

**Carolina Southern Division
Annual Business Meeting
Minutes
Hunter Acres Baptist Church
January 30, 2016**

Superintendent Jack Haynes called the meeting to order at 9:30AM. Clerk Fred Miller confirmed that the 20 attendees are NMRA members and the necessary quorum of 12 has been met.

Jack Haynes reviewed the dates for the upcoming MER Annual convention (October 20 - 23, 2016, Durham, NC) and the NMRA Nation Annual convention (Indianapolis, IN, July 3 - July 10, 2016). Dave and Michele spoke highly of the upcoming MER convention noting it is close to us and that the Carolina Piedmont Division always runs a great convention.

Treasurer John Stevens gave his paymasters financial report for CSD, listing income and expenses for the year. The Division's ending balance of \$3,579 includes income from RMU registration fees, NMRA/MER dues sharing, book sales and RailOps registration fees; and expenses from RMU, electric bill for Brookford and Annual Picnic giving a net gain of \$682.73 for the year.

Clerk Fred Miller reported the current Division membership is 95. There were 25 additions and 27 losses during the year with a net loss of 2. The Division initiated 16 subsidized RailPass memberships but lost 9 RailPass members during the year. At this point the Division's RailPass retention of members converting to full membership is about 50%.

Gil Brauch gave his report on the Brookford Project. About 312 individuals visited the layout during open houses in the past year, up a bit from the previous year. Publicity opportunities were less and a more concerted effort will be needed in 2016. The major purchase of a window-mounted heat pump is now providing good AC in the summer and acceptable heat in the winter. Gil reported 9 CSD members contributed hours to the project, mostly Saturday Hosting. The loss of Carl Wessel's participation on the project means additional volunteers are vital.

Gil Brauch gave his report on the CarolinaSouthern.org website. The site has been successful in offering Registration Services as well as payment processing using Paypal for events like RMU and RailOps. No major changes have been made to the look and feel of the website. Gil reported that Marcus Neubacher now manages our Facebook presence. All members are encouraged to 'join' the page and keep up with the postings.

Editor Fred Miller reported that he edited and published 5 issues of the Brass Pounder this year, each with an average of 10 pages. A new format was initiated in the May-June issue, presenting a little more color and format interest. Thanks were offered to Nancy Campbell and Michele Chance for their great coverage of our events during the year. Fred made the usual editor's appeal for material to publish. Layout and project articles from the membership are always welcome.

Dave Chance gave us his report on the NMRA Achievement program. He indicated that the Division's performance in awards was poor during the past year. No AP Certificates and Golden Spikes were issued, although seven merit Awards were earned towards the end of the year. Several members are currently working on awards in various categories.

RMU Coordinator Doug Algire reported on the RMU planning process for the 2016 RMU. Loss of the Northside Baptist Church venue which had been used for several years resulted in a frantic search for a new site. The Christ the King Lutheran Church on South Tryon Street, Charlotte, was selected as the 2016 site and although the facility doesn't offer as much amenities, it seems to be adequate.

Currently 18 classes (in three simultaneous tracks) are planned and about 60 people registered. (The Jan 22nd snow storm caused the RMU to be cancelled, but has been reestablished for Feb 27th. Doug indicated that the Church Youth Group will be serving snacks. Doug mentioned that he is developing a Job Description for the RMU Coordinator position.

Larry Paffrath presented a motion that the Division makes a \$125 donation to Christ the King Lutheran Church since we will not be paying any space rental fees. The motion was seconded by Gil Brauch and passed by the members.

Jack Haynes indicated that he was preparing the Division's Annual Report to the MER. He asked for clarification from Bob Halsey about the Divisions participation in the Boy Scouting Railroad Merit Badge during the past year. Discussion ensued on the topic with various opinions offered. It was decided that Bob Halsey, Alan Hardee and Alan Burdick would coordinate the Divisions participation for the coming year.

Michele Chance suggested the Annual Report to MER include some additional detail on the work done in support the Levine Museum of the New South train display. Jack Haynes, Roy Becker and Fred Miller have provided assistance to that effort. A plaque will be mounted at the museum documenting the Divisions help.

Michele Chance also suggested that the RMU activities be included in the "Successful or new ideas" section of the Annual Report to MER with emphasis on its inclusion of topics for new modelers.

After a brief break for refreshments and a raffle event, Roy Becker, representing the Nomination Committee, took leadership of the meeting and presented the nominations for the four Officer positions and one Director:

- Alan Hardee was presented for the position of Superintendent. Gil Brauch entered the election motion, seconded by Alan Burdick, and approved by members.
- Larry Paffrath was presented for the position of Assistant Superintendent. Gil Brauch entered the election motion, seconded by Dave Chance and approved by members.
- Fred Miller was presented for the position of Clerk. Gil Brauch entered the election motion, seconded by Dave Chance and approved by members.
- John Stevens was presented for the position of Clerk. Gil Brauch entered the election motion, seconded by Dave Chance and approved by members.
- Gil Brauch was presented for the position of Director – 2018. Dave Chance entered the election motion, seconded by Doug Algire and approved by members.

Jack Haynes listed the appointed positions: Program Coordinator – Andrew Stitt, Newsletter Editor - Fred Miller, Membership - Nancy Campbell, Haberdashery – Nancy Campbell. All agreed to continue in that effort for the coming year.

Jack Haynes mentioned that the work on the Division's 401C tax classification is still awaiting the

announced NMRA all-inclusive plan. He also indicated that work is continuing on transferring our website domain in GoDaddy to our account.

At approximately 11:30 AM, Gil Brauch presented a motion to adjourn the meeting; Doug Algire seconded and the members approved.

Fred Miller, MMR
CSD Clerk