division currently has the following funds:

Checking	\$11,291.57
<u>Savings</u>	<u>\$5,103.61</u>
Total	\$16,395.18

Jeff Smith of RailMaster Hobbies in Bellflower graciously donated a \$30.00 Gift Certificate to be handed out at the end of our online Zoom Annual Membership Meeting.

James Keena also mentioned that all of the minutes from past meetings are available on the LA Division website for viewing.

## **Membership**

Vic Cavalli stated that as of February the LA Division now has 200 members. The Division was as low as 182 members just four months ago. Fourteen (14) new members have joined the NMRA, but 18 did not renew. The LA Division currently has an 88% renew rate.

A survey is being prepared to send out to those that did not renew their membership to help determine why they chose not to renew. Another survey will be sent of current membership to inquire as to what we can do better along with which activities they would like to participate and be involve with in the LA Division.

## **Communication**

Nick Lisica oversees the editing of the LA Coupler and he stated that he can always use more article, stories, and photos. There is value in sharing and motivating others that enjoy a hobby together.

Kevin Spady reported that Google Analytics is now working on the LA Division's new website and is seeing traffic. He will provide an update report in an article in a future edition of the LA Coupler. The website is updated monthly. He stated that the Facebook site sees very little activity, which may stem from the lack of actual in-person events due to two-years of COVID restrictions.

We can always use more volunteers. If you give of yourself, you will receive back 10-fold. Model Railroading is people. Share, become part of the comradery.

## **Installation of Officers**

Vic Cavalli, LA Division Director/Superintendent reported that due to lack of candidates for the 2022 LA Division elections, in accordance to the Division's bylaws, Vic Cavalli appointed the following individuals to their respective positions for two years terms of office:

Nick Lisica, Chief Clerk  
Kevin Spady, Paymaster

As part of the change over of Division personnel, an audit of the financial records will be performed.

Vic Cavalli also stated that he is going to recommend to the PSR Board to have the LA Division Director and Superintendent positions be one-year terms.

## **Open Forum**

The Los Angeles Division is assisting the Cajon Division in holding their Spring Meet at the Messiah Lutheran Church in Buena Park on Saturday, April 30, 2022.

Mike O'Brien mentioned that there will be a need for volunteers to put on the 2024 NMRA Convention.

Chuck Fisher suggested that the proposed layout tours should include more than one layout due to travel time and rising costs of fuel to attend.

Pat Raymer commented that only about 5% for the LA Division's membership signed on to tonight's Annual Membership Zoom meeting. The main issue is how do we reach out to the other 95% of the membership.

## **Clinic Presentation**

Kevin Spady presented a Power Point clinic on Creating Interesting Railroad Landscapes.

## **Door Prize Drawing**

For the Gift Certificate drawing, Kevin Spady kept a record of those that sign-on to Division's Zoom account to attend today's meeting. He randomly drew the winning name of Mike O'Brien. The Gift Certificate will be mailed to him.

## **Next Meeting**

The next regular Advisory Board meeting will be Thursday, April 14, 2021 at 8:00 P.M. via "Zoom Application." Join meeting code: 839 6317 119 Passcode: 248175

## **Motion to Adjourn**

Meeting Adjourned at 9:51 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted by

James L. Keena  
Chief Clerk Paymaster  
LA Division, PSR, NMRA

