

National Model Railroad Association
Mid-Central Region
Board of Directors Meeting
May 19, 2017

Attendance:

The meeting was brought to order by President Steve Kaplan at 8:15 PM. The meeting place was at the Galt House Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky. Present at the meeting were Steve Kaplan, President; Mike Hohn, Vice President; Jerry Doyle, Treasurer; Art Bumpus, Secretary; Jim DiPaola, Division 1; Mike Hohn (Proxy) for Keith DeVault, Division 2; Rick Lach, Division 3; Dave Williams (Proxy) for Steve Kaplan, Division 4; Dave Neff, Division 5; Greg Short, Division 6; Bob Shreve, Division 7; Russ Weis, Division 8; Jerry Doyle (Proxy) for Dan Mulhearn, Division 9; Bob Belt, Division 10; and Howdy Veiheffer, Division 11.

Also in attendance were Paul Lapointe, Contest; Dave Williams and Bob Weinheimer, Kingpin; Dick Briggs, Special Projects; and Mike Brestel representing National in his capacity of NMRA Insurance Coordinator and At Large World Wide Director. Guests included Bruce DeMaeyer, Paul Kurtz, Steve Zapytowski, Rick Crumrine, Eric Wagner, Bob McKay, and John Burchnall.

Minutes of the last BOD meeting:

A motion was made by Bob Belt to accept the minutes from the September 25, 2016 BOD meeting as published in the last issue of the Kingpin newsletter. The motion was seconded by Greg Short and carried with no opposition.

Treasurer's Report:

Jerry Doyle reported a balance of \$28,233.52.

Vice-Presidents Report:

Mike Hohn reported that the Superintendents breakfast meeting would be held at 8:00 am on Sunday. Per a request from Division 1, Mike provided answers to questions and advice regarding the submittal of Division 1's proposal to sponsor the 2019 Mid-Central Region Convention.

Committee Reports:

On membership, Steve Kaplan commented that since the last BOD meeting there has been a slight membership decline. More discussion follows in New Business, membership decline.

Paul Lapointe, Contest Chairman, submitted invoices for supplies. For the convention contest, there are 11 volunteers for judging. The convention contest has 34 models entered for judging, 46 photos, and 3 arts and crafts. Last year's convention in Columbus had 42 models, 39 photos,

and 4 arts and crafts entries. Paul announced that he needed to resign by September because the task of Contest Chairman as a committee of one was too time consuming at the convention. In effect, he has been unable to attend clinics, tours, and other convention activities. Incoming President, Bob Weinheimer has been in contact with someone to assume Paul's position. It is viewed that there needs to be an expansion to a group since it is difficult for a single person to take on and assume all duties. The idea is to set-up a 3-4 person permanent group to perform the duties in order to avoid cross training issues every year. If this were to happen, Paul indicated that he would consider continuing with the group.

Frank Koch, Achievement Program Chair, submitted his report identifying the issuance of 4 Gold Spike Awards, and 2 Merit Awards.

The webmaster report is published in this issue of the Kingpin.

There was no report submitted by Tom Miller, Education Chair
Bob Weinheimer reported that with the last email distribution of the Kingpin, 100 emails bounced, half of all emails were opened, and 20% of those opening the email, opened the Kingpin link. It was noted that Patrick Miller will be helping Dave Williams, the new editor of the Kingpin.

Division Reports:

Since the submittal of written reports by all Divisions, Division 5 reported the passing of 60 year NMRA member Harley Smith. Division 11 reported the passing of Russ Hass. All other Divisions had no additional information updates since submitting their reports. All reports are published in this issue of the Kingpin.

Old Business:

Conventions:

May 17 to May 20, 2018 in Cincinnati. John Burchnall reported that hotel and bus contracts have been signed for the next MCR convention, the Cincinnati Express. The Division is in the process of purchasing new or reconditioned computers and projectors. The registration price is \$35.00. There is no early registration discount but the date of registration becomes the priority list for extra fare events.

New Business and Miscellaneous Discussion:

2019 MCR Convention – Howdy Veiheffer made a motion to accept Division 1's bid to hold the 2019 MCR convention in Boardman, Ohio. The motion was simultaneously seconded by Russ Weis and Dave Neff. The motion passed with no opposition.

Steve Kaplan floated a trial balloon suggesting there be no charge to Divisions/Region selling special projects in the Company Store. It was noted that there are written policies on Company Store sales; a commission mutually agreed upon between the division selling product and the

regional convention division sponsor, which is equal to or less than 10% of the selling price. Mike Hohn suggested that, perhaps, the word “region” be added to existing verbiage in Article XI section 7 concerning MCR conventions. No action was taken and the subject is open for future discussion.

Regarding the possibility of forming a new Division 12: It has been suggested by some NMRA members that it could make sense to create a new Division 12. The issue arises because of location geography/topography of certain members. A first step would be for some intra region transfers of MCR members. Such transfers make sense even if there is no movement to create a Division 12. However, if the affected members would like to pursue this avenue, a geographic environment would be created to facilitate such a move. Because the transfer decisions require approval by sending and receiving divisions, the transfer decisions will be made by those affected divisions in a meeting to occur immediately after this BOD meeting

Membership decline: This will be the subject for discussion at the Sunday Superintendents breakfast. Some discussion at the BOD meeting suggested surveying members as to why they dropped their membership or an “exit” interview. More discussion to continue at the breakfast.

2020 Regional Convention: Mike Hohn reported Division 2 has voted to submit a bid for the 2020 Regional Convention in Pittsburgh.

Rick Lach requested that the minutes reflect the importance of contributions made by Lone Eagle Payne. Lone Eagle was an active modeler and the recipient of many awards (which are on display at this convention). He was an important member helping to create the Mid Central Region.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 10:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted:
Art Bumpus, MCR Region Secretary