



The Kingpin

Newsletter of the
Mid Central Region
National Model Railroad Association
July 2020



Nickel Plate Berkshire engine 757, back to its hometown in Bellevue Ohio at the Mad River & NKP Museum. This picture was taken late last summer when the museum hosted Division 4's annual "Far West" BOD meeting.

Table of Contents

President's Letter	3
Royal Gorge	4
Reports	
BOD Minutes	26 - 28
Officers' Reports	29 - 47
Division 7 Mini Meet	48 - 50
Editorial Page	33
MCR Contacts	34
2021 Convention	35-37

The terms Master Model Railroader® MMR®, and Modeling with the Masters® are registered trademarks of the NMRA.

President's Letter

This is the issue of the Kingpin in which we normally discuss the recent Mid Central Region convention. The contest winners are congratulated. The great tours are mentioned. Interesting clinics are highlighted. We also thank the convention hosts for a wonderful experience. This year, however, there is not much that can be said. Yes, the convention hosts did a good job until the COVID-19 pandemic derailed the whole thing. About the only normal item is to congratulate Jim Sacco of Division 2 for earning the 2020 MCR Directors Award. I'll leave it to Division 7 to announce the winner of their Wenderfer Award.

The one convention event that did take place, albeit by video conference, was the Friday evening Board of Directors meeting. In addition to the usual agenda, we added two extra discussion sections. The first was Coping with COVID, the second was a discussion of the NMRA At Risk Person Policy.

We heard that many Divisions had already had virtual meetings, Division 8 seemed to be the first to jump in with both feet. Their first event had attendees who normally do not make it to in person meetings for a variety of reasons. They are now looking into using technology to make their in person meetings available to members remotely. More Divisions have now had virtual meetings, some are using groups.io as a way to handle photos of contest entries. I was a bit concerned to hear of some Divisions who were reluctant to do virtual meetings lest some members who are not technically adept might be left out. That is a concern but we do owe it to all members who are comfortable with computers to at least try this new way of getting together. A week or so later there was another meeting of some Superintendents and others in their Divisions to discuss some of the details of how to handle these events.

The other subject for discussion was the NMRA At Risk Person Policy. I was very gratified to see that the biggest concern from Divisions with active youth programs was how to work within the policy to still deliver the educational experience to youth. A number of scenarios not addressed in the Frequently Ask Question list on the NMRA web site were outlined, the NMRA Counsel subsequently advised how to deal with these situations. There was no condemnation of the policy, all discussion was very positive in nature.

The Board also approved more nomination and election process improvements. We started this process two years ago but realized we had not gone far enough. I thank Bob Shreve and Steve Kaplan for leading this effort.

The other item of new business was to award the 2023 MCR convention to Division 2. I had made an executive decision to offer this as a bit of leverage for the committee to use in getting out of the 2020 hotel contract. This is normally a Board decision and this approval was formally granted.

One item of the banquet agenda is to have the MCR Annual Meeting, a function required as part of our incorporation in Ohio. At this point we are looking at a date, still unspecified, in late October for that meeting. It is looking more and more like it will be an online event, we will keep the members posted via special email notices as the plans are firmed up.

It doesn't appear that COVID is going away soon but there is hope that a vaccine will be available late this year or early next. I sure hope that is the case so we can all go to Erie, PA next May and enjoy a convention hosted by our newest Division.

Bob Weinheimer MMR™

Twenty-first Century Railroading on the Royal Gorge Route

Tom Miller

Education Manager

NMRA MCR & Division 10

There are a number of great railroading ventures across America and among them is the "Royal Gorge" railway experience. This historical railroad offers some panoramic scenes through the Rocky Mountains in Colorado. In contrast to the steam locomotive of the *Cumbres & Toltec Railway* tour, the *Royal Gorge Route* diesel powered locomotive provides the passengers with today's amenities from glass roofed vista observation cars to the very best of individually served fine dining. Note the pictures of the eggs Benedict for breakfast and beef Wellington for dinner.

Touring on the *Royal Gorge Route* provides what nineteenth century miners viewed in their pioneering ventures west of the Mississippi River. These miners descended on the upper Arkansas Valley of Colorado in search of carbonate ores rich in lead and silver. The feverish mining activity in what would become the Leadville district attracted the attention of the *Denver & Rio Grande (DR&G)* and the *Santa Fe* railroads. For two railroads to occupy a river valley ordinarily was not a problem, but west of Canon City was an incredible obstacle that would result in a war between these railroads.

There is a detailed history available in books and on their website. Viewed from the train are a high plateau of rocks forming a spectacular steep-walled gorge over a thousand feet drop. At its narrowest point shear walls on both sides plunge into the river creating an impassible barrier. On April 19, 1878, a war began between these two competing railroads that would be known as the Royal Gorge War.

The *D&RG* crews tried leapfrogging the *Santa Fe* grading crews, but were met with court injunctions from the *Santa Fe* in the contest for the right-of-way. The *D&RG* built several stone "forts" such as *Fort DeRemer at Texas Creek upstream in an attempt to block the Santa Fe*. Grading crews were harassed by rocks rolled down on them, tools thrown in the river and other acts of sabotage. Both sides hired armed guards for their crews. Rifles and pistols accompanied picks and shovels as tools. The railroads went to court with each trying to establish their primacy to the right of way. After a long legal battle that ended in the U.S. Supreme Court, on April 21, 1879, the *D&RG* was granted the primary right to build through the gorge.

The *Santa Fe* resorted to its larger corporate power and announced it would build tracks parallel to and in competition with the existing *D&RG* lines. The bondholders of the *D&RG*, fearing financial ruin from this threat, pressured the management of the *D&RG* to lease the existing railroad to the *Santa Fe* for a 30-year period. This created a short-lived truce in the struggle. The *Santa Fe* soon manipulated freight rates south of Denver to favor shippers from Kansas City over its lines to the east to the detriment of Denver merchants and traffic over the leased *D&RG* lines. During this period the *Santa Fe* constructed the railroad through the gorge itself. The *D&RG*, however, continued construction in areas west of the gorge still trying to block the *Santa Fe* (*Royal Gorge Railroad* 2018).

The story told during the tour revealed that after months of shrinking earnings from their leased railroad, the *D&RG* management went to court to break the lease. An injunction from a local court restraining the *Santa Fe* from operating the *D&RG* sparked an armed retaking of their railroad by *D&RG* crews. Trains, depots and engine houses were commandeered. A final peace in the war came after the intervention by the Federal courts. On March 27, 1880, the two railroads signed what was called the "Treaty of Boston" which settles all litigation, and gave the *D&RG* back its railroad.

The *D&RG* paid the *Santa Fe* \$1.8 million for the railroad it had built in the gorge, the grading it had completed, materials on hand and interest. The Royal Gorge War was over. Railroading the Royal Gorge is a unique, historic and thrilling adventure for railroaders yearning for a taste of twenty-first century railroading!

Sources & Resources

Royal Gorge Railroad (2018) Great Scenic Railway. Available at: <https://royalgorgeroute.com/>



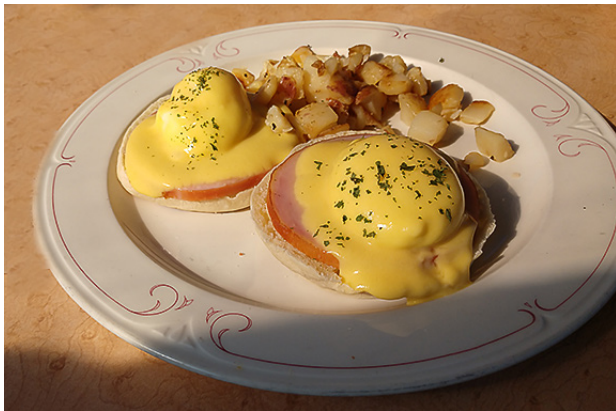
728 Royal Gorge diesel powered train



Tour group outside touring car



Observation Lounge car



Eggs Benedict breakfast



Beef Wellington dinner

National Model Railroad Association Mid-Central Region

Board of Directors Meeting

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Minutes

May 29, 2020

Attendance:

Bob Weinheimer, President; Bob McKay, Treasurer; Jerry Doyle, Secretary; Jim DiPaola, Division 1; Frank Bender, Division 2; Mark Stiver, Division 3; Lee Sheffield, Division 4; Mike Buehner, Division 5; Matt Goodman (incoming supt.), Division 6;

John Shields, Division 7; Fred Soward, Division 8; Robert Osburn, Division 9; Bob Belt, Division 10; Rich Kosakowski, Division 11; and Brad White, Division 12.

Also in attendance were

Steve Zapytowski, Contest Chair; Tom Miller, Education; Bruce DeMaeyer, Modules; Bob Shreve, Nominations; Don Wilke, Webmaster; John Stevens, NMRA V.P Administration; Matt Kross, Incoming Supt. Division 5; Larry Smith Div. 10; Gail Yarnell, Div. 3; Ron Ellison Div. 8; Jeff Hedge Div. 10; Rick Tipton Div. 8.

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Weinheimer at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes of the last BOD meeting:

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as corrected from the September 29, 2019 BOD meeting. Motion made and seconded and passed unanimously.

President's Comments:

National

Annual Meeting will be held virtually on September 13. Regions and Divisions will be expected to assist in promoting this meeting which normally takes place at the convention. There is an update from the President, the board and officers are present, and the floor is open for questions from the members. The NMRA is incorporated in Ohio which requires an annual meeting of this sort for organizations like ours. MCR is also obligated to conduct an annual meeting as we, too, are incorporated in Ohio.

The next full board meeting will be a virtual meeting in mid-July. There are monthly video conferences to track action items and to look at other issues but little if any action can be taken at these conferences.

The National St. Louis convention has been canceled due to COVID. The National Birmingham, England 2022 convention canceled due to a perfect storm of events that include COVID. The convention facilities became unavailable during the summer and a convention in the fall is not practical due to many museums closing at the end of summer.

continued on next page

BOD Minutes continued

There is speculation, and it is only speculation, that St. Louis might step in for 2022. No action on 2022 has been taken by the board. Bob's more immediate concern is about Santa Clara in 2021.

NMRA-X has taken the world by storm. This program was put together after the April 9 announcement of the cancellation of the St. Louis convention. April 24 and 25 (North American time) a 24 hour program of hour long live clinics was presented on the NMRA Facebook page. The clinicians were from around the world, those from Australia were on during our night which was their day. Gordy Robinson was the leader of this effort and it was quite successful. Since then there was an Ask the MMR program and another 12 hour program of clinics May 16. There is yet another program for tomorrow, May 30 and another on June 13. I think the plan is for every two weeks as long as there is a supply of clinics. These are all being recorded and put on the NMRA YouTube channel. Comments on Facebook have been very favorable, it may turn out to be something of a recruiting tool for membership. It's a little too early to know if this is the case but when the membership report comes out, look for new members.

Youth Program

For discussion later in the agenda.

MCR

The MCR annual meeting is anticipated to be October 25 followed by the MCR board meeting. This meeting is normally conducted at the convention banquet. Without a convention there is no banquet and we need a Plan B. In 2014 we could see this coming as there was no convention due to the Region hosting the national convention. That year we met in the spring in Marion, OH and had both meetings as the trains went by. If circumstances let us mingle by late October, something I see as unlikely, it might be nice to use Marion again as it is relatively centrally located. If we must avoid each other, a Zoom conference would be the way to do it. Regardless of the COVID situation, I do not see Schmidt's in Columbus as a viable location for this event.

I was disappointed by the low voter turnout for the awards. The Wenderfer Award will be announced by Division 7. The MCR Directors Award goes to Jim Sacco, congratulations to Jim!

NMRA President Award for service to the Division. Nominations were solicited from the Superintendents in February, I had to pick the MCR winner and submit it. It was a tough choice, there are many members who really deserve this award. The winner is normally announced at the NMRA convention banquet but that couldn't happen this year. The names are published in the August NMRA Magazine but for some reason they were published in the June issue that we just received. A plaque will be forthcoming to the MCR winner Bob Dawson from Division 8. Congratulations to Bob.

Recent Achievement Program activity: Chris Broughton is MMR 650 and Bob Kuchler MMR 653 both from Division 8.

Bob is still working on a new MCR map, stay tuned.

The group in Buffalo has decided to become a new division in the Niagara Frontier Region.

John Stevens reported on his activity with the Buffalo group. The new NFR division is named the Western New York Division. Another NFR division, the Southern Tier Division has petitioned to leave the NFR and will joining the North East Region. John is working on a new map that reflects these changes.

Treasurer's Report:

Bob McKay reported our balance*. He noted two outstanding loans for upcoming conventions for Division 12 and the Tri-Region convention.

* financial details are not published in the Kingpin.

continued on next page

BOD Minutes continued

Vice-Presidents Report:

No Report.

Committee Reports

Achievement Program:

No Report.

Contest:

Steve Zapytowski nothing further report beyond report submitted.

Education:

No Report.

King Pin:

No Report.

Membership:

No Report.

Modules:

Bruce DeMaeyer, nothing further report beyond report submitted.

Nominations:

Bob Shreve reported that he has found candidates for offices.

Projects:

No Report.

continued on next page

BOD Minutes continued

Webmaster:

Don Wilke reported some upcoming routine security changes for the website. A few email forwarders will be changing in June.

Division Reports:

Division 1 – Jim DiPaola: Nothing new to add to the report already submitted for the meeting.

Division 2 – Frank Bender: They have been utilizing virtual meetings for monthly meetings.

Division 3 – Mark Stiver: They are also utilizing virtual meetings and a Facebook page. There are still V&O cars for sale. As of today the November show is still planned subject to change.

Division 4 – Lee Sheffield: Virtual meetings don't seem viable given the large attendance (90 or more). The October show is still planned to occur subject to change.

Division 5 – Matt Kross: The Division held a "How to build a model" clinic at the Painesville, Ohio depot in November.

Division 6 – Matt Goodman: Membership is currently 170. They have been holding virtual contests and is planning a virtual June meeting. The October show is still tentatively planned.

Division 7 – John Shields: They are planning virtual BOD and membership meetings. The October show is still tentatively planned.

Division 8 – Fred Soward: They have been holding virtual meetings and additional bring and brag meetings.

Division 9 – Robert Osburn: They held the first virtual meeting in May and plan to continue this for the foreseeable future. There is consideration of continuing this method as a supplement for members who are unable to attend in person.

Division 10 – Bob Belt: They are planning a virtual meeting for June.

Division 11 – Rich Kosakowski: They have begun in-person meetings again following state-mandated guidelines for social distancing.

Division 12 – Brad White: Nothing new to add to the report already submitted for the meeting. The Fall Jamboree is still planned although in scaled-back form.

Discussion Topics

Youth/At Risk Policy:

Lee Sheffield asked how the new policy affected division picnics with minors and how we follow the new policy. Bob Weinheimer advised Lee to contact Bob Amsler, NMRA Counsel, to get detailed guidance on this. Lee also asked for guidance about whether membership was required for parents of minors. Bob suggested he contact Bob Amsler, NMRA Counsel, to get detailed guidance on this also.

continued on next page

BOD Minutes continued

Gail Yarnell asked if answers to various questions could be distributed to everyone to avoid duplicating efforts and provide faster guidance. Bob Weinheimer suggested Lee Sheffield contact Bob Amsler, NMRA Counsel, and report back to Superintendents via email.

Robert Osburn asked if the NMRA affidavit now required has to be notarized. Bob Weinheimer responded that they must be notarized. The affidavit is required for persons other than parents to bring minors to meetings. Robert suggested that we find a way to flag minor members to assure compliance. John Stevens mentioned that members may still require coverage in certain circumstances even though they are past the age of majority. Don Wilke suggested an archive or FAQ to provide future Superintendents guidance as well. Robert Osburn asked who is required to keep the affidavit and Bob thought it was the division. John Shields noted that persons aged 16-18, when minors typically can drive, present specific concerns since they can show up without parents.

The question of donations to BSA being publicized came up. Bob Weinheimer felt this was prohibited by NMRA policy. Bob suggested anyone with questions on this contact Bob Amsler, NMRA Counsel, to get detailed guidance on this. Gail Yarnell said she had received guidance from the NMRA President that any link was prohibited. John Stevens provided some suggestions to for individual members to continue assisting with activities but outside the official sponsorship of the NMRA or any NMRA Divisions.

John Shields noted that the new record keeping requirements would be burdensome for most divisions. The new policy relieves the NMRA from this requirement.

Coping with COVID:

Fred Soward discussed virtual meetings that Division 8 began in April. They also have an additional meeting between regular meetings. A positive development has been members who are attending that hadn't been able to do so in person. They plan to augment in-person meetings with virtual in the future. Meetings and clinics are recorded. This allows members to access these at times other than when they are held.

Matt Goodman suggested we have a meeting for members interested in further details about holding virtual meetings. Jerry Doyle volunteered to facilitate a meeting in the week following this meeting. Bob Shreve asked about the issue of putting content on YouTube that was available to non-members. John Shields asked about divisions losing venues once the COVID-19 issues are over and internet access issues. He also brought up the issue of layout tours, which are a common feature of division meetings for most. Fred Soward mentioned that OPSIG does weekly meetings. Jerry Doyle mentioned that Division 9 had a virtual layout tour and a clinic as part of their virtual April meeting and that virtual meetings may allow more members to see layouts than before using virtual meetings. John Stevens mentioned his region was planning 50 virtual clinics and tours in November. Robert Osburn noted that everyone will have to be creative to deal with the current issues and their effects. Jerry Doyle mentioned that some members seem to get left out with the movement to technology and we need to find a way to address this.

Division 7 Program:

John Shields told attendees about an event that is still going forward in August. He provided a copy of the flyer and asked each division to include it in their newsletters.

continued on next page

BOD Minutes continued

2020 Convention – This convention was supposed to be occurring as this meeting is being held but was cancelled due to COVID-19. Frank Bender brought everyone up to date. There are no outstanding bills. The MCR 2023 convention will be held in Pittsburgh and they are looking for volunteers.

2021 Convention – Brad White mentioned an upcoming meeting to select a convention chair. The original convention artwork will be auctioned off as a fund raiser. Tours of WABTEC and Union Station are planned. They are working on finding a banquet speaker. The Northern Express will be held May 20-23, 2021

2022 Joint MCR/NCR/MWR Convention – Bruce DeMaeyer noted the potential conflict of a newly-located NMRA National convention in St. Louis that had originally been planned to be held in the United Kingdom but was cancelled. This may affect convention plans. No firm changes have been made. A planning meeting is planned in October.

Nominating Process and Voting – Bob Shreve brought up the need for more specific language regarding the nominating process in our bylaws. He discussed the timing issues of nominations and the Fall BOD meeting in the case where only one candidate has been nominated. Currently this process closes after the BOD meeting. Bob proposed changing the deadline to allow for an in-person vote at the Fall BOD meeting in the case where only one person has been nominated for each office. He also mentioned the need to update the bylaws to allow electronic voting. Currently a paper ballot is specifically named in the bylaws and requires a mail-in ballot only. Bob proposed a change that allows voting by means other than a mail-in ballot.

Motion to consider changes made by Bob Belt and Mark Stiver seconded.

Note: All changes proposed are in ARTICLE X. NOMINATIONS, BALLOTS AND VOTING (proposed changes are in red)

Change proposed for the timing of elections in case of all candidates unopposed:

Section 1. The Region Nominating Committee for Region offices shall be composed of a Manager and at least two (2) other members, all of whom are appointed from different Divisions of the Region by the Mid Central Region President. No current Region officer may serve on this Committee, nor sit with it during its deliberations. The Region Nominating Committee shall report the Region nominations to the Region Secretary by the earlier of the date of the Fall Regional Board meeting or October 31. The Committee report shall then be distributed to the membership in the Fall KingPin, or by email, and said distribution shall invite nominations by petition, within the next 30 days. The Region Nominating Committee may use the petition process for their own nominations. The Committees shall obtain enough information for a short biographical sketch about each nominee containing his background, age, family, interests, model railroading experience, and qualifications. These sketches shall be included with the ballot mailing.

continued on next page

BOD Minutes continued

Update: The Region Nominating Committee for Region offices shall be composed of a Manager and at least two (2) other members, all of whom are appointed from different Divisions of the Region by the Mid Central Region President. No current Region officer may serve on this Committee, nor sit with it during its deliberations. The Region Nominating Committee shall report the committee's nominations to the Region Secretary at least 45 days prior to the Fall regional BOD meeting. The Committee report shall then be distributed to the membership via US Postal mail or via electronic means, and said distribution shall invite nominations by petition. The deadline for submission of nominations by petition shall be 30 days after the date of the distribution to the membership. The complete nomination process should be completed prior to the Fall regional BOD meeting. The Region Nominating Committee may use the petition process for their own nominations. The Committees shall obtain enough information for a short biographical sketch about each nominee containing his background, age, family, interests, model railroading experience, and qualifications. These sketches shall be included with the ballot mailing.

Change proposed to allow alternate means for voting in any election:

Section 6. Election for Mid Central Region officers and Division Superintendents shall be conducted by mail ballot. Other Division elective offices or issues may be included on the Division ballots. If after a diligent effort/search, only one candidate is nominated for any Region Officer position, the sole nominee may be elected by a motion to have an Election by Acclimation. In instances where the entire slate of candidates for Region or Division Officers are running unopposed, mailing of ballots will not be necessary if a motion to have an Election by Acclimation is proposed and passed.

Updates: Election for Mid Central Region officers and Division Superintendents shall be conducted by ballot distributed via US Postal mail, or conducted via electronic means. Other Division elective offices or issues may be included on the Division ballots. If after a diligent effort/search, only one candidate is nominated for any Region Officer position, the sole nominee may be elected by a motion to have an Election by Acclamation. In instances where the entire slate of candidates for Region or Division Office is running unopposed, distribution of ballots will not be necessary if a motion to have an Election by Acclamation is proposed and passed.

Change proposed to allow distribution of election information using alternative means:

Section 10. Ballots for Mid Central Region officers shall be included in the appropriate issue of the KingPin as required in Article VII, Section 2, above. Ballots for issues and Division officers requiring mail voting and sketches of nominees for office in both the Region and in the several Divisions shall be sent by mail either in the KingPin or Division Newsletter or by a separate letter not less than thirty (30) days (forty-five (45) days if mailing is by third class) before the latest date for return of the marked ballots. Nominations by the Committee, by petition or both shall be indicated on the ballot. The name and address of the Teller and the latest date for return of marked ballots shall be clearly indicated. Nominees receiving the largest share of votes for each office and votes on issues shall be certified by the Teller to the Region Secretary not less than three (3) days before the installation meeting. The Teller shall give advance notice to the winners of their election at the earliest possible time to permit their preparation for assumption of the new duties and shall present the ballots and tabulation to the Audit Committee for review before public announcement of the results. Region Officers and Directors elect shall be invited to participate in the Board of Director meeting discussions.

continued on next page

BOD Minutes continued

Update: Ballots for Mid Central Region officers shall be included in the appropriate issue of the KingPin as required in Article VII, Section 2, above. Ballots for issues and Division officers requiring mail voting and sketches of nominees for office in both the Region and in the several Divisions shall be sent by mail either in the KingPin or Division Newsletter or by a separate letter not less than thirty (30) days (forty-five (45) days if mailing is by third class) before the latest date for return of the marked ballots. Nominations by the Committee, by petition or both shall be indicated on the ballot. The name and address of the Teller and the latest date for return of marked ballots shall be clearly indicated. If conducting an election via electronic means, the sketches of officer nominees, voting deadline, and means of submitting ballots shall be included with the electronic election notification. Nominees receiving the largest share of votes for each office and votes on issues shall be certified by the Teller to the Region Secretary not less than three (3) days before the installation meeting. The Teller shall give advance notice to the winners of their election at the earliest possible time to permit their preparation for assumption of the new duties and shall present the ballots and tabulation to the Audit Committee for review before public announcement of the results. Region Officers and Directors elect shall be invited to participate in the Board of Director meeting discussions.

The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Long Range Plan – At the Salt Lake City board meeting Jack Hamilton MMR was charged with updating the NMRA's long range plan. He asked for the Region presidents or their designees to be on the committee, I designated Dick Briggs MMR as the MCR member. The draft plan was reported to the board in early March at its Atlanta meeting where it was favorably received. It still needs some work and the idea was to adopt it at the St. Louis board meeting. The plan calls for a significant emphasis on the Regions and Divisions to make things happen. The plan was to introduce it to Region presidents at a weekend program in Atlanta in June but that was scrubbed by COVID before it could even be announced. The current thought is to have a series of video meetings. The plan also includes a considerable Education portion with the need for a much stronger Education Committee on the Region and even Division level that we have traditionally had.

Steve Zapytowski volunteered to participate in the education efforts. Bob Weinheimer recognized Tom Miller for taking this newly-planned educational initiative on.

2023 Convention – Division 2 has offered to host the 2023 convention in Pittsburgh. The cancellation of the 2020 convention due to COVID-19 created this opportunity. Bob Weinheimer asked for BOD approval of this plan.

Fred Soward moved for approval, seconded by Jim DiPaola.

Motion passed unanimously

For the Good of the Order:

Don Wilke noted the Coshocton, Ohio club is featured in the current issue of Model Railroader.

continued on next page

BOD Minutes continued

Mike Buehner expressed thanks for codification of a smoother process for selection by acclimation.

Bob Belt congratulated Division 2 for their efforts on this year's cancelled convention.

John Shields asked about members who have been affected by COVID-19.

Jerry Doyle noted that virtual meetings are the way of the future for the next few months at least, possibly longer.

Lee Sheffield expressed concerns about members who are not tech-savvy being lost moving to a virtual format. There was some discussion about attrition when divisions moved to electronic distribution of newsletters.

Fall BOD meeting and Annual Membership meeting; location to be announced – Sunday, October 25, 2020.

Plans for this meeting are subject to change due to uncertainties regarding COVID-19.

Adjourned 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Jerry Doyle, MCR Region Secretary

BOD Education Manager Report

May 29, 2020

Executive Summary

With considerable planning for the MCR and NMRA conventions having to be cancelled due to the COVID19 pandemic, NMRA has created opportunities for new directions for NMRA Education efforts at the national and regional levels.

Bruce De Young, MMR, NMRA Education Department Manager reports NMRA-introduced a new dimension at the end of April that compliments some of the loss by the cancellation of our regional and national convention and provides educational material for NMRA members.

On May 1, 2020 Christina Zambri, NMRA Marketing Consultant shared with the NMRA membership that NMRA-X is bringing clinics, layout tours, and more right to your home computer on NMRA.org.

The NMRA-X is the new virtual experience formed to bring some of the benefits of the organization live, right to NMRA member's computer screens!

The very first NMRA-X Virtual Convention was held from 7pm EDT on April 24th to 7pm EDT on April 25th and consisted of 25 straight hours of clinics and tours from national and international sources.

This new dimension to providing educational material to the membership in the form of clinics features a new presentation every hour. NMRA X is broadcasted through both the NMRA Facebook page and group, NMRA-X.

This initial effort was a very successful with both members and non-members alike and it definitely broke the mold in the model railroading community.

Members who may have missed teleconferencing effort, all the videos are saved and available for viewing on the NMRA Facebook page. :

Eventually, the videos will be edited and added to the NMRA YouTube Channel: which is available at <http://www.youtube.com/c/NMRAORGMModelRailroading>

The Marketing and the Social Media Team have been pushing for this and plan on making NMRA-X the virtual model railroading destination by continuing to bring members more valuable content over the coming months.

Appreciation is extended to Gordy Robinson, Martyn Jenkins, Gert "Speed" Muller, Brad Anderson, and Jordan Kramer for the development and implementation of this program as well as the presenters for sharing their knowledge, time and skill the group from the "A Modeler's Life Podcast" for wrapping up the event!

An "Ask the Master Model Railroader" segment appeared on May 2nd at 5pm EDT. Four other 12-hour NMRA-X Virtual Conventions have been scheduled for May 16th, May 30th, June 13th and June 27th. These can all be accessed from the NMRA Facebook group and the NMRA Facebook page. Additional streams will be announced and offered in the near future.

Respectfully Submitted

Tom Miller

Thomas W. Miller Ph.D.

MCR Education Manager

National Model Railroad Association

Contest Chair Report

Board of Directors Meeting

May 29, 2020

1. Developments since the September 28, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting
 - a. Lego models – Contest guidelines have been amended to reflect the following:
 - i. Lego models are not acceptable as Model entries
 - ii. Lego Models are acceptable as Arts & Crafts entries
 - b. Form 901, the Contest Entry Form was revised to reflect the changes identified after the 2019 convention. These changes were listed in the September 28 Contest Chair Report
 - c. The new contest Excel workbook was tested, revised slightly and tested again. This workbook sorts every contest item, determines 1st, 2nd, 3rd place in all awarded categories. It also identifies Honorable Mentions, Merit Awards, Best of Show, spits out various reports, generates the script for the presentation, and populates the PowerPoint for the awards ceremony. The latest version also generates a separate Merit Award report for the use of the regional AP Chair.
 - d. The contest now has a much newer laptop for running the contest which is faster and more powerful than the previous contest computer. This machine is now set up with a permanent license of Microsoft Office and the Excel Photo Assist plug-in required for running the new contest Excel Workbook. This laptop was made available to the contest by Division 1.
 - e. The contest now has a portable office system consisting of two rolling file cases for suspended files and a rolling tool box. One plastic file box with suspended files was retained from the previous collection of gear while various cardboard boxes and a Rubbermaid bin have been discarded
2. The Contest Chair passed to the Division 12 Superintendent a number of contest documents that can assist them in their planning for the Northern Express. A visit to a Division 12 meeting is planned for September, virus willing, to present a new clinic call “Hosting the Regional Contest.”
3. Unrelated to the Contest, the Chair made available all documents relating to the planning and execution of the 2019 convention to the Division 12 Superintendent.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Zapytowski

MCR Contest Chair

MCR Newsletter Report for May 2020

The Kingpin was published in October 2019, primarily containing reports for the Fall BOD meeting. It was again published in February 2020, containing information concerning the expected Mid Central Region's annual convention. The next issue is expected to be published in late June, to have reports associated with the May BOD meeting.

The Kingpin is published by first posting onto the Region's website by the webmaster, which is followed by the editor sending a MailChimp email notice to all Region members with a link to the online Kingpin. In addition, the first newsletter of the year is additionally sent by U.S. Mail, with a request for notification of address changes. Address changes are forwarded by the editor to the Membership Chair. The expenses for this service are recorded and sent to the Region Treasurer for reimbursement to the editor. All these activities have been accomplished this year.

The Kingpin receives a column from the Region President and articles from others, which are published as space permits. The U.S. Mail version reached its space limit on convention material, so other held items will appear in June issue.

David M. Williams

Editor, The Kingpin

Achievement Program Report

October 1, 2019 - June 1, 2020

It has been a great past six months, with a lot of activity

As COVID-19 restrictions ease, there should be more activity in the Divisions.

There are options to conduct AP evaluations while observing

social distancing and they are being used across the organization.

Even in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, AP moves forward with vigor.

Frank Koch, MCR AP Manager

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER™	
Name	Division
Chris Broughton MMR™	8
Robert Kuchler MMR™	8

CERTIFICATES

Division	Certificate	Divison	Certificate
James DiPaola 1	Official	Mike Hauk 12	Eelectrical
Lloyd Horst 1	Volunteer	Mike Hauk 12	Volunteer
Jeffrey Stone 1	Volunteer	Doug Sandmeyer 12	Volunteer
Larry Caniff 2	Scenery	Dianne Rowland 7	Volunteer
Richard Turton 2	Volunteer	Chris Broughton 8	Structures
Gerry Albers 7	Author	Joe Fields 8	Chief Dispatcher
Gerry Albers 7	Dispatcher	Joe Fields 8	Civil
Gerry Albers 7	Electrical	Robet Kuchler 8	Author
Gerry Albers 7	Scenery	Robert Kuchler 8	Cars
Jim Corbett 7	Volunteer	Robert Kuchler 8	Civil
Charles Endreola 7	Volunteer	Robert Kuchler 8	Structures
John Listermann 7	Scenery	Joseph Nartn 8	Author
Russ Poynter 7	Volunteer	Robert Belt 10	Official
		Bruce DeMaeyer 10	Author
		David Ellis 12	Volunteer
		Mike Hauk 12	Dispatcher

MERIT AWARDS

	Division	Merit Award
Larry Caniff	2	SCEN -
Wil Davis	3	CARS Logging Caboose
Wil Davis	3	STR Shortline Engine House
John Listermann	7	SCEN HO Layout
Gerry Albers	7	SCEN Virginian RR HO Layout
Chris Broughton	8	STR Nucolis Packing
Chris Broughton	8	STR Veatch Auto Body
Crrish Broughton	8	STR Structures - Machine Shop
Robert Kuchler	8	STR Gulf Gas Station
Robert Kuchler	8	STR Wooden Trestle
Robert Kuchler	8	STR IGA Grocery Store
Robert Kuchler	8	STR Rabbit Hash Store
Robert Kuchler	8	STR City Retail Block
Robert Kuchler	8	STR Hill Foundry
Robert Belt		CARS MOPAC 70' Express Mail Car #184

GOLDEN SPIKE AWARDS

	Division
Larry Caniff	2
Bryan Persing	5
Roger Meritt	10
Bradley White	12



This bridge is located near the heart of Kansas City MO. and was visited during a 2018 National Convention tour. Both levels are for trains. The vertical posts are part of a screw system to temporarily lift the bridge in case the area floods. Going on memory definitely subject to correction: the bridge before this one was destroyed by a flood but this bridge has never been threatened, and the screw system remains untested.



The same tour provided this view.

Division 1 Report

As of April 30, 2020 Division 1 has 91 members. Division 1 has not held a Division Event or Business Meeting since February 2020. We are hoping to hold a Business Meeting in June 2020 as we have elections for officers. Without a business meeting we'll have to mail out ballots. The one issue we see with having a business meeting is being able to meet the social distancing requirement of 6 feet. There may also be some reluctance on the members to attend even wearing face coverings. We average around 26 members at a Division event.

In November 2019 our Module Group set up a smaller version of our usual module setup at the Age of Steam Roundhouse in Sugarcreek Ohio. The Modules were operated on Thursdays and Fridays during the month of November which also was national Model Railroad Month. On December 7, 2019 the Age of Steam Roundhouse hosted a private Christmas Party for the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad and the modules were operated for the party complete with a Wheeling & Lake Erie train. Division 1 is blessed to have this outstanding facility in our Division and we'll hopefully participate in more events in the future.

Due to Term Limits Steve Zapytowski, Assistant Superintendent and Jim DiPaola, Superintendent will not be eligible for re-election. Current Treasurer Mike Bradley is eligible for re-election as there are no term limits for the Treasurer.

The current corona virus pandemic has made for some very difficult times for the Model Railroading Community. Not being able to meet and share this great hobby has dampened our spirits but shows us just how precious our time together is. Perhaps this is a wakeup call to the companies that do business in China to have some very serious thought about moving the manufacturing back to the United States.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim DiPaola, Superintendent

Division 1

Division 2 Report

Division 2 Report to the Board of Directors

Mid-Central Region, NMRA

April 30, 2020

Keith DeVault, Superintendent

Our membership currently stands at 223, and we have a membership drive with our inactive list to see if we can get them to renew their membership. Our membership chair sends out an email inviting the member to check our website for news and meetings to see if they are interested in joining the group.

Our recruitment efforts through our presence at the Greenberg Train Show several times per year and the exhibit of our Ho Free-Mo and the T-Trak modules at which we invite guests to look at the trains and ask questions, has shown great success in securing new members. We also have a membership table between the different modules with information on the division along with information on The National Model Railroad Association. Our Annual Model Railroad Jamboree will be held at Robert Morris University each April which is open to regular NMRA and non NMRA members, providing us another opportunity for recruiting members. We feature well known guest speakers at the dinner banquet along with a day of clinics and a huge white elephant and raffles which are suitable for everyone.

Division meetings are held 10 months of the year at different sites in the Division. Each August, the division hosts a family picnic at a park near the mainline of Norfolk Southern. We wish the trains would wait before passing while we hold our business meeting.

Our newsletter, *The Keystone Flyer*, published 10 times a year to coincide with each meeting, is emailed to each member, as well as numerous former members around the country. The Flyer can be accessed on our website: www.keystonedivision.org; the web version is in color. The website gives a greater opportunity for more information. We mail the newsletter only to about 20 members that do not have computer access. The website chairman does a great job in posting the flyer and other important news items that affect our division. Switching to an online version versus the postal delivery, we save thousands of dollars each year in the cost of printing and postage.

Division 4 Report

I sure don't have to remind everyone how the country has been turned upside down the past couple of months. Our Division cancelled our March meeting a few days before things came to a screeching halt. I polled our Board of Directors and we all agreed it was our best interest to cancel. Since that time the church where we meet has closed which carried down to our meetings which I cancelled for April and May. Our members continue to keep informed through our website and emails. And our webmaster, Ben Lanza started a novel approach to keep members entertained while being cooped up in the house. He emails out a daily blog listing all sorts of videos and web pages about model railroading. We find ourselves anxiously waiting for the next email to see what he has found for us to read or watch. In addition our members have been submitting photos and short blurbs on what they have been doing. I applaud Ben for all he has done during these troubled times. We have even encouraged members to send in photos and a short write-up describing what they have been working on for our newsletter the Flatwheel. Go to our website www.div4.org and check out the May Flatwheel. We figured with all the cancellations and no meeting minutes to publish we could focus on what our members are doing with their time.

Membership

Membership stands at 198 as of 03/31/20.

Finances

Division 4 remains in very good financial shape.

Activities

Our Module Group continues to be our leading connection with the public. We had a very busy winter with the modules setting up at the annual Trees & Trains Display in Lorain and a new venture for us the Cleveland Zoo's Wild Winter Lights. It was a long event running concurrently with the Trees and Trains display so it required us to have two complete layouts running from Thanksgiving to Christmas. The zoo display had over 100,000 visitors with our layout up front for all to see when they entered the zoo. We are fortunate to have a great group in our division that loves to work with the public and promote model railroading and have fun running trains. Time will tell how the rest of the year will pan out.

Our meetings continue to be well attended with approx 85 or more members showing up. With the increase in attendance at our meetings we decided to move to a new venue. Division 4 is fortunate to have a geographical area that is smaller than the others in our region even though it covers five counties. So we have always had a dedicated meeting location. But the church where we meet is getting cramped. We will be moving to a Community Center a short distance from our current location that is big enough that we can social distance ourselves if necessary and still have room.

Contests continue to be popular with some interesting themes thought up by our Contest Chairman and the clinics following the meetings are well attended.

The Division continues to support and mentor the Medina County 4H Model Railroad group.

Other activities planned for our Division such as the module group work party and cookout, our annual summer picnic in August and Training Day in November are in limbo until things settle down. More than likely the events planned for this summer will be cancelled.

We are still planning our Great Berea Train Show on October 3rd & 4th as long as we are able to depending on how the virus situation pans out.

Submitted by:

Lee Sheffield

Division 4 Superintendent

Division 7 Report

Our membership count at the end of April was ~235, which is flat over the last 9 months. We had been seeing a decline until last Fall. Since then it is steady. No obvious reason for either trend. Prior to the pandemic, we continued to draw about 40 to 70 people to our monthly meetings, depending on the meeting location and speaker (we rotate meeting locations around our division to encourage attendance and to make layout visits convenient). We hold 10 monthly meetings per year.

The division continues to be financially strong and able to plan and execute our yearly plans. Our net worth has obviously been impacted by the downturn in the market since January, but that will not impact our ability to continue our normal plans and operations. We had to cancel our Spring Flea Market at the very last minute. Most of our vendors accepted an offer to put the payments toward either our Fall Show or next year's Flea Market. We currently still plan on having our 53rd Annual Cincinnati Model Train and Trade Show in October, which is our primary source of income.

The economic shutdown due to the corona virus has, of course, disrupted our normal monthly operations. We have cancelled our regular meetings scheduled for April and May, and our new family picnic event that we planned to have in June. In place of the picnic, we are now planning a regular meeting. In place of the monthly meetings, we doubled the frequency of publication of our newsletter and invited more contributions of content focused on what folks are doing with all the "extra time" they have on their hands. (Normally, we showcase pictures of our monthly layout visits in the newsletter.)

We have a committee working on setting up our ability to host "virtual" meetings, either as a replacement for our face-to-face meetings, or in addition to them, to share live with members who cannot, or prefer not to, attend a group meeting. If we can do this well enough, we envision using the parallel approach on-going. We already plan to have our July clinician present remotely from Boston, rather than travel to Cincinnati. That too may be a valuable capability on-going.

We are seeing a couple of challenges for the future. First, we are likely to lose one or two of the "free" venues that we traditionally were able to use around the area to rotate meeting sites. These are churches, which may no longer host "outside groups". This accelerates a trend we were already seeing before the pandemic. The result of this trend is that it will be costing us more to rent space for our monthly meetings.

Second, we have always tried to offer two home layouts for attendees to visit after each monthly meeting. Many layout owners are likely to be reluctant to host group visits at their homes for a while, perhaps until a vaccine is available.

Third, our Fall Show is staged at a local high school. If the schools do not reopen for classes, they may not be willing to host our event. Conversely, if they are open, they may view having outside events in the building as adding unnecessary risk. In either case, we would have no venue for our show. That decision might come too late to find a replacement venue option. If we have to find a new venue, it will likely cost more and/or have less space [as Dayton Division 3 has experienced].

Respectfully submitted,

John Shields

Division 7 Superintendent

Division 8 Report

We have two new Master Model Railroaders®. Chris Broughton attained MMR status in February as #650 and Robert (Bob) Kuchler attained MMR status in March as #653. We are unable to do any face-to-face judging right now. However, based on what we are seeing on Facebook and in emails from our members, we expect a lot of Achievement Program judging to happen immediately after face-to-face visits can resume. Our AP Chairman Joe Fields is encouraging everyone to continue to work on modeling and to focus on paperwork now.

Division 8 membership continues to slowly increase in number. Eric Waggoner (Assistant Superintendent) as the acting membership chair continues to review the monthly membership spreadsheets for expiring terms, sending reminders as well as making phone calls to individuals who have memberships that have expired more than 30 days prior. He also contacts new members when their names appear on the spreadsheets. Personal/one-on-one phone calls have had significant impact on retention through renewals. We see monthly issues with the spreadsheets we receive from HQ NMRA. These are being addressed directly with the NMRA HQ staff and with Paul Novak.

The Division is in good financial shape with a highly successful fall 2019 Train Show & Sale event. Although the spring 2020 Train Show & Sale was cancelled because of the COVID-19 Virus, we did not expend significant funds in advance of the show and had not been required to pay the rental fee for the venue in advance.

The fall Train Show & Sale is on track for November, as previously scheduled. Although parking is tight at this location, we will implement refinements to our previous plan to alleviate the minimal congestion at the previous show. Trustee Ron Ellison, as the Train Show & Sale Committee Chairman, is contacting Division 8 members to expand our “information stations” with learning about model railroading in general and about specific aspects of the hobby. In addition to the local T-TRAK group, the local FreeMON group intends to increase the size of their combined layout by showing off their new modules as well.

Following the success of our 2018 Louisville Train Day event, we are expanding the event to a two-day event we are calling, “Louisville Train Days.” Division 8 Clerk Bob Dawson is working on finalizing layouts and presenters for a late September 2020 date at our Train Show & Sale location.

We found out in mid-April that our annual picnic, coordinated by Assistant Superintendent Eric Waggoner, will not be possible at the Indiana Live Steamer and Columbus Area Model Railroad Club location near Edinburgh, IN this year because of their insurance coverage. We are polling our membership for ideas and considering other venues and options for the picnic.

With the success of our 2019 annual end-of-year event in a new facility, we are returning to the same venue on December 5. Initial plans are underway, but we will not work on details until the Fall.

Beginning in February 2020, the Board of Directors discussed and began putting both a BoD-only and a Division 8 all-members

continued on next page

Division 8 Report continued

Groups.io email group in place. We fully implemented the group in early April. To date we have more than 50% of our members engaged in the email group. It has been extremely beneficial during the lockdown/quarantine as it allows members to discuss upcoming events and changes to the Division 8 timetable. We have also shared many of the Division 4 daily update emails to the group, along with additional commentary.

Prior to the lockdown/quarantine we had decided to significantly modify the agenda for our monthly business/membership meetings to reduce the time required to cover the agenda items. By doing so we increased the time to socialize, to view and vote on the contest entries, and to include a 5-minute “back to basics” presentation immediately after the business/ membership meeting. Unfortunately, the first month that was to be implemented was also the first month we held a virtual meeting because of the COVID-19 Virus.

Because of the lockdown/quarantine, we temporarily suspended the monthly modeling contest, but we are asking our members to share their work through the Division 8 Groups.io email group, on Facebook, or directly with the media group through email. Because not all members have a good way to take photos or video of their work, we have not found a suitable way for everyone to share their entries in a virtual contest environment.

Our monthly face-to-face business/general membership meetings had become nearly standing-room-only events until we were forced to cancel those meetings because of the COVID-19 Virus. We did not hold a March 2020 meeting. Prior to the April 2020 meeting we purchased a Zoom virtual meeting license for use at the monthly business/membership meetings and for the monthly Board of Directors meeting. Using the Zoom platform, we held an April 2020 virtual meeting. The April meeting had 32 attendees, some of whom had never made it to a face-to-face meeting because of challenges with travel. We have decided that even after we can meet face-to-face, we will continue to offer a virtual option to all attendees so that members can view and participate to at least some extent even if they are unable or unwilling to travel to the meeting in person.

Russ Weis (Trustee & former Division 8 Superintendent) continues to convince members and other model railroaders to provide the membership with informative presentations. We are posting the meetings and the presentations to YouTube while we announce their availability through Facebook and our Division 8 Groups.io email group. We have cancelled in-home layout visits for the foreseeable future due to concerns about the COVID-19 virus. We are considering hosting off-week (non-meeting week) Zoom virtual sessions to keep members engaged. This would allow individuals to share their work and to keep them connected to the outside world while we wait out the lockdown/quarantine.

Taking advantage of the NMRA “Free Boxcar Shell” offer, we challenged our members to create a diorama/display using the boxcar and a one square foot piece of provided Masonite as the base. Of the 18 members who volunteered to work on the project, 9 members completed and shared their efforts at our November 2019 membership meeting.

Our marketing efforts continue to expand and gain new ground. Our Facebook page consistently has more interactions than the ten similar pages we are tracking and with one exception has nearly twice the number of total page likes of any of the others.

Fred Soward

Superintendent

Division 8, Mid Central Region, NMRA

Division 9 Report

Submitted by Robert Osburn, Superintendent

Membership: Membership has remained steady around 50 with regular meeting attendance at almost 50%. This is very encouraging considering the very large geographic area we serve. We have a very good core group of members who are active within the Division and are not afraid to take on responsibilities.

Finances: The Division is very frugal with expenditures resulting in a very stable financial position. Monthly raffles, with items donated by members, helps support the few monetary obligations we have. A Company Store has been created for members to dispose of model railroad items they no longer need with a percentage of the sale going into the Division treasury.

Meetings: Our home base is the former C&O station in St. Albans, WV. Seven monthly meetings occur at this location but annually we venture out three times to other locations. These include layout tours and picnic/barbecue at Parkersburg, WV (Steel is King Day) and Portsmouth, OH (Ride the Crusty) hosted by Division 9 members. A third outing takes us to the Bluefield, WV Train Show where we conduct our meeting and enjoy the show. December 2019 saw our first Christmas brunch hosted by a local St. Albany's restaurant. There we conducted our regular business meeting and participants displayed their Square Foot Challenge creations in memory of Gary Burdette. A monthly contest is part of our regular agenda. While some categories have a good participation, others do not. The Contest Chair, Dale Osburn is searching for ways to improve participation.

The Covid-19 pandemic has created havoc with our regular meetings. As for Division 9, questions circulated about whether to have our scheduled March 14th meeting. Of greatest concern was the safety of our members. In the end, we agreed that if special precautions were taken, the meeting should be held. The attendance sheet was not passed around for signatures, seating was placed farther apart, the meeting agenda was placed in the seats instead of one-to-one contact, surfaces were wiped down with disinfecting wipes, antibacterial hand soap was available in the restroom, and everyone was required to practice social distancing. The April meeting was cancelled but in May our clerk, Jerry Doyle, organized a virtual meeting using Zoom. We feel the meeting, which including our regular business meeting, a layout tour, and clinic, was a great success. Yes, we have a few issues to work thru, but having a virtual meeting appears to be the norm for a few more months.

Clinics: Efforts have been taken to shorten our regular business meeting and focus on education and clinics. This appears to be the reasons the participation in projects and attendance has increased. Looking toward the future we hope to promote a clinician exchange program with other Divisions.

Education: Since the passing of Gary Burdette, our Education committee chair has been vacant. This is a very importance aspect of the NMRA and I hope we can soon fill this position.

Achievement Program: Participation in the AP is slow but we see a number of certificates that appear to be within reach of several members. Ideas are being exchanged within the Division to encourage members to participate in the AP program.

Newsletter: The newsletter is one of the most important pieces of the Division. Bob Weinheimer does an excellent job as editor and in conveying information on a monthly basis to every member either electronically or by regular mail.

Other areas of interest: The Division 9 T-Trak group has seen tremendous growth and interest. Members have been contributing modules for several local and MCR shows. The best part of this endeavor is the cooperation, fellowship, and exchange of ideas that has occurred within the Divisions of the MCR.

Nominating Committee

Following the MCR 2019 elections, several observations were made on ways to improve the nomination and election process.

Compress the timeline for the nomination process. The nominating committee should have their initial candidate slate ready by early to mid-August. Send the announcement of the proposed slate to the MCR membership by Email with the deadline for any additional nominations by petition to be mid-September. This will allow the nomination process to be closed and the slate of candidates finalized prior to the fall BOD meeting. In the event the slate is running unopposed, the BOD can exercise the motion to have an Election by Acclamation at the fall BOD meeting.

Update the MCR regulations to allow an election to be held electronically (Election Buddy, or other similar means). NMRA national elections are utilizing this method.

A grammatical error was noted in several places in the regulations where the word Acclimation is used in place of the proper word Acclamation.

A change to Article IX is proposed which will add a section describing the usage of electronic means of communication to transact region business. Adding this section removes any question about “virtual” meetings being allowed by the MCR regulations.

The following pages identify some possible updates to the MCR Regulations to effect these changes. This is a first pass at these updates as a starting point for further discussion.

Submitted by

Bob Shreve

Nominating Committee Chairman

continued on next page

Possible Regulation Updates

ARTICLE X. NOMINATIONS, BALLOTS AND VOTING

Section 1. The Region Nominating Committee for Region offices shall be composed of a Manager and at least two (2) other members, all of whom are appointed from different Divisions of the Region by the Mid Central Region President. No current Region officer may serve on this Committee, nor sit with it during its deliberations. The Region Nominating Committee shall report the Region nominations to the Region Secretary by the earlier of the date of the Fall Regional Board meeting or October 31. The Committee report shall then be distributed to the membership in the Fall *KingPin*, or by email, and said distribution shall invite nominations by petition, within the next 30 days. The Region Nominating Committee may use the petition process for their own nominations. The Committees shall obtain enough information for a short biographical sketch about each nominee containing his background, age, family, interests, model railroading experience, and qualifications. These sketches shall be included with the ballot mailing.

Update: The Region Nominating Committee for Region offices shall be composed of a Manager and at least two (2) other members, all of whom are appointed from different Divisions of the Region by the Mid Central Region President. No current Region officer may serve on this Committee, nor sit with it during its deliberations. **The Region Nominating Committee shall report the committee's nominations to the Region Secretary at least 45 days prior to the Fall regional BOD meeting. The Committee report shall then be distributed to the membership via US Postal mail or via electronic means, and said distribution shall invite nominations by petition. The deadline for submission of nominations by petition shall be 30 days after the date of the distribution to the membership. The complete nomination process should be completed prior to the Fall regional BOD meeting.** The Region Nominating Committee may use the petition process for their own nominations. The Committees shall obtain enough information for a short biographical sketch about each nominee containing his background, age, family, interests, model railroading experience, and qualifications. These sketches shall be included with the ballot mailing.

Section 2. No change

Section 3. No change

Section 4. No change

Section 5. No change

Section 6. Election for Mid Central Region officers and Division Superintendents shall be conducted by mail ballot. Other Division elective offices or issues may be included on the Division ballots. If after a diligent effort/search, only one candidate is nominated for any Region Officer position, the sole nominee may be elected by a motion to have an Election by Acclimation. In instances where the entire slate of candidates for Region or Division Officers are running unopposed, mailing of ballots will not be necessary if a motion to have an Election by Acclimation is proposed and passed.

continued on next page

Possible Regulation Updates continued

Updates: **Election for Mid Central Region officers and Division Superintendents shall be conducted by ballot distributed via US Postal mail, or conducted via electronic means.** Other Division elective offices or issues may be included on the Division ballots. If after a diligent effort/search, only one candidate is nominated for any Region Officer position, the sole nominee may be elected by a motion to have an Election by **Acclamation**. In instances where the entire slate of candidates for Region ~~or Division Office is~~ running unopposed, **distribution of ballots** will not be necessary if a motion to have an Election by **Acclamation** is proposed and passed.

Section 7. No change

Section 8. No change

Section 9. No change

Section 10. Ballots for Mid Central Region officers shall be included in the appropriate issue of the *KingPin* as required in Article VII, Section 2, above. Ballots for issues and Division officers requiring mail voting and sketches of nominees for office in both the Region and in the several Divisions shall be sent by mail either in the *KingPin* or Division Newsletter or by a separate letter not less than thirty (30) days (forty-five (45) days if mailing is by third class) before the latest date for return of the marked ballots. Nominations by the Committee, by petition or both shall be indicated on the ballot. The name and address of the Teller and the latest date for return of marked ballots shall be clearly indicated. Nominees receiving the largest share of votes for each office and votes on issues shall be certified by the Teller to the Region Secretary not less than three (3) days before the installation meeting. The Teller shall give advance notice to the winners of their election at the earliest possible time to permit their preparation for assumption of the new duties and shall present the ballots and tabulation to the Audit Committee for review before public announcement of the results. Region Officers and Directors elect shall be invited to participate in the Board of Director meeting discussions.

Update: Ballots for Mid Central Region officers shall be included in the appropriate issue of the *KingPin* as required in Article VII, Section 2, above. Ballots for issues and Division officers requiring mail voting and sketches of nominees for office in both the Region and in the several Divisions shall be sent by mail either in the *KingPin* or Division Newsletter or by a separate letter not less than thirty (30) days (forty-five (45) days if mailing is by third class) before the latest date for return of the marked ballots. Nominations by the Committee, by petition or both shall be indicated on the ballot. The name and address of the Teller and the latest date for return of marked ballots shall be clearly indicated. **If conducting an election via electronic means, the sketches of officer nominees, voting deadline, and means of submitting ballots shall be included with the electronic election notification.** Nominees receiving the largest share of votes for each office and votes on issues shall be certified by the Teller to the Region Secretary not less than three (3) days before the installation meeting. The Teller shall give advance notice to the winners of their election at the earliest possible time to permit their preparation for assumption of the new duties and shall present the ballots and tabulation to the Audit Committee for review before public announcement of the results. Region Officers and Directors elect shall be invited to participate in the Board of Director meeting discussions.

Section 11. When an amendment or issue must be submitted by mail independently of an election for officers, the procedure shall be similar to that of Section 1, but the ballots shall be returned to the Secretary or someone appointed by the Secretary for tallying and reporting.

continued on next page

Possible Regulation Updates continued

Update: When an amendment or issue must be submitted **for vote by the region membership** independently of an election for officers, the procedure shall be similar to that of Section 10, but the ballots shall be returned to the Secretary or someone appointed by the Secretary for tallying and reporting.

Section 12. No change

Section 13. No change

Section 14. Nothing in these Regulations shall prevent any of the Divisions of this Region from creating an Election by Acclimation process as long as the Division nominating committee has made a diligent effort/search for multiple candidates for each elected office.

Update: Nothing in these Regulations shall prevent any of the Divisions of this Region from creating an Election by **Acclamation** process as long as the Division nominating committee has made a diligent effort/search for multiple candidates for each elected office.

The following update is intended to add the usage of electronic communications as a means of conducting MCR membership and BOD meetings.

ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS

add Section 7:

Whenever possible, membership and BOD meetings should be conducted with all interested parties together in one location. However, if timeliness of decisions or other extenuating circumstances require, the region Board of Directors may utilize electronic communications methodologies to conduct region business and fulfill the requirements defined in these regulations.



Cincinnati Division 7 NMRA
Triple Clinic Event Invitation
MINI MEET CLINICS

Sunday, August 9, 2020 from 12:30 to 4:30 pm

at Cincinnati Marriott North Hotel, 6189 Muhlhauser Rd, West Chester, Ohio 45069

(see <https://cincy-div7.org/> for all details and latest venue status)

All 3 clinics presented by *special guest Rich Mahaney*

With a *popular vote contest* open to all NMRA members
Followed by one or more *layout open house(s)* *

12:30 - 1:45 Doors and Contest entries open (Model & Photo topics are both “Tank Car(s)”)

1 pm - “Quick Industries” For Your Model Railroad - This presentation is designed give model railroaders industry ideas for their model railroad that can be assembled in several evenings (or days) of work. These industries can quickly increase railroad traffic and new customers. Examples of real facilities and model railroads are used to make the points. Includes a look at other details associated with industries such as track work, loading docks, industry placement along the tracks and building concepts.

2 pm - 2:10 pm Break and Contest Voting

2:10 pm - Follow the tracks of the Great Northern Railway from Skykomish, WA to Shelby, MT - Take a “ride” through the camera lens and images of Rich Mahaney as he follows the Great Northern Railway tracks from Skykomish, WA through WA, ID and MT to Shelby, MT. See sights and views that you have heard about and cities and areas that are modeled on many GN model railroad layouts. These images were taken during a trip in July 2011.

3:10 pm - 3:20 pm Break and Pick-up Contest Entries

3:20 pm - 1950’s Refrigerator Car Layout Operations on Model Railroad Layouts - After looking at and photographing refrigerator cars, icing platforms, cold storage and other buildings and operations on many layouts, this clinic presents some of the best ideas and modeling that capture the feel and operations involved with refrigerator car operations in the 1950’s.

4:30 pm - Adjourn, Pick-up contest entries, Visit layout(s)* on way home

* layout opening(s) still TBD

Editorial Page

What a time we're having. I'm sorry for whatever you're going through. Sorry if you've lost anyone to Covid 19, or if you or anyone you know has had it. Sorry if you've lost money because of the economic side it. Sorry if you have to wear a mask all day at work (my ten minutes once a week drug store visit drives me nuts). Sorry for the conventions that have been cancelled, and – the one that really hit home for me – sorry about the annual fundraisers that have been cancelled. March started out with a cancelled division meeting, which didn't bother me too much, but that was quickly followed by Division 5's Show being cancelled, and I knew that hurt a lot of people. I know other divisions lost their shows as well.

On conventions, I put in an awful lot of ahead-of-time work on both the 2008 Regional and the 2014 National – and I was only a 2nd tier volunteer for both of them! I can't imagine the letdown for this year's crews. There may be a slight silver lining: I worked as a volunteer for the 2002 Toronto convention. That was the SARS year. With Toronto at the North American epicenter. By the time the convention happened, all patients were well quarantined in hospitals (we passed one of them on a tour bus), but the guts had been ripped out of the convention. After all the hard regular work had been done by the committee, they had a triple time scramble at the last minute to fill in for cancellations. They did a great job but definitely weren't much fun to be around! I'm glad the St Louis convention was called off if the Toronto nightmare was in store for their committee. St Louis 2001 was my first National, and it's still the one I compare all other Nationals against. Hopefully they'll be able to resume soon. Don't even bring up the U.K. convention being cancelled to me if you don't want to see me burst into tears. I'm working on a personal Plan B for that trip – anyone else want in? I have to do the Chunnel ...

OK, enough on that. Upbeat? Certainly. *Model Railroader* just did an article on the Coshocton (Ohio) Club. I looked for fellow Hiram College alum Richard Jones (Club and NMRA member), and there he was in the group photo. Many years ago, I tried to find the Coshocton layout when the Nickel Plate society (NKPHTS) had a convention in that town and I never did find it. I'm sure with the advent of GPS I'll find it on my next visit. In *Railroad Model Craftsman*, Jim Sacco presents a detailed description of a fantastic building sitting on four square inches that he did for a Division 2 contest. All I'm thinking while reading the article is that I'm glad I don't have to compete against Jim in my division! However, there's a ton of great information for anyone looking to detail a structure to the nth degree.

For summer reading, I bought a copy of *Realistic Layouts: Use the Art of Illusion to Model Like a Pro* (Kalmbach) by CJ Riley. I think it's worth it just for the pictures. Mr. Riley is a former region resident and probably well known to a lot of you. The book follows suit with a lot of regional examples.

Dave Williams

editor

MCR CONTACTS

MCR President

Bob Weinheimer MMR®
president@midcentral-region-nmra.org
304-343-1428

MCR Vice President:

David Neff
vp@midcentral-region-nmra.org

MCR Secretary:

Jerry Doyle
secretary@midcentral-region-nmra.org
304-638-2826

MCR Treasurer:

Bob McKay
treasurer@midcentral-region-nmra.org
914-591-5415

Achievement Program:

Frank Koch
achievement@midcentral-region-nmra.org
513-732-6208

Contest:

Steve Zapatowski MMR®
contest@midcentral-region-nmra.org

Education:

Tom Miller
education@midcentral-region-nmra.org
859-224-8563

Membership:

Paul Novak
membership@midcentral-region-nmra.org
440-235-2620

Special Projects:

Dick Briggs, MMR®
projects@midcentral-region-nmra.org
614-277-0314

Webmaster:

Donald Wilke
webmaster@midcentral-region-nmra.org
614-846-2558

Kingpin Editor:

Dave Williams
editor@midcentral-region-nmra.org
440-838-4996



2021 MCR Convention

We would like to invite everyone to the 2021 MCR Regional convention in Erie, PA. The dates are May 20th through the 23rd. We hope everyone will enjoy their ride on the Northern Express. The convention name comes from the PRR overnight train between Harrisburg, PA and Erie, PA. Its counterpart was the Southern Express which had connections to New York City, Baltimore and Washington DC.

The Ambassador Banquet and Conference Center, conveniently located at I-90 and Route 19 in Erie, will be our host for the Northern Express. The Conference center has 2 hotels attached, a Hilton and a Marriott. There will be blocks of rooms in both hotels. We have a convention rate of \$129.00/night. The hotels will start taking reservations January 2021.

Both hotels include several amenities such as a 10% discount to numerous nearby restaurants and a discount to the Splash Lagoon Indoor Waterpark Resort across the street (kids will love this place!). Free parking is included, which the Division 12 convention committee understood to be a rather important consideration. The hotels also provide a free airport/train station/casino (yes we have one) shuttle.

Below is the save the date flyer for the Northern Express.

- **Prototype and Industrial Tours**
- **General Interest Tours**
- **Non-rail Activities**
- **Raffle**
- **Saturday Night Banquet**
- **Clinics**
- **Contests**
- **Model Railroads on Display**
- **Ops-Sessions**
- **Model Railroad Tours**
- **Company Store and White Elephant Sale**

Save the Dates: May 20-23, 2021

The Ambassador Center:

I-90 Exit 24 – 7794 Peach Street, Erie, Pennsylvania

continued on next page



Scheduled tours as of 5/24/2020:

A two hour tour of historic Union Station including lunch at the BrewErie at Union Station.
Wabtec (former GE Locomotive Works).

Potential non-Railroad tours:

Northeast wine country tour.

National Comedy Center in Jamestown, NY

Home to Lucille Ball Desi Arnaz Museum (45 minute drive).

N-Scale T-trak – Bruce DeMaeyer will be coordinating the N-Scale T-trak layout for the convention.

We have received the information from Steve Zapytowski for the model contest.

continued on next page

The Northern Express:

MCR Regional Convention 2021



Division 12 has commissioned an original water color painting to be raffled off the night of the banquet.

Tickets for the raffle are 1 for \$5.00, 3 for \$10.00 and 10 for \$25.00. We had hoped to start selling tickets at the Steel City Express; we are still working on an alternative.

Thank You

Bradley White

Allegheny Western Div. 12 MCR

Superintendent