



The Kingpin

Newsletter of the
Mid Central Region
National Model Railroad Association
June 2019



Phil Gliebe provided a favorite train of sorts with his individual contest winners at the Regional convention.

All winners beginning on page 5.



photos: Bruce Huskill

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President's Letter

Bob Weinheimer MMR®

MCR President

The Mid Central Region convention hosted by the Akron Canton Youngstown Division was yet another in a long string of successful MCR conventions. Attendance wasn't as high as last year in Cincinnati but that convention was something of an anomaly. On the one hand, some tours were lightly patronized, meaning the bus for the tour was canceled. On the other hand, tour members carpooled and, in some cases, received much better tours as a small group than they might have as a bus load. The portion of the tour cost due to the bus cancellation was refunded to the tour members. This should be considered by future convention planners as a way to handle less than full tour groups or for tours that might be of limited interest.

The banquet speaker was John Stevens, NMRA Vice President for Administration. John gave a talk about the benefits of membership with a focus on the various programs that offer discounts to members. We followed up in the Sunday morning Superintendents meeting with a discussion of the Members Only portion of the NMRA web site and how relatively few members use it. If you don't know how, bug your Division leadership. With today's technology there is no reason some sort of demonstration of the web site cannot be done at one of your regular events. I believe that member retention can be enhanced if members really use these benefits of membership.

The contest, as has become usual by now, was well run. The only disappointment was the complete lack of Arts and Crafts entry. Steve Zapytowski MMR® once again recruited a full team of judges and presented an excellent training program to them. New this year was a module contest that featured T-TRAK. Several of the 60+ modules were submitted for judging. Congratulations to Michael Wolf for winning Best of Show in the model contest, to Keith Devault for winning Best of Show in the photo contest, and to Robert Osburn for winning Best of Show in the T-TRAK contest and Bob Ashley Jr. for winning Best of Show in Other Modules.

Full contest results are elsewhere in this issue of the Kingpin.

The T-TRAK display was far more than the contest mentioned above. Bruce DeMaeyer did a fine job of encouraging members around the Region to participate. It looks like nine of the twelve Division were represented, not a bad turnout for the first time. There were more than 60 modules. The T-TRAK displays got considerable attention as did other module layouts in the ballroom. In addition, there were vendors in the same ballroom space selling T-TRAK benchwork kits and supplies, I understand they did quite well. I would like to see this continue but in some venues this can become quite expensive, this may be an issue for next year's convention. The planners are looking into how T-TRAK can continue next year.

The Board of Directors met Friday evening. We discussed another tweak to the nominations process as we had overlooked one aspect of it with the changes enacted last year. Nominations Manager Bob Shreve and his committee will have a recommendation for consideration at the next meeting. The other big action was to authorize Division 12 to host the 2021 MCR convention. The event will be in Erie, PA, a completely new location for MCR. The full minutes of the meeting are found on pages 26 - 28 in this issue.

Saturday evening was the time for the banquet and awards. Steve Zapytowski MMR® was presented with the Directors Award for the great job he has done with streamlining the contest. Dick Bradley MMR®, a long time NMRA member from Division 12, was presented with the Russ Wenderfer Award by the Cincinnati Division for considerable behind the scenes work critical to the initial level of success seen by Division 12. Congratulations and thank you to both gentlemen for what they have done for the Mid Central Region and the NMRA. Of course, all the contest awards were presented, and our guest speaker made his presentation as described above.

Last year at this time Division 12, the Allegheny Western Division, was brand new. Now, a year later, they have made their presence felt. They will host an upcoming convention. One of their members received one of the major awards. They brought T-TRAK modules. They presented clinics. That's more than most of the other Divisions have done in the past year. Please join me in recognizing Brad White, Superintendent, Mike Hauk, Assistant Superintendent, and Dave Ellis, Clerk for the great job they have done in getting this Division up and running.

I close this article by noting that the next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Sunday September 29 in Columbus. All members are welcome to come as observers.

From the editor

First and foremost, our thoughts are with members, families, and friends in the areas affected by the storms two weeks ago. We hope that restoration goes as quickly and efficiently as possible.

If you're entering a model in the Salt Lake City National contest, please let me know (I'll be there). The National committee has been helpful in the past in identifying MCR winners but they are usually swamped with multiple NMRA duties throughout the year - no guarantees that I'll get the MCR list from them. Thanks.

I was really happy with the Regional Convention's Holiday Inn in Boardman. Not everything went perfectly (we may have overwhelmed them a time or two) but in most cases they had a responsive staff correcting issues as fast as possible.

Thanks to Larry Kowicki for providing additional convention photos. I didn't use them here but they can be found in the June Flatwheel at www.div4.org. Thanks also to Bruce Huskill for his model photos, although my few times assisting in moving models to his photo box were as nerve wracking as bomb disposal.

Sorry to miss photos on some of the winning modules. The photographers weren't available late Friday and some of the modules had moved on by Saturday morning.

The NMRA recently said that editors aren't allowed to endorse candidates. That makes sense in that we usually don't know enough about everyone. My two endorsements in the past were along the lines of "I know this guy and he's OK, so you can be comfortable voting for him." I didn't know the other candidates but probably could have said the same about being comfortable with them if I had known them. Now you're on your own, and that's a good thing.

Division 4 had a roadwork tractor contest recently, which finally pushed me over the line into buying the book *SM.02 S-65 City Tractor* by Michael Rinaldi from Micro-Mark. I think it's a good reference for using different painting techniques to achieve a worn metal look. The subject is a 1/35 scale plastic model but the instructions could just as easily apply to locomotives, vehicles, and buildings. One minor complaint I have is that the author assumes the reader is familiar with his first book in the series (a model submarine that looks like a fish), but he does seem to repeat the necessary information from that book anyhow. OK, if it turns out I'm not allowed to endorse books either, forget everything I just wrote. Incidentally, the contest project fell through for me and I haven't actually tried anything in the book- people who know me aren't surprised.

Finally, a personal request: I just found out that I have serious family roots in the New Cumberland WV area. It's called the Panhandle and the Pennsylvania Railroad ran through it. I'm looking for railroad history of the area. Your convenience, please don't go out of your way on it. Thanks.

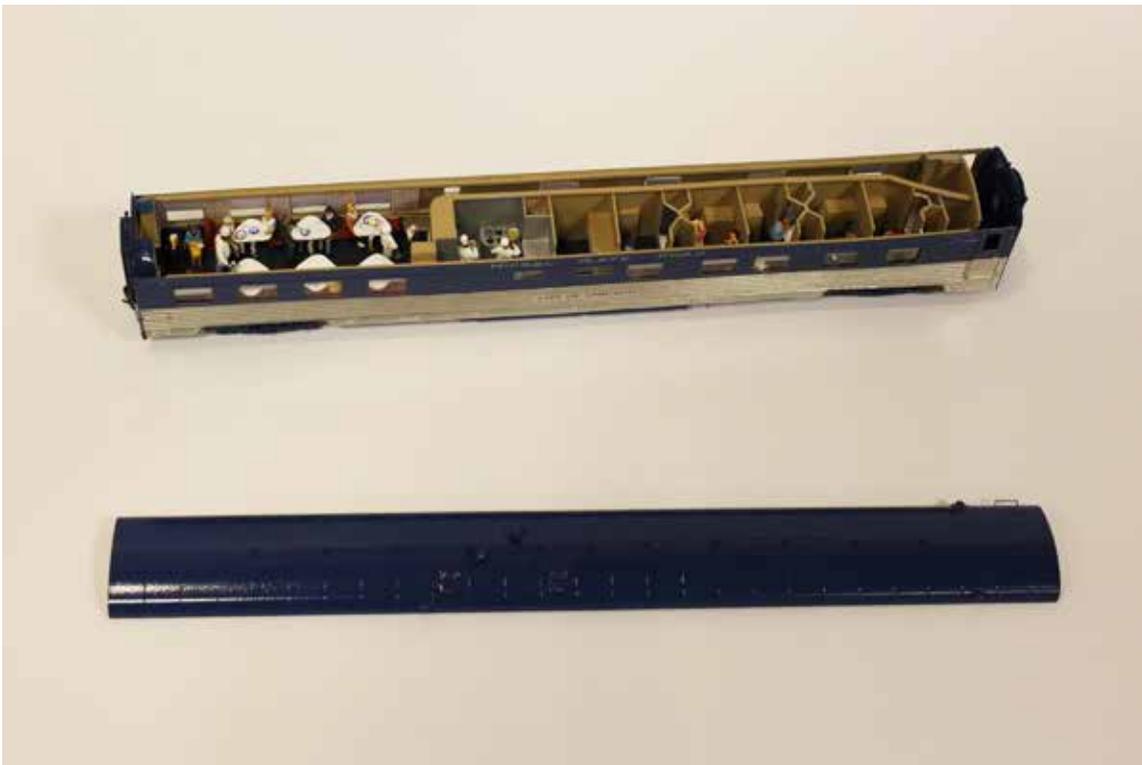
Dave Williams, editor

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Regional Contest Winners



Favorite Locomotive Michael Wolf CNJ Boxcab #1000



Favorite Car George Keller

NKP Lightweight Passenger Car 151 Double Bedroom-Buffer-Lounge

Unless otherwise noted, all model photos: Bruce Huskill



Favorite Structure Cecil Stewart Old Time Freight House



Favorite Display Jim Grell Abandoned Shed



Favorite Prototype Photo [Rob Bennet – Nice Catch](#)



Favorite Model Photo [Donald Wilke Beghley Mine on Newark Club](#)

Favorite Module [Richard W. Hartley Country Church](#) [No Photo](#)

Module Contest

T-Trak Module



1st Place Michael DeSensi AT & SF San Bernardino Station

Module and Photograph photos: Dave Williams



2nd Place Brian C. Jones Swift Camp Creek (inside corner)

No 3rd Place



T-Trak Best of Show Robert Osburn Stardust Drive-In Theater

Other Module

1st Place Kurt Sanders N-Scale Module (2) Modules No Photo



2nd Place Bob Ashley, Jr. Oil Field



3rd Place Jerry Kruse Calumet, IA



Best of Show Bob Ashley, Jr. Transformer Shop

Models

There were no Steam Locomotive entries.

Diesel & Other Locomotive



1st Place Philip Giebe On30 6-wheel Switcher Locomotive



2nd Place Cecil Stewart T & NO F3 A & B units (#303 & 507)



3rd Place George Keller Nickel Plate Road R511 Peekaboo Paint

Traction



1st Place Robert Belt Yakima Valley Transportation Co. (YVTCo) Steeple CAB #298

No 2nd or 3rd Place Winners.

Passenger Car



1st Place George Keller NKP Lightweight Passenger Car 151 Double Bedroom-Buffer-Lounge



2nd Place Philip Gliebe On30 Narrow Gauge Coach

No 3rd Place Winner.

Freight Car



1st Place Philip Gliebe Outside Braced Box Car C.B. & Q.



2nd Place Philip Gliebe Wooden Pickle Vat Car



3rd Place Jim Grell B & LE 50 Ton Hopper (Rebuilt)

Caboose



1st Place Philip Giebe On30 4-Wheel Caboose



2nd Place George Keller Nickel Plate Caboose Number 885



3rd Place Cecil Stewart T & NO C-40-3 caboose #425

Non-Revenue Car



1st Place Sam Eisele Snow Blower

No 2nd or 3rd Place Winners.

Display



1st Place Jim Grell Abandoned Shed

No 2nd or 3rd Place Winners.

Structures



1st Place Cecil Stewart Bertram Station

2nd Place Richard Turton

Sanding Tower at Chiefton, WV





3rd Place Cecil Stewart Wooden Trestle @ MP 150.33

Model Best of Show



Michael Wolf CNJ Boxcab #1000

Photo

Model, Black & White Print

First Place

Neal A. Schorr

GP 30's at MP 150.3



Photography photos: Dave Williams



Second Place

Neal A. Schorr

K - 4 Passing Mifflin Tower

Third Place

Neal A. Schorr

Yard Goat at East Altoona



Model, Color Print

First Place

Neal Schorr

East of Port Royal



Second Place

Donald Wilke

Beghley Mine on Newark Club

Third Place

Keith DeVault

B&O Out of Tunnels



First Place

Herbert Parsons

Cass Scenic Hiesler & Train at Spruce WV



Second Place

Don Wilke

CSX over the Snowy Scioto River

Prototype, Color Print

First Place

Keith DeVault
Chessie 6537 In Snow



Second Place

Herbert Parsons

Roundhouse on East Broad Top RR

Third Place

Keith DeVault

CSX 8534 Coal Drag



Photo - Best of Show



Keith Devault B&O 7489 EB West End

“Photos of photos” are not meant to be actual reproductions of the original photos but are intended only to identify winning entries.

There were no entries in the Arts & Crafts Category.

Martha Newberry Award

Michael Hauk

Creamery Supervisor's
House



Railroading in America Magazine's Outstanding Model Railroader Award



First Place

Michael Wolf

CNJ Boxcab #1000

Railroading in America Magazine's Outstanding Model Railroader Award continued



Second Place

Cecil Stewart

Old Time Freight House

Third Place

Chuck Endreola

Coal Hopper #12



Learn more about Railroading in America magazine at:

www.railroadinginamerica.com

National Model Railroad Association Mid-Central Region Board of Directors Meeting May 3, 2019

The meeting was brought to order by President Bob Weinheimer at 8:58 PM. The meeting place was the Holiday Inn, Boardman, Ohio.

Board members and proxies present for the meeting were Bob Weinheimer, President; Mike Hohn, Vice President; Bob McKay, Treasurer; Jim DiPaola, Div. 1 Superintendent; Keith DeVault, Div. 2 Superintendent; Rick Lach, proxy representing Div. 3; Lee Sheffield, Div. 4 Superintendent; Dave Neff, proxy representing Division 5; Greg Short, Div. 6 Superintendent; John Shields, Div. 7 Superintendent; Fred Soward, Div. 8 Superintendent; Dan Mulhearn, Div. 9 Superintendent; Bob Belt, Div. 10 Superintendent; Howdy Veihdeffer, Div. 11 Superintendent; and Brad White, Div. 12 Superintendent.

Others present were: Chuck Endreola, Assistant Superintendent, Div. 7; John Stevens, NMRA Vice President for Administration; Dick Briggs, MCR Projects Manager; Frank Benders, Assistant Superintendent, Div. 2; Dexter Hill, Paymaster, Div. 6; Jeff Hedge, Assistant Superintendent, Div. 10; Don Wilke, MCR Webmaster; Bob Shreve, MCR Elections Manager; John Burchnall, visitor; Steve Zapytowski, MCR Contest Chair; David M. Williams, MCR Newsletter Editor; Bruce DeMaeyer, MCR T-Trak Coordinator.

Minutes of the last BOD meeting:

A motion made by Dan Mulhearn and seconded by Bob Belt and Greg Short to accept the minutes of the September 30, 2018 BOD meeting as published in the Kingpin newsletter was approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Bob McKay reported the balance in our bank account. [financial specifics are not published in the Kingpin- editor]

President's Comments:

Bob Weinheimer reported on actions and discussions at the national level:

As a result of action by the NMRA Board of Directors, MMR® and Master Model Railroader® are now trademarks.

The national organization continues to stress that there is to be no campaigning for office in the NMRA at any level that uses NMRA resources such as newsletters and social media.

The NMRA website will be redesigned and updated; a first step is finding a content manager.

A process has been established for dealing with unruly members; only the national level is authorized to deal with unruly members at any level.

A spirited discussion has been held on the question whether holding National Office should require Association Official or Volunteer certificates.

He also reminded us that changes in the Achievement Program can only be made at the national NMRA level. This came up in our region with regard to videos and social media and the author certificate.

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BOD Minutes continued

Vice President's Report: Michael Hohn reported that an updated list of MCR division officers will be posted on the region website. As this is his last meeting as Vice President, he thanked those present for the opportunity to serve our association.

Committee Reports:

Contest: Steve Zapytowski presented the need to look at current guidelines and rewrite as necessary. He reported that at the 2019 Convention there are 16 T-Trak modules, 13 HO modules, and 13 N-Trak modules; 47 contest model entries; 1 display model; and 25 photographs; 13 judges for models and three for photos. Three judges were lined up for the arts and crafts contest but there were no entries.

Kingpin: No oral report.

Webmaster: Don Wilke requested information on Master Model Railroaders® in our region for updating the website.

Modules: A very pleased Bruce DeMaeyer reported that T-Trak modules were brought from nine of our twelve Divisions. At least one member of one of the other three Divisions brought one or more modules in at least one other scale.

Membership: No oral report.

Achievement Program and Education: No oral reports; written reports were submitted before convention.

Projects: Dick Briggs reported that about 50 models of the schoolhouse remain in stock and recommended that the price be cut.

Nominations: No update of written report submitted before the convention.

Division Reports:

Bob Weinheimer asked each division for updates to written reports already submitted. Jim DiPaola (Div. 1) pointed out for the benefit of the region that certificates of deposit where his division banks have much more favorable interest rates than in recent years. John Shields (Div 7) announced that fliers for their train show were available at the convention.

Old Business:

2019 Convention: Jim DePaola reported that there were 13 walk-ins and 171 or 172 total registrants. Buses to tours

continued on next page

BOD Minutes continued

had to be canceled and participants car-pooled instead.

2020 Convention: Keith DeVault reported that the committee will work on space for T-Trak modules.

New Business:

2021 Convention: Brad White reported that the convention is planned to be held at the Ambassador Banquet and Conference Center, Erie, PA; there will be two convention hotels; 10% discounts at restaurants; a tour has been arranged for Union Station; and help will be needed in finding clinicians. A motion by Keith DeVault to hold the convention in Erie (Div. 12), seconded by Howdy Veihdeffer, was approved.

Proposed 2022 Joint Convention: The convention will most likely be held in Indiana in May of 2022; two divisions in Indiana—Indianapolis and South Bend—are preparing proposals to host.

Nomination Process: a) A motion by John Shields seconded by Rick Lach to destroy ballots for the 2019 MCR election was approved. b) Bob Shreve discussed a problem that arises because MCR regulations do not allow for electronic voting: in the case of an unopposed slate of candidates, the BOD cannot vote for election by acclamation until the next BOB meeting. He recommended moving nominations earlier. Bob Weinheimer charged the Nominations Committee to work on a formal proposal, to include modifications to MCR regulations.

Website: Don Wilke and Bob Weinheimer proposed moving reports from the password-protected part of the MCR website with the exception of the Treasurer's report once the relevant BOD meeting has taken place. After general agreement they promised a more formal proposal at the next BOD meeting.

For the Good of the Order: a) Keith DeVault has brought 2020 convention handouts for distribution; b) Howdy Veihdeffer brought up the question of clubs needing 100% NMRA membership to be an NMRA association. (This was discussed further at the Superintendent's Breakfast on Sunday.) c) It was pointed out that the national NMRA website still does not show Division 12.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 9:57PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Michael Hohn, MCR Vice President (for Jerry Doyle, MCR Secretary)

The following reports were submitted prior to Regional Board Meeting.
No reports were received from Membership or the newsletter but both chairs have verbally reported that they are experiencing no issues.

-editor

BOD Education Manager Report

Mid Central Region

National Model Railroad Association

Tom. Miller

Education Manager

May 3, 2019

Executive Summary

NMRA has entered the SMART generation in EDUCATION at the Kansas City “Social Media” clinics are now in NMRA video library. There are twenty new professional clinic videos for NMRA members. Model Railroader Video Plus (MRVP) and Model Railroad Academy (MRA), the NMRA Video Library has added over 4 1/2 hours of new, professionally produced videos for NMRA members. With topics ranging from tracklaying pointers to DCC installation to prototype railroad operation, these new videos feature some of the best shows MRVP and MRA have to offer. As in years past, they’ve donated them to the NMRA in exchange for us sending our members monthly promotional email.

NMRA professional video partners have donated over 15 hours’ worth of videos in the three years that this program has been in place. Coupled with videos of many of the National Convention clinics, these new videos really make the NMRA Video Library a huge member benefit.

These video clinic are available at: <https://www.nmra.org/members/videos> on the NMEA website. NMRA members are encouraged to use their email address registered on the website to be logged in. Once you’re logged in for viewing, Then click on “Membership” then “Member Home” on the drop-down menu, then “Benefits” in the red bar and “Member Video Library” on the drop-down menu. The videos are listed with the newest ones first.

NMRA clinics aimed at explaining and using social media. These clinics will help give members an additional way to promote themselves, their Divisions and their Regions. Three different clinics were presented in Kansas City and recorded for the NMRA Library. There’s one for beginners, one for intermediates, and one for experts. Here are the overviews of each clinic. All three can be found here, or by logging into your member account at nmra.org, clicking on “Education” and then “National Convention Clinic Videos.”

Social Media for Beginners focuses on the individual modeler and includes how to sign up for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. It educates on the following topics:

What is social media?

Discussion of the NMRA’s social media presence

Explanation of how social media can benefit individuals

Brief explanation of sharing, commenting, and other things you can do with posts either your own or others. Intermediate Social Media focuses on the Division/Region links.

1. Explanation of a Facebook Page versus a Facebook Group
2. Explanation of public versus closed or secret Facebook Groups
3. Examples of good photos and other things to post
4. Overview of basic administrator and moderator resources
5. How to view and use tools such as Page Statistics

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BOD Education Manager Report continued

6. How to schedule posts

7. The top things a Division/Region can do to boost visibility of their pages

Mass Communications for Regions & Divisions focuses on social media and other types of communication

Overview of different types of media

Explanation of paid posts/ads

Examples of how to promote events

Overview of advertising options

Explanation of press releases and their purpose

Discussion of podcasts

Discussion on how to run a successful show booth

Examples of current NMRA promotional tools

NMRA members are encouraged to take the time to watch these videos. Direct any questions or comments to Christina Zambri at marketing@nmra.org

All members of the NMRA Mid Central Region are encouraged to stay in touch with the NMRA website which is available at <http://www.nmra.org/edutrain>. Any Mid Central Region member who has given a clinic and would like to consider it for distribution are welcome to do so. A clinic that they want to include in the NMRA EduTRAIN® program, do contact Tom Miller NMRA MCR Education Manager at education@midcentralregionnmra.org with a summary of the clinic proposal. Would be glad to have it!

Respectfully Submitted

Tom Miller

Thomas W. Miller Ph.D.

MCR Education Manager

National Model Railroad Association

Election Committee Report

Timeline for 2019 MCR election:

Only one of the four positions (Vice-President) was in the situation where the current office-holder was term limited. All three of the non-term limited officers agreed to run for re-election.

Published call for candidates following 2018 MCR regional convention. Invited anyone who was interested in running for an office to notify the Nominating Committee.

Had one person express interest in the open Vice-President position.

Slate of officer candidates was presented to the MCR board at the fall board meeting.

Email was sent to MCR members in early October announcing the proposed candidate slate and invited anyone else who was interested in running for an office to submit a petition by November 1st. No petitions were received. Nominations were then closed.

The MCR regulations state that in the event there is only one candidate for an office, then the nominee can be elected by a motion to have an Election by Acclimation. If the entire slate is running unopposed, then mailing of ballots will not be necessary if a motion to have an Election by Acclimation is proposed and passed. However, there was no scheduled BOD meeting before the designated time of the election where this action could be taken.

MCR president felt that the current regulations did not support conducting region business in any manner other than during the spring and fall BOD meetings. I.e. it does not address the possibility of having a BOD vote via E-Mail.

Ballots and candidate biographies for the election were sent out with the January Kingpin along with the convention information. The deadline to return the ballots was set as February 28th, 2019. Bob Shreve served as the election teller.

Ballots received were validated by comparing the NMRA membership # on the ballot to a list of valid numbers provided by the MCR president. The list had numbers and membership class only, without the associated name. Any ballots received with a 'Family' or 'RailPass' membership number were not included in the tally. Votes were only tallied where the member had specifically marked the box next to the candidate's name.

Balloting results:

Valid Ballots received: 93

Votes received:

President - Bob Weinheimer: 90

Vice President - Dave Neff: 90

Secretary - Jerry Doyle: 86

Treasurer - Bob McKay: 89

The winners were notified of the results

The ballots were audited by Roy Hord of Division 7 and the results were verified.

The MCR secretary was notified of the election results and the results were announced to the general membership via an Email on 17-Apr-2019.

The returned ballots are still in the teller's possession, pending instructions from the BOD to dispose of them. The Excel spreadsheet containing the vote tally is also available.

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Election Committee Report continued

Lessons Learned / Suggestions for next election

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 Acclimation 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 and our Division 7 elections are utilizing this method.

If paper ballots are used in the next election, change the ballot return instructions to tell the person to simply cut the ballot from the Kingpin page and place it in an envelope addressed to the teller. For this election, the member was instructed to remove the entire page containing the ballot, fold into thirds with the teller address on the outside, apply the appropriate postage and mail it in. The Kingpin was printed on lighter weight paper which did not support this type of usage. Many ballots were received showing some wear and tear from going through the various postal handling operations. However, none of the ballots were rendered unreadable due to this condition. Since the ballot page was also the outside page of the Kingpin, some distress was imparted on them during the initial mailing phase.

Thank you to Bob Belt and Jim DiPaola for assisting with the Nominating Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Shreve Nominating Committee chair and election teller

Bob Belt

Jim Dipaola

T-TRAK REPORT

The Committee was formed in the winter of 2018/2019 and consists of a representative from each division and a layout architect and a judging representative.

MCR T-TRAK Regional Coordinator

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Division 12 Allegheny Western Erie

Doug Sandmeyer (716) 665-8579 dsandme@stny.rr.com

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T-TRAK REPORT continued

Layout Architect

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Judging

Larry Smith (502) 839-8627 larry.ksmith@yahoo.com

The plan for the regional convention began in the summer of 2018 and a road show was presented to all of the divisions and was completed in the early part of 2019.

The Form 803 participation forms were designed and reviewed in the fall of 2018. Module construction began and the modules were used at several train shows around the region and much valuable experience was gained by the participants. The layout space at the Holiday Inn in Boardman was reserved in early January, 2019 and confirmed in April 2019. A 25' x 25' space is reserved for the T-TRAK layout and there will be a couple of other modular layouts in the banquet hall.

As of April 29, 2019 there are 68 modules entered in the layout and 31 modelers that will be participating in the convention. Individual committee members have been very involved in the development of the project.

In addition to the layout, Division 10 has designed a Block Detection System and Programmed the Layout into JMRI. The layout has been divided into 16 Blocks (eight for each of the two main tracks) and the progress of the trains running on the layout can be seen on a large monitor on the layout. The JMRI software will also allow all of the trains to be run via member smartphones. Thank to Division 10 members John Gorman, Frank Stevenson and Mark Underwood for their skills and help in making these projects come alive.

In addition, the forms and procedures for the official judging of those modules that the members choose to enter into the contest were completed. Thanks to Steve Zapytowski, Don Wilke, Bob Belt and Larry Smith who spent significant time on this part of the project.

Bruce DeMaeyer Chairperson, T-TRAK Regional Modules Committee

Division 1 Report

Division 1 currently has 98 members and in March 2019 we picked up 3 new members. Our membership has stayed between 95 and 100 members for the last 4 years. To help attract new members the Division 1 display and HO and N scale modules are set up at various train shows and 1 county fair during the year. Anyone who stops to look at the modules is offered a throttle to run a train. To enhance our monthly membership event we're having clinics that help sharpen skills for working on a layout. Our first clinic was on scenery and those attending were given the opportunity to use a static grass applicator. More clinics are planned in the upcoming year.

On April 3, 2019 Division 1 member David Madden passed away at his home in Stow, Ohio. David grew up in Kent, Ohio and headed out west after graduating high school to attend college. While out west David became an engineer for the BNSF Railway before returning to Ohio. David was a Veteran and will be laid to rest in a Veterans Cemetery. David will be missed by all of us here at Division 1.

As this report is being written the MCR Convention in Boardman, Ohio is only days away. Division 1 is looking forward providing an excellent convention experience so everyone attending can enjoy time with fellow model railroaders. I wish to thank all the Division 1 members that have worked hard in the last two years to make this convention a reality. We look forward to seeing all who attend.

Jim DiPaola, Superintendent

Division 2 Report

Our membership currently stands at 225, and we are starting a membership drive with our inactive list to see if we can get them to renew their membership.

Our recruitment efforts through our presence at the Greenberg Train Show several times per year and the exhibit of our Free-Mo modules at which we invite guests to run trains, has shown great success in securing new members. Our Annual Model Railroad Jamboree was just held at Robert Morris University 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 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.

We have established a T-Trak Committee and with great response, we now have some modules set up at the Greenberg Shows, Jamboree and at the regional conventions. It has shown great success in retaining members.

Plans are already underway for the 2020 Steel City Express Regional Convention to be held May 28 to May 31 at the Greentree Hilton in Pittsburgh. Mark your calendars for this outstanding event.

Keith DeVault, Superintendent

Division 3 Report

Division 3 continues to be in good financial shape. Most of our assets are in certificates of deposit. Our legal documents are in good order as we use both a local lawyer and a tax agency, maintain the proper vendor's license, and have paid the state sales tax from the company store sales. We continue to be a 501 (c) 3 non-profit Organization.

Membership continues to average around 150, and monthly attendance averages 35-40 members. James Hedge continues to publish the Callboard. Dana Yarnall maintains both of our division's websites and Gail Richardson manages our Facebook account.

This past November saw the 43rd Dayton Train Show with a total attendance of over 3,000 over the course of the weekend. This show was held at the 4th different location in the past 4 years, but the division believes its traveling days are over for the future. The Train Show was held this past year at the new Montgomery County Fairgrounds, and we are going to continue at this location. The amount of space is less than at Hara Arena or the malls, but it is a much more user-friendly space. Last Fall we tried to use some additional temporary buildings (tents) but found them to be unsatisfactory. Until the Fairgrounds constructs more permanent space, our show may be smaller in size, but we will strive to increase the quality. The Fairgrounds have also offered, and we accepted, the use of secure, climate-controlled storage for our physical assets. These include our Loop Layout, test track, VHS and DVD library, company store, and Train Show supplies. We were then able to give up our rented storage unit.

In addition to the Train Show, Division 3 again participated in Christmas on Campus at the University of Dayton. Attending were 2,000 children, hosted by UD students, on Dec. 8. In another new location for us, TRAINing Day took place in March at the Carillon Historical Park. The attendance for this jumped from 101 last year to over 400 viewers this year. We have been asked back for next year and have agreed to do so. Division 3 will also participate in RailFest at Carillon Park in June.

Division 3 finally seems to have found some stability in our locations for our special events. We continue to hold most of our monthly meetings at the Greene County Historical Society in Xenia. We are thankful to all of our volunteers who put in many hours of work and effort to make these activities successful and to promote and share the hobby of model railroading and the NMRA to the public.

Mark Stiver, Superintendent

Division 4 Report

Membership

Membership stands at 196 as of 03/31/19. We picked up five new members during March. St. Ignatius High School in Cleveland started a model railroad club and visited one of our division meetings. As a result, we picked up a few new members. In the future I expect our members will offer their assistance working with them to learn all there is about model railroading. New members when attending their first meeting are asked to introduce themselves and talk about their experiences in model railroading. We continue to emphasize that we are here to work with them to make the hobby more enjoyable. Remembering the first rule of model railroading is to have fun!

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 and spring with the modules setting up a various libraries and train shows. The Cuyahoga County Fair invited us to display in August for the entire week. It will be a challenge with long days, but we will recruit some of our division members to help staff the layout. This will be our first time attending the fair.

Our meetings continue to be well attended with approx 85 members showing up.

Contests have really been popular with some interesting themes thought up by our Contest Chairman and the clinics following the meetings are well attended.

Our new car project, the Davies Steel hoppers continue selling well. We are getting to the end of our inventory. You can see a photo of the finished car on our website.

The Division continues to support and mentor the Medina County 4H Model Railroad group. The 4H in Cuyahoga County is forming a model railroad group so I expect to work with them as we have with the Medina group in the near future. Working with the 4H youngsters has led to a few of the them joining Division 4 as they move on after 4H.

Other activities planned in our Division include a module group work party and cookout, our annual summer picnic in August and Training Day in November.

We have a fall bus trip to the Oil Creek & Titusville railroad with a side visit to the Drake Well Museum planned for October. It will follow our Great Berea Train Show on October 5th & 6th.

Lee Sheffield, Superintendent

Division 5 Report

Division 5 remains solvent and our annual Railfest kept with the approximate level of the previous year. This was with St. Patrick's Day.

Our membership is keeping at 75 and steady this year.

Mike Buehner

Division 6 Report

Membership: The membership in the Division has remained fairly steady. We have welcomed some new members, thanks in part to our recently formed membership recruitment committee. This group has made a presence at several train shows in the area to help recruit and even to retain members as they get to see what the Division is doing for the hobby.

Finances: The Division is very healthy financially. Our outlays have become somewhat more substantial due to we are planning on some membership trips and the upcoming swap meet. It is anticipated that the funding outlay for these projects will return to the accounts after the events. With this we still have a small cash flow from our previous project offerings.

Projects: The Division still has a number of items in stock. Look for our old stock at the 2019 MCR Store as we are looking to move our remaining stock using some major discounts.

Boy Scout Merit Badge: This is still on the books to happen at some time but the timing is up to the Scouts, who at this time have not shown great interest

Train show: We had our first run of the Division 6 train show which we are calling a swap meet last November. The day came off very well although it was not as well attended as we had hoped. What did come out of it is we get a chance to see how we need to do things on a smaller scale rather than having a big show and not get things right. With this we are moving forward to a much larger venue for this year's meet. We will have the meet in October in Cambridge, Ohio. This gives very good access to many in the region. There is flyers being given to all Supers and we ask that it be put on Division websites. As stated before the plan is to make this a annual event.

Meetings: Our meetings thus far this year have been well attended. Good weather and meeting content seem to have helped. Please remember that we have our annual June meeting in Marion at the Marion Union Station, all NMRA members are welcome to attend. This is an all day event with several clinics and plenty of socializing and train watching.

Bus Trip: We are going to hold another a bus trip for a meeting. This year's trip will be to Age of Steam in Sugar-creek with a second stop in Dennison to visit the depot. In the past all bus trips have been an extra fare event for division members and this will be the same. What will be different is we are going to open a small number of seats to Division 7 members. We have had some talks over this and plan on going forward with it.

Greg Short, Superintendent

Division 7 Report

Our membership count at the end of March was ~250, which is down about 10 over the last 12 months. Our monthly meetings continue to draw about 40 to 70 people, 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. At our latest board meetings we have discussed additional ways to promote the hobby with the general public and are especially interested in the regional T-Trak initiative as a tool for this purpose. Our Fall Train Show and Spring Flea Market both continue to be very successful, but we would like to do more throughout the year.

We are trying to bring in more national caliber clinicians for our monthly meetings and continue to include two home layout visits after each monthly meeting. Model Railroader contributing editor Lou Sassi was our April clinician. We continue to try to find new layouts to showcase in addition to making return visits to the many good layouts we have been able to see in the past.

In May, after a two year hiatus (due to planning and hosting the 2018 regional convention) we will once again be offering a day-long bus tour of railroad and model layout venues. Rather than traveling out of town this year, we are touring locally to a couple of the venues we had for the convention and two new industry venues; plus a new home layout in Middletown. We also will get a shop tour of the Cincinnati Streetcar operation.

This winter, we again worked with two local Boy Scout Councils on their Model Railroad merit badge programs. Additionally, we are in the midst of our annual local library book donation program. (We donate about a dozen current model railroad books to each of a total of 12 local library systems on a rotating basis [three systems each year on a four year rotation]).

Several of our members worked as volunteers at the Holiday Junction train display at the Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal (Cincinnati Union Terminal reopened in November after a two year restoration). This large train display (6 operating layouts, including the famous B&O Railroad-built O scale layout) is a holiday tradition in Cincinnati and has promoted our hobby to generations of local kids (and adults). [trivia: Did you know that the first electric toy train was manufactured in Cincinnati in 1897?]

We are ramping up the planning for our 52nd Annual Cincinnati Model Train show the weekend of October 12th and 13th at Lakota West High School. There will also be a major regional Op SIG event in Cincinnati on Oct 18-20 and the C&O Railroad Historical Society annual conference is here from July 31 to August 4. Both of these events will have many of our division's members involved.

John Shields, Superintendent

Division 8 Report

Division 8 membership has remained fairly constant. Although we have gained several new members this year through new memberships, several longtime members passed this year. Eric Waggoner (Assistant Superintendent) and Cecil Stewart (Membership Chair) are now reviewing the monthly membership spreadsheets for expiring terms and sending reminders as well as making phone calls to individuals who have memberships that have expired more than 30 days prior. Early this year they also reached out through email to individuals who did not renew in 2018.

The local KSONS (Kentucky Society of N-Scalers) organization became inactive and disbanded a few years ago. Through the efforts of two of our Division 8 members (Rick Maloney and Bob Kuchler) who were former members in the KSONS, the remainder of their funds have been donated to Division 8 by the group's leadership. The monies were provided to cover the cost of former KSONS members joining/rejoining/renewing into the NMRA. The results of those memberships will soon increase our numbers by a few people.

The Division is in good financial shape with very successful fall 2018 and spring 2019 Train Show & Sale events.

The fall Train Show & Sale is on track for November. After being notified by one of our members (Rob Johnson) of a possible newly available facility that met our needs, a small group (Bob Dawson (Clerk), Tom Guenther (Trustee), and Fred Soward) moved quickly to contact the group and tour the facility. Within 5 days of being notified about the facility, Ron Ellison (Trustee), our Train Show & Sale Manager, completed a signed contract with dates through Fall 2020. We concluded our multi-year arrangement with the local Moose lodge and are moving nearby to Holy Family Parish Gymnasium. The new facility has better lighting, more room for dealers, layouts, and learning stations, will cost less to rent, and has tables onsite which also saves us the cost of renting the tables. We recognize that parking is tighter at the new location, but not so restrictive that it will unduly limit attendance at our events. We envision this as an opportunity to develop a parking plan, rather than as an obstacle.

Although last year's Louisville Train Day was a success, we have not been able to find a good date for a 2019 event. We have decided to skip a year and look for a 2020 late summer or early fall date.

The annual picnic is scheduled for the Salem Depot in Salem, Indiana. Mark Norman, MMR (Former Superintendent) is working with Mike Berry (Treasurer) to coordinate details for the trip.

We are working with Division 10 to schedule a self-driving layout tour of Division 10 layouts later in the summer. The layout tour will focus on the west side of Division 10 and stretch as far south as Danville.

The Division 8 Logo was revised in late 2018. In an effort led by Ron Ellison (Trustee and Marketing Director), the Board spent several months working on the project and after almost 70 revisions released it in October. The previous logo was not readily identifiable as a model railroad or even railroad-related theme, as it was sometimes confused with a billiard-playing organization. The goal was to create a modernized branding solution that would easily be recognized as being railroad-related to even the casual observation (potential members), retain lineage/pay homage to the past and retain our corporate identity of being somewhat "different" than others (the eight ball remains as an integral part of the logo), be clean and crisp, and be noticeable on clothing and other marketing items.

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Division 8 Report continued

We continue to move toward “no mailed newsletters.” We are now down to just four being printed and mailed to members. We have a couple of members who are still hold outs for email and will likely never make it there. We developed a solution to reduce the cost of mailing those four monthly newsletters to almost one fourth the previous cost beginning with the February 2019 issue.

Our monthly meetings have become nearly standing-room-only events. Russ Weis (Trustee & former Superintendent) continues to come up with great presenters who are providing informative presentations. We are fortunate that several members have recently agreed to open their layouts for visits after meetings.

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. We have 18 members working on the project who are planning to display their completed efforts at our Fall 2019 Train Show and Sale.

The Achievement Program in Division 8 is thriving. Mark Norman became MMR 617 and received his MMR certificate at our October membership meeting. We have another individual within one AP certificate of his MMR and two who are within two AP certificates of their MMR.

Our marketing efforts continue to expand and gain new ground. Of particular note is our Facebook page that consistently has more interactions than the seven similar pages we are tracking and with one exception has nearly twice the number of total page likes.

Fred Soward, Superintendent

Division 9 Report

The Coal Division

Division 9 is rolling into spring at maximum allowed track speed. Our membership is stable with good attendance at meeting events. This is remarkable considering the very large geographic area we serve. Our members are the strength of Our Division. As superintendent I am blessed to have an enthusiastic and active assistant superintendent as well as willing and able committee chairpersons. The participation of the membership in general is the key to our success.

Division 9 is financially stable and likely to remain so. Normal expenses are minimal.

Meeting events are regularly held at the former C&O depot at Saint Albans, WV. We are currently drawing up a written agreement with the City of Saint Albans which will solidify our access to this venue. Several times a year we move our events to other venues for special events. Meeting events consist of a brief business meeting followed by a model contest. We also have a raffle for donated items, a company store where members may sell items and a show and tell presentation. Most events close with a clinic on various topics, both model and prototype. We also have a growing and enthusiastic T-Trak group which meets following the regular event and has participated in several displays at shows.

I would like to see more participation in the AP program. We have a very active and nurturing AP Chair, yet some folks don't take advantage of this opportunity to expand their talents and abilities. If they will try it they will like it

Dan Mulhearn, Superintendent

Division 10 Report

Membership: Relatively constant with average now at 66 – up from the average of 65 in the last report. As of March 2019, NMRA is reporting 68 active members. Monthly meetings average between 20 and 25. As before, we are expecting some losses due to member and family health and gains from new NMRA members (3 since September)

Finances: Basically, sound with income and outflow balanced. We have recently had several more donations for both T-Trak and the Ravenna project.

Programs: The regular meetings continue to be held on the 1st Sunday of each month except July. The meetings are rotating between Lexington Public Library Branches. Since our clinician pool is small, we have been working with neighboring Divisions to share clinics. We will meet in June at the Scott County Library in Georgetown, KY as we work around the area to accommodate membership.

Our ‘Trains Day at the Library’ program and T-Trak member involvement has continued to grow since the last report. The second ‘Trains Day at the Library’ event was held on Saturday, September 15, at the Tates Creek Branch of the Lexington Public Library with joint participation from the newly formed Division 9 T-Trak SIG. This was wildly successful with more than 650 attendees counted by the Library staff. The staff helped make the event by having railroad themed programming in the week before the event. We also had a members’ O gauge switching layout displayed and operating. The basic audience was children ages up to middle school accompanied by adults. One significant item was that the T-Trak layout was dismantled and participants were on the way 20 minutes after the event ended.

The Division newsletter – The Lantern – and our website are active and in continual update. The new webmaster, Mark Underwood, has made major appearance changes and improvements. The Facebook page has continued to improve due to the work of Brian Jones.

Bob Belt, Superintendent

Division 11 Report

Membership: stands at 32

Treasury: is healthy

Achievement report: Since our last report we have had two Association Official, one Association Volunteer and one Golden Spike Achievement earned by our membership as well as a Merit Award and a 1st place in the structure category earned by a Division member at the NMRA MCR Division 2 Jamboree held April 28th, 2018. It appears our AP Program is pretty healthy so far. I am aware we have another Association Volunteer in the works as well as a Chief Dispatcher and an Electrical Engineer.

Newsletter: our new editor is doing a great job.

Train shows: another successful Victorian Christmas show. Had to cancel our show at the DuBois Mall due to the change in NMRA fee for Insurance Certificate.

By monthly op sessions: still being enjoyed. Eleven members assisted in an OP session with the Clinton Central Model Railroad Club. They put in a lot of work setting it up for us and it went very well.

Bring and brag: is going through some changes.

Build and take: went well at the last Victorian Christmas set up.

Howdy Veihdeffer, Superintendent

Division 12 Report

Alleghany Western Division

Division 12 is running at full speed and our membership continues to grow, last count we were up to 38 members. We are still having some minor issues with the roster from the National office. We have one life member that keeps getting dropped off the roster. Paul Novak is working on getting this resolved.

We have a full schedule of meetings on tap for this year. Most will take place at the Trolley Station in Cambridge Springs, PA. June 8th will be our 2nd annual picnic between the tracks in Westfield, NY. You may find our schedule at <http://www.div12mcr.org/2019/04/24/meeting-and-event-schedule-2019/>

Our N-Scale T-Trak group is up to 5 members. We have a number of public outings scheduled throughout the remainder of the year.

We have had a few changes and additions to various committee chairs. Dale Desser has taken over as Ops Chair person.

Lee Farnsworth has filled a new Committee chair as Social Chair. Lee is in charge of making arrangements and planning our annual summer picnic and Christmas Party, along with a monthly brunch before our Division meetings.

The other big change was Dick Bradley stepping down from our board of directors at the end of the year. Rob Bennett has filled the position. Below is Rob's bio:

Board of Directors Biography: Rob Bennett Rob has been a model railroader since his teenage days. His first layout was in the basement of his parents' house and was never completed as his college days took precedence. Then a new job and family kept Rob as an armchair modeler for several decades. Upon moving to Fairview, PA in 2000 the time and family situation was such that a new layout could be undertaken. This was a small layout in an unfinished room of the basement and was based on the German railroads in the late 1930s -- 1940s. This was then changed to a more US-based theme modeling the Reading Railroad. The layout was quickly outgrown and plans were launched to totally rebuild the layout. In 2013, upon return from a deployment with the US Air Force to Kabul, Afghanistan the old layout was dismantled, walls torn down and a completely new layout room constructed. The initial concept was that of "railfanning the layout" with minimal operational considerations. This changed upon meeting several local model railroaders and a major reconstruction project was initiated in the summer of 2018 to add improved operations. This work is now nearly complete. Rob enjoys all aspects of the hobby, especially scenery and electronics. His scenery mentor is Josef Brandl from Germany, whose work Rob is trying to emulate. He also enjoys building structures--craftsman kit, kit bashed and scratch built with emphasis on weathering and additional details. He is also getting more into operations and hopes to host operating sessions soon once the layout is a little further along. Rob enjoys meeting and learning from fellow modelers. He has a YouTube channel that is documenting the progress of his current layout. He is very willing to work with others in the division and pass on any knowledge he has gained. The hobby has so many different aspects that one cannot be a master in all -- let's share our knowledge and experience so we all improve as modelers. Rob currently works for ABB Electrical Products Industrial Solution as the Leader, Transformer Repair Technology. He has over 28 years of experience in the Power Transformer repair industry. He is also retired from the Pennsylvania Air National Guard, having served 28 years and retiring as a Lt. Colonel from the 193rd Civil Engineer Squadron in Middletown, PA.

Finally we would like to announce the date of our first Division fund raiser. The Alleghany Western Mini-Meet will be Saturday September 14th. As of this writing we are in the final negotiations for the venue. So please keep the date in mind. Information about clinics and layouts that may be open will be posted on the Division website.

Bradley White, Superintendent

Contest Chair Report

The Bullet 2019 – MCR Convention 2019

Supplemental Report May 12, 2019

This year modules are included in the contest for the first time. Registered Modules:

T-TRAK - 69

HO - 13

NTrak - 13

Entries:

47 model entries (39 in 2018)

1 display entries (9 in 2018)

25 photo entries (66 in 2018)

0 arts and crafts entries (6 in 2018)

73 total entries (120 in 2018)

Awards given:

People's choice awards – 7

First Place Awards – 14

Second Place Awards – 11

Third Place Awards – 9

Merit Awards – 23

Special Award – Railroading in America Magazine's Outstanding Model Railroader

First place – 1

Second Place – 1

Third place – 1

Judging:



continued on next page

Contest Chair Report continued

15 Model and Module Judges

Chuck Altwies

Bob Belt

Rob Bennet

Evan Cihlar – Railroading in America Magazine (Attended as vendor and new Rail Pass Member)

Bruce DeMaeyer

David Ellis

Chuck Endreola

Rich Hartley

Mike Hauk

Lloyd Horst

Patrick Hreachmack

George Keller

Joe Martin

Allan Miller – O Gauge Railroading Magazine (attended as vendor)

Dan Mulhearn

Doug Sandmeyer

Lee Sheffield

Larry Smith

Cecil Stewart

Robert Teuber

Richard Turton

Dennis Vaccaro

3 Photo Judges – Sam Swanson, Bruce Hukill, Neil Schorr

3 Arts and Crafts judges - Bernadine Zapytowski, Karen Sanders, Kim Bradley (There were no Arts & Crafts Entries)

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Contest Chair Report continued

I wish to commend the Contest Administration Committee for the dedication to the region and the contest and the extremely smooth running of it. Apart from the traditional tasks of the contest they dealt with the entering of a large number of modules and the judging of many of those modules. We also have an interesting experiment underway this year that I will report upon in more detail in September BOD meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Zapytowski MMR®

MCR Contest Chair

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