

National Model Railroad Association Mid-Central Region Board of Directors Meeting May 15, 2015

The meeting was held during the 2015 Region MCR Convention at the Campbell House in Lexington, Kentucky on May 15, 2015. The meeting was called to order by President Merlyn Jarman at 9:05 PM. Present at the meeting were the President Merlyn Jarman, Vice President Bob Weinheimer, Secretary Art Bumpus, and Treasurer Jerry Doyle. Also present were Superintendents from Divisions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and representative Jim Peters for Division 1. Division 8 and 11 were absent. Special guest Mike Brestel represented Charlie Getz and NMRA National.

A motion was made and seconded that all election ballots be destroyed. The BOD voted, and without any opposition, approved of the destruction of all ballots.

The Treasurer reported a May 10, 2015 balance of \$28,146.12.

The Vice President reported that the last issue of the Kingpin went to the printer on January 6, 2015 which included the ballots for the MCR elected positions to the BOD. The spring issue, will only be electronically delivered to MCR members. It will include superintendent reports prepared for the May 15th BOD meeting. The next issue of the Kingpin will be e-mailed during June 2015.

Committee Reports:

The President reported that membership of the MCR was 1,565 in April 2014, and 1,529 in April 2015.

Contest Chair, Dick Briggs reported that there were 92 submitted entries and 25 photo and other entries.

The Achievement report submitted by Chair Frank Koch, was presented by President Jarman. President Jarman reported that, since the last report, the Achievement Program had 6 Gold Spike certificates issued. Also, there were 3 Merit Award certificates and 5 AP Program certificates issued.

Webmaster, Don Wilke reported that Division reports were received from all but one Division. The Region web site will be updated for the new Region office holders.

For the EduTRAIN program, President Jarman reported that the curriculum committee will be reviewing several clinics for inclusion in the EduTRAIN program.

Division Reports:

All Divisions except Division 11 submitted written reports. With the exception of an absent Division 11, verbal and/or written reports were provided by all other Divisions. A copy of each Division's written report is included in this issue of the Kingpin.

Several Divisions reported information which emerged as common themes:

- All Divisions are financially sound.

- Most Divisions have migrated to a paperless newsletter.

- Divisions are experiencing difficulty with governance succession due to the death of key members.

- There was a lapse in retaining Rail-Pass members who signed up specifically to attend the Cleveland National Convention.

Old Business:

Conventions:

2015 Lexington, Kentucky – A key group of 15 people were responsible for pulling together a successful convention. The convention utilized snail mail and electronic registration. Due to the numbers of registrants in a Regional Convention, the recommendation is that Divisions should not pursue electronic registration.

2016 Columbus Convention – Embassy Suites will be the convention hotel, 4/28/2016 to 5/1/2016. The room rate is \$129.00 and includes breakfast and managers snacks and afternoon beverages (libations). The signature tour will be the Age of Steam Roundhouse in Sugar Creek.

2017 Louisville Convention – The Galt House will be the convention hotel.

2018 Cincinnati Convention – The Cincinnati Marriott North will be the convention hotel. The room rate will be \$109 for a king size bed and \$119 for two double beds. There will be premier layouts on tour on each day of the convention.

Niagara Frontier Region transfer of members:

The issue is taking a long time to resolve. There is a hang-up with affected individual members signing a petition for presentation to National. Approximately 60% of signatures have come in. Once the signatures are in, National will go through its procedures. Mike Brestel cautioned that this is a slow and arduous process and it is now questionable as to whether this will occur, in whole or in part. Possibilities include whether the affected members will be assigned to Canada, the U.S., or start a new MCR Division 12.

MCR School house kit project:

The school house is a reality. The HO models are available at this Lexington convention. Ten O models are still to be delivered. The modeled building is in Canal Winchester, Ohio.

New Business:

NMRA insurance protection:

Mike Brestel re-stated and re-emphasized the NMRA policy concerning long term visitors and non-members participating in NMRA/Division activities. The policy is that a guest may attend three meetings in their lifetime. This is to protect NMRA's insurance policy coverage. The insurance company requires a good representation of their insurance exposure (in order to develop its policy premium cost) and to define who is included in the insurance program. While there is no problem in MCR, there are extreme circumstances where other Divisions in other Regions have elected officials who are not NMRA members.

Proposal to increase mileage reimbursement for Region BOD member activities:

The current MCR rate for mileage reimbursement is \$.14 per mile. Official BOD business should be reimbursed at a rate more in line with actual mileage costs incurred by the BOD member. Steve Kaplan made a motion to change the verbiage in Article 3, section 7 from \$.14 to the NMRA National established mileage reimbursement (currently \$.40 per mile). The motion was seconded by Bob Shreve. After discussion, the motion was withdrawn for further study.

Proposal to shop for a better return for MCR assets currently in certificates of deposit:

There are other financial institutions paying a higher rate of return than our currently held certificates of deposit. Currently, our CD's are set to automatically roll into a new CD rate when the CD matures. In order to take advantage of better return rates, we need to stop automatically rolling those CD's at maturity. Art Bumpus made a motion that all MCR certificates of deposit reaching maturity be rolled into the MCR checking account. (This allows the assets to be in a holding pen, while deciding which financial institution/vehicle to invest.) The motion was seconded by Steve Kaplan. The motion was approved without opposition.

Merlyn Jarman expressed his gratitude for serving as President of the MCR and being able to work with, and contribute to the MCR.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Art Bumpus, Secretary MCR

