

National Model Railroad Association  
2016 Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting  
February 20, 2016  
Drury Inn & Suites Atlanta, GA  
Final Minutes

- 1) PREZ Getz, HLM, called the meeting to order at 0901 20 February 2016.
- 2) PREZ Getz, HLM, asked that all Directors, Officers, Department Managers, and observers introduce themselves.
- 3) **MBOD16022001** Motion by WWD Hamilton, MMR, to suspend the rules. Seconded by ALWWD Brestel, HLM. Motion passed by voice vote.
- 4) The roll was called and all Directors were present. All Officers were present except for VP-SPEC PROJ Leone, MMR, who was unable to attend. All Department Managers were present except for FRDM Anderson who was unable to attend.
- 5) A quorum was present.
- 6) Since all Directors were present, there were no proxies.
- 7) There was no correspondence.
- 8) Corrections/additions to all reports.
  - a) National Scout Coordinator Stevens updated his report.
    - i) He has shipped 925 shells for education programs.
    - ii) The underframes are still an issue, but hopefully will be finished in the fall and we can begin shipping make & take kits by the end of the year.
    - iii) We have a display of the two underframes under development. There are also three kits bought off eBay showing how the shells were originally packaged with the metal underframes.
  - b) ITDM Sevier reported that the website and the company store don't interact very well. You have to log off the website and then log onto the company store. He hopes to have that repaired with a new company store by Sept 1.
  - c) Discount Program Coordinator Weinheimer, MMR, reported that the Grapevine Vintage RR of Grapevine, TX has joined the program. He would like to start a section for hobby shops offering discounts.
  - d) CAND Headon, MMR, announced that the 2017 NMRA Canada Election will be an electronic election.
- 9) **MBOD16022002** Motion by CAND Headon, MMR, to accept the Consent Agenda as amended. Seconded by CDD Magoun, MMR. Motion passed by voice vote.
- 10) CFO Koch, HLM, led a detailed discussion of his Budget & Finance Report.
  - a) He led a detailed review of 2015 finances.
  - b) He led a discussion on RailPass.
  - c) He led a discussion on the Life Member Fund. The fund is fully funded.
  - d) A recurring issue is new member access to the website. We are trying to make it shorter. The major source of delay is the source of sign-in.
- 11) **MBOD16022003** Motion by ALWWD Brestel, HLM, to accept the Budget & Finance Report. Seconded by RACD August. Motion passed by voice vote.

- 12) **MBOD16022004** Motion by WWD Hamilton, MMR, to move \$100,000 into the BOD Reserve Fund. Seconded by ADD Millatt, MMR. Motion passed by voice vote
- 13) PREZ Getz, HLM, led a discussion on Marketing.
  - a) VP-SPEC PROJ Leone, MMR, has been fulfilling the Marketing Department Manager role.
  - b) PSR member Frank Baker is now serving as Assistant Marketing Director and reports directly to VP-SPEC PROJ Leone, MMR.
  - c) At the Annual BOD Meeting, it was suggested that we hire a Marketing Consultant. Since the 2016 Annual BOD Meeting, we have hired Christina Ganzer. Christina was in attendance at the meeting.
- 14) Meeting recessed at 1022.
- 15) Meeting reconvened at 1035.
- 16) PREZ Getz, HLM, led a discussion on the Gallery Exhibit.
  - a) The State of California has resolved its internal issues.
  - b) The CSRRM Curator is working on an agreement which we hope can be completed in the spring.
  - c) The exhibit will take approximately nine months to build and install.
- 17) PREZ Getz, HLM, led a discussion on the Kalmbach Library.
  - a) The library collection is still in storage.
  - b) The CSRRM has a new librarian. The original plan was to complete the Gallery Exhibit before transferring the library. The new librarian wants to do them concurrently. The NMRA will be partially funding one library position.
  - c) When we finally sign the agreement with the CSRR Museum, we will notify the membership using all available communication tools.
- 18) Discount Program Coordinator Weinheimer, MMR, reported earlier that he has heard back from many of the organizations that he has contacted. He is working with ITDM Sevier to develop a section on the website to post the information on organizations willing to provide a member discount.
- 19) COUNSEL Amsler led a discussion on the Integration of Regions and Divisions.
  - a) Forms have been forwarded to the IRS.
  - b) The IRS has acknowledged receipt of the forms and reported that they will review the forms. They also discussed a special express approval track, but we are not sure if that is the process we will go through.
  - c) Once these forms get approved, we will proceed with more regions and divisions.
- 20) PREZ Getz, HLM, led a discussion on his recent trip to Europe. He attended the British Region 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention. He found the convention very interesting and had a great time. He later traveled through Europe and met with President Peter Briegel of MOROP. He will report more on that later.
- 21) Strategic Review Committee Chair Millatt, MMR, has scheduled a Strategic Plan Workshop for Sunday July 3, 2016 in Indianapolis. The workshop will run from 9 am until noon.
- 22) PREZ Getz, HLM, led a discussion on the Layout Visit Registry Program. He is renaming the committee Model Railroad Registry Program. The committee is working on many issues. The program will be an opt-in plan to protect the member's identity.

- 23) PREZ Getz, HLM, led a discussion on an Estate Planning Letter. The letter will note generic options available for disposal of a member's train collection. The letter will be posted on the website.
- 24) EDUCDM DeYoung, MMR, has completed the Division Superintendent Handbook. The Handbook has been circulated to the Officers and BOD. PREZ Getz, HLM, would like the BOD to take the next 30 days to review the handbook. By Mar 21, all comments should be forwarded to EDUCDM DeYoung. He will then amend the report and recirculate it NLT Apr 5.
- 25) PREZ Getz, HLM, led a discussion on his recent visit to Europe and his discussions with MOROP President Peter Briegel.
  - a) As background information, MOROP is a confederation of groups within Europe. President Briegel is head of the organization, but each group also has a president. Their official language is German with French being the second most commonly used language.
  - b) Younger members want to use English so MOROP is moving in that direction.
  - c) President Briegel wants to develop much closer ties with the NMRA.
  - d) President Briegel is recommending rather than Model Railroading Month that they designate Dec 12 as International Day of Model Railroading.
  - e) The European Region will be involved in furthering the relationship between MOROP and the NMRA.
- 26) SER Southerner Editor Paul Volker was recognized and thanked for his 15 years as Southerner Editor.
- 27) Meeting recessed at 1130.
- 28) BOD goes into Executive Session at 1133.
- 29) BOD comes out of Executive Session at 1215.
- 30) Meeting reconvened at 1335.
- 31) PREZ Getz, HLM, reports that during the Executive Session the BOD discussed the following issues.
  - a) They approved the Honors Committee Report.
  - b) A personnel matter was discussed in closed session. As a result, VP ADMIN Clark Kooning, MMR, was suspended from office. The imposition of the suspension was stayed and Mr. Kooning was placed on probation for the remainder of his present term as vice-president or three years, whichever is longer.
  - c) They approved a merit raise for two HQ employees.
- 32) Santa Clara Convention Committee member Ray deBlieck reported that the ownership issue of the proposed site of the 2021 National convention has been resolved. Unfortunately, the site is very close to the site of Super Bowl 50 and they have had other issues to deal with other than a convention that is going to occur in five years. They will have an update for the meeting in Indianapolis.
- 33) Member Retention and Recruitment Chair Hamilton, MMR, led a discussion about the Member Retention and Recruitment Report Section 7 Immediate Expectations.
  - a) 7a U.S. Regular Members get the magazine, no OPT OUT.
    - i) The committee feels that the magazine is an important communication tool and that ALL members need to receive the magazine.

- ii) A lengthy discussion was held on this topic beginning with the decision to allow NMRA membership without getting the magazine. A digital version of the magazine was also discussed.
  - iii) This item is still a work in progress.
  - b) 7b Region & Division responsibilities for retention & recruitment defined in the EHB.
    - i) This item will be incorporated in the EHB Update.
  - c) 7c Recruitment & Retention Committee be designated a BOD Committee.
    - i) Decision was made that the committee remain a Presidential Committee.
  - d) 7d Designated Membership Booth at NTS.
    - i) The committee would like to train recruiters and then have them work a shift in a booth separate from the NMRA Booth at the entrance to the Train Show.
    - ii) It was recommended that clinics be held on Thursday to train on how to be a recruiter and that the trainee then work a shift at the NMRA Booth.
  - e) 7e Guidebook distributed to Regions & Divisions.
    - i) The Guidebook will go through an edit process and then be posted on the website.
  - f) 7f Media roll out.
    - i) Once we have a final version of the Guidebook, its availability will be announced on the website, in the NMRA Magazine, and through the eBulletin and the InfoBlast.
  - g) 7g Clear & consistent message.
    - i) We need to have a clear and consistent message of what we offer and how we work.
    - ii) In Progress with assistance of Marketing Consultant.
  - h) 7h Similar to EduTrain, committee recommends a minimum of two members attend every Region Convention for at least one year.
    - i) Will revisit this expectation after Guidebook edit process is completed.
  - i) 7i AP Volunteer Points for recruiting a member.
    - i) CFO Koch and WDD Hamilton will discuss.
  - j) 7j Member statistics to reflect Region and Division level.
    - i) This is a database issue and will be incorporated in the database update.
  - k) 7k Region to Division rebates.
    - i) The amount of the member rebate that each Region passes on to their Divisions is not enumerated in the EHB. The committee recommends that not less than 75% be passed on to the Divisions.
    - ii) A lengthy discussion was held on this topic. Some regions don't pass any of the rebates to the divisions. Some regions divide the money amongst all their divisions. Some regions use the money only to support those smaller divisions that don't generate enough money to support themselves.
    - iii) It was decided to revisit this expectation at a later date.
- 34) Meeting recessed at 1522.
- 35) Meeting reconvened at 1534.
- 36) **MBOD16022005** (Attachment B) Motion by ALWWD Brestel, HLM, to accept the National Nominating Committee Motion as amended. Seconded by WDD Hamilton, MMR. Motion passed by voice vote.
- 37) SCDM Voss, MMR, led a discussion on LCC. There are still some ongoing issues as indicated below, but they are all being resolved in a timely manner.

- a) Copyright protection.
  - b) Cover page of the report.
  - c) Testing suite for certifying products.
- 38) **MBOD16022006** Motion by RACD August to accept the LCC Report as presented at the 2015 Annual BOD Meeting. Seconded by CDD Magoun, MMR. Motion passed on voice vote.
- 39) **RBOD16022001** Motion by CDD Magoun, MMR, to approve a resolution thanking WDD Jack Hamilton, MMR, for his service as Western District Director. Seconded by CAND Headon, MMR. Motion passed by voice vote.
- 40) **RBOD16022002** Motion by EDD Gelmini, MMR to thank VP-SPEC PROJ Gerry Leone, MMR, ALNAD Peter Youngblood, MMR, and Piedmont Division member Norm Lundin for the Membership Recruitment Video. Seconded by PDD Bartlett. Motion passed by voice vote.
- 41) Meetings & Train Show Committee member Ray deBlieck led a brief discussion on booking rooms for the 2016 National Convention.
- 42) ITDM Sevier led a discussion about division websites.
- a) There is sufficient capability of the national website to host up to 90 smaller websites. These would be very basic templates.
  - b) RACD August will assist.
  - c) Expect an update in Indianapolis.
- 43) COUNSEL Amsler reminded everyone that we are no longer using Google Groups and that all OFFICIAL Communication should be done through the nmra.org email program.
- 44) ITDM Sevier was thanked for putting a RailPass link on the website allowing members to download the RailPass form.
- 45) PREZ GETZ, HLM, led a brief discussion on youth contact issues. The Retention & Recruitment Committee will work with COUNSEL Amsler to include a section in the R&R Guidebook.
- 46) Meeting recessed at 1615.
- 47) BOD goes to Executive Session at 1615.
- 48) BOD comes out of Executive Session at 1648.
- 49) Meeting reconvenes at 1648.
- 50) PREZ Getz, HLM, reports that during the Executive Session the BOD discussed some growing pains issues of the European Region and that the BOD has awarded the 2021 National Convention to the Santa Clara National Convention Committee.
- 51) Motion by WDD Hamilton, MMR, to adjourn in memory of Rick Shoup(SSR), MMR, Robert D. Keune (MWR and NMRA Charter Member), G. William Hammer(MCR), MMR, Andy Sperandeo (Longtime Editor of Model Railroader Magazine), Larry Deagan (SER), MMR, Gerald Abegg (NER) MMR and John Koch Sr.(Owner Greenfrog Productions). Seconded by EDD Gelmini, MMR.
- 52) Meeting adjourned at 1700.

Respectfully Submitted  
John Gardner Stevens, III  
Secretary

## ATTACHMENTS

- A Abbreviations used in these Minutes
- B Text of **MBOD16022005** National Nominating Committee Motion
- C Text of **RBOD16022001** Resolution thanking WDD Jack Hamilton, MMR
- D Text of **RBOD16022002** Resolution thanking VP-SPEC PROJ Gerry Leone, MMR, ALNAD Peter Youngblood, MMR, and Piedmont Division member Norm Lundin

## ATTACHMENT A

### ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THESE MINUTES

ADD	Atlantic District Director
ALNAD	At-Large North America Director
ALWWD	At-Large Worldwide Director
ASST SECY	Assistant Secretary
CAND	Canada Director
CDD	Central District Director
CAO	Chief Administrative Officer/Administration Department Manager
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
MARDM	Marketing Department Manager
MMR	Master Model Railroader
MSTDM	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 Motion # 1 National Nominating Committee Motion

Meeting Minutes Motion # MBOD16022005

(To be entered by the Secretary)

Motion for Regulation \_\_\_\_\_

Motion for EHB Section Art VII Paragraph A.7.1.2.G

Motion for Policy \_\_\_\_\_

The At Large Worldwide District Director moves...

(District Name)

At the request of the National Nominating Committee Chair, that the following change to Article VII of the EHB be adopted:

Current version:...

(If related to the Regulations or EHB)

G. The **National Nominating Committee** shall be appointed as set forth in 2 above. The **National Nominating Committee** shall consist of a Chair appointed by the President and at least six (6) members appointed by the Chair with the concurrence of the President. At least two members of the committee shall reside in and be drawn from each of the U. S. Districts (Western, Central, and Eastern). Each US Region President shall be responsible for nominating at least one individual (US Resident) for possible service on the Committee.



Revised Version:...

(If related to the Regulations or EHB)

G. The **National Nominating Committee** Chair shall be appointed by the President. Members of the committee shall be the President of each Region that has members residing in the U.S., serving *ex officio*. Each U.S. Region President may designate a U.S. member of his/her Region to serve in his/her place.

Rationale:...

I see no reason whatsoever for the Nominating Committee Chair to appoint anyone, as that could easily lead to bias, even if unintended, at the highest level. In my case, I would surely wind up with six guys and gals who I thought were clear-headed thinkers -- but that's akin to saying that they think a lot like me.

I could inadvertently or deliberately stack the deck if I saw what I regarded as a crisis coming or got tired of the views of a committee member. The president could stack the deck with his choice of chair.

I would prefer the Committee comprise a chair, appointed by the president, and the U.S. Region presidents serving *ex officio*, who may designate a U.S. member from their Region in their place.

J. Anthony Koester, National Nominating Committee Chair

Please note: This change affects only the organization of the U.S. nominating committee, known as the National Nominating Committee.

**ACTION: PASSED**

**ATTACHMENT C**

Text of **RBOD16022001**

**Resolution to honor WDD Jack Hamilton, MMR**

**Whereas Jack Hamilton** has served as Western District Director of the NMRA,

**And Whereas** Jack has expended extraordinary hours of effort on behalf of the membership in the discharge of his duties as 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 Jack Hamilton to the NMRA.

## ATTACHMENT D

Text of RBOD16022002

**Resolution to honor VP-SPEC PROJ Gerry Leone, MMR, ALNAD Peter Youngblood, MMR,  
and Piedmont Division member Norm Lundin**

**Whereas** VP-SPEC PROJ Gerry Leone, ALNAD Peter Youngblood, and Piedmont Division member Norm Lundin wrote, videotaped and edited the NMRA Recruitment Video,

**And Whereas** Gerry, Peter, and Norm expended extraordinary hours of effort on behalf of the membership in developing the video,

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

**And Whereas** they sacrificed their personal and hobby "life" in service to the NMRA,

**Now, Therefore**, The Board of Directors of the NMRA hereby acknowledges and expresses its appreciation for the work of VP-SPEC PROJ Gerry Leone, ALNAD Peter Youngblood, and Piedmont Division member Norm Lundin.