

National Model Railroad Association
2014 Mid Year Board of Directors Meeting
February 15, 2014
Flamingo Hotel, Las Vegas, NV
Minutes

- 1) President Charlie Getz, HLM, called the meeting to order at 0839 15 February 2014.
- 2) President Charlie Getz, HLM, asked that all Directors, Officers, Department Managers, and Observers introduce themselves.
- 3) President Charlie Getz, HLM, welcomed the BOD. He reported that the BOD held a caucus on the evening of 14 February 2014. He announced that the 2015 Mid Year BOD Meeting would be February 20-22 in Phoenix, AZ. He introduced Mark "Fuzzy" Shafer as the new Train Show Manager.
- 4) CFO Frank Koch, HLM, presented a proxy for the absent ALWWD Mike Brestel, HLM. NMRA Canada President Clark Kooning, MMR, presented a proxy for the absent ALNAD Mike Yurgec.
- 5) The roll was called and all Directors, Officers, and Department Managers were present with the exception of ALWWD Mike Brestel, HLM, and ALNAD Mike Yurgec.
- 6) There has been no new correspondence since the last BOD Meeting.
- 7) EDD Joe Gelmini, MMR, presented his report as RAC Director Election Committee Chairman. He updated his report to indicate that he received a ballot from all 17 Region Presidents. The final tally was 9-8 in favor of Steven August. He stressed the fact that although the election took much longer than the schedule in the EHB, the initial results as of the original Dec 1, 2013 cutoff were in favor of Steven August and that at no time since that date did the voting swing in favor of Stephen Priest.
- 8) **MBOD14021501** Motion by EDD Joe Gelmini, MMR, to accept the RAC Director Election Committee report as amended. Seconded by PDD Mike Bartlett. Motion passed by voice vote.
- 9) **MBOD14021502** Motion by CFO Frank Koch, HLM, (Proxy ALWWD) to destroy the ballots. Seconded by WDD Jack Hamilton, MMR. Motion passed by voice vote.
- 10) The Consent Agenda was amended as shown below:
 - a) NMRA Canada President Clark Kooning, MMR, updated the BOD on the podcasts they have been using. This is another communication tool than can be used within the organization. We currently use three communication tools.
 1. The magazine is the most visible tool, but the lead time for dissemination of information is the longest. The magazine is only sent to members who subscribe except for the ballot issue.
 2. *eBulletin* is used to communicate directly with those members who have provided their email addresses.
 3. *InfoBlast* is used to communicate directly with the internal leadership to include those at the region and division level who provided their email addresses.
 - b) A discussion was held on the delivery of AP Certificates and MMR Plaques. There have been some issues in the past, but there have been some recent changes which should decrease the amount of time between the time the member submits his paperwork and the time he receives his certificate or plaque.

- 11) **MBOD14021503** Motion by WDD Jack Hamilton, MMR, that the Consent Agenda be accepted as amended. Second be CDD Pete Magoun, MMR. Motion passed by voice vote.
- 12) Meeting recessed at 0953.
- 13) Meeting reconvened at 1015.
- 14) CFO Frank Koch, HLM, led a detailed discussion of his Budget & Finance Report. We are in better financial shape this year due to more income than forecast and less spending by all department managers.
- 15) **MBOD14021504** Motion by CFO Frank Koch, HLM, (Proxy ALWWD) to move \$296,360 into the BOD Designated Reserve Fund. Second by WDD Jack Hamilton, MMR. Motion passed by voice vote.
- 16) A discussion was held about the sale of the HQ Building. CAO Jenny Hendricks and CFO Frank Koch, HLM, and the HQ Staff were all thanked for the great work they did during the sale of the HQ Building and the move to the Soddy Daisy facility.
- 17) The 2014 budget is lower due to a more conservative approach to the Cleveland Convention and an expectation of reduced advertising revenue.
- 18) **MBOD14021505** Motion by CAND Fred Headon, MMR, that the 2014 Budget be accepted. Seconded by EDD Joe Gelmini, MMR. Motion passed by voice vote.
- 19) RACD Stephen Priest, MMR, led a discussion about the Clinic Video Policy. A Clinic Video Policy Committee was formed at the last Annual Meeting in Atlanta due to some concerns about the tentative policy. COUNSEL clarified the original Clinic Video Policy to make it clear that the policy applies only to videotaping for commercial use. The committee made no changes to the tentative policy, so it has become the permanent policy.
- 20) WDD Jack Hamilton, MMR, led a discussion on the use of Constant Contact. The security of personal data continues to be a concern. It is felt by the BOD that Mail Chimp is probably a better communication tool for the Regions. ITDM agreed to prepare guidance for effective use of Mail Chimp to be provided to the Regions.
- 21) VP-ADMIN Dave Thornton led a discussion about the Website Profile Page. Most of the Leadership Team has submitted data and pictures. The page will be on the updated website.
- 22) MAPDM Paige Martin has to step down for health reasons. The new Manager will be John Parrish. Paige will stay on as VP Marketing.
- 23) President Charlie Getz, HLM, led a discussion on the California State Railroad Museum Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The museum is part of the California Department of Parks and Recreation. As such, it is a profit center for the State.
 - a) We are waiting for the State to finish the MOU for "The Magic of Scale Model railroading" Gallery Exhibit.
 - b) We have raised over \$600,000 for the Gallery Exhibit. The Design Contract is waiting for the State to return the MOU.
 - c) The MOU calls for the space for the Gallery Exhibit to be provided free of cost for 10 years renewable for another 10 years.
- 24) The Kalmbach Library transfer to the CSRMS is also waiting for the State of California to complete the MOU. When completed, we will fund a part time library employee and that expense is included in the 2014 budget.

- 25) WDD Jack Hamilton, MMR, led a discussion about the Member Discount Program. We are looking for a partnership with a big box store. The program has not proceeded very well with Home Depot. This can be attributed to the economy and a restructuring at Home Depot. We have not approached Lowe's because we have been looking for an answer from Home Depot. The Sponsorship Program Committee will work with Marketing Department to determine which corporation will be approached, when the approach will be made and how we will address the proposal. In addition, Menards Corporation has been added to the list of potential initial contact companies. The efforts to create a discount with Blue Ridge Scenic Railway will be more aggressively pursued and additional museums and scenic railways will be added to the potential partner list. Because of the nature of the effort, Marketing will exercise overall execution of the effort with assistance, as may be required from the existing Sponsorship Committee.
- 26) VP Marketing Department Paige Martin led a discussion about the Build A Memory program. The initial programs had some issues, but for the most part went well. We hope to have a more developed program for next fall.
- 27) The BOD went into Executive Session at 1135.
- 28) The BOD came out of Executive Session at 1205 and the meeting was recessed.
- 29) The meeting was reconvened at 1335.
- 30) ITDM Ben Sevier led a discussion about the IT Consolidation and Website Redesign.
- a) The new website is almost ready.
 - b) Each department manager will be able to update the sections of the website that they are responsible for.
 - c) The membership will be able access some of their own personal information and will have the ability to update
 - d) The new server has mailbox capability. The new mailboxes will replace the current alias system. This system also has a better spam filter.
- 31) **MBOD14021506** (Attachment B) Motion made by WDD Jack Hamilton, MMR, to institute Email Mailboxes. Seconded by RACD Stephen Priest, MMR. Motion withdrawn because it is already being implemented by the IT Department. ITDM will advise the BOD of the implementation date for the Mailboxes.
- 32) RACD Stephen Priest, MMR, gave a presentation proposing the 2018 National Convention be held in Kansas City. There are no other bids for the 2018 convention.
- 33) **MBOD14021507** Motion by WDD Jack Hamilton, MMR, to approve the site of the 2018 NMRA Convention and Train Show as Kansas City as presented. Seconded by CAND Fred Headon, MMR. Motion passed on voice vote
- 34) **MBOD14021508** (Attachment C) Motion by CAND Fred Headon, MMR to accept the International Voting Procedures. Seconded by PDD Mike Bartlett. Motion passed on voice vote.
- 35) President Charlie Getz, HLM, led a discussion on the Vertical Integration process.
- a) The NMRA is currently an Ohio Corporation.
 - b) A Missouri Corporation has been formed.
 - c) The IRS 501c3 paperwork is almost finished and will be forwarded to the IRS for their review process which could take up to 12 months.

- d) Once these processes are completed, we will start the vertical integration plan with the Regions and Divisions.
- 36) RACD Stephen Priest, MMR, led a discussion on NMRANet to include a discussion of the copyright issues. The NMRANET Committee will present the proposed standard to the BOD for adoption consideration at the 2014 Annual Meeting in Cleveland.
- 37) Meeting recessed at 1525.
- 38) Meeting reconvened at 1540.
- 39) **MBOD14021509** (Attachment D) Motion made by WDD Jack Hamilton, MMR to accept Revised Membership Categories Motion. Seconded by NMRA Canada President Clark Kooning, MMR. Motion withdrawn because the Marketing Department is already working on this project.
- 40) **MBOD14021510** (Attachment E) Motion to accept Annual Membership Meeting Motion as amended. Seconded by PDD Mike Bartlett. Motion failed on a vote of 2-6-1. Most of the BOD Members who voted against the amendment felt that it is not appropriate to set a firm time and date for the meeting, but should allow the Convention Committee the flexibility of scheduling the meeting, which is required by the EHB. MSTDM did agree to look at the Friday evening time frame as a potential better time for the annual membership meeting to maximize attendance while limiting potential impact on the Convention Clinic Schedule.
- 41) **MBOD14021511** (Attachment F) Motion by ADD Kathy Millat to accept the motion to form a European Region as amended. Seconded by CAND Fred Headon, MMR. Motion passed on voice vote. (Note: At the time of the meeting, we could not verify that there were 50 members in good standing who had completed a petition.)
- 42) President Charlie Getz, HLM, reported that Bob Ferguson's position has been redefined as Membership Retention Services.
- 43) VP Marketing Paige Martin reported that they are looking for someone with social media experience to get the organization more involved in social media. He also reported on the Build-A-Memory Program. They hope to expand the program into three modes. They are the "Home Depot" mode, the Train Show mode, and the ongoing public clinics mode.
- 44) President Charlie Getz, HLM, led a discussion about the future of the RAC. The RAC has never lived up to expectations. The hope is that recent improvements in the communication with the Region Presidents and a new RAC Director will be able to rejuvenate the RAC.
- 45) SCDM Di Voss, MMR, led a discussion about the Standards and Conformance Self-Certification Program. He reported that manufacturers are now considering the certification program during product development. The BOD ratified the program as proposed.
- 46) President Charlie Getz, HLM, led a discussion on Division Boundaries.
- a) Division Boundaries are not controlled by National as Divisions are defined by the Regions.
- b) It is felt by the BOD that members should be able to move into any Division that he chooses.
- 47) President Charlie Getz, HLM, led a discussion about Director/Officer accessibility. The leadership Team is attempting to have at least one Director/Officer at each Region Convention. WDD Jack Hamilton also presented all Directors and Officers with large bright red name tags which he purchased at his own expense to help identify the Leadership Team during the Convention. A proposal was made that throughout the convention and especially the NTS, a designated location be established and manned to the extent possible by an Officer or Director to provide enhanced opportunities for members to discuss issues with national leadership.
- 48) President Charlie Getz, HLM, led a discussion about facility access. It is felt that a corporate policy about facility access is unnecessary as it is controlled by Federal, State, and Local Laws.

- 49) WDD Jack Hamilton, MMR led a discussion about Train Show admission to include accepting credit cards, multiple day passes, advanced sale pricing, and unregistered members.
- 50) WDD Jack Hamilton, MMR, led a discussion about Liability Insurance Coverage. It is felt that the current coverage is sufficient.
- 51) WDD Jack Hamilton, MMR, led a discussion about *eBulletin* distribution to expired members. Normal benefits are extended 90 days after a membership expires. The *eBulletin* is forwarded to expired members 6 months after membership expiration and that is felt to be sufficient.
- 52) SCDM Di Voss, MMR, led a discussion about new S&C considerations. These include, but are not restricted to
 - a) Changes in technology
 - b) Above track power sources
 - c) Communications standards, but not power standards
 - d) Power On Board Standard. The BOD recommended that the Power On Board Recommended Practice be upgraded to a Standard. Di will report back to the BOD at the Annual Meeting.
- 53) **RBOD14021501** Board approved a Resolution thanking CFO Frank Koch, HLM, CAO Jenny Hendricks, and the HQ Staff for all the work in the seamless sale of the Cromwell Rd facility and the move to the new facility in Soddy Daisy.
- 54) **RBOD14021502** Board approved a Resolution in recognition of the service of VP Marketing Paige Martin.
- 55) **MBOD14021512** (Attachment G) Motion by WDD Jack Hamilton, MMR, to accept the L Gauge Recommended Practices Motion as amended. Seconded by PDD Mike Bartlett. Motion failed by a vote of 1-8-0.
 - a) The BOD held a lengthy discussion on this topic. The Motion was asking the NMRA to set standards for the distance between the rails and for coupler heights.
 - b) L Gaugers use bricks manufactured by Legos. This product is manufactured by one multi-billion dollar international corporation.
 - c) L Gaugers are broadly defined as model railroaders. Their product, however, is only manufactured by one corporation.
 - d) The BOD felt that they were being asked to set standards for a proprietary and patented system.
 - e) The BOD recognizes L Gauge as an exciting pathway to scale model railroading and an asset to the hobby, but they determined that they could not pass this motion. The L Gauge group is seen more appropriately as a SIG and will be welcomed into the NMRA.
- 56) Meeting recessed at 1835.
- 57) Meeting reconvened at 0845 February 16, 2014.
- 58) WDD Jack Hamilton, MMR, presented a review of the days planned activities.
- 59) NMRA Canada President Clark Kooning, MMR, showed a clinic video. The video was a short construction video for a cattle ramp. The video would be posted on the member's only section of the website along with a set of plans and a list of materials in different scales. A You Tube teaser could be use to direct members to the website. The BOD likes the idea and asked him to develop a complete package for presentation at the Annual Meeting.
- 60) WDD Jack Hamilton, MMR, led a discussion about how the NMRA 2018 Update was developed.
- 61) Meeting was recessed at 0955.

- 62) Meeting was reconvened at 1015.
- 63) WDD Jack Hamilton, MMR, led off the discussion by talking about the fact that this is a Five Year Plan so he suggested it be renamed NMRA 2019 Update. The BOD agreed to this.
- 64) With the concurrence of the BOD, it was decided that we would go through the Summary Listing of Goals and Implementing Strategies in a systematic manner. The process was to discuss each Goal, examine each Implementing Strategy and either accept it as written, rename it, or remove it from consideration, and then to assign the Goal to a member of the Leadership Team to be the responsible party for completion of that Goal. President Charlie Getz, HLM, ran the process.
- 65) Meeting recessed at 1205.
- 66) Meeting reconvened at 1315.
- 67) We continued the process of considering the Summary List of Goals and Strategies.
- 68) **MBOD14021513** Motion by CDD Pete Magoun, MMR, to adopt NMRA 2019 Update as amended. Seconded by CAND Fred Headon, MMR. Motion passed 7-1 (One BOD Member left because of a previous commitment). The revised Strategic Planning Committee Report NMRA 2019 Update will be published in the near future to document the actions taken by the BOD
- 69) President Charlie Getz, HLM, thanked Committee Chairman Jack Hamilton, MMR, for the work that he and his committee members did on NMRA 2019 Update. Committee Chairman Jack Hamilton thanked the other BOD members, the Officers and all the Department Managers for their assistance during the development of the Update.
- 70) **RBOD14021503** Motion by CDD Pete Magoun, MMR, to thank RACD Stephen Priest for his service as RAC Director. Seconded by ADD Kathy Millatt. Motion passed by voice vote.
- 71) Motion by CDD Pete Magoun, MMR, to adjourn in memory of John T.M. Pyke (NER), Earl Smallshaw (NER), Joe Martin (SSR), Dorr Altizer (PSR), Bill McKean (TLR), G Gordon Varney (PNR) and Bob McIntyre (SER). Seconded by ADD Kathy Millatt. Motion passed by voice vote.
- 72) Meeting adjourned at 1425.

Respectfully Submitted
John Gardner Stevens, III
Secretary

Attachments

- A Abbreviations used in these Minutes
- B Text of **MBOD14021506** Establishment of eMail Mailboxes
- C Text of **MBOD14021508** International Voting Procedures
- D Text of **MBOD14021509** Revised Membership Categories
- E Text of **MBOD14021510** Annual Membership Meeting
- F Text of **MBOD14021511** Formation of European Region
- G Text of **MBOD14021512** L Gauge Recommended Practice
- H Text of **RBOD14021501** Resolution Honoring CFO Koch, HLM, CAO
Hendricks, and the HQ Staff
- I Text of **RBOD14021502** Resolution Honoring Marketing Department Manager
Paige Martin
- J Text of **RBOD14021503** Resolution Honoring RAC Director Stephen Priest,
MMR

ATTACHMENT A

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THESE MINUTES

ADD	Atlantic District Director
ADM	Administration Department Manager/Chief Administrative Officer
ALNAD	At-Large North America Director
ALWWD	At-Large Worldwide Director
ASST SECY	Assistant Secretary
CAND	Canada Director
CDD	Central District Director
CFO	Chief Financial Officer
COMMD	NMRA Communications Director
COUNSEL	NMRA Legal Counsel
DSA	Distinguished Service Award
EDD	Eastern District Director
EDUCDM	Education Department Manager
FA	Fellow Award
FRDM	Fund Raising Department Manager
HCC	Honors Committee Chair
HDMCC	Howell Day Museum Committee Chair
HLM	Honorary Life Member
ITDM	Information Technology Department Manager
KMLM	Kalmbach Memorial Library Manager
MAPDM	Marketing, Advertising & Promotions Department Manager
MMR	Master Model Railroader
MSPDM	Membership Services & Promotion Department Manager
MSTD	Meetings & Trade Shows Department Manager
PDD	Pacific District Director
PDM	Publications Department Manager
PREZ	President
RACD	Regional Advisory Council Director
SECY	Secretary
SCDM	Standards & Conformance Department Manager
VP-ADMIN	Vice President - Administration
VP-SPEC PROJ	Vice President – Special Projects
WDD	Western District Director

ATTACHMENT B

Agenda Resolution # 3 WDD

Meeting Minutes Resolution # MBOD14021506

(To be entered by the Secretary)

Resolution – Establishment of eMail Mailboxes

The Western District Director Offers the following Resolution

(District Name)

Whereas:

1. NMRA leadership communications relying on alias addresses have proven to be less than effective for the purpose intended, and
2. Existing technology support a much more effective and reliable system
3. Reliable communication to all NMRA leadership team from members or between each other is essential to effective operation of the organization

Therefore be it resolved that the National Model Railroad Association will replace the existing email by alias system with a formal individual mail box system as identified by the NMRA IT Manager.

Further, that the email mailbox system will be the formal email system for communication to NMRA leadership positions as defined by NMRA

Further, that the transfer to mailboxes will be completed in a controlled manner and will occur on a previously published date and only after sufficient testing to prove the system reliable. A target date of July 13, 2014 is established.

Rationale:

Let us stop depending on things that don't work or that work so poorly as to create more problems than answers.

ACTION: Motion Withdrawn

ATTACHMENT C

Agenda Resolution # 5 CAND

Meeting Minutes Resolution # MBOD14021508

(To be entered by the Secretary)

Resolution – International Voting Procedures

The Canadian Director offers the following Resolution

(District Name)

Whereas:

Membership outside the United States is growing and

The Atlantic District, NMRA Canada, and the Pacific District now have the manpower and infrastructure to collect, verify, tally and store ballots,

The International Committee feels it is appropriate for these bodies to run Overseas Ballot Collection Points for International Elections and their own elections for all local positions.

Therefore it be resolved that the following procedures be established

Voting Procedures for Atlantic District, Canadian District (NMRA Canada), Pacific District

(the so-called ABC Group).

NOTE: A District can match its voting dates with those specified in the NMRA Executive Handbook, *Elections Procedure Policy* OR they may be determined by the District.

- 1) For any vote involving elected positions, nominations must be filed by October 15th of the year preceding an election with this information provided to members by electronic means (e-mail where not prohibited by law) and also by postal service (so-called “snail mail”) as necessary AND published in the NMRA magazine or the Region/District magazine or newsletter as appropriate.
- 2) Ballots will be prepared by the District Nominating Committee (per Executive Handbook Election Procedure Policy) or by Region personnel where a Nominating Committee does not exist.

- 3) All members of the District will be notified of an upcoming vote preferably by electronic communication (e-mail) or as necessary by postal service (“snail mail”) AND by inclusion in the current form of the NMRA magazine or the Region/District magazine or newsletter as is appropriate. Dates for the voting period and a final date for receipt of completed ballots must be provided in each form of notification.
- 4) For the election of the District Director or NMRA instigated items, ballots will be distributed by inclusion in the NMRA magazine issue sent to all members. For an election for items wholly within a District, ballots may be distributed to all members of the District preferably by electronic communication (e-mail) or as necessary by postal service (“snail mail”) or by inclusion in the appropriate District magazine. Dates for the voting period and a final date for receipt of completed ballots must be provided with each approach.
- 5) A Chairperson for the Ballot Tallying Committee of a District will be appointed by the District’s Nominating Committee, or by the District’s Secretary (per NMRA Executive Handbook). A Ballot Tallying Committee (preferably with three members, each of whom is not involved in any way with the ballot) will be completed by the Chair with people who represent the District.
- 6) A list of member’s names, their membership number and their e-mail address will be obtained from NMRA headquarters for use by the Ballot Tallying Committee to verify that members of a District only vote once for any ballot.
- 7) Ballots are to be returned, preferably by electronic communication (e-mail) or as necessary by postal service (snail mail) by the specified date. To ensure integrity in the voting process, each returned e-mail ballot must include the members NMRA membership number, the member’s name and the member’s e-mail address stated in the same format as these are on file at the NMRA’s headquarters. A convenient central collection point or points within the District must be designated both for mailed-in ballots and for electronic ballots.
- 8) The results of the vote are to be forwarded to the Chair of the NMRA’s National Ballot Committee. The NMRA Secretary will identify this person and will provide an address. Ballot totals are to be kept secret until released by the NMRA Secretary.
- 9) Ballots are to be stored securely while the results are being verified. Upon approval of the Board of Directors, the ballots shall be destroyed after presenting the results to the membership at the annual General Meeting.

Rationale:

The members of the International Committee feel that with the recent growth of membership within their Districts that a Voting Procedure should be established allowing their

Districts to handle the non-US portions of National Elections and their own elections for all local positions. They feel they have the infrastructure in place to handle the election. They also feel that local Ballot Collection Points will reduce the cost for the member to return the ballot as the postal costs to a local Ballot Collection Point is much more affordable than returning a ballot to NMRA Headquarters.

ACTION: Motion passed

ATTACHMENT D

Agenda Resolution # 1 WDD

Meeting Minutes Resolution # MBOD14021509

(To be entered by the Secretary)

Resolution – Revised Membership categories

The Western District Director Offers the following Resolution

(District Name)

Whereas:

1. NMRA membership is declining over time while the average age of the membership appears to be increasing, and
2. Anecdotal information from informal survey, general correspondence, and reports from other membership organizations indicates that cost is a major consideration for younger individuals,
3. The number of members under the age of 40 in NMRA is not a significant percentage of total membership while that age group has been repeatedly identified as a primary recruiting target, and
4. RailPass program has demonstrated a reasonable effectiveness in both recruiting and retaining membership

Therefore be it resolved that the National Model Railroad Association will conduct a study of the potential effectiveness of offering reduced rate membership to individuals according to age. Specifically, the target age groups would be 20-30 years of age and 30-40 years of age. A possible membership fee for the 20-30 age groups would be \$22 (current rates) and for the 30-40 age group the rate would be \$33 (current rates). Magazine subscription would be at the standard established rate.

Further, that the study will be conducted by a committee of not less than six to include at least two Region Presidents, the CFO, the CAO, and at least one Director. The committee is charged to report their findings and recommendations to the BOD in time for consideration at the annual meeting in July 2014.

Rationale:

There is an economic trade-off point where increased membership, even at the lower rate, will more than compensate for the “lost” revenue. We need to be willing to examine each potential opportunity to add members to the fold. While we have been investigating a “discount” program to add value to membership, we should also look at the opportunity to bring the younger folk into the fold to reenergize the association.

Action: Motion Withdrawn

ATTACHMENT E

Agenda Motion # 2 WDD

Meeting Minutes Motion # MBOD14021510

(To be entered by the Secretary)

Motion for Regulations Article _____ Paragraph _____

Motion for EHB Section _____.____ Paragraph _____

Motion for Policy **XXX**

The Western District Director moves...

(District Name)

That as a matter of policy, a fixed day and time during each Annual Convention shall be designated and reserved for the conduct of the required Annual Meeting of the Membership.

Further that Friday of the convention week will normally be set aside for the meeting with hours of 8:00 to 10:00 PM and that to the extent possible clinic activities will be suspended during the meeting period.

Further that sufficient room and facilities support shall be available to support a significant attendance.

Further that convention registration shall not be required for attendance at the meeting.

Current version:

(If related to the Regulations or EHB)

None

Revised Version:

(If related to the Regulations or EHB)

Policy statement to be incorporated in EGB as appropriate,

Rationale:

NMRA Regulations (Article IX) clearly establish that a formal meeting of the membership shall be held concurrent with the annual convention. (see Below) The agenda for the meeting is clearly established and constitutes an in-person report from the Leadership to the membership and to provide an opportunity for the members to participate in the business of the Association. Historically, the reason for the convention was to conduct the annual membership meeting. Over the years that relationship has been lost and the meeting has become a virtual asterisk in the convention schedule. In order to demonstrate open management, to provide the opportunity for members to actively participate, and to restore credibility of leadership throughout the Association, it is proper to restore the Annual Meeting of the Membership to a place of prominence in the convention period.

Article IX

1. There shall be at least one Annual Convention and Business Meeting of the members, held concurrently. The Annual Convention shall be held at such time as determined by policy delineation of the Board of Directors and as set forth in the Executive Handbook, and should be held within the geographic boundaries of a different convention area than it was the previous year. Other than the one Annual Convention Business Meeting of the members, the Board of Directors may hold other meetings at such times and under such circumstances as are required, in any manner not prohibited by law.
2. Bids for annual conventions shall be administered by the Meetings and Trades Shows Department from prospective cities in accordance with Convention Handbook policy established by the Board of Directors.
3. A Convention Area Rotation Schedule shall be established as a policy of the Meetings and Trade Shows Department and approved by the Board of Directors.
4. Annual Business Meeting:
 - A. The purpose of the Annual Business Meeting shall be as follows:
 1. To receive reports from officers and committee chairmen.
 2. To install the elected officers for the following term. The installation of these officers shall be the first order of new business.

3. To discuss Standards.
 4. To discuss other matters of business pertaining to the NMRA.
 5. To take such other actions as provided by the Articles of Incorporation, these Regulations, and the laws of the State of Ohio.
- B. The order of business at the Annual Meeting of the membership shall be as follows:
1. Calling the meeting to order.
 2. Reading the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting.
 3. Reports of the Officers and Executive Director.
 4. Report of the Directors.
 5. Balloting of filling of a vacancy in the staff of the organization.
 6. A report of old business.
 7. Installation of officers.
 8. A report of new business.
 9. Voice from the floor.
 10. Adjournment.

ACTION: Motion failed

ATTACHMENT F

Agenda Motion # 6 ADD

Meeting Minutes Motion # MBOD14021511

Motion

Under section A.8.1.9 of the Executive Hand Book, the Atlantic Director moves that a new Region, provisionally called the European Region, is formally established. When a petition of over 50 NMRA confirmed members living in the proposed Region is attained, then the region can be constituted. See the list attached.

Nobby Clarke is proposed as the temporary Chair of the new Region under section A.8.1.9 until such time as officers can be elected.

The European Region is proposed to include all those Nations, States, Principalities, Protectorates and their Off Shore Islands that constitute and are included in the Continent of Europe, excluding those Nations etc that are part of a previously constituted NMRA Region or that desire to constitute a separate Regional identity.

Rationale:

The European Region currently has over 100 NMRA members living in its region who are already administering their own subscriptions and communications.

This will allow European members to be part of a formal NMRA Region with information in their own language and subscriptions paid in Euros. With the growth of NMRA membership in Europe, this is a very exciting development.

EHB Revisions required as a result of the new Region:

EHB Section	Current	Revised
A.7.1	The Atlantic and Pacific District Nominating Committees...	The latest International Committee report reviewed the nominations process which should be incorporated here.
A.8.1.4.B	Division requirements shall not apply to Divisions in the British and Australasian Regions.	Division requirements shall not apply to Divisions in the British, European and Australasian Regions.
A8.1.7		<p>Add Paragraph R:</p> <p>European Region: including all those Nations, States, Principalities, Protectorates and their Off Shore Islands that constitute and are included in the Continent of Europe, excluding those Nations etc that are part of a previously constituted NMRA Region or that desire to constitute a separate Regional identity.</p>
A.8.11	B. The British Region shall be responsible for providing administrative support and other services to districts within the Atlantic District and the Australasia Region shall be responsible for providing administrative support and other services to districts within the Pacific District.	B. The European Region shall be responsible for providing administrative support and other services to districts within the Atlantic District...

EHB Section	Current	Revised
C.2.2	Organisation chart needs to be updated to include the European Region.	
H.9.1.2	The Australasian Region, the British Region, and Canada will assume all administrative responsibilities for members residing within their areas.	The non-United States Regions...
Paras a & b	...three regions...	Replace number
Para c		Should include the European Region

ACTION: Motion passed

ATTACHMENT G

Agenda Resolution # 4 WDD

Meeting Minutes Resolution # MBOD14021512

(To be entered by the Secretary)

Resolution – L Gauge Recommended Practices

The Western District Director Offers the following Resolution

(District Name)

Whereas:

1. Members of the existing and active L-Gauge community have requested that NMRA create and publish a “standard” for L-Gauge, and
2. Members and organizations using L-gauge equipment have become a mainstay at train shows and convention including NMRA sponsored events (National Train Show and others), and
3. Members of the existing and active L-gauge community have established de facto “standards” identified as “eight brick” (standard gauge) and “six brick” (narrow gauge) and are employing those “standards”, and
4. L-gauge activities appear to have the same place in the hobby as did Lionel three track in the historical past and is replacing Lionel three track as the entry level system for our hobby, and
5. Recognizing and establishing “Recommended Practices “ for L-gauge is a reasonable first step for encouraging growth of the hobby and expansion of membership

Therefore be it resolved that the National Model Railroad Association recognizes L-gauge as a part of the model Railroad hobby community and that NMRA will establish and publish, as Recommended Practices, the “standards” currently adopted by the L-gauge community.

Rationale:

NMRA is a model railroad association and must be willing to include all who participate in the hobby on an equal basis. There is no rationale that supports excluding any modeler who actively creates a layout (including an imagination based world, operates model trains (regardless of scale or conformity to actual prototype) or who desires to share experiences and knowledge of the hobby with other association members and the public. It is fully inappropriate for NMRA to accept as a member an individual who works in a “non standard” (read unacceptable) scale or media while refusing to acknowledge the existence and viability of the scale and media. Ours has been a hobby of constant growth and innovation. We need to maintain that philosophy as we move into the future.

Action: Motion Failed

Attachment H

Text of RBOD14021501

Resolution to honor CFO Koch, HLM, CAO Hendricks, and the HQ Staff

Whereas CFO Frank Koch, HLM, and CAO Jenny Hendricks worked tirelessly to coordinate the sale of the Cromwell Rd property,

And Whereas CFO Frank Koch, HLM, and CAO Jenny Hendricks searched to find adequate facilities to house the HQ Staff, the Howell Day Museum, and the Kalmbach Library,

And Whereas they moved all of the assets from the Cromwell Road property to the Soddy Daisy property,

And Whereas they were able to complete the move under budget and with no apparent disruption of service to the membership,

Now, Therefore, The Board of Directors of the NMRA hereby acknowledges and expresses its appreciation for the many contributions of CFO Frank Koch, HLM, CAO Jenny Hendricks, and the HQ Staff

Resolution approved by unanimous vote of the NMRA Board of Directors, February 15, 2014.

Attachment I

Text of RBOD14021502

Resolution to honor Marketing Department Manager Paige Martin

Whereas Marketing Department Manager Paige Martin has served the NMRA for many years,

And Whereas Paige has expended extraordinary hours of effort on behalf of the membership in the discharge of his duties as Marketing Department Manager,

And Whereas he has sacrificed his personal and hobby "life" in service to the NMRA,

And Whereas that service has been distinguished and has materially advanced the mission of the NMRA

Now, Therefore, The Board of Directors of the NMRA hereby acknowledges and expresses its appreciation for the many contributions of Paige Martin to the NMRA.

Resolution approved by unanimous vote of the NMRA Board of Directors, February 15, 2014.

Attachment J

Text of **RBOD14021503**

Resolution to honor RAC Director Stephen Priest, MMR

Whereas RAC Director Stephen Priest, MMR, has served the NMRA for many years,

And Whereas Stephen has expended extraordinary hours of effort on behalf of the membership in the discharge of his duties as RAC Director,

And Whereas he has sacrificed his personal and hobby "life" in service to the NMRA,

And Whereas that service has been distinguished and has materially advanced the mission of the NMRA

Now, Therefore, The Board of Directors of the NMRA hereby acknowledges and expresses its appreciation for the many contributions of Stephen Priest, MMR, to the NMRA.

Resolution approved by unanimous vote of the NMRA Board of Directors, February 16, 2014.