

**National Model Railroad Association Mid-Central Region  
Board of Directors Meeting April 29, 2011**

The meeting was held at the Mid Central Region convention in Geneva on the Lake, Ohio. After viewing the presentation made by Chuck Klein and Jerry Krueger promoting the Cleveland to the NMRA Board for the 2014 NMRA convention, the meeting was called to order by Dick Briggs at 10:00 PM. The roll was taken. All officers were present and all divisions were represented by their superintendents or proxies. Committee managers present were Webmaster, Contest, and Membership.

Paul Smith asked that the Treasurer's report, previously distributed to board members, be approved. Mark Norman so moved with Randy Dettmer seconding the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Bob Weinheimer noted that the minutes of the October meeting have been on the web site for several days and asked that they be approved. Art Bumpus so moved with Bob Fink seconding the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

### **President's Report**

Dick Briggs made the following comments:

- Rails of Ages has been a very good convention, thanks to Dale Smith and Matt Kross.
- Mike Brestel was unable to attend due to basement flooding at home.
- Member mailing address on file at National have many errors, we need good addresses for Kingpin mailings.
- Stephen Priest has been elected by the Region presidents as the new RAC representative on the NMRA BOD.
- Pete Magoun has been elected as the new Central District Director on the NMRA BOD.
- Apparently, there have been some members who have been less than polite with NMRA Headquarters personnel on the phone, please be kind to these folks.
- The issue of Divisions that are advertising for members at train shows and similar events was raised. Regardless of the location of the solicitation, any new member is assigned to a Division based on residence. Any member can attend the meetings of other Divisions but cannot hold office or vote in Divisions other than his or her own.
- We need more nominees for awards.

- This year's election ballot had to go out to all members despite the lack of opposition for any of the offices. Perhaps we should consider a change to the regulations to allow election by acclamation under such circumstances.

## **Vice President's Report**

Merlyn Jarman made the following comments:

- The Clinician Database has been updated through April 26, 2011. This database is accessible to superintendents and officers via the MCR web site. To date there are 112 clinics in 9 categories.
- The contact database of region and division officers and officials has been updated.
- The Superintendents' breakfast is 8 AM Sunday May 1. The topic of discussion will be efforts by Divisions to raise operating funds.

## **Committee Reports**

**Membership:** Paul Novak reported that he had no written report due to errors in his data. He also requested that deaths of member should be reported by Superintendents, the report should contain member name, number, and address.

**Contest:** Howard Smith reported that the contest looked good, it has 53 model and 60 photo entries. There is also a full slate of judges. A judge training program will start at 8:30 AM with judging starting at 9.

**Achievement Program:** Written report on file

**Webmaster:** Don Wilke reminded the board that in addition to the regular part of the web site there is an archive area available to MCR officers and superintendents. There are lots of updates to make.

**Kingpin:** Don Wilke reported that the next issue will be out in 3 to 4 weeks, he asked for all input in the next 10 days to 2 weeks. About 250 MCR members receive an email notification of publication, the online version is in color. The mailed version is in black and white. In the past, the region spent \$1600 four times per year to publish the Kingpin. Now, the convention issue costs about \$1495 while other issues cost \$246 for printing and postage.

**Education:** Written report on file

**Election:** Howard Smith reported that there was one candidate for each of the four offices and that all four were elected. Bob Lee moved to accept Howards report. This was seconded by Bob Fink and passed on a voice vote. Art Bumpus moved to destroy the ballots, this was seconded by Mark Norman and passed on a voice vote.

## **Division Reports**

Note that all superintendents' written reports are on line, at the meeting they presented only the key points that are noted here.

Division 1 reported that the NMRA RailPass has been a good way to attract new members.

Division 2 reported that membership is steady, the Railpass has been well received, and that planning is well underway for next year's MCR convention.

Division 3 reported that membership is constant and that the division is preparing a bid for the 2013 MCR convention.

Division 4 reported that membership and finances are stable. The division conducts a Training Day for children and an annual "Carnival of Model Railroading".

Division 5 reported a membership of about 93 with 25 to 35 members at each meeting. The meetings emphasize programs, not business. Business is conducted at the BOD level but reported at the meetings. Rails of Ages attendance totals 207.

Division 6 reported that membership is level and that the newsletter is greatly improved and is distributed electronically. The division has an active Member Aid program. Several members have passed away during the past year. The upcoming annual meeting will be in Marion, OH June 11.

Division 7 withheld its verbal report as it will be the basis of the Superintendents' Breakfast Sunday morning.

Division 8 reported that it is moving its Swap Meet location to the convention facility that hosted the 2007 MCR convention.

Division 9 reported that its membership is constant at 60 with 25 at most meetings. Meetings rotate around the division. 20% of the division's members are at the MCR convention this weekend.

Division 10 reported that membership, finances, and meeting attendance are all up.

Division 11 reported that they are financially sound. Meetings rotate among members' homes. They plan to raise interest in the Achievement Program.

## **Old Business**

Dale Smith reported that the convention has 145 primary registrants and 61 family registrants. There are also 4 guest clinicians. Clinic juggling has been the biggest problem so far. There have been 135 banquet tickets sold.

Susan Werner referred the BOD to her written report but mentioned that the hotel will become a Doubletree by convention time but that the existing contract will be honored.

Ray Baldwin presented Division 3's proposal for the 2013 convention. The dates are May 16 to 19, it will be at the Wyndham Gardens, room rates will be \$91 per night. The banquet will cost between \$25 and \$35 depending on the menu. Registration should be \$40 early and \$55 regular. There will be an emphasis on operations. Mark Norman moved to accept the proposal, Dale Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote.

### **New Business**

The Region and Division Guidebook is still being updated.

All products offered for sale by Regions and Divisions must be standards compliant. Most manufacturers already have conformance warrants so this should not be a problem.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert M. Weinheimer  
MCR Secretary