

September/October 2015

## Indy, here we come!



We've traveled to Portland, OR, and completed our work there. It's now time to move on to Indianapolis, IN, the next stop for the NMRA National Convention and National Train Show (NTS).

Make sure you plan your family's schedule so all of you can participate in *Highball to Indy, 2016*. The convention begins Sunday, July 3, and ends July 10 at the close of the NTS.

Even though model railroading is the primary focus for the week, the inclusion of multiple non-rail and general interest activities will keep non-modelers actively engaged. So, modelers; don't come alone. Bring your spouse/companion along so they can also enjoy this week-long celebration of model railroading in downtown Indianapolis. There's also a Family Registration rate you might want to consider.

Downtown Indianapolis is compact and easily walkable. Many museums, sports facilities, shopping venues, and restaurants are located within a few blocks of the convention hotel. Covered, elevated walkways let you to travel throughout this area safely protected from the weather. Our convention activities will be held in the Westin Indianapolis and the NTS will be in the Indiana Convention Center. These two facilities are immediately across the street from one another and are connected by a walkway which will keep you out of the weather and safely

*Because the NMRA National Convention in Portland just ended last week, this issue of the NMRA eBulletin will focus on what happened at the Board of Directors meeting. We'll give Charlie a well-earned rest from his editorial until next issue.*

## SUMMARY OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

*Please note that this is an unofficial summary of what took place at the BOD meeting. The official minutes, authored by secretary John Stevens, will appear in several weeks on the NMRA website, [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org).*

- The Board recognized the newly elected and re-elected members: Peter Youngblood, MMR (North America At Large Director), Mike Bartlett (Australasia Region), Joe Gelmini, MMR (Eastern District Director). It also recognized newly elected Vice Presidents Clark Kooning, HLM, MMR (VP/Administration) and Gerry Leone, HLM, MMR (VP/Special Projects) who took office at the General Membership Meeting on Thursday evening.
- Additionally, the Board thanked outgoing VP/Administration Dave Thornton for his many contributions and years of service. The Board also named Pete Magoun, MMR, new Lead Director.
- CFO Frank Koch reported that the NMRA is in very good financial shape.
- President Charlie Getz reported that "The Magic of Scale Model Railroading" display at the California State Railroad Museum is once again moving forward, following "political roadblocks" caused by the State of California's reorganization of several departments.
- The Member Discount program is picking up steam. Over 130 letters were sent out to various scenic and tourist railroads across the country asking for discounts for NMRA members, and many have responded positively. The Member Discount program will now be spearheaded by Bob Weinheimer, MMR, who will be looking at new venues for member discounts.
- The NMRA will begin to put a new emphasis on programs for beginning model railroaders. **Volunteers are needed to formulate and organize this program.**
- The NMRA is looking into a possible "Swap Group" for members only. The group would allow members to swap or sell their used

above the traffic.

Registrations for Highball to Indy, 2016 have previously been accepted at the Cleveland and Portland conventions. Currently, registrations are accessible from the [Highball to Indy site](#) (paper) or by using the link to the NMRA site ([www.nmra.org/conventions](http://www.nmra.org/conventions)).

Instructions detailing the registration processes are available on the home page. Choose a method and click on the appropriate link printed below REGISTER TODAY!

Start making your plans so you, too, can *Highball to Indy*.

[www.nmra2016.org](http://www.nmra2016.org)

## The Combined Nominating Committees' Final Report

By [John Stevens](#)  
NMRA Secretary

National Nominating Committee Chair Tony Koester has submitted the Combined Nominating Committees' Final Report to the National Board of Directors. The candidates for the 2016 election are shown below.

### Atlantic District Director

- Peter Bowen
- Kathy Millatt

### At Large Worldwide Director

- Mike Brestel

### Western District Director

- Steve Barkley
- Don Fowler

or extra model railroad items. Stay tuned for details on this.

- President Getz reported on the meetings he had with various model railroad groups while he was on vacation in China. Details will appear in an upcoming editorial in *NMRA Magazine*. In summary, members of the Chinese model railroading network, HASEA, are anxious to have the NMRA help them create a formal model railroading organization patterned after the NMRA in their country.
- NMRA Counsel Bob Amsler reported on the ongoing "vertical integration" tests. Currently one Region and one Division are being used as test organizations. He again emphasized that the national NMRA organization will not touch any Region's or Division's finances, and that each Region and Division will keep their own books and bank accounts. He also reminded each Region and Division that they should already be filing their tax returns annually. This is a very high priority project for the NMRA, and once the NMRA understands all the requirements of the IRS, we'll be opening the program to all Regions and Divisions.
- The Strategic Plan Committee reported that, while the plan is comprehensive, it is too large to be implemented all at once by the NMRA's limited volunteers. Therefore three main objectives will be initially focused upon: Education, Retention and Recruitment, and Communication. When one of these objectives gets completed, another will be added.
- The Layout Registry Program is moving forward. Watch the *NMRA eBulletin*, *NMRA Magazine*, and the NMRA website for details in the near future.
- Western Director Jack Hamilton has agreed to chair the newly formed Recruitment and Retention Committee.

In addition, The Board voted on several motions. Please see the official meeting minutes, which will be published at [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org), for all the details.

Awards presented to NMRA members at the annual banquet will be announced in the next issues of the *NMRA eBulletin* and *NMRA Magazine*.

## Common sense talk about the three strikes policy:

### What is it and what does it mean?

We've been getting a lot of questions about the Visitor Policy that the NMRA Board reaffirmed and publicized in February of this year, limiting visitors to NMRA meetings to three visits during their lifetime.

This isn't really a new policy, since it was first adopted in 2007 and explained in the "President's Car" column in the November, 2007 issue of *Scale Rails* (now called *NMRA Magazine*). Then, as now, the needs of our insurance provider played a large part in the adoption of this policy, but there are also issues of basic fairness, as well as tax issues in the United States.

- Stephen Priest

Members may petition the NMRA to nominate additional candidates using the By Petition process which can be found in Sec A 10.1 paragraph 3 of the EHB (Executive Handbook, available as a PDF on our website at <http://www.nmra.org/executive-handbook>). All petitions must be received by the NMRA Secretary by September 15, 2015. For more information, contact NMRA Secretary John Stevens at [snevets4@bellsouth.net](mailto:snevets4@bellsouth.net)

Buying or selling on eBay can help the NMRA

By [Alan Anderson](#)

NMRA Fundraising Dept. Manager

The NMRA has been coupled up with eBay since 2013 (See June 2013 *NMRA Magazine*, "Buy and Sell on eBay.") so that NMRA members who use eBay can make donations to the NMRA very easily. As a refresher, when you list an item for sale on eBay, you can specify that a portion of the selling price (as a percentage) can be donated to the NMRA. Your benefit as a seller is that your listing fees for that item will be reduced by the same percentage. So if you sell an item with 20% of the proceeds to be donated to the NMRA and your listing fees will be reduced by 20%.

Simply log in to your eBay account using, <http://givingworks.ebay.com> and select "For sellers" on the left column of your screen. If you haven't searched for and selected the NMRA as your favorite charity, and you should, you can do that the first time you log in and it will associate your account with the NMRA every time you log in. You can change it at any time, but why would you?

Here's the policy: Visitors are allowed three visits to an NMRA meeting IN THEIR LIFETIME. If they don't join by their third visit, they cannot attend any more meetings.

A lot of the questions we've been getting are from members trying to over-think the policy, worrying about this or that exception and making up complicated what-ifs. The policy does not apply to members' spouses who come along to the meetings so that they can go to dinner afterwards. It does not apply to non-member caregivers who aren't modelers, but who provide a ride to a member who cannot drive himself. It does not apply to events that are organized for the general public, like mall shows, swap meets, beginner clinic series, and the like, nor does it apply to things like joint meetings with another non-NMRA group or to family picnics or outings.

The policy does apply to non-members who continually show up at meetings at make themselves at home, month after month, year after year. Allowing freeloaders to participate as if they were members is unfair because it takes advantage of our members who HAVE paid up. We members are all paying to keep the organization going - what are the freeloaders doing, besides getting a free ride on our backs? Tolerating permanent freeloaders can give our insurance providers a reason to cancel an NMRA group's coverage if there's an incident, leaving individual officers and members responsible for paying the claim. The IRS has rules about giving benefits of membership to non-members, too - they say don't do it, and there are tax consequences if you do.

Now, if your Division and Region are already following the rules (which would be a really good idea if you want the protection of our NMRA Liability Insurance policy), this policy is not the big deal you might think it is. We all know that if someone comes and tries us out three times and still doesn't join, he or she is not going to join. So after the third turn-down, don't worry about it - just move on to the next prospect.

If you're still wondering whether your group is in compliance, just ask yourself: are you allowing people who aren't members to come to your meetings month after month, year after year, and participate as if they'd paid their dues? If the answer is no, then fine, just keep doing what you're doing. If the answer is yes, then you have some changes to make.

If you have additional questions about this policy or how to implement it, please feel free to contact an NMRA officer, director, or NMRA HQ. We'll get your question to the right person.

Mike Brestel  
NMRA Insurance Coordinator  
At-Large Worldwide Director

What's up in the forums?

If you're not logging into the forum of the Members Only section of our website, you're missing some good conversations! Stop by and join in!

If you're not logged in to the NMRA website as a member, when you click on one of the links below you'll be sent to the login page.

So sell that locomotive or rolling stock you don't need, or some photographs, or anything else really. We've had cell phones, toner, and artwork sold with proceeds to benefit the NMRA. Specify your donation amount as low as 10% or up to 100% of the selling prices. Those proceeds will be donated to the NMRA. When your item sells, your final listing fees will be reduced by the same percentage. Everyone Wins!

If you are buying on eBay, simply purchase the items you want and upon check out, add the amount you wish to donate to the NMRA. This assumes you have already chosen the NMRA as your favorite charity. Happy railroading!

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Editors:

[Gerry Leone](#), MMR, HLM, and [Chuck Diljak](#)

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The NMRA eBulletin is an official bi-monthly production of the National Model Railroad Association, Inc. Publishing Department ([Don Phillips](#), Manager). Its purpose is to keep every NMRA member informed about organization news and events. If you know of an NMRA member who is not receiving this mailing, please direct them to [here](#) to update their email address. If you no longer wish to receive these mailings, please don't mark them as SPAM. Instead, click the Safe Unsubscribe link at the bottom of this page. ©2015 National Model Railroad Association, Inc., P.O. Box 1328, Soddy Daisy TN 37384.

- [Clinic videos from past National conventions now available](#)
- [Contests at the National Level](#)
- [HO scale car weight](#)

## Region and National Conventions

(Only those conventions occurring in the next three months are listed)



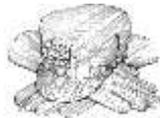
Sep 16-20  
Sep 18-21  
Oct 22-25

[Pacific Southwest Region, Scottsdale, AZ](#)  
[Australasian Region, Sydney, Australia](#)  
[Mid-Eastern Region /Northeast Region, Mt. Laurel, NJ](#)

Oct 22-25  
Oct 23-25  
Oct 29-Nov 1  
Jul 3-10,  
2016

[Sunshine Region, Jacksonville, FL](#)  
[British Region, Derby, UK](#)  
[North Central Region, Ft. Wayne, IN](#)  
[NMRA National Convention, Indianapolis, IN](#)

## Master Model Railroaders



560: William Percy, NCR  
561: George Gilbert, SER  
562: Charles Ricketts, PNR  
563: Peter Jackson, AR  
564: Robert Best, AR  
565: Thomas Oxnard, NER

## In upcoming issues of NMRA Magazine



- Donations through the workplace
- The Portland Celebration of Models
- Modeling with the Masters

**Welcome to the NMRA InfoNet News (Infoblast) For August, 2015**

## **Candidates for the 2016 Election**

From John Stevens, NMRA Secretary:

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Peter Bowen  
Kathy Millat

At Large World Wide Director  
Mike Brestel

Western District Director  
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Stephen Priest

Members may petition to the NMRA to nominate additional candidates by using the By Petition process which can be found in Sec A 10.1 paragraph 3 of the EHB (Executive Handbook) available as a PDF on our website at <http://www.nmra.org/executive-handbook> . All petitions must be received by the NMRA Secretary by September 15, 2015. For more information, contact NMRA Secretary John Stevens at [snevets4@bellsouth.net](mailto:snevets4@bellsouth.net).

A message from Mike Brestel, NMRA At Large Worldwide Director

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Mike Brestel - At Large Worldwide Director

*If you have any questions or comments about any of the above, please send them directly to a Director or Officer. You will find those addresses at [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) or in the NMRA Magazine*

Regards,

Tom Draper – HLM, DSA, FA, MSA, PA  
Director – Support Services

If you haven't already done so don't forget to view the Nutmeg Division Newsletter, Volume 16 Issue 3 September / November 2015.

[http://www.nutmegdivision.com/main/sites/default/files/newsletters/NEWSLETTER%20VOL%2016%20ISSUE%203\\_0.pdf](http://www.nutmegdivision.com/main/sites/default/files/newsletters/NEWSLETTER%20VOL%2016%20ISSUE%203_0.pdf)

Respectfully submitted,

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Communication Manager / Membership Promotion Manager / Newsletter Editor

If you need talk with me please call 860-977-5573 any evening between 7:30 PM and 11:00 PM. This is the time period that I am usually near my computer. If you are unable to call during this time period please send me an e-mail so that we can arrange some other form of communication.

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