

NMRA Midwest Region Meeting of the Board of Directors, November 18, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order by President Bob McGeever

Roll Call was taken by Secretary/Clerk Connie Coy

Members Present

Bob McGeever, Connie Coy, Steve Studley, Dan Banks, Dan Hinel, Jim Osborn, Bob Perry, John Coy, Michael Roderick, Prescilla Roderick, Dave Mashino, Dan Hinel, ZOOM: Alex Schneider, Art Dawson, Jim Landwehr, Mike Lehman, Dennis Zamirowski, Greg Bueltmann, Mike Hirvela, Mary Hendrickx

Members Absent

Phillip Burnside (Proxy John Coy), Burnell Breaker, Jim Tatum, Mike Lehman, Keith Thomsen, Phil Herman

Guests

Rod Thompson via ZOOM

Minutes from MWR BOD Meeting of May 10, 2023, were presented. Dan Banks moved to accept the Minutes as written, Dan Hinel seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes for the MOM Meeting of May 10, 2023, were presented. Jim Osborn noted that the MOM minutes needed a correction that Alex Schneider be listed as being in the DuPage Division. Secretary noted and made correction. Dan Banks moved to accept the corrected minutes. Dan Hinel seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports were presented for discussion and approval. Steve Studley noted that we have a slate of 7 nominees for Directors at Large and officers whose names and bios will appear in the next Waybill.

Jim Osborn noted that Internet issues regarding email have been addressed to prevent spammers. There was discussion with various members of how their divisions try to keep their members' Emails private. Jim is continuing to work with Pres. McGeever to "fix the spam issue" (TMNRA).

Dand Hinel moved that committee reports be approved and placed on file. Dan Banks seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

BOD Officer Reports were presented. Pres. McGeever noted that the Regional Advisory Committee met to consider ways to encourage the Membership to register and pay for membership online. There were concerns raised regarding security of the platform regarding credit cards. Jim Osborn noted that the browser NMRA uses is secure and how folks could check for themselves to see if a browser is secure.

Dan Banks moved that the Officer reports Be approved and placed on file. Dan Hinel seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business Marty Hendrickx, as the Illinois business agent, is arranging for the region officers and the MWR Board to be covered for liability (Director And Officer insurance) while serving on the board. This was discussed and the Insurance is being arranged.

New Business 1. Jim Osborn requested that the BOD approve the MWR Treasurer send a check for the annual JotForm subscription. JotForm is the webform application for election balloting, email address updates and BOD contact information. Michael Roderick moved the expenditure be approved. Denis Zamirowski seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. John Coy raised the need to provide plaques for members who provide exceptional service to the MWR. Those present BOD thought this was a good idea and approved this be done when deemed appropriate.

3. Bob McGeever requested that we set a date, time and place for May 2024 MWR BOD and MOM meetings. Place will be at the May Convention in South Bend. Time and Place were suggested for Sunday May 5 at 9 or 10 a.m. at a place to be determined by the Planners of the Convention: Dan Banks and Greg Bueltmann. Discussion followed regarding the cost of travel, time commitment and how scattered the Board members are around the region. It was also discussed whether meeting in person, ZOOM or hybrid meetings should be done in the future. MOM meetings might be included in the Board meetings due to ongoing low attendance at this constitutionally mandated meeting. Although Sunday May 5 will be the date of the next meeting, several members stated that Sundays are generally never a day they can attend any morning meetings as they have prior commitments. Many hoped that if the meetings were not held during a Convention of NMRA train event, that they all be via ZOOM. It was an expressed desire that most future meetings be at least a hybrid meeting, if not completely by ZOOM. President McGeever and Jim Osborn will look into this to be decided at our May meeting.

Denis Zamirowski suggested that, Division Superintendents place their calendars of Division events on the calendar of the Waybill for all the MWR members to see. All present thought this was a good idea. Jim Osborn explained how to add events online.

Bob McGeever gave an update of the WISE Division.

There being no other business, Bob McGeever called for a motion to adjourn. Moved by Mike Roderick and seconded by Steve Studley. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Connie J. Coy

MWR Secretary