

NMRA InfoNet-News

November 2013

Message from Dave Thornton, NMRA VP of Administration:

The NMRA in Europe

There is ground breaking news about the NMRA coming from continental Europe. An effort is underway by a number of continental European NMRA members to establish a new NMRA region in continental Europe. This would be a separate region from the long established British Region. We have had a number of NMRA members in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, and Sweden for a long time. There were a total of 101 as of June 30, 2013. I have had the opportunity to meet a number of them at several different NMRA national conventions over the last several years.

Largely due to the efforts of former Atlantic District Director Nobby Clarke, from the British Region, a core group of continental European model railroaders has been formed and they are in the process of petitioning the NMRA Board of Directors to form a European Region of the NMRA. This would form the 18th region in the NMRA and the third overseas region.

The NMRA has had a long standing relationship with MOROP, the European equivalent of the NMRA. Standards and technical information have been shared. You might not know, but DCC that we know today, originated in Europe by Lenz, and it was shared with the NMRA. Over the last dozen years or so, a number of NMRA officers have traveled to Germany to attend the Nuremburg Toy Show and represent the NMRA. Model railroading is a very popular hobby in Europe, maybe even more so than it is in North America. Many of the major world-wide model railroad equipment and supply manufacturers are located in Europe.

Model railroading knows no borders. The trains in each country may differ, but the enthusiasm for railroads and model railroading is the same everywhere. It may be surprising to many North American members, but US railroads are modeled by many outside of North America. Conversely, we have a number of NMRA members in North America that model overseas prototypes. The NMRA has a significant percentage of its current membership outside of the United States. As of June 30, 2013, there were 19,118 NMRA members living in 36 countries. 16,561, or 86.6%, are from the US. 1142 from Canada, 637 from Australia, 26 from New Zealand, 564 from England, 24 from Scotland, 14 from Wales, 6 from Northern Ireland, and 23 from Japan.

Build A Memory Program

As I write this, our "Build A Memory®" pilot program looks to be a success which we hope to expand next year into a broader effort. "Indeed, our new Marketing Department has been stellar in promoting the NMRA," Alan Anderson, NMRA Fund Raising Manager, writes.

Due to some unforeseen circumstances and timing challenges we have to suspend this year's (2013) Build A Memory® project. We will refocus our attention on this program during the 2014 National Convention in Cleveland for a NMRRM launch in 2014. We can however continue with three pilot projects to achieve key learnings in order to make next year's roll out less encumbered. This year's pilot programs will be the PSR Region in LA market, the PCR in Bay market, and the PNR in Seattle market. These test markets are being held in conjunction with other model railroad events (PCR & PNR with Great TrainExpos and PSR at Orange Empire Railroad Museum Thomas the Tank Engine Weekend).

I do ask the following of our other Division partners, the NMRA National would like to retain the name use "Build A Memory®" solely for the project rollout next year. I ask this because you may wish to continue with your own divisional effort on a "BAM" type of project. If you need any consultation in branding a project please feel free to contact me and I will lend a hand creatively.

I hope to have you all involved next year as I felt we were making great collective strides in this event.

Thank you
Page Martin
Director of Marketing
National Model Railroad Association

Message from Frank Koch, NMRA Chief Financial Officer:

eBay is running a contest during November for those entities signed up on Giving Works. Everyone who follows their favorite non-profit (NMRA) will be entered into a sweepstakes where they winner receives a \$2,500 gift card AND the chosen non-profit receives a \$2,500 gift card.

This is the direct link eBay page that members can use to sell items with the NMRA selected as their non-profit: <http://bit.ly/1clp0Rx>

If you have any questions or comments about any of the above, please send them directly to a Director or Officer. You'll find those addresses at www.nmra.org on in the NMRA Magazine.

Regards,

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

December 2013

Message from Frank Koch, NMRA Chief Financial Officer:

NMRA ECONOMICS – PART 1 - A VERY BRIEF INTRODUCTION

This provides a very broad perspective of NMRA economics. Subsequent articles will provide more detail on individual elements and explain how we fund the various parts of our organization. We have committed to place the annual audit results and budgets on the website once it is redesigned. The IT department is busy with other higher priority work and this project is a bit down the list.

The NMRA is not a club but is a non-profit corporation, must conduct its business in strict accord with laws and regulations, and must have an annual outside professional audit (We pass with no major issues.). Like many corporations, we have multiple “business” units (four) and each plays a role in our overall financial strategy. Each of the four units serves a specific purpose and we manage them accordingly. The four units are Operations, NMRA Magazine, Non-Dues Programs, and Howell Day Museum (HDM). The first three are interdependent while HDM is treated as an independent financial unit, but still a part of the NMRA. The overall strategy is that the first three units balance each other every year. We do plan for a small surplus in each annual budget to cover unexpected opportunities or expenses during the year.

Within each unit, there are income and expense streams that are budgeted, tracked, and monitored. The challenge is to balance the first three against today’s mix of member services, while finding ways to increase net revenue so that improvements and/or new services and benefits can be provided. We can also choose to redistribute our resources to change the mix of member benefits. As an example, in 2013 the BOD chose to increase the budgets for IT and Marketing so that we could increase our reach and communication to members and non-members over the next few years. The website is being redesigned and responsibility for some content is moving to the Department Heads. The increased Marketing effort includes membership applications in all mail orders from several major suppliers, distribution of materials at railroad museums, and a trial of the Build A Memory initiative.

The total annual NMRA budget varies, but about \$2.3 million in 2013. This may seem like a lot but remember that it includes the annual convention, the National Train Show, and a major fund raising effort by HDM in 2013. Each area has its own budget which is reviewed by a Department Manager, the Finance Committee, and then approved by the Board of Directors on an annual basis. Each fiscal year starts with a zero budget and we build it based on the funds needed to deliver the agreed and planned programs. The chart below shows how the 2013 budget was distributed between the four units.

	<u>NMRA 2013 BUDGET (\$ Thousands)</u>	
	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>
Operations	668	720
Magazine	352	441
Non-Dues Activities	871	673
Howell Day Museum	<u>458</u>	<u>456</u>
Total	2,349	2,290

This has been a very brief introduction. Over the next year, I’ll expand on each of the four areas and provide an introduction to the various types of assets and liabilities that make up the NMRA. If you have any questions or thoughts, my contact information is in the Magazine and on the website.

Frank J. Koch, NMRA CFO

Regards,

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

January 2014

eBay GivingWorks Program

The NMRA participates in eBay's GivingWorks program. GivingWorks allows eBay users to donate a portion of winning auction prices to their favorite charity. Here is how it works. When you are selling any item on eBay, simply specify the 'National Model Railroad Association' as your chosen charity. Set a percentage of the final selling price to donate and let eBay do its work. If your item sells, the percentage you pre-select goes to the NMRA, and you keep the balance. An additional benefit to the seller is that eBay will reduce your final listing fees by the same percentage. If you donate 25% of the final auction price to the NMRA and your item was \$100, the NMRA receives \$25, you receive \$75 and your final listing fees from eBay are reduced by 25%.

Does it have to be train related items for sale? No, past winning auctions have included cell phones, iPhones, toner, calendars, manuals, and of course trains.

You can even donate directly from the NMRA GivingWorks page.

So now, if you are changing eras, selling unused rolling stock or upgrading your latest smartphone, sell it on eBay and specify the NMRA as your favorite charity.

Simply start by visiting <http://givingworks.ebay.com/>, enter 'National Model Railroad Association' in the search box in the upper left corner and the rest is easy.

Alan Anderson
Fundraising Dept. Manager

NMRA mid-year (Winter) Board of Directors Meeting:

The NMRA Board of Directors will hold their annual mid-year (Winter) Board of Directors meeting in Las Vegas, NV from Friday, 2-14-14 to Sunday, 2-16-14.

The meeting will be held at the Flamingo Las Vegas Hotel and Casino, 3555 S. Las Vegas Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV 89109. Phone: 702-733-3111.

The Budget and Operations meeting will begin at 2:00 pm Friday, 2-14-14 and the Board of Directors will be in caucus that evening (Board and invited guests only). The regular BOD meeting begins at 9:00 am on Saturday, 2-15-14 and is scheduled to run until late afternoon on Sunday, 2-16-14. All members are invited to attend the open sessions.

Regards,

Tom Draper – HLM, DSA, FA

February 2014

DCC Information Tidbit

To prevent your locomotive headlights from coming on when in consist (second, third, fourth locomotive, etc.) program CV22 to zero (0) before putting the locomotives in consist. It does not affect normal operation or as a lead unit in a consist.

In Memoriam – Jim Fitzgerald, 1923 – 2013

From March, 2014 issue of Model Railroader Magazine:

Jim Fitzgerald, an early member of the Ntrak Modular Railroading Society, died on October 24 in Paso Robles, California. In addition to serving as Ntrak's president, he edited the group's newsletter and helped coordinate the Ntrak layout at the National Train Show each year. Jim and his wife, Lee, were also instrumental in the establishment of T-Trak.

Editor's note: I had the pleasure of working with Jim for several years in conjunction with the Ntrak modular layout group being part of the National Train Show each year. He was a true gentleman and always a pleasure to work with.

Missing forms from the 2014 NMRA Convention insert in the NMRA Magazine

Three forms were missing from the 2014 NMRA Convention insert in the February issue of the NMRA Magazine. Because of a printing problem, three registration pages were not printed.

These pages included the merchandise order forms for men's and ladies' shirts, convention cars and other items, and the Extra Fare order form for ordering banquet tickets and registering for Modeling With The Masters clinics.

You can register online and purchase any of the items mentioned through the NMRA Company Store without the missing forms. For those that want to print out the forms and mail them in with payment the three missing forms have been included as an attachment to this issue of InfoNet News.

The 3 missing forms are:

1. Merchandise Order Form #1
2. Merchandise Order Form #2
3. Extra Fare Order Form.

Completed forms and payment should be sent to:

NMRA
P.O. Box 1328
Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328

Regards,

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

2014 NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION
EXTRA FARE SPECIAL EVENTS & CLINICS

NAME:					
Item #	Description	Day	Quantity	Price	Subtotal
G122	Dinner Cruise on Lake Erie (also included on page 2)	Monday		\$62.00	
G224	Dinner on the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad (also included on page 2)	Tuesday		\$60.00	
G323	Dinner & Train Watching at Union Depot Tavern (also included on page 2)	Wednesday		\$50.00	
G423	The Brew Bus (also included on page 2)	Thursday		\$62.00	
G422	Ladies Luncheon	Thursday		TBA	
SIG1	LDSIG Banquet	Friday		TBA	
BQ1	2014 Awards Banquet - Wabash Slow Braised Swiss Steak	Saturday		\$68.00	
BQ2	2014 Awards Banquet - Frisco Flaked Breast of Chicken w/ Sherry	Saturday		\$68.00	
BQ3	2014 Awards Banquet - Vegetarian and Gluten Free	Saturday		\$68.00	
C031	MWTM - Scratch Building w/ Balsa Foam	Sunday		\$45.00	
C131HO	MWTM - Scratch Building a Small Puddle Jumper Bridge - HO Scale	Monday		\$45.00	
C131N	MWTM - Scratch Building a Small Puddle Jumper Bridge - N Scale	Monday		\$45.00	
C132HO	MWTM - Introduction to Laser Kits - HO Scale	Monday		\$45.00	
C132N	MWTM - Introduction to Laser Kits - N Scale	Monday		\$45.00	
C132S	MWTM - Introduction to Laser Kits - S Scale	Monday		\$58.00	
C132O	MWTM - Introduction to Laser Kits - O Scale	Monday		\$58.00	
C231HO	MWTM - Scratch Building Loads for your Freight Cars - HO Scale	Tuesday		\$45.00	
C231N	MWTM - Scratch Building Loads for your Freight Cars - N Scale	Tuesday		\$45.00	
C232HO	MWTM - Introduction to Building your own Turnouts - HO Scale	Tuesday		\$48.00	
C232HO3	MWTM - Introduction to Building your own Turnouts - HO3 Scale	Tuesday		\$48.00	
C232N	MWTM - Introduction to Building your own Turnouts - N Scale	Tuesday		\$48.00	
C232S	MWTM - Introduction to Building your own Turnouts - S Scale	Tuesday		\$55.00	
C232Sn3	MWTM - Introduction to Building your own Turnouts - Sn3 Scale	Tuesday		\$55.00	
C232On3	MWTM - Introduction to Building your own Turnouts - On30 Scale	Tuesday		\$55.00	
C332HO	MWTM - Introduction to Building your own Turnouts - HO Scale	Tuesday		\$48.00	
C332HO3	MWTM - Introduction to Building your own Turnouts - HO3 Scale	Tuesday		\$48.00	
C332N	MWTM - Introduction to Building your own Turnouts - N Scale	Tuesday		\$48.00	
C332S	MWTM - Introduction to Building your own Turnouts - S Scale	Tuesday		\$55.00	
C332Sn3	MWTM - Introduction to Building your own Turnouts - Sn3 Scale	Tuesday		\$55.00	
C332On3	MWTM - Introduction to Building your own Turnouts - On30 Scale	Tuesday		\$55.00	

Extra Fare Events Subtotal

2014 NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM

NAME:	CONVENTION SHIRTS - MENS			COLOR / QUANTITY		Price	Subtotal
5.6oz 50/50 cotton/poly preshrunk sport shirt by Jerzee	Red	White	Gray				
Men's Polo Shirt - Small						\$ 27.00	
Men's Polo Shirt - Medium						\$ 27.00	
Men's Polo Shirt - Large						\$ 27.00	
Men's Polo Shirt - XL						\$ 27.00	
Men's Polo Shirt - XXL						\$ 35.64	
Men's Polo Shirt - XXXL						\$ 35.64	
Men's Polo Shirt - XXXXL						\$ 35.64	
4.5oz 55/45 cotton/poly button down collar shirt	Red	White	Black			Price	Subtotal
Men's Long Sleeve Super Pro Twill Button Down Shirt - Small						\$ 32.40	
Men's Long Sleeve Super Pro Twill Button Down Shirt - Medium						\$ 32.40	
Men's Long Sleeve Super Pro Twill Button Down Shirt - Large						\$ 32.40	
Men's Long Sleeve Super Pro Twill Button Down Shirt - XL						\$ 32.40	
Men's Long Sleeve Super Pro Twill Button Down Shirt - XXL						\$ 34.56	
Men's Long Sleeve Super Pro Twill Button Down Shirt - XXXL						\$ 37.80	
Men's Long Sleeve Super Pro Twill Button Down Shirt - XXXXL						\$ 39.96	
4.5oz 55/45 cotton/poly button down collar shirt	Red	White	Black			Price	Subtotal
Men's Short Sleeve Super Pro Twill Button Down Shirt - Small						\$ 32.40	
Men's Short Sleeve Super Pro Twill Button Down Shirt - Medium						\$ 32.40	
Men's Short Sleeve Super Pro Twill Button Down Shirt - Large						\$ 32.40	
Men's Short Sleeve Super Pro Twill Button Down Shirt - XL						\$ 32.40	
Men's Short Sleeve Super Pro Twill Button Down Shirt - XXL						\$ 34.56	
Men's Short Sleeve Super Pro Twill Button Down Shirt - XXXL						\$ 37.80	
Men's Short Sleeve Super Pro Twill Button Down Shirt - XXXXL						\$ 39.96	
Long Sleeve Denim Shirt			Denim			Price	Subtotal
Men's Long Sleeve Denim Shirt - Small						\$ 32.40	
Men's Long Sleeve Denim Shirt - Medium						\$ 32.40	
Men's Long Sleeve Denim Shirt - Large						\$ 32.40	
Men's Long Sleeve Denim Shirt - XL						\$ 32.40	
Men's Long Sleeve Denim Shirt - XXL						\$ 34.56	
Men's Long Sleeve Denim Shirt - XXXL						\$ 37.80	
Men's Long Sleeve Denim Shirt - XXXXL						\$ 39.96	
9.5oz 50/50 cotton/poly preshrunk sweatshirt by Jerzee	Red	White	Black			Price	Subtotal
Crewneck Sweatshirt - Small						\$ 30.24	
Crewneck Sweatshirt - Medium						\$ 30.24	
Crewneck Sweatshirt - Large						\$ 30.24	
Crewneck Sweatshirt - XL						\$ 30.24	
Crewneck Sweatshirt - XXL						\$ 32.40	
Crewneck Sweatshirt - XXXL						\$ 32.40	
Crewneck Sweatshirt - XXXXL						\$ 32.40	
						Subtotal	

2014 NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM

NAME:								
CONVENTION SHIRTS - WOMENS			COLOR / QUANTITY					
5.6oz 50/50 cotton/poly preshrunk sport shirt by Jerzee			Red	White	Gray	Price	Subtotal	
Women's Polo Shirt - Small						\$ 27.00		
Women's Polo Shirt - Medium						\$ 27.00		
Women's Polo Shirt - Large						\$ 27.00		
Women's Polo Shirt - XL						\$ 27.00		
Women's Polo Shirt - XXL						\$ 35.64		
Women's Polo Shirt - XXXL						\$ 35.64		
Women's Polo Shirt - XXXXL						\$ 35.64		
4.5oz 55/45 cotton/poly button down collar shirt			Red	White	Black	Price	Subtotal	
Women's Long Sleeve Super Pro Twill Button Down Shirt - Small						\$ 32.40		
Women's Long Sleeve Super Pro Twill Button Down Shirt - Medium						\$ 32.40		
Women's Long Sleeve Super Pro Twill Button Down Shirt - Large						\$ 32.40		
Women's Long Sleeve Super Pro Twill Button Down Shirt - XL						\$ 32.40		
Women's Long Sleeve Super Pro Twill Button Down Shirt - XXL						\$ 34.56		
Women's Long Sleeve Super Pro Twill Button Down Shirt - XXXL						\$ 37.80		
Women's Long Sleeve Super Pro Twill Button Down Shirt - XXXXL						\$ 39.96		
4.5oz 55/45 cotton/poly button down collar shirt			Red	White	Black	Price	Subtotal	
Women's Short Sleeve Super Pro Twill Button Down Shirt - Small						\$ 32.40		
Women's Short Sleeve Super Pro Twill Button Down Shirt - Medium						\$ 32.40		
Women's Short Sleeve Super Pro Twill Button Down Shirt - Large						\$ 32.40		
Women's Short Sleeve Super Pro Twill Button Down Shirt - XL						\$ 32.40		
Women's Short Sleeve Super Pro Twill Button Down Shirt - XXL						\$ 34.56		
Women's Short Sleeve Super Pro Twill Button Down Shirt - XXXL						\$ 37.80		
Women's Short Sleeve Super Pro Twill Button Down Shirt - XXXXL						\$ 39.96		
Long Sleeve Denim Shirt			Denim			Price	Subtotal	
Women's Long Sleeve Denim Shirt - Small						\$ 32.40		
Women's Long Sleeve Denim Shirt - Medium						\$ 32.40		
Women's Long Sleeve Denim Shirt - Large						\$ 32.40		
Women's Long Sleeve Denim Shirt - XL						\$ 32.40		
Women's Long Sleeve Denim Shirt - XXL						\$ 34.56		
Women's Long Sleeve Denim Shirt - XXXL						\$ 37.80		
Women's Long Sleeve Denim Shirt - XXXXL						\$ 39.96		
OTHER CONVENTION MERCHANDISE						Quantity	Price	Subtotal
HO Scale Convention Car - Single Car							\$ 21.60	
HO Scale Convention Car - Three Car Set							\$ 59.40	
N Scale Convention Car - Single Car							\$ 21.60	
N Scale Convention Car - Three Car Set							\$ 59.40	
Convention Coffee Mug (11oz)							\$ 8.64	
Convention Hat - Black							\$ 21.60	
Convention Patch							\$ 2.50	
All items include applicable Ohio sales tax. Orders to be picked up at the 2014 NMRA Cleveland National Convention - July 13-19, 2014							Subtotal	

MARCH 2014

Message from Joe Gelmini – Eastern District Director:

Why Buy A Ticket If You're Not Going To Go?

We hear a lot about the benefits of being an NMRA member. Most people want to know “what’s in it for me”. Why should I shell out \$44.00 or \$66.00 they ask? I think we are all aware of most of the tangible benefits:

- Access to the world-class Kalmbach Library
- Access to standards and recommended practices in all scales
- Ability to participate in the Achievement Program
- Ability to attend national and regional conventions
- Calendar and address labels
- Subscription to a fine hobby magazine focused on NMRA members and activities.

These are all great. But, to me, the biggest benefit by far has been the fellowship and knowledge I’ve gained from getting together with people from around the world, or from around the corner, that share my love of model trains. Granted, I am fortunate to live in an area that is rich with model railroaders and to be a part of a very active NMRA division. But whether you live in a hot bed of activity or one where only a few folks reside, the first steps are up to you. Steel City Superintendent John Stewart summed it up about as well as I’ve heard in a recent article he wrote for his division’s newsletter. John offered the question “If you bought a ticket to a movie or play, would you decide not to attend the performance?” Of course you wouldn’t. Why would you shell out your hard-earned money to buy a ticket to a show, movie, game, whatever, and then not attend? Makes no sense, does it? But in a way, that’s exactly what folks are doing who pay for NMRA membership, and then don’t attend or participate in any of the activities (the “show”).

So go ahead and use the “ticket” you’ve paid for. Attend a convention, clinic, open house, open session or just a lunch with some like-minded modelers. I am confident you’ll enjoy the show!
Joe Gelmini, Eastern District Director

In Memoriam – William E. McKean II, 1944 – 2013

From April, 2014 issue of Model Railroader Magazine:

Model Railroad manufacturer and author Bill McKean died on December 30 in Sioux Falls, S.D. He was 69.

In addition to running his family’s bus business and working in radio and advertising sales, Bill founded McKean Models, manufacturer of HO scale freight car kits (Greenville 100-ton hopper and 40-foot PS-1 Boxcar, among others) and detail parts. He also wrote articles for *Mainline Modeler* and *Model Railroading* magazines.

Bill was a lifetime member of the National Model Railroad Association, founding member of the NMRA’s Dakota Southeastern Division, and member of the Sioux Valley Model Engineers Society. He actively participated in a Sioux Falls-area round-robin modeling group, helping build several model railroads, including his own HO scale Lakeland Western RR.

Notice of 2015 NMRA Elections:

The following NMRA Officers and Board of Directors positions are open for election in 2015:

1. President

2. Vice President, Administration
3. Vice President, Special Projects
4. Eastern District Director
5. Pacific District Director
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.

All submissions for candidate's names for consideration by the Nomination Committee for all offices except Pacific District Director shall be submitted to Stephen Priest, temporary Chairman of the Nominations Committee, nmra@pairedrail.com no later than June 15, 2014.

All submissions of candidate's names for consideration by the Pacific District Director Nominations Committee shall be submitted to Sam Mangion, Chairman of the Pacific District Director Nominations Committee, mangion2@bigpond.com, no later than June 15, 2014.

Candidates may wish to run for these positions by petition and not be subjected to the decisions of the appropriate nominations committees. 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, 2014.

Meetings & Train Show Personnel Change

From Charlie Getz, NMRA President:

For the past year, Jim "Lumpy" Lupfer has been Department head for M&TS and has done a great job in a very demanding role. At the mid-year BOD meeting we discussed that job and its unrelenting requirements and Lumpy advised he felt it was best to step down. I asked him to reconsider but respect his decision. Lumpy was a pleasure to work with and a consummate professional.

Bob Amsler has kindly agreed to step in as the new Department head of the M&TS, his former role. Because of my concern that no volunteer undertake two major roles and as Bob is our indispensable attorney, he has agreed to treat the position much as the Depart head of Publications does, overseeing the work of the managers, setting policy and acting as point person for the host committees. Working for him will be Ray DeBlieck as Convention Manager and Ed Slintak as Ass't thereto, along with Mark "Fuzzy" Shafer as NTS Manager with Tom Draper helping. Tom will be winding down and he has been a tremendous asset to M&TS over literally decades.

This team brings years of experience and I will announce these changes in the May issue of the magazine as April is already being finalized. I sincerely thank Lumpy all he has done and then Bob, Ray, Ed, Fuzzy and Tom for all they are doing.

So in sum:

Bob Amsler – Department Manager
Ray DeBlieck – Convention Manager
Ed Slintak – Ass't Convention Manager

Mark Shafer – NTS Manager
Tom Draper – Floor Manager
Frank Koch – Treasurer
Jenny Hendricks – Admin Contact

“Thanks, everyone, and on to Cleveland”

Charlie

Highlights of the Winter 2014 Board Meeting

The NMRA Board of Directors held its Winter meeting in Las Vegas, NV on February 14, 15 and 16, 2014.

Here are some highlights from the board meeting. Please note that this is an informal recap and should not be assumed to be definitive. The official meeting minutes will be issued shortly by John Stevens, NMRA Secretary and published in the *NMRA Magazine* and on www.nmra.org.

New Europe Region approved – the BOD unanimously approved a contingency motion to accept a new Europe Region into the NMRA. Some of the names needed on a petition were not yet received and/or verified by headquarters at the time of the motion, hence the contingency. When it’s official, the new region will have over 100 members from the outset. Atlantic District (AD) Director Kathy Millat worked alongside former AD Director Nobby Clarke to bring this to fruition.

Video recording/streaming policy – The issue of commercial companies recording and/or streaming clinics at NMRA National Conventions was discussed at the Atlanta Board meeting in 2013. At that time a special committee was appointed to investigate alternatives to a temporary policy that had been put into place for that convention. The committee could not agree on a new policy, so at this Winter meeting the Board agreed to adopt the temporary policy as permanent.

New Marketing Director – Marketing Director Page Martin was promoted to Vice President of Marketing, and introduced the new Marketing Director, John Parrish.

NMRA in the black for 2013 – Chief Financial Officer Frank Koch reported that the NMRA ended last year with a surplus of over \$240,000. He also reported that the NMRA headquarters building sold for almost \$900,000 – a sum that was higher than comparable properties in the area. The deal was a win/win for both the NMRA and the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum, who would have had to build a new building to accommodate their operations.

California State Railroad Museum Display – Paperwork is continuing on this initiative, which has raised over \$600,000 to date. Currently approvals are being slowed down by governmental entities within the CSRM. The board would like to remind members to please send in their pledges for contributions if they haven’t done so.

Kansas City approved for the 2018 NMRA convention – Stephen Priest, *NMRA Magazine* editor and current RAC Director, gave the BOD an impressive presentation pitching Kansas City, MO as the location for the 2018 NMRA convention. The BOD approved the site.

Redesigned website nearing completion – IT director Ben Sevier reported that the completely revamped NMRA website is nearing completion and will hopefully be ready to go live sometime this summer.

L-Gauge standards not approved – The BOD did not approve proposed standards for L-Gauge (aka “Lego”). The BOD issued this statement regarding the decision: “The BOD agreed that L-Gauge, as it is called by its fans, is an exciting pathway to scale model railroading and a real asset at the NTS and other train shows. Youngsters especially are enthralled and the skill involved can be amazing. We hope to see an enhanced presence of L-Gauge in the NMRA as a SIG. As for adopting an L-Gauge standard, we could not because we do not control the standard already established and patented by the major maker of L-Gauge trains. In other words, there was nothing to set. When we set a standard, it is available for any manufacturer to use but where the sole standard is someone else's and patented, it is not available for use without permission from the patent holder. We have not adopted a standard without the right for free use of it. So we could act on the request from the L-Gauge community.

Self-certification program ratified – The BOD ratified a self-certification program for standards and conformance, as proposed by the S&C Department Di Voss.

Other Items

Clark Kooning, our Nominations Chair, cannot continue in the post as he is contemplating a run for office. Stephen Priest has graciously accepted temporary assignment of the post but a new volunteer is needed who can take over and has a good network of contacts. “Nominations” is an important job and encouraging that next generation of leadership is very important, though often sadly neglected. If you know of someone please contact Charlie Getz, NMRA President.

The RAC group elected Steve August as the new RAC Director.

Charlie Getz announced the appointment of Bob Ferguson of PCR to head up a new member initiative. Bob will be looking at creating and sharing a program of proven retention actions that can be undertaken by Divisions and Regions. We have good success in signing up new members – our RailPass conversion rate to regular membership is over 60%. But we lose far too many members at renewal.

If you have any questions or comments about any of the above, please send them directly to a Director or Officer. You'll find those addresses at www.nmra.org or in the NMRA Magazine

If the person holding a region or division office changes, or their email address changes, please contact me at tcdraider@aol.com with the corrected information.

Regards,

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