

National Model Railroad Association
Mid-Central Region
Board of Directors Meeting
Schmidt's Restaurant - Columbus, Ohio
Minutes
October 22, 2017

Attendance:

Bob Weinheimer, President; Mike Hohn, Vice President; Bob McKay, Treasurer; Jerry Doyle, Secretary; Steve Zapytowski, Division 1; Keith DeVault, Division 2; Rick Lach, Division 3; 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 Veihdeffer, Division 11.

Also in attendance were Eric Zimmerman; Dave Williams, Newsletter; Ron Ellison; Paul Lapointe, Contest Chair; Lee Sheffield, Asst. Super Division 4; Bruce DeMaeyer Asst. Super Division 10; Dick Briggs, Special Projects; Donald Wilke, Webmaster; Bernadine Zapytowski, Dave Ellis, Bradley White, and Mike Hauk.

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Weinheimer at 12:48 p.m.

Minutes of the last BOD meeting:

A motion was made by Bob Shreve 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 Rick Lach and carried with no opposition.

Treasurer's Report:

Bob McKay reported a balance of \$29,489.17.

Vice-Presidents Report:

Mike Hohn recently circulated a list of principal contacts for the Region for updates. He noted the lack of phone numbers in the current contacts and that a few division officers didn't have email addresses. The updated list will be available on the MCR website. Mike mentioned his role as advisor in setting up regional conventions. The issue of clinicians of having out of date contact information was mentioned. President Weinheimer informed Mike that updating this list will be his next task. Mike will be contacting division superintendents soon for updated information. He also noted that keeping the list current in an ongoing task. Dick Briggs mentioned that Paul Novak can provide convention chairs current contact information if needed. The Superintendents breakfast meeting will be held at 8:00 a.m. 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:

Contest:

Steve has a six-person contest committee. A judging clinic and contest administration clinics will be offered for judges and committee members. Paul Lapointe will be handing over convention materials over to Steve after today's meeting.

Achievement Program:

There are two new MMRs in the MCR: #600 Sam Swanson and #602 John Hemsath.

Webmaster:

Don Wilke is undertaking a revision of the MCR website. He is now able to link to division newsletters and will be doing the same for division projects in the near future. He is also remaking logos. On the topic of emails Don explained the method that the MCR website uses doesn't create a privacy issue. We will soon have to renew our webhosting. We will be upgrading to a higher level of security using SSL. Don mentioned we may find a better price for this from another party.

King Pin:

The last issue went out ok. Next issue will be going out in two weeks. Reports are needed as soon as possible.

Special Projects:

Dick Briggs provided an update of inventory on school house kits. Currently some information is missing regarding kits transferred to the divisions. Dick asked that each division provide an update as to what they have on hand. He also asked that divisions send payments to him instead of the MCR Treasurer so he can accurately track sales and revenue in the future.

Division Reports:

Division 1 - Nothing new to add to the report already submitted for the meeting.

Division 2 - Membership is up to 275.

Division 3 - Joint meeting with Division 7 November 12. Stephen Priest will be a guest speaker.

Division 4 - Steve mentioned the Great Lakes Science Center will have a three month railroad exhibit with Division 4 providing an exhibit. He hopes to pick up new members.

Division 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 - Nothing new to add to the report already submitted for the meeting.

Division 11 - Three new members, total is up to 37.

Old Business:

2018 Convention – Bob Shreve had updated information for the 2018 Cincinnati convention. There will be 68 layouts open at some point during the convention. Early registrations will have an advantage in signing up for tours and operation session. Convention hotel registration is now available.

2019 Convention - Steve Zapytowski reported on the 2019 convention to be held in Boardman, Ohio. The name will be the AC&Y Bullet, which was a mixed train on the AC&Y. Planning meetings have been ongoing for over a year. They are still seeking someone for help in the marketing area. The first deposit has been made at the Holiday Inn with two more payments to follow. The division reports that it is in a good financial position and is able to handle the finances for the convention. There will be vendor tables, HO and N layouts; a dedicated non-rail clinic room. Fred Soward provided complete documentation from the 2017 Louisville convention which has proved extremely helpful.

Division 12 formation – Several members from the Niagara Region requested to be moved to the MCR. As part of the process the MCR Divisions 5 and 11 agreed to take on these members. Due to logistical issues the MCR subsequently voted to move all the members to Division 5 temporarily with the intention to ultimately create a new Division. Several organizational meetings have been held with good attendance. Division 5 has voted to provide a grant to provide funds to start the new division. Bob Weinheimer advised that a verbal vote by the BOD was all that was required to approve the new division's formation. He suggested a formal written petition be ready for the May meeting. The issue of other counties joining the new division was brought up. The bylaws are silent as to the formation of a new division. Bob said that once a formal vote has been taken by Division 5 membership for officers he would

feel more comfortable appointing officers for the new division (12). Once this vote has been taken the MCR BOD will vote via email. After this is done Bob will appoint a superintendent for the new division.

New Business:

2020 Convention – Keith DeVault, Super Div2, submitted a proposal for hosting the 2020 convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania April 23-26 or May 7-10, 2020. The proposed location is the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel. The proposal included 8 potential rail and 11 potential non-rail tours. The provisional name is Trains, Family, and Fun 2020 in Pittsburgh. Mike Hohn moved, many seconds. Vote was unanimous.

Nomination Process – Bob provided some thoughts regarding the nomination process. Currently there is a contradiction between the normal nomination process and the petition process. Bob appointed Steven Kaplan, Russ Weis, and Rick Lach will have proposed new language ready for the May meeting.

MCR Facebook Page – Matt Goodman and Bob Weinheimer have set up the MCR page “NMRA Mid-Central Region.” The NMRA national marketing director has rights to post as well. Content thus far has included train show notices, division newsletters, and various pictures. This page allows non-members to also access information, making it a good marketing tool. It provides a good one-stop source for newsletters and information.

Superintendent’s Breakfast – This has been a traditional part of the MCR convention on Sunday morning. The cost of last year’s breakfast had a record high cost. Bob suggested we consider making the breakfast like the Fall board meeting where attendees pay their own way with a cap of \$20. It was moved and seconded. Passed with one nay by Steve Kaplan.

T-Track modular layout – Bruce DeMaeyer gave a brief overview of the T-Track movement. The focus is on a younger demographic for people with limited space using small N Scale modules. Bruce is exploring information for the 2018 National convention where several hundred modules will be exhibited. Bob Weinheimer asked if there might be a similar appeal from the Free-Mo concept. Bruce noted that the MCR might want to allocate space at the 2019 convention for such a display. A concern was voiced over the potential welcoming of a new N Scale group. Mike Hohn mentioned the appeal of the smaller modules designed to use existing table tops. Bruce expressed a hope that this would attract newer, younger members.

MCR Division Websites - Mike Hohn talked about his recent experience in visiting each division’s websites and contrasted it with the same experience a few years ago. He complimented the division webmasters on how accessible their information was available via the web.

For the Good of the Order:

Dick Briggs is seeking information on a MCR Division 6 showmanship award car from 1982. It’s in his collection and he doesn’t know anything about it.

Keith DeVault asked about liability insurance. He said NMRA National was charging the division \$50 each time he requested an insurance certificate.

Rick Lach asked about division elections. Most divisions have elections every two years on even years. About half the superintendents will not be running again due to term limits.

Mike Hauk thanked David Neff for his work in bringing members and forming Division 12.

Respectfully submitted: Jerry Doyle, MCR Region Secretary