



The Kingpin

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



The National Park Service does its usual good job interpreting the driving of the Golden Spike at Promontory Point, Utah. The 2019 National Convention in Salt Lake City featured multiple tours to this destination, with reenactment ceremonies featuring NMRA members wearing wool costumes on very hot days in the sun. Survivors wandered around taking pictures before being led back to the tour bus.

(photo: David M. Williams a/k/a Governor Stanford)

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President's Letter

Bob Weinheimer MMR®

MCR President

This year has proven to be quite a time. Events of all sorts from National conventions to Region conventions to RPM meets to train shows have been canceled. Not on that list of cancellations is the bulk of the Division activities throughout the Mid Central Region. It has been said that the value of NMRA membership is delivered at the Division level, and given the lack of conventions, we have seen that this year.

We have learned that meetings can be conducted virtually via Zoom or other similar services. As time has gone on, several Divisions have developed mechanisms for continuing their contests. Photos of models are posted on web sites or in io groups, members vote by a variety of mechanism. Clinics have continued on a virtual basis. Indeed, a clinic can be presented by someone other than a Division member greatly expanding the range of clinics available to the members. Virtual layout tours have also been presented. About the only meeting function that has not yet been mastered is a raffle, but I believe some Divisions are working on that challenge.

Some Divisions report that members who normally are unable to attend in person meetings have been attending the virtual meetings. When conditions permit the return to in person meetings, some are considering making these events available to virtual attendees. The biggest challenge will be the availability of bandwidth at the meeting sites, but I am confident that a way to get around that will be devised. I have been very pleased at the way Division leadership has dealt with 2020, keep up the good work. Please be sure to thank your Superintendent for the fine job he is doing.

One negative issue has come from COVID. NMRA membership has declined somewhat in the past few months, MCR has seen this as well. New members across the Region dropped to zero in September and October from one in August, and about 8 in July. Total membership is down by 75 from its highest point in the year, this includes 33 who passed away. I suspect the reason for the dearth of new members could be the lack of train shows at which we recruit new members. I expect Divisions will look into the reasons that members have failed to renew so we can better understand what is happening.

Achievement Program activity continues at a high level. That may be due, at least in part, to many of us having the opportunity to focus more time on our hobby than we might otherwise. I have heard of many who now work from home and can dedicate what was commute time to modeling time. While distance evaluation of models has not been much of an issue for us prior to COVID, it is an issue elsewhere in North America and around the world. The AP chairs of the Regions are working with Frank Koch to improve the effectiveness of distance evaluations. To date it works well for very high scoring and very low scoring models, those close to the merit level have been a bigger challenge. Significant effort is going into a resolution of that issue.

The NMRA's At Risk Person policy greeted us at the same time COVID-19 arrived. I really don't think there is a cause and effect situation here. On the other hand, the cessation of in person events has bought us time to learn how to deal with the new way of doing things. Divisions have had the opportunity to work things out and should be ready to deal with the Boy Scouts as described in the policy once things open back up.

Finally, let's hope all works out for a 2020 MCR convention hosted by Division 12 in Erie, PA in May.

National Model Railroad Association Mid-Central Region

Board of Directors Meeting

Virtual Meeting via Zoom on October 23,2020

Minutes

Attendance:

Bob Weinheimer, President; Dave Neff, Vice President; Jerry Doyle, Secretary; Bob Ashley, Division 1; Frank Bender, Division 2; Mark Stiver, Division 3; Lee Sheffield, Division 4; Lee Sheffield, Division 5; Matt Goodman, Division 6; John Shields, Division 7; Fred Soward, Division 8; Larry Smith, Division 10; Rich Kosakowski, Division 11; and Brad White, Division 12.

Also in attendance were

Steve Zapytowski, Contest; Tom Miller, Education; Dave Williams, Kingpin; Paul Novak, Membership; Bruce DeMaeyer, Modules; Bob Shreve, Nominations; Don Wilke, Webmaster; Gordon Carlson; Ron Ellison; Bob Belt.

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 May 29, 2020 BOD meeting. *Motion made and seconded and passed unanimously.*

President's Comments:

To say that 2020 has been interesting is, at best, an understatement. Lee Sheffield, in his report to the board, notes that the word for the year is "canceled".

The NMRA National convention was canceled. The MCR and many other Region conventions were canceled. The National Narrow-Gauge Convention was canceled. Numerous RPM meets were canceled. More train shows than I can count were canceled, this includes several sponsored by MCR Divisions.

The word "canceled", however, does not seem to apply to Division gatherings. It has been said that the value of NMRA membership is delivered primarily at the Division level and that has been very much the case in 2020.

At the Division level the word for the year is "Zoom". Several Divisions jumped right in at the outset of the lock downs while a few others took an additional month or two. One holdout even kept doing in person meetings until the virus found its way to their remote part of Pennsylvania, they are now zooming right along. The events became more complex as contests were added. Photos of models are posted on web sites or in IO Groups, members vote by a variety of mechanism.

Probably the best thing is that clinics can feature out of town modelers, somebody who would otherwise have to travel. The opportunities are endless. About the only thing I haven't seen done so far is a raffle.

This effort has seen members who don't normally attend meetings participate virtually. It has led Divisions to wonder about adding a virtual element to meetings once they again become in person gatherings. The one rub I've heard is the availability of bandwidth at meeting sites. I view that as a challenge that will be overcome.

A few Divisions have added additional Zoom events for a series of short clinics or just plain old discussion sessions.

I have been very pleased at the way Division leadership has dealt with 2020, keep up the good work. Please be sure to

BOD Minutes continued

thank your Superintendent for the fine job he is doing.

The NMRA's At-Risk Person policy greeted us at the same time COVID-19 arrived. I really don't think there is a cause and effect situation here. On the other hand, the cessation of in person events has bought us time to learn how to deal with the new way of doing things. You have had the opportunity to work things out and should be ready to deal with the Boy Scouts as described in the policy once things open back up.

Based on the reports I have read and all the newsletter content, it appears that all of the 12 Divisions have not suffered too badly through this period. I have seen little if anything about members who have contracted the illness, that is very good. Membership has declined somewhat in some Divisions while others report steady or even increasing numbers. New members across the Region dropped to zero in September from one in August, and about 8 in July. Total membership is down by 75 from its highest point in the year, this includes 33 who passed away. I suspect the reason for the lack of new members could be the lack of train shows at which we recruit new members. There will likely be more discussion of this subject during the Board of Directors meeting following this meeting.

Achievement Program activity continues at a high level. That may be due, at least in part, to many of us having the opportunity to focus more time on our hobby than we might otherwise. Since our last annual meeting in May 2019, the Region has seen three new Master Model Railroaders: Mike Wolf, Chris Broughton, and Bob Kuchler. While distance evaluation of models has not been much of an issue for us prior to COVID, it is an issue elsewhere in North America and around the world. The AP chairs of the Regions are working with Frank Koch to improve the effectiveness of distance evaluations. To date it works well for very high scoring and very low scoring models, those close to the merit level have been a bigger challenge. Significant effort is going into a resolution of that issue.

The BOD is exploring ways to make the NMRA-X a member benefit. Some content would probably still be accessible to the public.

The NMRA long-range plan should be available on the website soon.

The online MCR map has been updated.

Treasurer's Report:

Bob McKay was not present but has submitted a report. There are no material changes in our financial position.

Vice-President's Report:

Dave Neff provided an update on the MCR clinic database. Our focus in the coming year will be compliance with the EduTrain Program and designating two regional clinics. Tom Miller provided some details on the MCR Education Committee. Education Committee Steve Zapytowski provided names of committee members: Dennis Vaccaro, Fred Soward, Jim Whipple, and Ken Colvin. Criteria for EduTrain clinics is due to be ready in June 2021. Guidance for MCR division superintendents should be coming soon.

Committee Reports

Achievement Program:

No Report. (editor's note: the Kingpin received a copy - it's on pages 8 and 9).

Contest:

Steve Zapytowski reported there is virtually no activity this year. He has a clinic available that explains details about conducting contests.

Education:

See VP report.

KingPin:

The deadline will be in early November.

Membership:

Paul Novak discussed a report he sent recently that examined membership trends during COVID-19. The lack of shows has had a negative impact on the rate of new members. No shows means no exposure to recruit new members. Fred Soward suggested we analyze an entire year for additional insight. Brad White mentioned that the local railroad club has been a source of new members this year.

Modules:

Bruce DeMaeyer asked division supers to work with their division coordinators to encourage participation in the next T-Track display which is on track to be the biggest ever for the MCR.

Nominations:

Bob Shreve reported that a candidate has been found for each office:

President: Dave Neff

Vice President: Jerry Doyle

Secretary: Fred Soward

Treasurer: John Shields

The slate of nominees was presented to the membership via email August 15. Nominations were open until September 17. As there is only one nominee for each office the Board of Directors can complete the election by executing an election by acclamation.

There was a motion and second for election by acclamation. A vote was carried out by roll call vote. *The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.*

The new officers will take office at the May meeting.

Bob Weinheimer thanked Bob Shreve and the committee for their work.

Projects:

No Report.

Webmaster:

Nothing new to report.

Division Reports:

Division 1 – Bob Ashley: Nothing new to add to the report already submitted for the meeting.

Division 2 – Frank Bender: Two new AP awards since the report.

Division 3 – Mark Stiver: Nothing new to add to the report already submitted for the meeting.

Division 4 – Lee Sheffield: A new venue has allowed in-person meetings. The Cleveland Zoo display is on track to go forward.

Division 5 – Matt Kross: Nothing new to add to the report already submitted for the meeting.

Division 6 – Matt Goodman: Nothing new to add to the report already submitted for the meeting.

continued on next page

BOD Minutes continued

Division 7 – John Shields: The Holiday Junction display will be open this holiday season. Members are being trained to safely work in the current conditions

Division 8 – Fred Soward: The membership has followed Division 9 in holding an online Bull Session. They are now holding three online sessions per month.

Division 9 – Robert Osburn: Nothing new to add to the report already submitted for the meeting.

Division 10 – Bob Belt: Nothing new to add to the report already submitted for the meeting.

Division 11 – Rich Kosakowski: It's likely the Division will go virtual shortly due to increasing numbers of COVID-19 in their area. The plans are to have a modular display in December.

Division 12 – Brad White: The Division is holding a weekly online modeling session on Thursdays.

Discussion Topics

Youth/At Risk Policy:

Lee Sheffield reported on a good response from Bob Amsler regarding implementation of the policy. He also shared some challenges of implementing the policy in specific cases. Bob Weinheimer asked superintendents to consult with Bob Amsler on who is considered the guardian for purposes of the NMRA policy.

Coping with COVID:

Bob Weinheimer suggested holding another meeting about online meetings. Jerry Doyle suggested holding a meeting about best practices and facilitating divisions that are interested in holding virtual meetings. Matt Goodman noted that Division 6 allows other groups to utilize the Division's resources for holding meetings. Bob asked Matt Goodman and Jerry Doyle to facilitate another Zoom meeting for tips and brainstorming. Dave Neff noted that online meetings can allow wider sharing of clinics. There was more discussion about issues over archiving clinics. Making clinics archivally available does bring up some complications beyond simply presenting before a group.

2021 Convention – Brad White reported that preparations are made, now it's up to the state and virus to determine if the convention is a go. A photographer is still needed for the convention. There is some financial exposure if the convention is cancelled. Brad noted that even if the virus abates members may still avoid an in-person convention.

2022 Joint MCR/NCR/MWR Convention – Dave Neff reported that Dave Capon has been occupied with a move to Florida. Nothing new to report. The National NMRA convention is being planned for Fall to avoid a conflict with this convention.

For the Good of the Order:

Dave Williams is looking for a picture for the newsletter.

The next MCR BOD meeting will be Friday May 21, 2021. It will either be held in person at Erie Convention or held online.

Adjourned 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Jerry Doyle, MCR Region Secretary

MCR Achievement Program Report for January 1 - October 1, 2020

The first 10 months of 2020 have presented challenges and our members have adapted to them. Participation in AP continues at a strong pace. The various Divisions have adopted some form of safe evaluation so that members can continue to make progress toward MMR.

Frank Koch, 10/18/2020

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER EARNED		
Chris Broughton	Division 8	MMR #650
Robert Kuchler	Division 8	MMR #653

GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD	
Larry Caniff	Division 2
Jack Honeycutt	Division 3

CERTIFICATES AWARDED

	Division	Certificate		Division	Certificate
Jim Braum	2	Volunteer	Dianne Rowland	7	Volunteer
Larry Caniff	2	Scenery	Pam Simpson-Moleski	7	Volunteer
Ray Helster	2	Scenery	Chris Broughton	8	Structures
Jack Honeycutt	3	Volunteer	Joe Fields	8	Civil
Richard Lach	3	Official	Joe Fields	8	Motive Power
Robert E. Lee	6	Electrical	Robert Kuchler	8	Author
Gerry Albers	7	Author	Robert Kuchler	8	Cars
Gerry Albers	7	Dispatcher	Robert Kuchler	8	Civil
Gerry Albers	7	Electrical	Robert Kuchler	8	Structures
Gerry Albers	7	Scenery	Joseph Martin	8	Author
John Listerman	7	Scenery	Fred Soward	8	Civil
John Luecke	7	Volunteer	Robert Belt	10	Official

MERIT AWARDS EARNED

	Division	Area	Model
Larry Caniff	2	Scenery	Model Railroad
Susan Werner	2	Structures	Wooden Rural Enginehouse
John Listermann	7	Scenery	HO Layout
Gerry Albers	7	Scenery	Virginain RR HO Layout
Fred Soward	8	Civil Eng.	3 pieces of trackwork
Joe Fields	8	Motive Power	Plymouth 25 Ton Switcher
joe Fields	8	Motive Power	Fairmont A6 Speeder
Joe Fields	8	Motive Power	Eastern Kentucky & Cumberland Gap Doodlebug
Robert Kuchler	8	Structures	Gulf Gas Station
Robert Kuchler	8	Structures	Wooden Trestle
Robert Kuchler	8	Structures	IGA Grocery Store
Robert Kuchler	8	Structures	Rabbit Hash Store
Robert Kuchler	8	Structures	City Retail Block
Robert Kuchler	8	Structures	Hill Foundry
Robert Belt	10	Cars	MOPAC 70' Express Mail Car #184
Bill Parker	10	Structures	Train Station
Bruce DeMaeyer	10	Structures	Mountain Fire Station
Bruce DeMaeyer	10	Structures	Montana Flour Mill

New Directions in NMRA Education

Tom Miller Education Manager NMRA MCR

Educational planning for our MCR and NMRA has gained considerable attention during the pandemic. The Education Department of NMRA has generated three new documents focused on NMRA educational efforts at the regional and division levels.

The first document is a Short-Range Action Plan LRP 2019-001 which has the goal of making the NMRA “the international leader in education and fellowship concerning scale model railroading.” The objective of this goal is that each NMRA region will establish and maintain an Education Committee. This Education Committee for each region will establish education programs with the guidance of the NMRA Education Department Manager.

The national NMRA Education Department along with Regional Presidents and Regional Education Committees will revise NMRA organizational documentation by December 2020. Each NMRA region is to establish a Regional Education Committee by March 2021.

The second document is a Long-Range Action Plan LRP 2019-002 which is under the direction of NMRA EduTRAIN Committee Chair at the national level. It has as its goal that NMRA will standardize educational activities with the objective that each region will submit not fewer than two clinics each year for inclusion in the EduTRAIN Program from its divisional membership. It is the responsibility of the NMRA EduTRAIN Committee Chair to establish and publish the appropriate criteria for preparation and submission of EduTRAIN clinics. The Regional Education Committee Chairs will solicit, review, and transmit to national no fewer than two properly prepared and acceptable clinics each year. The Regional Education Committee shall be responsible for initial review of clinics proposed to national to ensure compliance with basic preparation requirements. Once approved and submitted from the regional level, the NMRA EduTRAIN Committee Chair will complete the review and approval process for each submitted clinic and publish those clinics on the web page. The NMRA EduTRAIN Committee Chair shall record and advise the author of an EduTRAIN Clinic of the special Achievement Program Author Certificate credit received for their work.

The third document is the Long-Range Action Plan LRP 2019-003 which pertains to Modeling with the Masters (MWTM) and the MWTM as the Lead Instructor. The Modeling with the Masters Lead Instructor will coordinate with Region Education Committee Chairs soliciting candidates for MWTM Instructors. The NMRA MWTM Lead Instructor shall complete the certification of at least two MMRs as MWTM Instructors in each Region. When a Region has two certified MWTM Instructors, the Region shall schedule and conduct at least one MWTM Clinic in the Region each year. The Region Education Committee Chair shall be responsible to identify future candidates for certification to maintain at least two certified MWTM instructors in the Region. The Modeling with the Masters Instructor certification should be published by December 2020 and the Modeling with the master’s Instructors certified by June 2021.

Our NMRA MCR response was to immediately address this directive, select a chair, and create a committee in advance of the March 2021 deadline. After consultation with Bob Weinheimer, Tom Miller MCR Education Manager appointed Steve Zapytowski MMR as Chair of the MCR Education Committee. Then in consultation with Tom Miller, Steve Zapytowski MMR formed the committee with the following membership Fred Soward, Dennis Vaccaro, Jim Whipple and Kenton Colvin all educators. Our Education Committee is now about to begin its work pursuant to the charges noted.

Respectfully Submitted

Tom Miller

Thomas W. Miller Ph.D.

MCR Education Manager, National Model Railroad Association

Contest Chair Report

Board of Directors Meeting

October 23, 2020

Due to the restrictions placed upon our activities by the pandemic there is little to report about the contest at this meeting. The one bright spot was on the fourth of this month when I presented a clinic to Division 7 at their monthly meeting via Zoom entitled, "Do I Really Need to Fill out this Form?" It primarily outlined strategies for filling out each section of our Form 902, the Judges' Score Sheet. Several approaches for dealing with the limited space on Form 902 were presented as well. This clinic is available for any division that wishes to use have it at one of their meetings.

Steve Zapytowski

MCR Contest Chair

Kingpin Report for October 2020

The newsletter for Mid Central Region, known as the Kingpin, is published three times a year. All issues are posted on the Region's website, with the first issue of the year additionally sent out via U.S. Mail. After website posting, I send all Region members an email to let them know about the new issue. The January/February issue primarily contains information about the upcoming Regional convention. The May/June issue contains reports from the Spring BOD meeting (to include all Division and committee reports), usually held during the Regional convention but held online this year. That issue also normally contains follow up reports and pictures from the Regional convention. The October issue contains Fall BOD meeting reports, and normally articles and pictures from the National convention and Train Show. Articles from Region members are usually printed as well, dependent on space and copyright restrictions.

This year's May issue contained an article with pictures from Tom Miller about his trip on the Royal Gorge train.

Dave Williams

Kingpin editor

BOD Education Manager Report

Mid Central Region National Model Railroad Association

Thomas W. Miller Education Manager

October 23, 2020

Executive Summary

Educational planning for the MCR and NMRA has gained considerable attention during the COVID19 pandemic, NMRA has generated creative opportunities and new directions for NMRA Education efforts at the national and regional levels.

Short Range Plan Action Item LRP 2019-001

There are three series of plans related to the education initiative at the national level. The Plan of Action Item LRP 2019-001 charges the Education Department Manager with the goal of establishing NMRA as the international leader in education and fellowship concerning scale model railroading. The objective of this goal is that each NMRA region shall establish and maintain an Education Committee. It requests NMRA organizational documentation be revised to require that each Region appoint an Education Committee Chair and install an Education Committee for the Region.

The NMRA President shall advise all regional presidents of the Education Committee requirement and request that they report filling the position not later than March 2021. The Education Committee for each region shall function for matters of education programs with the guidance of the NMRA Education Department Manager.

The national NMRA Education Department along with Regional Presidents and Regional Education Committees are to revise NMRA organizational documentation by December 2020 and establish Regional Education Committees by March 2021. It further provides for effective communications between Region and National committees be established by June 2021. Reporting period is Quarterly until the objective is achieved.

Long Range Plan Action Item LRP 2019-002

Long Range Plan Action Item LRP 2019-002 is under the direction of NMRA EduTRAIN Committee Chair with the Goal that NMRA will position itself as the international leader in education and fellowship concerning scale model railroading. The Key Objective is that each region shall submit not fewer than two clinics each year for inclusion in the EDUTRAIN Program.

The NMRA EduTRAIN Committee Chair shall establish and publish the appropriate criteria for preparation and submission of EduTRAIN clinics. The Regional Education Committee Chairs shall solicit, review, and transmit to national no fewer than two properly prepared and acceptable clinics each year. The Regional Education Committee shall be responsible for initial review of clinics proposed to national to ensure compliance with basic preparation requirements.

Once approved and submitted from the regional level, The NMRA EduTRAIN Committee Chair shall complete the review and approval process for each submitted clinic timely and publish those clinics to the web page. The NMRA EduTRAIN Committee Chair shall record and advise the author of an EduTRAIN Clinic of the special Achievement Program Author Certificate credit received for their work.

Participating offices for this phase are the NMRA EduTRAIN Committee Chair, NMRA Education Department Manager, Region Education Committees and all Regional Presidents (all). The Criteria for EduTrain Clinic criteria shall be published by December 2020. Then the First clinic from each Region is due June 2021 and the Second clinic from each Region is due by December 2021, The Reporting period requires a Semi-annual report through 2025.

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NMRA MCR Response

We immediately addressed this directive and selected a chair and created a committee in advance of the March 2021 deadline. After consultation with Bob Weinheimer, Tom Miller MCR Education Manager appointed Steve Zapytowski MMR Division 1 as Chair of the MCR Education Committee. Then in consultation with Tom Miller, Steve Zapytowski MMR formed a committee with the following membership Fred Soward, Division 8, Dennis Vaccaro, Division 2, Jim Whipple and Kenton Colvin all educators. The committee has received direction from Bob Weinheimer and the NMRA Education Office pursuant to its charge that each region develop and submit not fewer than two clinics each year for inclusion in the EDUTRAIN Program. Our NMRA MCR Education Committee is now meeting to address this charge.

Long Range Plan Action Item LRP 2019-003

Long Range Plan Action Item LRP 2019-003 pertains to Modeling with the Masters (MWTM) and the MWTM as the Lead Instructor. Modeling with the Masters shall be expanded to the Regions of NMRA at a rate of not fewer than three regions per year until available in all regions. The NMRA MWTM Lead Instructor shall establish and publish the appropriate criteria for qualification as a MWTM Instructor and the process for gaining certification.

The Modeling with the Masters Lead Instructor will coordinate with Region Education Committee Chairs to solicit candidates for MWTM Instructors. The NMRA MWTM Lead Instructor shall complete the certification of at least two MMR as MWTM Instructors in each Region. When a Region has two certified MWTM Instructors, the Region shall schedule and conduct at least one MWTM Clinic in the Region each year. The Region Education Committee Chair shall be responsible to identify future candidates for certification to maintain at least two certified MWTM instructors in the Region. The Modeling with the Masters Instructor certification should be published by December 2020 and the Modeling with the Masters Instructors certified by June 2021.

Respectfully Submitted

Tom Miller

Thomas W. Miller Ph.D.

NMRA MCR Education Manager

National Model Railroad Association

Nominating Committee Report

The nominating committee developed the following slate of candidates for the 2021 MCR elections:

President – Dave Neff

Vice President – Jerry Doyle

Secretary – Fred Soward

Treasurer – John Shields

The committee's slate was communicated to the members of the MCR via an email distributed on August 15th. This email included a solicitation for additional candidates to be nominated via the petition process outlined in the MCR regulations. The deadline for additional nominations was September 17th. No additional nominations were received.

As there is only one candidate for each office, Article X, Section 6 of the current MCR regulations gives the Board of Directors the option of completing the 2021 election process by executing an Election by Acclamation. This can be completed at the Fall BOD meeting scheduled for October 23rd.

(Editor's Note: The Board approved these candidates by acclamation.)

Respectfully,

MCR 2021 Elections Nominating Committee

Bob Shreve - Manager

Bob Belt

Jim Dipaola

Division 1 Report

Here in Division 1 we are taking it one day at a time, and we have been staying healthy. Many members are working on projects for their layouts. There are a couple of T Trak modules in the works and several very nice 3D and scratch built models also in the works. I'm hoping that we'll be able to display many of them in Erie Pa. next spring.

At our first meeting attendance was low even though we had plenty of room to social distance and had masks available. I used Zoom for the second meeting, however, that meeting competed against the Browns – Steelers game. Let's just say the game won. The 8 of us attending the meeting agreed that we are going to stay on Zoom until further notice.

Bob Ashley Jr, Superintendent

Division 2 Report

The Keystone Division membership, which stood at 223 in April of 2020, now stands at 211. We feel that this is a side effect of the pandemic. Our webmaster is contacting members who have not renewed to find out why, whether it be illness, financial changes, an omission of memory, or some other factor that we can change. Our usual opportunities for recruitment did not occur; cancellation of the Greenberg Shows in particular, where we normally display our HO Free-Mo and N-Gauge T-Trak modules and have a Division membership table display sharing information about the NMRA and Division 2, limited our growth. Our annual Jamboree, a popular event, was also cancelled, for this year and for 2021.

The Division holds meetings 10 months of the year at varying club sites throughout the Division. Because of the pandemic, we have not met in person since February. We began using Go to Meeting in March. The Bring N' Brag held at every meeting is now done through pictures of entries within the category being displayed on our website beginning early in the month. Voting is open to the membership through e-mail. Our Company Store continues to operate by computer as well., providing revenue to the Division through offerings of books, calendars, and kits. We had hoped to meet in person for our annual picnic in August thinking we could cope with our usual outdoor venue but the parks were not open. We anticipate the possibility of an in-person meeting in November.

The Keystone Flyer is published 10 times each year to coincide with each meeting. It is emailed to each member as well as to others around the country and can be accessed on our website: www.keystonedivision.org. The web version is in color while a limited number in black and white are sent by mail for those who do not have email access. The website includes resources and other important news items for our division.

With the cancellation of the 2020 Mid-Central Region convention, we have turned our efforts to hosting a convention in 2023. Keith DeVault is our Convention general chair, with an advisory committee to assist him. It will be known as Rails to Pittsburgh. Jim Sacco also designed a logo. The convention will be held at the Double Tree by Hilton in Cranberry, PA, May 4-6, 2023.

Several members have earned their Golden Spike awards this year and others have earned volunteer points. Even with the challenge of the pandemic, Division 2 continues to support our hobby.

Frank Benders, Superintendent

Division 3 Report

Division 3 membership holds steady at 138 members at last count. We are getting around 25 members at our monthly meetings. This number is slowly creeping up, perhaps due to the cooler weather or just more people willing to give an online meeting a try.

Our finances continue to be in a strong position, and our 501(c)3 non-profit certificate is up to date. J Hedge continues to publish the Callboard, our monthly newsletter. We also continue both a division website and the Dayton Train Show website, as well as a division Facebook account.

We now have several months experience holding Zoom meetings for both our BOG and general monthly meetings. The past few months have also seen us hold a Zoom contest each month, and participation is growing.

Unfortunately, we have made the difficult decision to cancel our annual November Dayton Train Show. After considering several issues and options, we felt we had no option other than cancelling. This year would have been the 45th show, but we are already making plans for the Fall of 2021. We have also moved our annual auction, usually in February, to July.

On a positive note, both Rick Lach and Jack Honeycutt recently earned AP certificates for association volunteer, and Jack also received the Golden Spike Award. Several members are closing in on their Chief Dispatcher certificate. We are all looking forward to the return of regular unperson meetings.

Mark Stiver, Superintendent

Division 4 Report

Well I guess this status report will mirror those from virtually all of the Divisions in the Mid Central Region as well as the entire country. The word of the year is "Cancelled". We really thought we could pull off our show in October. The fairgrounds were working with us and the table rental people too. Dealers were more than ready to sign up. Lack of cash flow was behind their decision to attend. But two things brought us to the final decision. As a majority of our membership resides in the high risk zone we were coming up short on help. And the killer was liability. As you know our NMRA insurance does not cover someone getting sick. So what happens if a person attending the show claims they caught the bug when attending our show. Even if the State of Ohio says we are not liable we still would have to defend ourselves in the courts. A move none of us wanted to fathom mostly from the standpoint of money. Our BOD decided to call off the show.

Our webmaster, Ben Lanza has continued to enlighten us each and every day with his "For Division 4 Members Stuck at Home" series. Members of Division 4 submit plenty of subject matter for Ben to send out. Another one of our members, Joe Kurilec had a virtual raffle which he gave away a variety of model railroad items for members who responded to his emails. I will add that he supported the entire raffle out of his own pocket.

Membership

Membership is holding its own. We have had a few members pass away in the past year and the new youth policy will affect our ability to attract new members. Our biggest draw for new members the last few years has been the Module Group. Our young members want to run trains and the modules give them that opportunity. But it is the sign of our times and we have to deal with it the best we can. I have been dealing with each youth member in a case by case basis. We have one very active member who just turned 16. He now has his license so Mom or Dad doesn't have to lug him around. But with the new policy Mom and Dad still have to be involved.

Finances

Division 4 remains in very good financial shape. We still have our nest egg from the National in 2014 to support us. The October show was our major source of income so losing it puts a damper on our finances. But along with the show all of our other cancellations have pretty much wiped out normal expenses. Unfortunately, we won't be able to make any grants as we have had in past years.

Activities

Most activities have been cancelled. Our Module Group continues to be our leading connection with the public. Currently we have two module setups planned for this holiday season. The annual Trees & Trains Display in Lorain is going to be set up akin to looking at the holiday windows at the department stores of the past with the train layout in the window with the decorated trees in the background. And the new venture last year at the Cleveland Zoo's Wild Winter Lights is a go with a few changes to work with social distancing. The zoo managed to entertain 165,000 people this fall with their Asian Lights display. So we are confident they will put together a great winter light display. 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.

Meetings

We have started having meetings again in September and October. We had 52 attend in Sept and 57 attend in October. The new meeting place affords us plenty of room for social distancing. Contests continue to be popular with some interesting themes thought up by our Contest Chairman and the clinics following the meetings are well attended. We are planning on having meetings in November and December. December is traditionally our Awards Banquet but the BOD decided to cancel. We are hoping to make December's meeting fit into the holiday spirit. But all things can change depending on the bug.

Lee Sheffield, Superintendent

Division 5 Report

Division 5 is surviving during the Covid-19 shutdowns but we are not thriving. We are financially solvent but suffered a significant financial setback in 2020 and it is looking like we will have another significant financial setback in 2021.

Our annual train show was cancelled in March 2020 and it is now looking like we will not be able to hold it in March 2021, either. The community college where we hold the show is not taking any 2021 event reservations for outside groups until January 2021 at the earliest. Assuming we can reserve the college in early January for a mid-March show, this will not provide us enough time to organize the show and obtain dealers. We are going to explore the option of holding our annual show later in the Spring or early Summer, but will depend on whether we will be able to use the community college or have to seek another venue. The Division can financially weather this storm if we have to but it will have a big hit on our financial reserves. Fortunately, expenses have been down. Unfortunately, we have had to postpone issuing any grants to outside model railroad groups until after 2021.

September was the first time we held a regular membership meeting since March. The September and October meetings have been online virtual meetings using Zoom. The remaining meetings in 2020 will all be virtual. Due to constantly changing virus conditions in our area, the Division 5 BOD has decided not to try for any in-person meetings until January, at the earliest.

Division 5 did hold a special outdoor membership meeting in August where we had an outdoor train video night. One of our members has a large back yard and constructed a movie screen where we showed several prototype railroad videos. We had 13 members participate.

We also had a Division 5 picnic in August at the Painesville Railroad Museum for members and their families. We had about 27 people attend this event.

We had to cancel our annual "How To Build A Model Railroad" event scheduled for November. We have also cancelled our annual Holiday Party that is held in early January.

We continue to publish our monthly newsletter, The Trainwire.

Our membership has been slowly dwindling. Our membership count is currently at 62. We had been averaging about 25 people at our meetings prior to the pandemic. We only had 13 people participate in our September Zoom meeting and 16 at our October Zoom meeting.

Matt Kross, Superintendent

Division 6 Report

High Level Information

Membership

As of the end of September, membership stands at 167.

Summary: Membership has been remarkably stable over the past six months, with counts varying no more than +/- two member over the past six months.

Finances

Division 6 is in good financial shape

Summary: Expenses have remained stable during the Pandemic period, with new expenses for video conference meetings offsetting costs associated with in-person meetings.

Education/Other

Achievement Program

Since the last MCR meeting, two Scenery and one Electrical AP Certificates have been awarded. Judging is accomplished with limited resources and limited contact

Meeting Operations

Division 6 started Virtual (video conferenced) meetings in June of this year. One planned meeting date (in April) was cancelled prior to the BOD purchasing a Zoom license for meeting purposes. At this time, we are exploring ways to use video conferencing (in some capacity) after we are back to in-person meetings.

Zoom meeting details are communicated via Groups.io, MailChimp and physical postcards. These meetings are averaging about 28 attendees, including guests and interlopers (members from other Divisions). This is slightly higher than our in-person attendance for the same period in 2019. A lot of caveats here, of course.

Group social and hobby interactions outside of our Zoom meetings have continued through our Groups.io mailing list (nmrabuckeyedivision@groups.io). This usually includes bi-weekly prompts on some topic (i.e., "What's on your workbench") to engage our membership.

Contests have continued, virtually. Photo contests started in April, driven by our contest chair and using our Groups.io list for communication and contest entries. It has evolved to span multiple communication platforms and owners, with Groups.io and MailChimp used to request submissions and votes, the website used to store the photos for review by members, and winners shared as part of the Zoom meeting.

Major negative impacts to our traditional activities have been the cancellation of our June full-day Marion meeting, September's joint meeting with Division 9, and October's Division 6-sponsored and organized Cambridge Train Show

Other Initiatives

The Division is exploring website modernization with the overall goal of improving internal and external user experience. We are in the process of gathering feedback from these users to guide the next steps. As part of this initiative, we want to support continuity by cross-training other users on website maintenance.

Redesign the Division's train show table banner to an easier to read, more attractive layout.

Continuation of the Cambridge Train Show in 2021

Matt Goodman, Superintendent

Division 7 Report

Our membership count at the end of September was ~220, which is down about 15 over the last 9 months. We had been seeing a decline until last Fall, then it was steady until the Spring, but we have had several long time members die in the last 6 months. (none due to Covid-19, as far as we know) 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). Since going to all virtual meetings in May, we now have about 50 attending each month. So we are holding our own. We continue to plan to hold 10 monthly meetings per year.

The division continues to be financially strong and able to plan and execute our yearly plans. While we have lost the income from our two main sources this year (our Spring Flea Market and our Fall Cincinnati Model Train Show), we have also had fewer expenses. Our net worth has rebounded with the market, so that is stable as well.

We have adapted well to the “virtual” meeting approach, and continue to offer clinics each month, including guest clinicians. Our normal layout tours are being replaced with photo “tours” of layouts we have sponsored bus tours to over the years. An actual highlight of the new format is our virtual contests. In our live meetings we had both model and photo contests each month, with a popular vote taking place during the intermission between the meeting and the clinic. In our new format, we have pictures of models and prototypes submitted in advance, the voting is on-line prior to the meeting, and we review the results now as part of the meeting. This means we now have an active discussion with each contest winner about their item (instead of just publishing the results in the next month’s newsletter). The enhanced interaction is wonderful, and I really believe it is a great improvement compared to the old approach. We plan to continue this even when we can return to in-person meetings.

Currently, we are still planning to host our Spring Flea Market in March. Obviously, a lot will need to go well for that timing to work out. We have looked at our schedule and believe we can wait until our regular division BOD meeting in December to make a final call. So far, the school where it is held is still planning on hosting us. If the Spring event does not work out, this is at least a positive signal for next Fall’s Show.

John Shields, Superintendent

Division 8 Report

Despite COVID19 and curfew restrictions in the Louisville Metro area, Division 8 is continuing to find ways to thrive and to keep our members engaged in spite of challenging conditions.

Our Achievement Program Chair, Joe Fields, has become creative in meeting people for judging their work. He and other judges have even met Division 8 members in the parking lot at the local hobby shop to judge structures, rolling stock, and locomotives.

Division 8 membership continues to maintain a steady state. Our new membership chair, Stan White, quickly assumed his duties and took charge of the program. We continue to see monthly issues with the spreadsheets we receive from HQ NMRA. These are being addressed directly with the NMRA HQ staff and with the MCR Membership Committee as they are identified.

The Division is in good financial shape. Because there is no expected income for the foreseeable future, we significantly pared down the annual budget, limiting planned spending to cover only absolutely necessary expenditures.

We cancelled the next two scheduled Division 8 Train Show & Sale events (November 2020 and March 2021). With the current restrictions in place and with no real timeline for coming out of them, we do not see any possibility of being able to hold an event of that size in our area by next spring. However, we feel that the Division is flexible enough to be able to quickly gear up for a March 2021 event if meeting restrictions are lifted.

The previously planned two-day “Louisville Train Days” event was also cancelled because of meeting restrictions in our area. We will consider scheduling a future date when restrictions are removed.

Our efforts at using Groups.io email groups for BoD-only and for all members has been hugely successful. The majority of our members are engaged in the email group. It has continued to be extremely beneficial during the past few months. Members freely discuss upcoming events and changes to the Division 8 timetable even though we cannot meet face-to-face. We have also started a daily email blast to the group similar to the Division 4 daily email message. These daily emails have spawned several lengthy email discussions between our members.

The 5-minute “back to basics” presentation we started a few months ago has been successful. It generates discussion and, as admitted by some of our more seasoned modelers, has opened eyes to things they thought they might have known, but really didn’t fully understand.

Because of the lockdown/quarantine, we temporarily suspended the monthly modeling contest. We restarted that program virtually during our July meeting with a test run. Based on the results of that test, we held our first “real” modeling contest in August. Much to our surprise, the participation is at least as high as we had during our face-to-face meetings. Our concern about some of our members not having the resources to produce quality photos for the virtual contest was completely unfounded. To make it happen, Trustee Ron Ellison devised a plan for us to use a combination of Groups.io emails, Google Photos, and Groups.io polling.

Our monthly Zoom business/general membership meetings have been a success with attendance being about the same as our previous face-to-face meetings. Some of the attendees are members who had never made it to a face-to-face meeting because of challenges with travel. Unfortunately, we are missing some of the members who are technologically challenged or technologically shy when it comes to connecting to a virtual meeting.

In addition to the monthly business/general membership meetings, we started an additional event to allow our members to show off their work. We call it the “Gathering/Roundtable.” The basic meeting concept is to allow three individuals to each take a 20-minute block of time to show off some model railroad project they’ve each individually been working on. To date, we’ve seen a lot of completed buildings, signals, rolling stock, locomotives, layout tours, and electronic projects. The attendance has been about the same as the business/general meetings, but not always the same individuals. Our challenge has been finding enough people within the Division to present for each of these events. We have reached outside the Division, but a centralized database of presenters willing to do so in a virtual environment would be helpful to every Division across the NMRA.

To make it possible for individuals who cannot attend or who would rather not attend a live virtual event, our business/general meeting and the Gathering/Roundtable are recorded. After some editing, we make those events available on YouTube. We continue to announce the publishing of the videos through Groups.io and our Facebook page. We’ve found that we have more than doubled the in-person only meeting attendance by doing so.

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Division 8 Report continued

We held our first “Celebration Station” event in July and held another one in early October. These events were held outside, in the parking lot at our usual face-to-face meeting location. Everyone in attendance wore face masks and kept socially distant. Every Division 8 member who arrived was provided a free bottle of hand sanitizer with the Division 8 logo. New members received Division 8 badges and lanyards. Achievement Program certificates and plaques were handed out as well. While many people elected to get out of their vehicles for photos, a handful stayed in their vehicles and we did curbside delivery and award presentation instead.

By mid-summer we realized that the COVID-19 restrictions would prevent us from having a safe and enjoyable end-of-year/Christmas event with any type of socializing. Because of that, Treasurer Mike Berry started working with the venue in what ended up being a lengthy process to delay the event. The venue was not willing to allow us to merely move the date to 2021 without penalty. Mike was finally able to negotiate a solution that not only did not outrageously raise the price per plate but also did not require us to forfeit any funds or pay a penalty for delaying a year.

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 and followers of any of the others.

Fred Soward, Superintendent

Division 9 Report

Membership: Membership has remained steady around 50 but we are concerned we may lose a few members because of not having in-person meetings. Active members have been hard at work reaching out to those who we are concerned about, giving encouragement and hope that we can be back to normal sometime next year. Our Membership Chair, John Harris is constantly writing articles for our newsletter, reminding us that we all need to work together, to reach-out and make every effort to support those who can't join us virtually.

Finances: The Division's financial position is very stable but we have lost some revenue not being able to have to conduct our monthly raffle and Company Store virtually. Ideas have been suggested on how to have the raffles virtually but a good solution has not been found.

Meetings: Since Covid-19, the Division has decided to meet virtually and not at our home base, 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, all have been cancelled for 2020. Our December Christmas brunch is still being considered if CDC guidelines can be followed. A monthly contest has been replaced by a Bring-and-Brag session and the Contest Chair, Dale Osburn is working on a way to revive the monthly contest starting in 2021. We have also added another virtual opportunity called Out of the Holler Division 9 Bull Session each month. This session is open to anyone who would like to join in, even non NMRA members. These are lively discussions mostly pertaining to prototype and railroad modeling. Our hope is to attract non NMRA modelers to our division.

Our virtual meetings have gone quite well, but we still have a small attendance. Each month we pick-up a few new participants mostly from other members helping those who have trouble navigating Zoom. We have been having some excellent clinics, layout tours, and open discussions along with conducting our regular business while using Zoom. The meetings have been very interesting and informative.

Clinics: Meeting virtually has really opened up many possibilities for clinics. Now not only can our own members present clinics but we have a chance to invite other NMRA members to present remotely. Other clinics and presentations are available to us from the NMRA and other web sites using a virtual format.

Education: Since the passing of Gary Burdette, our Education committee chair has been vacant. This is a very important 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 but paperwork seems to be the stumbling block. Our Achievement Program Chair, Bob Weinheimer has offered to present a small tutorial on any Achievement Program a member may be having trouble with.

Newsletter: The newsletter keeps being one of the most important pieces of the Division during Covid-19. 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. During these difficult times, the newsletter is our most important link to those members who cannot join us virtually.

Everyone is very anxious to return to some sort of normal—whenever that may be. We all miss the camaraderie that the in-person meeting brings to us, the shows, the conventions, and just being able to shake a fellow member's hand. We'll eventually get through this—Stay Safe.

Robert Osburn, Superintendent

Division 10 Report

Membership: Slight increase with new and renewing members with the average continuing at 68. As of October 2020, NMRA reported 69 active members. A couple of losses from and transfers into the Division have pretty well balanced out.

Finances: Basically, sound with income and outflow stable.

Programs: The regular meetings continued to be held on the 1st Sunday of each month through March. No in-person meetings have been held since due to the COVID19 pandemic. An experimental Zoom session was held in May to work out bugs. We held the first formal virtual meeting in June following the lead of neighboring Divisions. The monthly Zoom meetings have continued since then with meetings in July through October. Meeting attendance is down slightly but several members from distant Division 10 locations have joined the Zoom sessions as well as visitors from other Divisions. For additional programming, we have been able to run virtual layout tours conducted by several members.

Our 2020 'Trains Day at the Library' program originally scheduled for April was also cancelled by the pandemic (reported in the last State of Division). Since that time, the Lexington and Scott County Libraries have locked down in-person meetings. As of right now (October 15th) the Library hasn't been able to forecast renewed large meeting room availability. However, we have tentatively scheduled the next Trains Day for the spring of 2022. Our VA Hospital T-Trak display schedule in December of this year has also been cancelled.

The Division newsletter – The Lantern – and our website are active and continue being updated. Monthly financial data reporting has been moved to the member's only section of the website from the Lantern. Other continuing updates have included NMRA Merit Awards and Achievement Certificates by members and awards. We are also working to update member profiles and links to layout photographs.

The Facebook page has continued to get 'hits' with more than 1000 by count as reported by the host, Brian Jones.

In the October 4th meeting, the new Division 10 Superintendent, Larry Smith MMR®, and Treasurer, Harold Weinberg replaced those officers who have completed their 2nd terms.

Bob Belt, Superintendent, Retired

Division 11 Report

There is little change in Division 11 to report. Due to conditions brought about by the Covid 19 pandemic little modeling activity is taking place outside of the homes of our members. As per the most recent membership report we have neither gained nor lost members. We have participated in few activities other than monthly meetings. Planned activities in our area like most others have been postponed or cancelled.

On the subject of monthly meetings we are still meeting in person at the present time. Due to increases in covid cases in our area it doesn't look like this practice will continue much longer. The health and safety of our membership is the highest priority and the luxury of living in a sparsely populated area no longer protects us from covid infection. It is likely we will begin zoom meetings in the future to protect all involved.

Individuals with layouts continue work and make improvements to their pride and joy. Bring and brag continues to be one of the highlights of our meetings. Our new bring and brag chairman has proposed a new direction for the program with new opportunities for more of the membership to participate. We hope the planned Erie Convention, May 2021, will be able to take place as planned and I continue to encourage our membership to participate in making it a success. I want to apologize to Brad White and his crew at this time for not being more active in helping with planning. My part time job has been much more than part time these last few months but things are beginning to return to normal. Our web page continues to be a source of pride keeping us both well informed and entertained. Our finances are in good condition but we continue to explore avenues to improve our bank account.

We will be beginning a renovation of our traveling module layout in the very near future. A change from code 83 to code 100 track will be implemented increasing reliability. The repeated transport, set up, and take down has taken its toll on the layout. We will also be completing much needed scenery improvements on some modules and adding new to others. Work continues on t-track modules as well.

I am happy to report that I am feeling much more comfortable as superintendent. Some of my plans for the division are beginning to be realized and the others will hopefully take place in the months to come. Although I am happy with where we are at the present time I know there is room for improvement and I pledge to do my best to make that improvement happen.

R. Kosakowski, Superintendent

Division 12 Report

The members of Division 12 felt we were heading into a very good year with increasing membership and a revenue stream, by helping Iron Horse Productions run the Erie Train Show. Then Covid.

Everything from in-person meetings, to our mini-meet, to the Erie Train show and our Christmas dinner have been canceled; 2020, the year everything was been canceled. We are hoping for a better 2021. I'm sure other divisions are struggling too.

The decision was made to have virtual meetings for the foreseeable future. We have also started a virtual modeling night where a bunch of us get on Zoom to work on models and talk.

One last item, this past spring I lost a very good friend and fellow model railroader.

John's will left me his entire model railroad collection. So the weekend of September 18th a friend and I drove to North Carolina to pick up his collection. 36 totes and boxes came north.

Being that John felt strongly about what we as a Division were trying to accomplish, I told Beverly (John's widow) that I will sell off most of the items (aside from a few things I plan to keep for myself), with 10% of the sales going to Division 12 and the balance going to her.

I have begun the process of cataloging the collection and hope to have a model railroad garage sale sometime in late October. It will be open to Division 12 members first before opening it up to adjoining Divisions, then the general public.

Bradley White Superintendent

Membership Report

Below is a table that summarizes the MCR membership by Division and Month since January 2020:

Division/Month	01 of 2020	02 of 2020	03 of 2020	04 of 2020	05 of 2020	06 of 2020	07 of 2020	08 of 2020	09 of 2020	overall loss/gain		
0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	
1	96	91	89	91	92	93	93	88	86	86	-10	
2	220	218	216	214	212	204	201	205	203	203	-17	
3	135	136	135	135	135	132	130	129	129	129	-6	
4	205	202	198	198	199	197	193	190	190	190	-15	
5	68	67	63	64	63	63	62	63	61	61	-7	
6	169	168	163	166	165	165	167	169	166	166	-3	
7	232	230	228	225	225	219	222	223	219	219	-13	
8	134	137	134	130	131	133	131	132	131	131	-3	
9	48	48	49	49	50	49	50	47	47	47	-3	
10	69	67	67	70	71	70	69	69	69	69	-1	
11	32	32	29	28	29	31	31	30	31	31	-3	
12	40	39	41	40	40	42	43	44	45	45	5	
											Total numbers of members lost since Jan.	-75
Deaths	0	2	2	5	1	3	0	12	8	8	-33	
New Members	13	9	10	5	7	2	8	1	0	0	55	
Rail pass	6	3	3	6	2	0	2	0	0	0	22	
Renewals	209	121	102	100	55	55	23	83	69	69	817	

The overall loss/gain column shows the number of members for each division from the highest number of members this calendar year to the lowest number through September. September 2020 was the very first time in my term in this office when we had no new members. I think the declining member numbers this year have been greatly influenced by the Covid-19 pandemic in several ways. First of which is our ability to be able to have train shows/displays that promote the hobby. Cancellation of our regular membership meetings where potential new members could attend also hurt us. Finally, since many folks lost their incomes due to the shutting down/lockdowns NMRA membership may not be on their highest priority for their dollars. As I have been watching new members and renewals over the years I have noticed that the Rail Pass membership is a great way to get folks into the NMRA, many do not renew.

I have contacted NMRA HQ and the people there have told me that last month there were two other Regions where there were no new members. There were only two Regions that had double digit new members added, (one with 13 and the other with 10) otherwise all other Regions had only single digit increases in new members. I am not for sure what to do about increasing our membership until we (our nation) can get out of this pandemic and we can get back to having a presence at various events to promote the hobby and the NMRA.

Paul J. Novak Jr., Membership Chair

T-Trak Committee Report

Covid 19 has nearly shut down the use of T-TRAK in every one of the Divisions. The triggering issue is the lack of venues opened for train shows and library layouts. The most significant impact was, of course the cancellation of the annual convention scheduled for Pittsburgh in May. It was headed for a very substantial layout approaching 100 single module equivalents. Thanks to the Division 2 convention team for the work that extended to make the layout work, but now we have to wait for 2022 to get them back into a convention.

The T-TRAK plans for the 2021 Convention in Erie are proceeding well. The team up there in Division 12 are capitalizing on most of the plans that the Pittsburgh guys had put in place.

There have been several changes in the makeup of the Regional Committee, a listing of which is included below.

I hope the supers will give these members all the support they need to continue the success of T-TRAK in the regions.

Planning for the 2021 Convention in Erie will begin in January. We welcome Bruce Bloomster into the role as the 2021 Trainmaster, and wish him great success.

All of us hope that the train show venues and town libraries will reopen soon and we can all get back to using T-TRAK as a new growth program for the Mid Central Region. We all look forward to a much better 2021.

As a personal note, Nancy and I have finally sold our farm in Lexington and have made a downsizing move to Louisville. The Division 10 folks have asked me to continue to be their T-TRAK representative and I have accepted that request.

Bruce DeMaeyer

Committee on next page

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5/24/2020 MCR Convention report

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 are now taking reservations.

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.

The Northern Express:

MCR Regional Convention 2021

Save the Dates: May 20-23, 2021



The Ambassador Center:

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

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



Scheduled tours as of 10/10/2020:

A two hour tour of historic Union Station including lunch at the BrewErie at Union Station.

Wabtec (former GE Locomotive Works).

Northeast wine country tour.

Northern Express Registration and Extra Fare

Per budget August 2020

1. Early Registration: \$85.00, Late Registration: \$90.00, Family Registration: \$30.00
2. Banquet: \$40.00
3. Bus Tours: Wabtec Tour: \$60.00, Union Station Tour: \$45.00, Winery Tour: \$45.00
4. Build a T-TRAK all day clinic: \$40.00
5. Convention shirts: \$30.00-35.00
6. Convention Car: \$22.00

Self-guided non-Railroad tours:

National Comedy Center in Jamestown, NY Home to Lucille Ball Desi Arnaz Museum (45 minute drive).

Erie Art Museum

Erie Maritime Museum

Tom Ridge Environmental Center

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.

Division 12 has commissioned on 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.

We are also still in need of clinicians for The Northern Express. Please see included Clinic submission form.

At this time Layout tours and Op-session are TBD.

Thank You

Bradley White

Allegheny Western Div. 12 MCR

Superintendent



MCR ALLEGHANY WESTERN DIVISION CLINIC SUBMISSION

The Alleghany Western Division invites you to submit your clinic for consideration. We welcome the opportunity to work with you to provide a rewarding experience for attendees and clinicians both. Please fill out the following form completely.

Note that clinics will be selected based on needs and suitability and this submission does not guarantee your clinic will be selected.

Return Forms to:

Doug at: trak@div12mcr.org or mail to: Doug Sandmeyer 240 Locust St. Lakewood NY 14750

Last Name	First Name
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Email	Phone Number
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Phone Number Home	Phone Number Mobile (Convention)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Address 1	Address 2
<input type="text"/>	

City	State	Postal Code	Country
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Please Provide a short Bio we may use for the program notes

<input type="text"/>

MCR Division 12 Clinic Submission Form

Page 2

Clinic Title

<input type="text"/>

Description of Clinic 1

Equipment Required: Projector Screen Laptop White Board Work Table

Other Equipment:

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If Co-presenting Name of Co-Presenter:

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Alternate or Second Clinic (Not Required)

Clinic Title 2:

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Description of Second Clinic, Title 2

Equipment Required: Projector Screen Laptop White Board Work Table

Other Equipment:

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If Co-presenting Name of Co-Presenter:

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Please return to : Doug Sandmeyer Div 12 MCR Clinic Chair
Email: ttrak@div12mcr.org Mailing: 240 Locust St. Lakewood, NY 14750