**Rappahannock Model Railroaders, Inc Business Meeting January 5, 2017**

President Jim Kerley called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM at the Salem Church Library.

**Roll Call** A Quorum was verified. Plus we had two Proxy votes.

Bob David John McKeown Joey De Santo Mike McVeigh Tony Deutsch Mike Morra Michael Fields Gene Nordgren Linda Garrett Dave Rogers Lee Harris Phil Shaw Ned Hilldrup Steve Shaw Herb Huser Art Singer James Karns Bill Trueman Jim Kerley Randy Vaughn Mark McDonagh Bob Wilcox Walt McIntyre

**Minutes**

The Minutes were read and approved.

**Treasurer's Report**

We have $25,142.57 in the savings and $12,856.55 in the checking account.

**Secretary's Report**

Secretary Linda Garrett reported that three Thank you letters were written to Gene Nordgren and Mike Riabouchinsky for their donations to our Christmas Show. The third letter was written to Tom Medsker for his large O gauge train donations.

**President's Report**

President Jim Kerley talked about our Holiday Dinner scheduled for January 14th at the Fredericksburg Country Club. The deadline for money and dinner choice is January 9th. Happy Hour is scheduled is from 5:00PM to 6:00PM. Dinner will be served from 6:00PM to 8:00PM. President Kerley also discussed a letter that was written and sent on December 22nd to ScreenVision Direct, Inc. Corporation concerning our paid Paragon Theater Advertisement. We have asked for a full refund as we feel the contract did not explain the showing details or options of our fifteen second advertisement and at what time it would run before each show. The ad was only shown once and about 30 minutes before each movie started and not on a loop as we were lead to believe. The letter stated that we polled over 900 paying customers in our survey and it was very disappointing that only four customers saw the advertisement. We are hoping we will receive a response from the company in the near future.

**Unfinished Business**

Chairman Gene Nordgren discussed our December Christmas Show. Attendance was down from past years with a count of 890 at the door. When asked about the survey most said it was from our flyer being handed out at the Santa Train ticket sales. Gene thanked Second Vice President Bob David for his ideas on the Reading Corner and Bean Bag Toss. Both were well received by the public. Gene also discussed a suggestion that was made that we reach out to places where children frequent when advertising such as at doctor's offices, day care centers, schools and the area libraries. Along with Bill Trueman, Gene has offered to assist and help this year's Christmas Show Chairman Steve Shaw in making all the preparations. First up we need to secure the dates for this year at the Eagle's Lodge and pay the deposit.

**Committee Reports**

The Polar Express Raffle saw a profit of $820.70 after all expenses. The expenses were the result of buying two Polar Express Lionel Chief sets and the printing of the tickets. Questions was raised if we were going to have another raffle? What would it be and when would we start? One suggestion is to add a $1.00 to the door cost of our Christmas Show and hand them a ticket for a raffle. The discussion and a decision about having a new raffle will be decided at another meeting this spring.

Membership Second Vice President Phil Shaw and former Second Vice President Bob David welcomed our two newest members Mike McVeigh and Mike Morra to RMR, Inc. Both new members introduced themselves and told of their love of trains and model railroading.

Historian Chairman Bob Wilcox spoke of the Event Report compiled at our Christmas Show using the format that the committee developed. He also had a power point presentation of the report and a short video taken at our show. Everyone was pleased and enjoyed watching the video.

Publicity Bill Craig also discussed the letter that was written to Screen Vision concerning our disappointment and his hope of receiving an answer.

Property Rich Boteler stated that Mike Riabouchinsky and him were guests at the annual Fairs of Virginia Convention held at the Homestead Resort. They pulled the red trailer and used the table tops to set up Mike's Carnival with a trolley running around and through the carnival. His display was well liked and they hope to receive copies of the photos taken soon.

HO Committee Lee Harris told of the success of selling the surplus HO trains at our Christmas Show. Several vendors bought most of the items. Ned Hilldrup announced that he plans on holding an HO Run Day in the near future. Now that he is retired he has the time to work on his HO module and open it up to the club. Members will be able to run DCC or conventional.

Web Master James Karns announced he will make home visits to help RMR members log onto our new web site as several are still unable to log into our email site. He would like input in setting up a Recruit page in hopes of adding more members. He also needs members to contribute write ups and pictures about their trains to add to our pages. James stated he was pleased with the amount of traffic or hits we received from the rail ad over the two weeks before our Christmas Show.

**New Business**

First Vice President Dave Rogers discussed the scheduling of events for 2017. First up is the Museum of The Marine Corps over the January 28th and 29th weekend. The Boy Scout Weekend is March 11th and 12th in Dale City. Train Day is scheduled for May 13th in DC but he hasn't heard anything from the Postal Museum and plans to call them soon. Our Open House is planned for June 17th. He will schedule assisted living centers for every other month soon.

James Karns is scheduled to set up his Lego Display at the Kids Expo being held at the Expo Center over the February 11th and 12th weekend. He wondered if we would like to set up our modules or table tops Members agreed and asked James to see if there would be room for us to set up and run trains. It was also suggested that we contact the radio station B101.5 concerning setting up our table tops at their Kids Weekends, which are big events, held in the Spring and Fall at the Spotsylvania Town Center.

At our December Business Meeting Bill Trueman asked if we could set up a committee to search for a new building. Ned Hildrup, Steve Shaw, Art Singer, and Lee Harris have volunteered to begin the Search Committee. Bill will be the Chairman. The committee will need to decide on what we need as in the size of the space and what do we need to include. Also the expenses must be figured into our needs. If we found an empty storefront we would need all members to be available to help in having the site open to the public throughout the months. The committee will need to develop a presentation to hand to people that would possibly have a space available for us to use. It was asked of all members to be on the lookout for an empty space and let the committee approach the owners or agents involved. We do not want everyone out asking about a space. We need to let the committee handle our search.

Treasurer Michael Fields spoke of the death of member Wray Abbott in December. He stated that member Nelson Barbour made the trip to the Baltimore area viewing on our behalf. He was able to speak with Mrs. Abbott and family about Wray's membership, activities and the good friend he was to all of RMR. Members sat for a Moment of Silence.

**Announcements "Members Time"**

Treasure Michael Fields received a call from member Tom Messider. He is an American Airline's Pilot based in Miami, Florida. He plans to work one more year and is transferring home in March or April.

Karen Jones announced that James Karns and her have set July 8th as their wedding date. All RMR members are invited. It will be held in the White Oak area of Stafford, Va.

Second Vice President Phil Shaw would like to schedule RMR excursions. He would like to plan a trip to Steam Town in Scranton, Pennsylvania if members would be interested. It was also suggested that a trip to the Transportation Museum in Sperry, North Carolina would be a fun trip as they will be running the #611.

There was no 50 /50 Drawing.

**Adjournment**

President Jim Kerley adjourned the meeting at 8:24PM.

Minutes submitted by \_\_\_\_\_Linda Garrett Secretary.

Minutes approved by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_Jim Kerley President.