

National Model Railroad Association Mid-Central Region
Board of Directors Meeting
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Minutes
May 21, 2021

Attendance:

Bob Weinheimer, President; Dave Neff, Vice President; Jerry Doyle, Secretary; Frank Bender, Division 2; Lee Sheffield, Division; Mark Stiver, Division 3; Matt Kross, Division 4; Matt Kross, Division 5; Matt Goodman, Division 6; John Shields, Division 7; Fred Soward, Division 8; Robert Osburn, Division 9; Larry Smith, Division 10; Rich Kosakowski, Division 11; and Brad White, Division 12.

Also in attendance were:

Steve Zapytowski, Contest; Dave Williams, Kingpin; Bob Shreve, Nominations; Don Wilke, Webmaster; Gail Yarnall Division 3; Paul Jenkins, Division 3; Chuck Endreola, Asst. Super Division 7; Kent Westphal, Division 8; Ron Ellison, Division 8; Rick Tipton, Division 8; Doug Sandmeyer, Division 12.

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Weinheimer at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes of the last BOD meeting:

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as corrected from the October 23, 2020 BOD meeting. *Motion made and seconded and passed unanimously.*

President's Comments:

Throughout the COVID era I have heard all sorts of good news about how the Superintendents of the Divisions in the Mid Central Region have dealt with the issue. Many promptly moved to virtual meetings as the word "Zoom" entered our vocabulary with a new definition. Some were pleased to see participants among members at these virtual meetings who rarely if ever attended meetings for reasons ranging from distance to health. As the year went on, we found we could entice clinicians from near and far to bring their knowledge to us via virtual presentations. I have done a few of those myself. Then, as we began to see the light at the end of the tunnel, and realizing it was not an approaching train, we sought ways to use this technology in a post COVID world. The main issue was how to continue to include those who normally did not attend the in-person meetings. Was there a way to make the new meetings both in person and virtual, a hybrid arrangement? Of course, continuing to have virtual clinicians is part of that plan giving our members a much wider range of learning.

The Superintendents have led these efforts and I want to recognize their efforts. They have had meetings among themselves to discuss technology issues, both early in the virtual era and again

as we head toward hybrid events. While the COVID era has been a national tragedy, some good has come of it and MCR, like much of the NMRA, has learned quite a bit.

An unfortunate result of the pandemic was the cancellation of the last two MCR conventions and the last two NMRA National conventions. In 2022 the drought should end with the big Tri Region convention in Indianapolis in May and the National convention in St. Louis in August. Both are close enough to consider, I hope to go to both.

On the downside, we have seen a membership loss of about 15%. In spite of this, I believe at least one Division has seen an increase! This loss is not unique to our Region, it has happened all across the NMRA. We can only speculate about reasons, but we are hearing from some who said the lack of personal camaraderie was a major factor. If so, I hope they will return as things revert to normal. We all need to reach out to the members lost during this time to convince them to renew.

The new Long-Range Plan passed at the National level includes some significant education goals. The Mid Central Region has been a leader in implementing plans to meet the goals with include generating EduTRAIN® clinics, Modeling with the Masters® clinics for Region conventions, and several other items. Steve Zapytowski has led that effort with a good team of educators, both academic and industrial, from around the Region.

Finally, this is my last day as MCR President. It has been an honor to serve the Region but there are term limits for very good reasons. I thank you for all of your support and cooperation during the past four years. I believe you will be in good hands with Dave Neff as our new leader, please support him as you have supported me.

Brad White thanked Bob Weinheimer and Dave Neff for their guidance and support for starting Division 12.

Treasurer's Report:

Bob McKay was not present but has submitted a report.

Vice-President's Report:

Dave Neff mentioned the potential need for additional funds to be loaned to the 2022 Tri-Region convention. See new business for more on this.

Committee Reports

Achievement Program:

No Report.

Contest:

Steve Zapytowski has been working with on the planning for the 2022 convention.

Education:

Steve Zapytowski updated everyone on the status of the educational and EduTRAIN® materials. There is still more work to be done to develop them into a more coherent curriculum. Bob Weinheimer will update the national BOD on this.

King Pin:

Dave Williams noted the small number of returns for the last King Pin.

Membership:

No Report.

Modules:

No Report.

Nominations:

Bob Shreve noted there are four new officers in their positions for the next two years.

Projects:

No Report.

Webmaster:

Don Wilke has done some updates that might require updating bookmarks.

Division Reports:

Division 2 – Frank Bender: Nothing new to add to the report already submitted for the meeting.

Division 3 – Mark Stiver: Division 3 celebrated its 62nd birthday this May.

Division 4 – Lee Sheffield: The Great Berea Show is a go for this October.

Division 5 – Matt Kross: Nothing new to add to the report already submitted for the meeting.

Division 6 – Matt Goodman: In-person meetings will begin in June.

Division 7 – John Shields: A flyer for their upcoming show will be distributed to Supers soon.

Division 8 – Fred Soward: A member survey was recently circulated and pointed out areas that need additional emphasis. Hybrid meetings should begin in August.

Division 9 – Robert Osburn: Hybrid meetings should begin in June.

Division 10 – Larry Smith: The normal venue for meetings (Lexington Libraries) should be open again for the September meeting.

Division 11 – Rich Kosakowski: Membership grew by two in the last year. The second in-person was held in May.

Division 12 – Brad White: Nothing new to add to the report already submitted for the meeting.

Discussion Topics:

Coping with COVID:

Bob Weinheimer asked Lee Sheffield (Division 4) about their hybrid meetings. Lee reported excellent attendance in person and online. The clinician appeared virtually. Several other divisions reported on progress towards hybrid meetings.

Old Business:

2021 Convention - Brad White reported the loan from MCR has been repaid. Refunds have been received from vendors.

Indy-Junction 2022 Convention - Fred Soward reported that Scott Kremer is now in charge of the convention. The next in-person meeting will be June 5. Several other positions have changed hands. The RPM Convention will now be a part of the NMRA convention. All attendees will have access to all activities from the other organization. Anticipated attendance is about 300 NMRA and 150 RPM attendees. There will be a two-day train show with an additional day for attendees only. The show will emphasize smaller manufacturers with goods for sale. A presentation should be ready by August for Division meetings which will also be available virtually. For more information contact www.indyjunction2022.org

2023 MCR Convention - Pittsburgh, PA Update - Keith DeVault reported that the venue has been moved to the Double Tree hotel in Cranberry. Space for contests and other displays has increased by 6,000 square feet. Dates are May 4-7.

2024 MCR Convention: Bob Weinheimer put out feelers for potential hosts for the 2024 convention. Divisions can cooperate for hosting if needed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Indy-Junction 2022 Convention - There was discussion about loans to the Indy Junction 2022 Convention. The MCR has previously loaned \$1,500 for operating funds. Additional space in

now needed to accommodate the recently added RPM activities and more funds are needed. Fred Soward pointed out that ongoing marketing activities require funds currently.

Lee Sheffield made a motion that we loan the Indy Junction 2022 Convention an additional \$1,000. Mark Stiver seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Clinician database and contact information release - Dave Neff updated members on the plan for clinicians for Indy-Junction 2022 Convention. A database has been established by Division 8 for clinicians willing to give clinics in person or virtually. Dave encouraged every other division to set up a similar list. The list should have a title of the clinic and either phone or email contact information. Dave needs this information no later than this August.

For the Good of the Order:

Division 6 is planning a show on October 17 in Cambridge, Ohio.

Division 3 will be holding a show the first weekend in November.

The next MCR BOD meeting will be Sunday October 24, 2021. It will be held Schmidt's in Columbus, Ohio.

Adjourned 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Jerry Doyle, MCR Region Secretary

2021 Annual Meeting

Called to Order by Bob Weinheimer at 9:00

President's Comments:

Throughout the COVID era I have heard all sorts of good news about how the Superintendents of the Divisions in the Mid Central Region have dealt with the issue. Many promptly moved to virtual meetings as the word "Zoom" entered our vocabulary with a new definition. Some were pleased to see participants among members at these virtual meetings who rarely if ever attended meetings for reasons ranging from distance to health. As the year went on, we found we could

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John Shields presented the Wendefer Award (for promoting the hobby at the division level) to Ron Ellison.

Bob Weinheimer presented the Director's Award (for promoting the hobby at the region level) to Michael Hohn.

John Shields was installed as MCR Treasurer.

Fred Soward was installed as MCR Secretary.

Jerry Doyle was installed as MCR Vice President.

Dave Neff was installed as MCR President.

Dave Neff thanked Bob Weinheimer for his work at MCR President and filled members in on Bob's activities as Director of the Regional Advisory Council bringing together regional officers and discussing several long-range issues facing the NMRA. These activities bridge the National and Regional governance. Dave encouraged divisions to focus on member benefits of the NMRA. He also noted the upcoming Indy-Junction 2022 convention's original rationale and the need for MCR division to support it.

Meeting adjourned 9:30

Respectfully submitted:

Jerry Doyle, MCR Region Secretary