

**National Model Railroad Association Mid Central Region  
Board of Directors Virtual Meeting (via Zoom)  
Meeting Minutes (Draft) September 22, 2023**

**BOD Attendance;**

Dave Neff, President; Jerry Doyle, Vice President; Bruce DeMaeyer, Secretary; John Shields, Treasurer; Jim DiPaola, Division 1; Dennis Coglianesi, Division 2; Ric Zimmerman Division 3, Ron Morgan, Division 4; Matt Kross, Division 5; Matt Goodman, Division 6; Tony Valerius as proxy, Division 7; Ron Ellison, Division 8; Bob Osburn Division 9; Larry Smith, Division 10; Al Crate, Division 11; Mike Hauk, Division 12.

**Committee Chairs**

Dave Williams, Kingpin Newsletter Editor; Paul Novak, Membership; Richie Jodan, T-TRAK; Bob Shreve, Nominations; Jerry Kruger, 2024 MCR Convention Chair

**National Officers**

Bob Weinheimer, NMRA RAC Director; Fred Soward, NMRA Central District;

**Guests:**

None

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The meeting was called to order by President Dave Neff at 7:00 PM.

Attendees Roll Call

A roll call was taken. Most of the BOD members were present at the meeting and the remaining members joined a little later.

**President's Report – Dave Neff**

Region is in very good shape. Active Divisions, some doing virtual meetings and others doing actual meetings.

Lots of upcoming activities planned, particularly for the public. Most divisions are actively addressing recruitment and retention particularly with financial incentives and the creation of new modules.

Membership has some divisions up and others down. There has been a small impact due to the dues increase.

Over all everything is on a good basis at this point

**Vice Presidents Report - Jerry Doyle**

Nothing specific to report. He will be addressing the new technology committee activities later in the meeting

**MCR Secretary Report - Bruce DeMaeyer**

Bruce DeMaeyer began as MCR Secretary effective August 1, 2023, in accordance with the MCR Regulations. He is filling the vacancy created when Fred Soward was elected to the NMRA Central District Director.

### **Minutes of the last BoD meeting:**

Copies of the draft Minutes of the NMRA MCR Spring Meeting were emailed to the BoD prior to the meeting.

Richie Jodon asked that the spelling of his name be corrected. That error was on the Agenda notice, not in the minutes of the last meeting.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed accepting the minutes from the May 6, 2023, Mid Central Region Board of Directors meeting.

### **MCR Treasurer's Report – John Shields**

John Shields stated that his report is online and current.

The region is nicely solvent and very stable.

### **Division Reports:**

All full Division reports are online. These comments by the Division Superintendents are highlights of their online reports or items that are in addition to the comments in the online reports.

#### **Jim DiPaola, Division 1**

Gave his report near the end of the meeting. Membership is steady. T TRAK modules planned to be trialed in a meeting in November. Sixteen members have made modules. Both HO and N.

#### **Dennis Conglianese, Division 2**

Membership up slightly. Some problems discovered with renewal notices. They have a new member recruitment program as well as a new, seasoned membership chair. Preparing for their annual train show in the fall.

#### **Ric Zimmerman, Division 3**

Train Show is actively being planned and will be in early November. Membership is holding steady. Seven relatively inactive RailPass members have not renewed their membership. 25% of the members attend the monthly meetings.

#### **Ron Morgan, Division 4**

Were doing good. Membership is holding steady. Financially we're doing fine. We're getting ready to host our 49<sup>th</sup> Train show October 7 & 8 at the Beria Fairgrounds. Need to replace out membership chairman and were moving forward with our Convention.

#### **Matt Kross, Division 5**

Nothing more to report that isn't in my written report

#### **Matt Goodman, Division 6**

Our general attendance at our meeting is in the 23 person range, 15-20% of the membership. Train Show first week of Oct. Good energy in our meetings

#### **Tony Valarius (proxy) Division 7**

Membership is down, driven principally by long time member deaths. Had a successful picnic and this has been a good driver for membership growth. Kenton County Library has asked us to outreach for a Santa visit.

#### **Ron Ellison, Division 8**

Train show coming up in mid-November. Everyone is welcome.

#### **Bob Osburn), Division 9**

We're a small group, membership has been very steady. Have 50% of our members at our meetings. We are putting a lot of effort in doing things to keep our members involved, for example the Gary Burdette memorial challenge has been very popular. Annual picnic is also very popular. Financially very stable.

#### **Larry Smith, Division 10**

Attendance is down, trying very hard to get some members involved. Bob Weinheimer RAC Director, reminded us that the NMRA will subsidize things like membership picnics, up to \$200.

#### **Al Crate, Division 11**

Membership is holding, getting 10-12 per meeting. Upgraded our modules command station. Planning several weekends of trains in nearby malls during the later part of the year.

#### **Mike Hauk, Division 12**

They have decided not to have their Mini meet in 2024, The NER has their convention in Rochester that same weekend. They are now putting all the focus on their Mini Meet in 2025.

#### **Dave Neff wrap-up**

All of the full reports, except one, are now up on the website. There is a lot of good information inside the reports and the Superintendents should take advantage of the information.

#### **Committee Reports**

##### **Membership – Paul Novak**

Everyone is holding steady. NMRA is getting ready to introduce the new data base, it will have minimum impact on us. It's being done to allow HQ to do updates easier. We are pushing issues up to HQ but they are not very responsive to our concerns.

##### **Webmaster – Don Wilke**

Website login change will take place in the two weeks.

The financial information on the website is being made generally unavailable and any request will be directed to the treasurer.

##### **AP Program - Frank Koch**

Frank was not in attendance. Continue to support the AP program.

##### **Newsletter/Kingpin – Dave Williams**

Would like the minutes of this meeting to be available in draft form very soon, Bruce DeMaeyer promised them in about two weeks. Dave Neff was satisfied with that commitment.

### **Nominations - Bob Shreve**

Dave Neff, Jerry Doyle and John Shields terms are time limited so they will have to either choose to retire or to run for a different office. Bruce can run for two terms in the secretary position. The nomination process is likely to begin in the 2024 convention time period. The election for the Board offices being vacated will take place in the February/March timeframe of 2025. Those elected will take office at the end of the Convention in 2025

During the upcoming year, several divisions will see changes in Superintendent and the divisions should take steps to start that process soon.

### **T-TRAK - Mike DeSensi and Richie Jodan**

The T-TRAK Committee has been made a standing committee of the MCR Board and Mike DeSensi and Richie Jodan are co-chairpersons with the purpose of promoting T-TRAK growth in the Divisions.

Richie commented that the weekend before this meeting there was a train show in Altoona. There were several modular layouts at the convention and there was a lot of interest from train show participants. Richie also working with a club interested in doing HO T-TRAK. Anyone with interest in this should contact him.

### **Special Projects – Dick Briggs**

No report and Division 6 is not working on anything at this time.

### **Contests – Susan Werner**

After the last BOD meeting, Susan Werner, from Division 2, accepted the job as the regional Contest Chairperson. Susan called today to say that she would not be able to attend the meeting tonight because of medical issues.

### **Technology – Jerry Doyle**

There is no committee as such, if anyone has technology issues, they are welcome to join into discussions with others working similar problems. The group is focused on the technologies related to the operations of the region at both the regional as well as at the division level. Web hosting has been a big part of previous discussion.

### **National Reports**

#### **Bob Weinheimer – RAC**

HQ is working on an automatic NMRA dues renewal program. Technical hurdles are being worked. Look for deployment in 2024.

#### **Fred Soward – Central District**

Reviewed the progress being made to rebuild the track standards gauges program which had fallen into some neglect. A new manufacturer has been selected and they are in the NMRA store.

There is a new marketing person and she has worked for a couple of months working the social network integration.

## **Old Business**

### **Regional Convention Guidelines Document – Bruce DeMaeyer**

Following the Indy Junction 2022 multi-Regional convention, MCR started a project to capture the best practices of that convention and then integrate those practices into a MCR Convention Guidelines document. Bruce DeMaeyer volunteered to take over that responsibility and has created a series of draft documents, the latest of which has been shared with this group. The feedback to that draft suggests that it be condensed considerably.

Bruce's medical issues have slowed down his taking this into the next step. He noted that he is ready to begin anew his work on the project, He stated that Cleveland is very much underway and would gain little from the publication, but Columbus is in the time frame where this document could be very helpful to their convention planning. Bruce's hope is to have the revised draft ready for review at the January BoD Meeting.

### **MCR Education Manager Status**

At the NMRA MCR Spring BoD meeting, President Neff acknowledged that the MCR is without a Region Education Manager since Tom Miller resigned from the position.

#### **Background**

NMRA Education Manager Mike Hohn, MMR®, addressed the Board at the last meeting group at the request of President Neff, who was looking for guidance about both the Region and Divisions interacting with and supporting the efforts of the National Education programs. Mike said that in many ways, the MCR is ahead of other Regions because we have individuals fulfilling the roles of areas that normally fall under the Education Committee (Contest, MWTM, Achievement Program).

There is no official NMRA document that states what a Region Education Committee should do or be responsible for. Mike said that he would take this to the program chairs that fall under the NMRA Education Committee to discern a better and more complete answer and that a similar course of action should take place within the MCR.

There is not anything in the MCR Rules that requires an Education Committee or chair of that committee.

Dave Neff reiterated a need to find methods of bringing skills to our members.

President Neff stated that he had information that there is a possible candidate who he will be in contact with the individual.

President Neff asked each of the Division Superintendents to consider what they would like a Region Education Committee Manager to be responsible for and how that individual could be of benefit to the organization.

The issue will continue as old business.

### **MCR 2023 Convention (Pittsburgh) Final Report**

Keith DeVault, provided a summary of the final report for the 2023 Convention. The full report is available on the website. There was a substantial discussion about the use of Mail Chimp as a marketing tool. This is a final report

### **MCR 2024 Convention (Cleveland) Status Update**

Jerry Kruger, the convention chair report that they continue to make great progress, open for registration, website is up and running, using a registration service (regfox), they are open for business. Hotel is accepting discounted registrations. Planning presentations with the divisions to publicize the event. Still need clinicians. Working of putting Modelling with the Masters.

There will be a Board meeting on the Friday evening of the Convention.

This convention and its planning will continue as old business

### **New Business**

#### **MCR 2025 Convention (Columbus)**

Division 6 has volunteered to host the MCR 2025 Convention in Columbus, OH. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to have Division 6 do that. The Buckeye Express will be May 15-18, 2025.

Matt Goodman reported that there is a contract with the hotel in place, There is a placeholder website in place. When the train show in October is over, detailed planning will shift to the convention.

There is an effort underway get a tax exemptions for the Division and convention

This convention and its planning will continue as old business.

#### **2026 Convention**

Be thinking about who, when and where

#### **Update to Website – Don Wilke**

We typically get information pretty late. Keep the communications coming in a more timely manner.

This issue and its planning will continue as old business

### **Next Meetings**

The next Mid Central Region Board of Directors Winter meeting will be a virtual meeting. It is scheduled for 7:00 PM, Friday, January, 19 2024, by Zoom. Division 8 has again volunteered to host the Zoom meeting. The Zoom logon information will be made available closer to the date.

The NMRA MCR Board of Directors Spring Meeting will be held in conjunction with the 2024 Convention in Cleveland on Friday May 17, 2024 at 7PM.

The BoD Meeting was adjourned by Dave Neff at 8:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Bruce R. DeMaeyer, Mid Central Region Secretary