

NMRA

The Kingpin

NMRA

Newsletter of the
Mid Central Region
National Model Railroad Association
July 2026



Photo Keith DeVault

The World's Greatest Hobby!

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Big Boy Comes East



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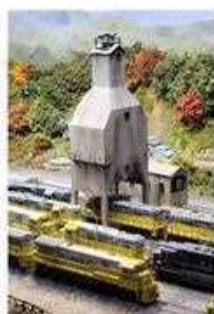


Welcome Back! **June 3-6, 2027**

*Our first NMRA
convention since 2018*



We've prepared tons of fun for everyone!



Abundant Premier Layouts!

Tours most Morns, Afts and Eves! Op Sessions
all 4 days! All layouts self-guided (no buses)
Special Thurs Afternoon Early-Bird Openings:
Bob Lawson (HO, new) and *Larry Bonhaus* (N)



Awesome Commercial Bus Tours!

Fantastic Rail Industry Prototype Tours
Fabulous General Interest Excursions
Special Tour of Cincinnati Union Terminal



Numerous Clinics & Workshops

Special Guests *Stephen & Cinthia Priest*,
Lou & Cheryl Sassi, Firecrown CEO *Craig Fuller*
3 Huge Clinic Rooms + Hands-on Workshops



Many Other In-Hotel Attractions

Extra Large White Elephant (Yard) Sale!
Model, Photo and Crafts Contests
Raffle, Company Store, T-Trak Layout
Hotel Layouts, Saturday Night Banquet



Register Now for Priority on Extra Fares & Ops

See <https://cincy-div7.org/2027-convention>





Abundant Layout Events

From 100 layouts, 47 published, 10 in GMR
 Bob Lawson and Larry Bonhaus on Thurs Aft
 Layout Open Houses most Morns, Afts, Eves
 Daily Operating Sessions, Hotel Layouts
 All layout transports self-guided (no buses)



Fantastic Industry Tours

Tentative

Precision Strip Steel Slitting
 Cohen Scrap Processing
 Distillery & Flour Milling
 Brighton Vessels, Tropicana
 Anchor Glass, Cinti Barge/Grain



Tentative

Fabulous Excursions

Cincinnati Union Terminal Special Tour
 American Sign Museum (2X size now)
 Findlay Market & Cinti Conservatory
 Behringer-Crawford Museum
 Jungle Jims International Market
 Fire Museum, Aquarium, Cinti Zoo



Wonderful Modern Hotel

Holiday Inn Cincinnati North (513) 874-2744
 I-75 & Union Center Blvd, West Chester, OH
 \$159/nite King or Two Queen Beds, Pre-Tax
Hotel reservations open Sept 1, 2026, made
 via on-line hotel link on convention website
 listed below, and via code "MCR 2027"

Great Guest Speakers

Craig Fuller, Lou & Cheryl Sassi,
 Cinthia & Stephen Priest, ...



Register Now!

\$90 Primary, \$30 Family (Spouse/Teen), Kids under 13 Free w/ Reg. Adult
 Early Bird manual reg. form available (sets priority for Extra Fares & Ops) on
<https://cincy-div7.org/2027-convention> – Full on-line reg. available Dec/Jan

**Draft
National Model Railroad Association
Mid Central Region
Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom**

**Winter 2025 Meeting
Minutes
January 16, 2026**

The meeting was called to order by President Jerry Doyle and began with a roll call led by Secretary Bruce DeMaeyer

Regional Officers

Jerry Doyle, President
Frank Trocchia, Vice President (proxy by Jerry Doyle)
Barbara Soward, Treasurer
Bruce DeMaeyer, Secretary

Superintendents

Division 1: Jim DiPaola
Division 2: Dennis Coglianese
Division 3: Ric Zimmerman
Division 4: Ron Morgan (late Arrival)
Division 5: Bill Osborne
Division 6: Dick Briggs (Proxied by Don Wilke)
Division 7: Tony Valerius
Division 8: Ron Ellison
Division 9: Sam Delauter (Proxied by Jerry Doyle)
Division 10: Larry Smith
Division 11: Al Crate
Division 12: Mike Hauk (Proxied by Brad White)

Committee Members

Membership – Paul Novak (Not attending)
Website – Don Wilke
Kingpin – Jim Heary
Education – Steve Zapytowski
Contests – Dave Williams
A/P – Dick Briggs (proxied by Don Wilke)
Technology – Jerry Doyle
T-Trak-N – Bruce DeMaeyer

Meeting summary

Quick Recap

The group approved new regulations that will allow for a legal convention in Dayton this year, with Bruce DeMaeyer working as the Convention Advisor. They also discussed the need for a 2028 convention host, with Bruce DeMaeyer suggesting they should focus on spreading conventions across the region's geography rather than concentrating them in one area. The meeting covered updates on division activities, website changes, and membership statistics, with Fred Soward noting the average age of region members is 73. The group also addressed the NMRA's rebranding initiative, discussing how division logos should be updated to meet new standards.

The meeting began with a discussion about technical issues with accessing a webpage, which Jerry resolved by entering the correct URL.

Jerry announced upcoming deadlines for various awards nominations, including the President's Award, Wendifer Award, and Director's Award, which would be due by March 15th and April 15th respectively.

Bruce DeMaeyer shared that he had found an error in the insurance policy information he submitted, which was caused by using an outdated membership list.

The minutes from the Winter 2026 BOD minutes were approved without any comments. Bruce DeMaeyer reported that he had corrected the spelling of John Birchnall's name in the agenda and minutes.

During the division reports, Dennis Coglianese announced that he would be stepping down from his position in Division 2 after serving four years, expressing gratitude for his time in office. Bruce DeMaeyer reminded the group that this will be a year in which the division teams will be elected for a two year term. The Current Division Clerk will report the results of the election including the names of the officers, their NMRA Membership Number and expiration date, and date of the end of the term.

The meeting covered updates from various divisions. Several divisions, including Division 4, Division 5, and Division 6, shared updates on their activities and membership status, while Division 9 discussed their new meeting format focusing on specific topics.

Division 8 mentioned launching a new website, and Division 10 and Division 11 reported steady membership and activities.

Dayton Convention Planning and Updates

The meeting covered updates on convention planning, with Eric Zimmerman reporting over 26 clinician commitments and 19 layout tours, though registration numbers were concerning. with and Eric Zimmerman reporting progress on convention planning but expressing concern about low registration numbers.

Bruce DeMaeyer clarified that a \$1,000 budget reimbursement allocation for awards plaques was approved last year. Bruce DeMaeyer confirmed a (not to exceed) \$1,000 budget allocation for awards plaques, clarifying it was for reimbursement rather than a stipend.

NMRA Logo Rebranding Update

The discussion then focused on NMRA rebranding efforts, particularly regarding logo changes. Fred clarified that divisions are responsible for updating their logos to the new single-color design, with guidance available in previous e-bulletins. Steve Zapytowski raised concerns about not receiving the e-bulletins, which Fred attributed to possibly incorrect email addresses and advised contacting headquarters. Bruce DeMaeyer DeMaeyer inquired about convention logos, and Fred noted that while the branding team had considered them, they decided to stay away from them. Tony Valarius mentioned that the Cincinnati convention shirts had already been printed with the old logo, but future conventions would need to align with the new branding.

Graphic Standards and MCR Regulations Updates

The meeting then focused on two main topics: graphic standards and MCR regulations changes. Fred shared a PDF containing the new graphic standards and type fonts, noting that the fonts were successfully downloaded on various devices. Bob Shreve presented proposed changes to MCR regulations, including renaming the Region Convention Manager to Region Convention Advisor and adjusting timing of conventions and board meetings. The board approved these changes, allowing for more flexibility in scheduling and better coordination between the region president and convention advisor.

NMRA Membership and Financial Updates

The meeting covered several topics, including the demographics of NMRA membership, with Jerry noting the average member age of 73 and a median age of 76.

Bruce DeMaeyer reported on insurance policy information, emphasizing the importance of accurate membership status and payment dates, and mentioned plans to improve the process for the next year. Barbara Soward updated the group on the Regions financial status, noting the recent expenses for the achievement program and awards.

Project Updates and Initiatives

The group discussed several updates and ongoing projects. Don Wilke reported updates to the officers' website, which is now more compatible with Vision 2035 and features the new logo. Jim Heary provided an update on the Kingpin newsletter, mentioning he received information from Eric Zimmerman and Bruce DeMaeyer and will work on the next issue. Dave Williams, the publisher, informed the group about changes to MailChimp's rules and the associated costs. Bruce DeMaeyer shared details about a new T-Track operating session concept, which will feature an isolated segment of the layout and is gaining interest from multiple divisions.

2027 Cincinnati Convention Planning Update

The group discussed the 2027 Cincinnati Convention, with Tony Valerius reporting that John Burchnall is working on securing major attractions and that advanced registration will open soon. They reviewed convention merchandise, including shirts available at cost with multiple delivery options.

NMRA Region Updates and Questionnaire

Fred announced that Jerry will host tomorrow's RAC call while Fred attends a board meeting, and shared that he has prepared a simplified presentation for the Mid-Central Region Convention. Fred discussed a new questionnaire from NMRA National, created by Bob Weinheimer and Jonathan Smalls, which will be distributed through Jerry to gather input from division superintendents about their activities and successes. Don Wilke informed Fred about a new MCR website URL, which he had previously sent to superintendents via email. Fred encouraged anyone with concerns or issues to reach out through Groups.io or the NMRA Magazine, and provided his email address for direct contact.

National Convention and NMRA Rebranding

Fred and Jerry discussed the upcoming National Convention in Chattanooga and registration issues. Jerry agreed to look into the registration problems and report back to Fred. Steve inquired about the educational video and clinic lists, which Don Wilke explained were available on the Officer's archive website. Jerry mentioned the ongoing discussion about NMRA rebranding, including the new region logo from National. Fred requested Jerry to spell out the full name of the National Model Railroad Association, indicating it would not be used in Division 8.

Branding Initiative and Logo Updates

Fred shared updates on the branding initiative, noting that national and regional logos are being added to a graphics page, expected to be ready in about a month and a half. He emphasized that convention logos should align with the new branding standards, and suggested working with the branding team to achieve consistency. Fred also mentioned that leadership team members are wearing blue logo shirts at recent conventions. The group discussed challenges with the readability

Project Updates and Initiatives

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Revisions to the Regulations

The meeting focused on revising regulations related to the timing of conventions, board of directors meetings, and general membership meetings. Bob Schreve presented changes that allow for more flexibility in scheduling, including moving the convention timeframe to mid-April to mid-June and allowing the annual BOD meeting to be held during the regional convention. The group approved these changes, with Jerry noting that they now have the flexibility to hold a legal convention in Dayton. Bruce DeMaeyer acknowledged Bob's hard work in bringing these changes to fruition, which he believes will set the region up for the next 5-6 years.

2028 Convention Planning Strategy

The meeting focused on the 2028 convention planning, with Bruce DeMaeyer highlighting the need to balance geographical distribution of conventions across the region to improve attendance. Jerry and Fred discussed the challenges of hosting conventions, including manpower issues and the need for better planning and financial management. The group agreed to have further discussions on the convention location and to ensure all past convention reports are submitted and accessible, with Don Wilke offering to help digitize and archive them.

Collection of Next Steps

- Jerry Doyle: [Forward the NMRA division superintendent questionnaire email \(regarding division activities and success stories\) to all division superintendents, and ensure responses are sent back to NMRA.](#)
- All Division Superintendents: Respond to the NMRA national questionnaire about division activities and success stories when received from Jerry.
- Don Wilke: Send updated logins for the Officer's Archive (including graphics page) to all relevant officers. [Send out the updated website URL and archive links \(including logins\) to all relevant officers and webmasters.](#)
- Don Wilke: Continue updating the Officer's Archive, including uploading the educational video list and clinic list, and add national/region/division logos to the graphics page (target: within about 1.5 months).

- Steve Zapitowski: Forward updated clinic list to Don Wilke for posting on the Officer's Archive.
- Jerry Doyle: Review the NMRA national convention registration page and follow up with Fred regarding any issues encountered during registration. Fred Soward: Reach out to NMRA headquarters regarding registration page issues once details are provided by Jerry Doyle.
- Bruce DeMaeyer and Jerry Doyle: Discuss and coordinate outreach to divisions to solicit bids for the 2028 convention, with a focus on encouraging northern divisions, and report progress before the spring meeting.
- All Divisions (especially those who hosted conventions in the last 10-15 years): Ensure final convention reports are submitted to Don Wilke for inclusion in the Officer's Archive; check with Don Wilke for a list of missing reports.
Don Wilke: Send out a list to the group indicating which convention reports are missing from the Officer's Archive.
- Bruce DeMaeyer: Ensure Ray Persing is aware of the correct reimbursement policy for contest plaques (up to \$1,000 from the region).
- All Division Superintendents: Support and promote convention registration within their divisions to increase attendance for the upcoming convention. Division Superintendents and Officers: Review the new MCR website URL and report any outdated information or errors to Jerry Doyle, Bruce DeMaeyer, and Don Wilke for updates.
- Division Officers considering logo rebranding: Reach out to Division 10 or others with graphics design capability for assistance with logo updates as needed.
- Tony Valerius/2027 Cincinnati Convention Team: Continue firming up major attractions (excursions, layouts, clinics) before the Dayton convention for advertising/promotion purposes.
- Dave Williams (Contest/Kingpin): Monitor MailChimp cost changes and report to the group if increased funding is needed (to be discussed in June).
- Don Wilke: Update the main website and subpages for compatibility with Vision 2035 and the new logo.
- Bruce DeMaeyer: Support the new T-Track ops session concept for the convention, including coordination with Kevin Squires for scriptwriting and layout participation.
- Bob Shreve: Ensure all changes to MCR regulations are distributed and implemented.
- All Officers: Review the new MCR regulations and ensure compliance, especially regarding timing and reporting for future conventions.

Jerry Called for meeting adjournment

Mid Central Regional 2026 Contest Winners

Passenger Car



First Place CNR 653 Erie-Stillwell Coach Eric Zimmerman Division 03



Mid Central Regional 2026 Contest Winners

Caboose



First Place

HOn30 Caboose

James Foster Division 03



Second Place

Buffalo Terminal Transfer Caboose

Christopher Stilson Division 03

Mid Central Regional 2026 Contest Winners

Diesel and Other Locomotive



First Place

Midland Atlantic SW1500 #1012 and Slug 1770

Anthony Parish Division 09



Second Place

Burlington ESA

Mid Central Regional 2026 Contest Winners

Display



First Place

Camp on Cheat Mountain

Randy Allio Division 09



Second Place Atlantic & Ohio Portable Layout James Foster Division 03

Mid Central Regional 2026 Contest Winners

Freight Car



First Place NMRA Bulletin Refrigerator Car Will Davis Division 03



Second Place

Wiscasset Waterville & Farmington Railway Car No 303

James Foster Division 03

Freight Car continued

Mid Central Regional 2026 Contest Winners

Freight Car



Third Place

MK42 Gun Mount

Bob Frankrone Division 08



Mid Central Regional 2026 Contest Winners

Steam Locomotive



First Place

4 Wheel Climax Locomotive (On30)

Phillip Gliebe Division 03



Mid Central Regional 2026 Contest Winners

Traction



First Place

Buffalo Terminal Traction Motor E108

Christopher Stilson Division 03



Mid Central Regional 2026 Contest Winners

Structure



First Place

Boring Iron & Timber

Steve Zapytowski MMR Division 01

Mid Central Regional 2026 Contest Winners

Structure



Second Place

Coaling Tower

Ed Lamprecht



Third Place

PRR Elevated Watch Box

Larry Tsekopp

Mid Central Regional 2026 Contest Winners

Best Of Show



King Wreckers

Sam Swanson MMR

Division 07

Mid Central Regional 2026 Contest Winners

Photo Prototype B&W Print



First Place

CSX Coal Drag

Keith DeVault Division 02



Mid Central Regional 2026 Contest Winners

Photo Prototype B&W Print



Second Place

CSX Under Signal Bridge

Keith DeVault Division 02



Third Place

Moore Keppel Climax 3, Highballing for History

Herbert Parsons Division 09

Mid Central Regional 2026 Contest Winners

Photo Prototype Color Print



First Place

CSX Under Signal Bridge

Keith DeVault



Second Place

CSX in Fall Colors

Keith DeVault

Mid Central Regional 2026 Contest Winners

Photo Prototype Color Print



Third Place

CSX in Snow

Keith DeVault

Division 02

Mid Central Regional 2026 Contest Winners

Photo Model Color Print



First Place

Norfolk Southern Wide Cabs at MP 150,3

Neal Schorr

Mid Central Regional 2026 Contest Winners

Photo Model Color Print



Second Place

Penn Central TV Train at Port Royal

Neal Schorr

Division 02

Third Place

PRR PA's Crossing
Tuscarora
Creek at Port
Royal

Neal Schorr

Division 02



Mid Central Regional 2026 Contest Winners

Photo Model B&W Print

If this category was evaluated, we didn't receive the results. We've included all entries.



Moore Keppel Climax #3, Highballing for History

Herbert Parsons Division 09

Mid Central Regional 2026 Contest Winners

Photo Model B&W Print



CSX Coal Drag Keith DeVault Division 02

NMRA



Mid Central Regional 2026 Contest Winners

Photo Model B&W Print



Chessie Starting Up Grade

Keith DeVault Division 02

Mid Central Regional 2026 Contest Winners

Photo Model B&W Print



Chessie EB at Sand Patch

Keith DeVault Division 02

Mid Central Regional 2026 Contest Winners

T-TRAK



First Place

Mike DeSensi



Mid Central Regional 2026 Contest Winners

T-TRAK



Second Place Don Hoffman



Third Place Scott Moline

Popular Vote



T-Trak

Don Hoffman



Popular Vote



Favorite Locomotive

4 Wheel Climax Locomotive (On30)

Philip Gliebe

Division 03



nmra coal division
model railroading in the digital age



Popular Vote



Favorite Car

NMRA Bulletin Refrigerator Car

Wil Davis

Division 03



MID CENTRAL
REGION

Popular Vote



Favorite Structure

Boring Iron & Timber

Steve Zapytowski MMR

Division 01

Popular Vote



Favorite Display

King Wreckers

Sam Swanson MMR

Division 07

Popular Vote



Favorite Prototype Photo

CSX in the Snow

Keith DeVault

Division 02

Popular Vote



Favorite Model Photo

PRR PA's Crossing Tuscarora Creek at Port Royal

Neal Schorr

Division 02

BIG BOY COMES EAST

Submitted by Ron Smith Division 11

One of the most talked about railfan events in recent years is occurring this summer, as the UP "Big Boy" 4014 makes a tour east the Mississippi. The tour has rolled across Illinois, Indiana, northern Ohio, the northwest corner of Pennsylvania and across New York before turning south to Scranton and Philadelphia. It has been met at every stop by large crowds, and most every grade crossing drew people trackside to watch it pass by. Near Scranton, the Reading and Northern also put on a show by operating its 4-8-4 # 2102 alongside.

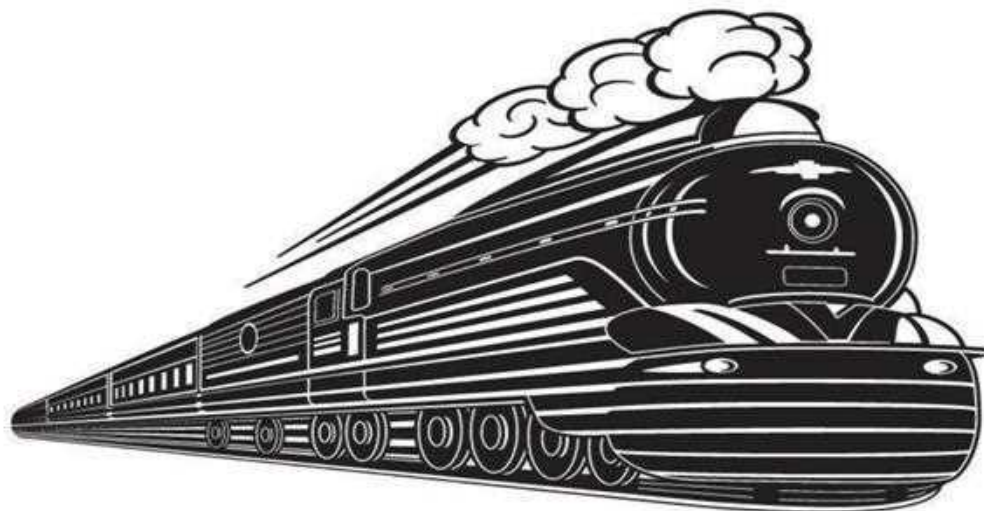


After celebrating July 4th in Philadelphia, the train will head west through Harrisburg, and continue on the former PRR to Altoona, Cresson, Greensburg and Pittsburgh before turning northwest back to Ohio and home.



TRAIN SHOW & SALE

OUR 36TH YEAR



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2026 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

**HOLY FAMILY PARISH SAFFIN CENTER
3938 POPLAR LEVEL RD, LOUISVILLE, KY 40213**

- MODEL TRAINS IN ALL SCALES
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DIVISION 8 - MID CENTRAL REGION**

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

WEBSITE: <http://div8-mcr-nmra.org>

ADVANCE TICKETS



TRAIN SHOW INFORMATION



WEBSITE



RAILFEST 2027

Model Trains - Collectibles - Memorabilia

Saturday & Sunday

March 20 & 21, 2027

10am - 4pm

Held at Lakeland since 1987



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State Rt. 306 at Interstate 90 - exit 193

**Free
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Two Day Pass	\$14.00
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(2 Adults with Children under 18)	

Food Service Available
at reasonable prices



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- * Historical Displays *
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- * Collectibles *

For More Information:

www.railfest.org

Email: railfest@mcr5.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/RailfestTrainshow

Railfest

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