

Minutes
Annual Elections Meeting
Potomac Division, MER, NMRA
Zoom
~2:30 PM, Sunday, April 18, 2021

Meeting was called to order at ~2:30 PM EDT by Superintendent Brechbiel who noted that the Meeting Policy is in effect; everyone is muted until recognized and/or called upon. Also noted was the intention to move this meeting right along without delays and backtracking as no one really wants to spend their time in a meeting. Quorum was noted as being achieved as well with an excess of 30 members in attendance. Attendance list is on record.

Motion was called for to adopt the agenda for the meeting; Motion was made by Bill Mosteller and 2nd by Ernie Little. Vote was called for the agenda was adopted without objection from the floor.

Approval of minutes from the last meeting was not done as the 2020 meeting was not held due to a lack of means at that time; last minutes were from 2019 and already approved.

Superintendent's Report:

Little to report other than the Division has been getting together with great numbers monthly for clinics and also for the in person clinics. I've been handling the reports, etc. back to the MER, etc.

Membership is down, but the attendance activity of clinics like today is encouraging. Incorporation of Zoom going forward pending location of suitable venues for assembling in person will be developed.

On in person gatherings – these are starting –some train shows are starting along with various conventions around the country and our own MER convention in the fall. Locally, affordable and suitable venues are still needed. St. Matts in Annandale was pretty pricey for our cancelled 2020 miniCon. Inquiries into rescheduling in 2021 will be made in the near future pending price tag. Another joint meet with James River like 2019 at Battlefield Baptist is being planned. Information will be provided once there is something more in concrete.

Incorporation of the Division as a non-profit is being seriously investigated.

Senior Asst. Vice Superintendent's Report:

Andrew Dodge related the upcoming schedule of virtual Zoom clinics and thanked all for their attendance in the past year

Asst. Vice Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Brechbiel noted that Ernie has done a huge amount of work for this Division with our web site and organizing the decades of files stored on the host for all – next time you see Ernie – thank him for all the work behind the scenes.

Web Site tracking was related, established a YouTube channel with subscribers and viewers. Zoom registration process was related and registration for recording who is attending and that folks need to be diligent checking their spam and junk folders to make sure that they are getting the confirmation e-mails to join Zoom clinics.

Paymaster's Report:

Holding steady at \$5+k in the bank with small increases, income, and bills outstanding. The Superintendent noted that members of the Board have been active donating materials, etc. to save the Division from incurring expenses for the past 2 years so as to permit the Division to build up its nest egg to be able to absorb the costs of venues in the future.

Clerk's Report:

The Clerk was absent from the meeting at this point in time; the meeting moved on without his report or input.

Flyer Editor/Publisher:

Alex summed up the loss of Marshall Abrams yet also noted that the pandemic has been a boon to the production of content for The Flyer. He also foreshadowed his upcoming presentation immediately after this meeting on the layout articles that were submitted for in The Flyer. Also described was the addition of personal adverts into The Flyer for members to use to sell off their excess stuff.

Webmaster:

From the Superintendent to all: Ernie as Webmaster has done a huge amount of work for this Division with our web site and organizing the decades of files stored on the host for all – next time you see Ernie – thank him for all the work behind the scenes.

Ernie related the many updates he has been doing to the web site to make it more immediate on information for members and those events and activities for the Division's members.

AP Program:

Mat Thompson related that judging evaluations are active & ongoing with many looking at completing Civil soon and that several members are working towards Cars. Also noted was his upcoming clinic on the 16th and also on the Cars & Structures categories.

Old/Unfinished Business:

There was no Old Business!

New Business:

Elections to the Board

Ongoing and when fully closed and counted will be announced as per the published schedule.

Next Board meeting in May will determine who lands in what position and that result will again with announcement in The Flyer, etc.

Noted that the entire cost of the elections has been donated to the Division now for 2 years running and that includes mailing a ballot to every member.

A question regarding the acceptability of a scanned in and sent by email ballot was raised from the floor – this was decided to be acceptable as the ballot is numbered and that also the email address would verify the origin, in spite of this not being a secret ballot through this action.

Bylaws

The entire Board and many others have contributed to what is a re-issuance of the Bylaws to bring the Division fully into compliance with the Region and much closer to Nat'l. This has been getting rather important from Nat'l pushing down to all levels.

Needed to correct a lot details and it was just far easier to start fresh vs. just continuing band-aiding the existing ones. Examples that are glaring were changing the elections to define being elected to specific position (what we do now is not allowed from Nat'l), explicitly stating self-nomination and election processes, defining roles and responsibilities and duties, defining removal from the board, setting a coherent timetable for all activities, etc.

Been mailed out to everyone twice now and been on our web site for a year so more than enough time for review.

Motion to accept re-issuance of the Bylaws was called for by the Superintendent. Motion was made by Andrew Dodge. 2nd was made by Bernard Rod. A call for a vote was made asking for any nay votes 1st with a resounding silence resulting. Ken Nesper at this point asked about whether there would any discussion. The Superintendent recounted that this has been available to all for over a year and that feedback from several members was taken into account and that changes were made, mainly typographic in nature, and very little in actual substance. The effort here is to get the Division tightly aligned with the Region so that any future changes that might originate or be dictated by Nat'l to the Region could be easily adopted. Ken Nesper abstained and there were no nay votes. The motion was carried and the bylaws for the Division were reissued. A copy was made available to the MER VP.

Good of the Order:

Next Board meeting will be in May as soon as possible after the election is finalized

Adjournment:

Motion called for Adjournment. Made by Andrew Dodge and 2nd by several from the floor. The motion was passed by acclamation w/o any objection from the floor.