

NMRA BULLETIN

Changed your address or other membership information?

Notify headquarters by email:
nmrahq@aol.com

by phone: 423-892-2846 (9am – 4:30pm, ET)
or by mail to the address listed under “Administration Department Manager” below.

DEPARTMENT & PROGRAM MANAGERS

Administrative Department Manager — Jenny Hendricks
4121 Cromwell Rd
Chattanooga, TN 37421-2119
O: 423-892-2846 Fax: 423-899-4869
e-mail: nmrahq@aol.com

Education Department Manager — John M. Lowrance, MMR
8611 Norwich Dr.
San Antonio, Texas 78217
(210) 822-2628
e-mail: educate@hq.nmra.org

Education Department Assistant Manager — Fred Bock, MMR
5923 Windhaven Dr.
San Antonio, Texas 78234-2132
(210) 653-5947 e-mail: fbock4@aol.com

Howell Day Museum Manager — John E. Roberts, MMR (O)
104 Heritage Pointe
Williamsburg, VA 23188-7894
H: 757-345-3797 O: 757-345-3118
Fax: 757-345-6944
e-mail: museum@hq.nmra.org

Information Technology Department Tim Klevar
13570 Grove Drive #227
Maple Grove, MN 55331
(612) 293-8698
itmgr@hq.nmra.org

Kalmbach Memorial Library Manager — Brent Lambert
4121 Cromwell Rd, Chattanooga, TN 37421
O: 423-894-8144 Fax: 423-899-4869
e-mail: lib@hq.nmra.org

Fund Raising Department Manager — Vacant
If interested in this position, contact Mike Brestel

MAP Department (Marketing, Advertising, Promotion) Manager — Tom Draper, HLM, DSA, FA
10837 N 34th Place
Phoenix, AZ 85028-3310
H: (602) 953-1681 Fax (602) 953-0751
e-mail: map@hq.nmra.org

Meetings and Trade Show Department Manager — Henry Jordan, HLM (N)
3200 N. Leisure World Blvd #116
Silver Spring, MD 20906
O:(301) 598-0175 F:(301) 598-0176
e-mail: conv@hq.nmra.org

Member Services Department Manager — Howard Goodwin
79 Cross Branches
Acworth, GA 30101
(770) 529-2103
e-mail: horn69@bellsouth.net

NMRA Communications Director Gerry Leone, MMR
6459 Smithtown Road
Excelsior, MN 55331
gerryleone@earthlink.net

Publications Department Manager — Larry DeYoung (HO, O)
54 Waterloo Rd
Devon, PA 19333-1458
H: 610-293-9098 Fax: 610-293-1715
e-mail: pubs@hq.nmra.org

Standards and Conformance Department Manager—Didrik A. Voss, MMR (HO)
15226 12th Dr SE
Mill Creek, WA 98012-3082
O: 425-337-5222 F: 425-337-6084
e-mail: tech-chair@hq.nmra.org

REGION PRESIDENTS

Australasian Region—David Howarth
22 Kamilaroy Road, West Pymble NSW 2073
H: 61 2 9498 4995 M: 61 411 555 588
e-mail: president@nmra.org.au

British Region—Robin Swan
H:(44) 1189-792448 e-mail: brprez@hq.nmra.org

Lone Star Region—Bill McPherson
4402 Vista Creek Dr. Rowlett, TX 75088-1818
H: (972) 463-9721
e-mail: lsrprez@hq.nmra.org

Mid-Central Region—Richard A. Briggs, MMR
4397 Hidden St Grove City, OH 43123
e-mail: mcrprez@hq.nmra.org

Mid-Continent Region—Paul Richardson, MMR
1703 NE 181st Street, Smithville, MO 64089
(H) 816-866-4043
e-mail: mcorprez@hq.nmra.org

Mid-Eastern Region—John Janosko
264 White Cedar Lane, Youngsville NC 27596-9196
H: (919) 562-0260 e-mail: merprez@hq.nmra.org

Midwest Region—Bill Litkenhous
2509 Windwood Dr., Bedford, IN 47421
H: (812) 275-3634 e-mail: mwrprez@hq.nmra.org

Niagara Frontier Region—Richard Roth
PO Box 309, Waterford PA 16441-0309
814-796-0133
e-mail: nfrprez@hq.nmra.org

North Central Region—Jack Watson
31683 Hiddenbrook Drive
Chesterfield Twp., MI 48087
H: (586) 598-7407 e-mail: ncrprez@hq.nmra.org

Northeastern Region—George ‘Scooter’ Youst
104 Bent Tree Lane, Baldwinsville, NY 13027
H: (315) 303-0100 e-mail: nerprez@hq.nmra.org

Pacific Coast Region—Ron Plies, MMR
921 11th St., P.O. Box 950, Fortuna, CA 95540
H: (707) 725-9063 e-mail: pcrprez@hq.nmra.org

Pacific Northwest Region—Walt Huston
1210 141st Street E., Tacoma WA 98445
H: (253) 535-2043 e-mail: pnrprez@hq.nmra.org

Pacific Southwest Region—Don Fowler
10768 Sayers Ct., San Diego, CA 92071
H: (619) 787-1930 e-mail: psrprez@hq.nmra.org

Rocky Mountain Region—Harold S. Huber Jr.
1405 Dana Ave., Sheridan, WY 82801-2405
H: (307) 672-8471 e-mail: rnrprez@hq.nmra.org

Southeastern Region—Joe Gelmini
170 Camelot Dr, Fayetteville, GA 30214
H: (770) 460-8873 e-mail: serprez@hq.nmra.org

Sunshine Region—Barrett Johnson
3113 Ortega Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32312-1832
(850) 385-9722
e-mail: ssrprez@hq.nmra.org

Thousand Lakes Region—Gerry Miller
1040 Hawkeye Drive, Dubuque, IA 52001
e-mail: tlrprez@hq.nmra.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS WINTER MEETING REPORT

“Rail merger” highlights NMRA winter BOD meeting

What has to rank as the most unusual order of business at an NMRA Board of Directors meeting was the marriage of Regional Advisory Council director Bob Ferguson to Darlene Burgess. The nuptials took place during the last day of the winter BOD meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., which was held February 23–24, 2011. Bob, whose term ends in July, was also honored for his years of service as a director.



Jenny Hendricks promoted to Chief Administrative Officer

With the Board's enthusiastic support, president Mike Brestel announced the promotion of headquarters office manager Jenny Hendricks to become the NMRA's first Chief Administrative Officer. She will report to the president and to a designated HQ-BOD liaison officer, currently Eastern director John Roberts.

Two VPs authorized

The BOD authorized revising NMRA By-Laws to make the election of two vice presidents – administration and special projects – a permanent change. Some aspects of this change are being refined for review at the Sacramento BOD meeting.

Diamond Club fund drive

The Diamond Club fund drive, created to help underwrite the costs of scanning the 100,000-plus images in the NMRA ar-

chives in Chattanooga, Tenn., has surpassed the initial goal of \$75,000 and is edging toward the \$100,000 mark. This will allow more of the collection to be scanned than we initially hoped, although the estimate for scanning our entire image collection is \$300,000 to \$400,000. Revenues generated by image sales will contribute to the scanning work.

To date, we have spent about \$70,000 on the hardware (including a backup server at headquarters), site software, and scans of 5,000 images. The initial archive scans are now available for viewing and purchase at <http://archive.nmra.org/>, or via a direct link from www.nmra.org.

NMRA merchandise

The Board unanimously agreed that in the future all merchandise sold by the NMRA, including by Regions and Divisions, must conform to any applicable NMRA standards. Questions about certifying whether products conform to standards should be directed to Didrik Voss, who heads the Standards and Conformance Department.

Achievement Program's 50th anniversary

The 50th anniversary year for the popular Achievement Program that leads to Master Model Railroader status is at hand, but it's not clear whether it's more appropriate to celebrate that anniversary in 2011 or 2012. AP officials and the Sacramento convention host group are working to resolve the date for the official celebration.

“Out-of-the-box” National Conventions

The Board is investigating the feasibility and potential popularity of occasional National Conventions that are markedly different from those currently scheduled. It is much too early to discuss specifics, but members should be aware of these deliberations.

Two possible examples: a return to the United Kingdom, where we held our 1971 “national” convention; and a combination cruise-convention, perhaps along the West Coast from Vancouver to San Diego with stops for layout and prototype tours in Seattle, Portland, and San Francisco, and the National Train Show in San Diego. Clinics would be held while at sea. The cost per day

for a cruise convention should be less than that typically spent on headquarters-hotel lodging and meals, since both are included in the price of a cruise, and low fares are often available through the cruise line.

The Board is also reviewing the timing of the convention. A mid-summer date has become almost a tradition because of the lower hotel and convention center rates over the Fourth of July weekend. But this isn't a popular time with many NMRA members, either, because of family functions and summer temperatures and humidity.

Constructive suggestions for these and other convention formats may be directed to the Convention Committee headed by Pacific Director Peter Jensen.

Regular communications with all members

The downside of allowing members to opt out of subscribing to the *NMRA MAGAZINE* is that they therefore cut themselves off from our main communications channel. The BOD is therefore investigating various means of sending regular communications to the approximately 4,000 NMRA members who do not subscribe.

The seemingly obvious solution – to email regular news bulletins to all members – is only a partial solution, as a substantial portion of our membership tells us that they do not have access to email. While it is clear that the Internet and World Wide Web will play increasingly important roles in NMRA communications and the delivery of value to all members, the BOD appreciates the plight of those who do not have Net or Web access.

A team is investigating print-based alternatives and the inherent cost implications, and the BOD will receive a detailed report at the Sacramento BOD meeting.

“Why I'm not renewing”

Communications director Gerry Leone reported on a questionnaire included with all membership renewal notices for the past year-and-a-half. Those who had decided not to renew their memberships were asked to return the survey, checking as many reasons as they felt were applicable. We received feedback from 526 former members (at their own expense).

The most commonly cited reasons were “don't see the benefits of membership” (39 percent), “not enough value” (31 percent),

and “can’t afford it” (29 percent). The average age was 65 or older, so all three categories could reflect our (and the hobby’s) aging demographics (hence fixed incomes) and the poor economy. Another 22 percent cited age or infirmities.

Gerry is now investigating or publicizing various member-retention programs – what he called “new stuff.” This includes the new members-only section of our nmra.org website; an Ask the Masters interactive section of the members-only site where members can post questions that will be answered by Master Model Railroaders or other subject-matter experts in a much more timely manner than can be done via print media; a “clinic in a box” program; “push” email; podcasts; new and updated online Data Sheets; and electronic access to significant articles published in Region and Division periodicals as well as notable articles from past issues of *THE BULLETIN* and *SCALE RAILS*. MMR Pete Magoun is heading the Ask the Masters program, and professional engineers David Johnson and Van Fehr are managing the Data Sheet program.

Financial report

Chief financial officer Frank Koch reported that the NMRA ended fiscal year 2010 with a \$300,000 surplus, the result of better-than-expected dues and non-dues income, lower-than-expected expenses, and several significant bequests. The BOD unanimously approved the budget committee’s budget recommendation for 2011. A summary of the 2011 budget will appear in the *NMRA MAGAZINE* and will be posted on our website.

NMRANET standard adopted

The board reviewed two versions of S-9.x.1 for the definition of the physical layer of the layout control bus called NMRANET. The version modified by Didrik Voss, manager of the Standards & Conformance Dept., was adopted. With this approval, the sponsors for the other version will be invited to present their concerns to the Board at the Sacramento meeting. S-9.x.1 was re-designated as S-9.5.1 and will be posted on the NMRA web site.

Several manufacturers of electronics for model railroading have been waiting for this new NMRA standard so they can adopt it for their product line.

Modern clearance standards

The increasing popularity of model railroads set in the modern era has led to

requests for an NMRA Standards Gauge that reflects the increased vertical clearances needed for modern railroad equipment such as double-stacks. The BOD approved the addition of two new tables to S-7 to accommodate modern clearances. S&C Department head Di Voss is also investigating an adjunct to the current Standards Gauge that will allow modelers to ensure that overhead structures and tunnel portals will clear modern equipment.

Standards work disconnect

When vice president-special projects Bill Kaufman contacted Region presidents about their views on the three most important things the NMRA should be doing, he received some helpful feedback from the 11 (of 17) presidents who took time to respond. One topic of almost universal concern was securing 501(c)3 non-profit status for Regions and Divisions, and the Board has requested that clinics on this important topic be presented at National conventions and made available to officers on a DVD.

A key omission in their feedback was comment about our Standards work, which was the reason the NMRA was founded in the first place and remains our primary mission. Consider, for example, the problems we’d all face were it not for NMRA track and wheel standards as well as our role with Digital Command Control standards. But this is a hard sell at the Region and Division level, especially among non-members who see our standards efforts on behalf of the entire model railroad industry as being available to them free of charge. Obviously, someone has to pay for this critical work with both volunteer time and money, so a major education program is needed.

BOD meeting announcements and sites

There are two face-to-face Board of Directors meetings each year. One is held on the Friday and Saturday preceding the NMRA National Convention, and this will again be the case at Sacramento, California, this year. The other is held in the winter, typically mid- to late-February. The dates and location are typically given in the president’s commentary several months in advance, and this information is sent out multiple times by communications director Gerry Leone in his InfoNet email reports to all Region presidents and Division superintendents.

It’s apparent that this important information is not being passed along to all

members, so additional channels may be used to announce these dates. But it remains the responsibility of the Region and Division officials to pass along key information about National events after they are so notified by the communications director. Members who do not regularly receive National news updates should contact their local officials.

The site for the winter BOD meeting is based on hotel room rates as well as good airfares and service. Despite regular email and occasional telephone conversations among directors, officers, and department heads, the Board believes that at least two annual face-to-face meetings are crucial to promote understanding of key issues and to permit everyone to understand each officer’s and director’s position on matters of critical importance to the proper operation of a million-dollar-plus corporation. For less critical meetings, alternatives such as Internet-based conference calls have been authorized.

Sacramento “unconventional” convention

Ray deBlieck, chairman of the 2011 NMRA National Convention in Sacramento (July 3–9), reported that registrations have passed the 1,325 mark, and hotel room-night guarantees have been met. The convention is on track to continue the strong upward attendance trend established by our 75th anniversary convention in Milwaukee.

Those who plan to arrive the weekend prior to the official start of the National Convention may want to participate in a mini-convention centered in Newark, Calif. This location provides ready access to several of the world-famous layouts in the Bay Area. Ray also noted that self-guided layout tours will be available, but a GPS will be required.

One caveat: The convention center does not permit videotaping of any activities inside the building.

Gallery exhibit at California museum

Creating a scale model railroading exhibit in the Gallery area of the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento, Calif., remains a major goal of the Officers and Directors. The Sacramento museum is one of the West Coast’s top tourist destinations and is operated by a professional staff. North American at-large district director Charlie Getz, Eastern district director

John Roberts, Narrow Gauge & Short Line Gazette publisher Bob Brown, and others continue to work this issue on behalf of the NMRA and its Howell Day Museum.

Those attending the National Convention in Sacramento will have a chance to see the Gallery exhibit area and proposal drawings. Watch for important announcements in the magazine and on our website concerning the CSRM Gallery Exhibit in the near future.

Outgoing directors and notables honored

Outgoing Canadian director Clark Kooning received the President’s Award for 21 years of service as an NMRA official. Outgoing RAC director (and newlywed) Bob Ferguson also received the President’s Award for his long-standing service to the Association.

The winter 2011 BOD meeting was adjourned in honor of long-time member and contest official Dean Freytag of Ashland, O., and noted railfan editor, author, and photographer Jim Boyd of Cranberry Lakes, N.J., as well as in honor of outgoing directors Clark Kooning and Bob Ferguson and retiring Meetings and Trade Show Department manager Henry Jordan, who is wrapping up more than three decades of service to the NMRA.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

NMRA AP CERTIFICATE REPORT FEBRUARY 2011

GOLDEN SPIKE Northeastern Region

W. Clifford Coutinho, New Bedford, Massachusetts

Niagara Frontier Region

Peter Landry, Brantford, Ontario
John Wagner, E. Baden, Ontario

Rocky Mountain Region

Jon Bennett, Denver, Colorado
Keevan Burnside, Golden, Colorado
Don Strait, Northglenn, Colorado

MASTER BUILDER — CARS Mid-Continent Region

Robby Spencer, Smithville, Missouri

Pacific Northwest Region

Doug Wingfield, Lethbridge, Alberta

NOTICE OF 2012 ELECTIONS

The following NMRA Officers and Board of Directors positions are open for election in 2012:

1. President;
2. Vice-President, Administration
3. Vice President, Special Projects
4. Eastern District Director,
5. Pacific District Director, and
6. At-Large North America Director

Please check Article III, paragraph 12, of the NMRA Executive Handbook, EHB, located at http://www.nmra.org/national/organization/nmra_organization.html for the extent of the districts affected. Qualifications for candidates are listed in the EHB.

All submissions of candidates’ names for consideration by the Nominations Committee shall be submitted to Didrik Voss, Chairman of the Nominations Committee, davoss@pvmtengr.com, no later than June 15, 2011.

Candidates may wish to run for these positions by petition and not be subjected to the decisions of the Nominations Committee. Requirements for submitting by petition are contained in the EHB. All submissions by petition shall be received by the Secretary NMRA no later than July 31, 2011.

MASTER BUILDER — STRUCTURES

Pacific Northwest Region
Armand Cyr, Port Orchard, Washington

MASTER BUILDER — SCENERY

Pacific Northwest Region
Armand Cyr, Port Orchard, Washington

MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER — CIVIL

Pacific Northwest Region
Robert Beise, Woodinville, Washington
Donald Slee, Surrey, British Columbia
Doug Wingfield, Lethbridge, Alberta

MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER — ELECTRICAL

Mid-Eastern Region
John Siegle, Lynchburg, Virginia

Pacific Northwest Region
Armand Cyr, Port Orchard, Washington
Doug Wingfield, Lethbridge, Alberta

CHIEF DISPATCHER Lone Star Region

John T. Bailey, Granbury, Texas
Chuck Lind, MMR, College Station, Texas

Pacific Northwest Region
Ken Liesse, Kent, Washington

ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER Mid-Continent Region

Sheldon Levy, Lenexa, Kansas
William Scheener, Lee’s Summit, Missouri
Robby Spencer, Smithville, Missouri

Mid-Central Region

Gary Burdette, Point Pleasant, West Virginia
David James, Brecksville, Ohio

Pacific Northwest Region

Robert Beise, Woodinville, Washington
James Cook, Shoreline, Washington
Norm Curtis, Lynnwood, Washington
Ross Tabor, Federal Way, Washington

Thousand Lakes Region

John Givan, Montevideo, Minnesota
Curtis Radunz, Willmar, Minnesota
Jean Radunz, Willmar, Minnesota
Marlene Radunz, Spicer, Minnesota
Samuel Sherman, Franklin, Minnesota

MODEL RAILROAD AUTHOR North Central Region

William Gawthrop, Oakland, Michigan

Pacific Northwest Region

Norm Curtis, Lynnwood, Washington
Roger Walker, Calgary, Alberta
Doug Wingfield, Lethbridge, Alberta

MMR GROUP: All Master Model Railroaders (MMR) are invited to work with other MMRs by contacting Rick Shoup, MMR, at ricshoup@verizon.net. AP QUESTIONS: If you have questions about the AP program or requirements, start with your local or Region AP manager. If you still have questions, contact Frank Koch at fjkocho@hotmail.com. If you prefer to write, contact Frank at 4769 Silverwood Drive, Batavia, OH 45103.