

FRED SOWARD

I have been a member of my local Division 8 Board of Directors since 2016. After two years as a Trustee, and four years as the Superintendent, I am now the Assistant Superintendent. I'm also serving as the Secretary for the Mid Central Region.

After twenty years as a commissioned officer in the US Army, I worked another twenty years as an Information Technology professional.

During my tenure as Superintendent of Division 8, we instituted changes to enhance the experience of our members and ensure the longevity of the group. Our new business continuity plan identifies backups for all key positions and ensures a repository of critical corporate knowledge. As a cost-savings and efficiency effort, we revised the Division 8 bylaws and instituted electronic voting. We extended marketing and learning efforts with a focus on social media and engagement.

As an information technology professional, I managed project managers and learning professionals in support of a Fortune 100 organization. Our implementation of a corporate media server for large-scale meetings and streaming media, saved hundreds of thousands of dollars by reducing travel and by removing the need for an external organization to host virtual meetings and internal streaming content. I also managed contracts and budgeting with external training providers for all IT learning.

My non-profit work includes leadership roles in a local computer user group in Louisville with a few hundred members and my church council with a congregational membership of several hundred. In both organizations, intense budget management was paramount.

My military roles focused on training, leadership, and management of personnel and resources. In addition to leader roles, I created policy documents for senior levels of command, worked with allied forces to create policies and procedures, and coordinated resources in support of multi-national training initiatives including budgeting, personnel resource assignments, and policy, process, and procedure creation and implementation.

I look forward to using my talents and experience to assist with moving the NMRA forward with streamlined processes and procedures, making it easier for current and future members to be able to interface with NMRA leadership, committee chairs, and staff. I know there are many initiatives coming soon and I am excited to be a part of the implementation of several of these initiatives, especially when it comes to learning products and methods that will help our members become even more engaged in the hobby of model railroading.