

Midwest Region NMRA Preliminary Meeting Minutes

Meeting Details

- Date: May 3, 2025
- Time: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (CDT)
- Location: Zoom
- Attendees: Bob McGeever, Robert Perry, Connie Coy, John Coy, Phillip Burnside, Michael Hirvela, Larry Nelson, Bob Wundrock, Prescilla Roderick, Mike Roderick, David, Mashino, Ron Johnson, John, Poray, Dan Banks, Alex Schneider, Mike Lehman, Gary Baker, Greg Bueltmann, Marty Hendrickx, Jim Osborn, Bob Landwehr, Thomas Ose, Jim Landwehr
- Absent: Art Dawson, Jr., Paul, Hilmer, Burnell Breaker, David Leider
- Facilitator: Bob McGeever

Agenda

- Call to Order by Bob McGeever
- Roll Call by Connie Coy
- Minutes introduced, Dan Banks moved to approve. John Coy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- Committee Reports presented and placed on file.
- Director at Large Reports presented and placed on file.

Discussion Points

Old Business

- Tom Ose requested that the Board create a Youth Fund Application form. Bob McGeever created and presented it to the Board. Discussion followed concerning the purpose of the Youth Fund. It was set up years ago to support Youth groups such as the Boy Scouts in the modeling of trains. Dan Banks moved to accept the form; John Coy seconded the motion. Discussion continued before the vote which included how the MWR generated revenue for the fund. At present, the sole source of revenue is the interest accrued from the MWR bank account. Alex Schneider proposed delaying the motion until the Board could find ways to generate more revenue for the fund. Thomas Ose seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

- Jim Osborn requested the board accept the election results as previously published and permission to destroy election ballots. Bob McGeever moved to do so; second by Prescilla Roderick. Motion carried unanimously.
- John Coy presented the need to make clear the purpose of proxies and suggested the need to update the outdated By-Laws for several other changes needed. After some discussion, John was given the go-ahead to do so and make sure they were sent to the Board Members for review well in advance of the next meeting.
- John Coy presented the need to create an ad hoc committee per the NMRA constitution and MWR By-Laws named the Education Committee. Bob McGeever said as in-coming president, he could do this. Phillip Burnside will chair the committee.
- Convention Committee: Dan Banks discussed the upcoming conventions in the region. Since the National Convention is so close to the MWR, there will be no MWR convention this year. John Coy mentioned that MWR would start field trips for regional members, with assistance from the Divisions. Such trips would include railroad museums, train sights with layouts and excursions. Dan Banks suggested virtual conventions with presentations done online. John Poray stated that in-person conventions were still good for the NMRA as it promoted the hobby and provided the camaraderie and interaction with fellow modelers that virtual meetings can't. New Convention committee members: Prescilla Roderick, Bob Wundrock, Phillip Burnside.
- The date of the next meeting needs to be moved due to conflicts with Trainfest. Mike Roderick moved to change the date to Saturday, November 8 at 9 a.m. (CDT); John Coy seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- Follow-up on Waybill publication: Jim Osborn reported that Dave Leider has moved forward with eliminating hard copies and will be using the PDF online version. Only 13 out of region NMRA members indicated the desire to remain on the publication email notice list.
- Ron Johnson asked for help in ways to create Model Railroad Youth organizations. Bob McGeever gave him the name of a person to contact.
- Dan Banks said the CID wanted to help the Youth Fund by returning his Division's regional disbursement to the MWR. Bob McGeever told him how to best do that.
- The newly elected Directors at Large and Executive members were officially seated.

- Incoming president, John Coy, appointed Phil Burnside as Treasurer and appointed Prescilla Roderick to fill out the remainder of his DAL term. Robert J. Perry is the new Vice President. Connie Coy continues as Secretary for the Region. Bob McGeever is now the Immediate Past President. Larry Nelson, Bob Wundrock and Micheal Hirvela are the new incoming Directors at Large.

Bob Landwehr will be taking over as Membership Chairman for outgoing chairman Ron Sharping.

- Bob Wundrock requested the Divisions help him contact the members involved in providing clinics.

Next Meeting

- Date: November 8, 2025
- Time: 10 a.m. (CDT)
- Location: ZOOM
- Agenda: 1) Revisions to MWR By-Laws. 2) Generation of Revenue for MWR to support Divisions and Youth Fund.

Adjournment

Bob McGeever moved to adjourn the meeting; Connie Coy seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

FROM THE DESK OF RODERICK M. WEINSCHENK

109 WOODS EDGE BLVD. E., GREENCASTLE, IN 46135

Cell Phone: (765) 721-0972

E-Mail: weinschenkrod@gmail.com**CHAIR, AUDIT COMMITTEE OF THE MIDWEST REGION - NMRA**

To: Midwest Region Board of Directors – NMRA

From: Rod Weinschenk, Audit Committee Chair

Date: September 12, 2025

Re: Audit of Fiscal Year 2024 and Pre-Audit of early 2025 Records

Please accept this document as our official review of the financial records for the Midwest Region Board of the NMRA from Fiscal Year 2024 and the first half of 2025.

The audit committee was able to review the records from the following accounts:

1. General Checking Account
2. Elite Money Market Account opened January, 2024
3. C.D. (Certificate of Deposit) Account opened January, 2024
4. “Square Account” opened for annual convention expenses and revenues

After review of the 2024 and early 2025 financial records, the audit committee has found the provided records to be accurate. All supporting documentation, both revenues and expenses, check out and match up to the records.

The board would like to make the following recommendations:

1. **Review of Finances Older than 2024** - Since a review of the 2024 and 2025 financial records was found appropriate, the committee felt a review of earlier records was not needed.
2. **Destruction of Records Older than 7-Years** - Because some older records were provided, the committee recommends the destruction of financial documents older than 7-years, 2017 and earlier.
3. **Maturity of CD’s** – When each CD matures, it should be reviewed to see if “reinvestment” is possible to get the best rate possible, instead of letting it set in place. At that time, if funds are needed to meet expenses, then it should be “cashed”
4. **Limit Access to Accounts** – It was suggested to keep access to funds limited to at least three (3) people able to write checks, based on the by-laws. Suggested: Treasurer, President and/or Vice-President. It was felt that the Secretary should act as a record-keeper and be the one to be the “check” and “balance” for the group. It was also suggested that two (2) signatures be required on each check.
5. **Keeper of the Records** – Audit Committee Chair Rod Weinschenk will hold on to the financial records until they can be passed on to Midwest Region Treasurer Phillip Burnside.

6. **2025 Fiscal Year Audit** – The Audit Committee will look at early January, 2026 dates for the next annual audit

Thank you for this opportunity to serve the organization!

Audit Committee – Midwest Region of the NMRA:

- Brian Chapman
- Dick Smith
- Alan Dunbar
- Precilla Roderick
- Ron Phillips
- Roderick M. Weinschenk, Chair

MIDWEST REGION – NMRA, AUDIT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Sunday, August 31, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 31, 2025 at the home of Midwest Region President, John Coy, in Avon, Indiana.

Audit Committee Members attending: Brian Chapman, Dick Smith, Alan Dunbar and Committee Chair Rod Weinschenk

Unable to attend: Precilla Roderick and Ron Phillips

Others attending: Midwest Region – NMRA President John Coy

Agenda:

R. Weinschenk stated that the goals for today's meeting were:

1. Introductions
2. Review meeting held on Monday, June 30, 2025
3. Conduct financial audit of past financial records

Introductions: Introductions were held.

Financial Audit

1. 2025 Records – Since these records were on available, the committee began with a spot check of 2025 records, January 2025 to July 2025.
 - a. Revenues - Reviewed deposits and they checked out.
 - b. Expenses – Reviewed disbursements and they checked out.
2. 2024 Records – The committee looked at accounts from 2024, which included:
 - a. General Checking Account
 - b. Elite Money Market Account opened January, 2024
 - c. C.D. (Certificate of Deposit) Account opened January, 2024
 - d. “Square Account” opened for annual convention expenses and revenues
 - e. All supporting documentations, both revenues and expenses, check out and match up to the records.
3. Prior to 2024 – Because a review of the 2024 and 2025 financial records was appropriate, the committee felt a review of earlier records were not needed.

Additional Comments

Because the Audit Committee received them with the records provided, the committee recommends the destruction of financial documents that are older than 7-years, 2017 and older.

Letter to NMRA

Audit Committee Chair, Rod Weinschenk, will draft an official letter from the audit committee to the NMRA Midwest Region Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Minutes presented by Rod Weinschenk, Audit Committee Chair.

Roderick M. Weinschenk

Roderick M. Weinschenk

MIDWEST REGION – NMRA, AUDIT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 30, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, June 30, 2025 at the home of Midwest Region President & Secretary, John & Connie Coy, in Avon, Indiana.

Audit Committee Members attending: Ron Phillips, Brian Chapman, Dick Smith and Committee Chair Rod Weinschenk

Unable to attend: Precilla Roderick and Alan Dunbar

Others attending: Midwest Region – NMRA President John Coy

Agenda:

R.Weinschenk stated that the goals for today's meeting were:

4. Introduction of Committee Members
5. Discuss and establish audit procedures of past financial records
6. Begin the financial audit
7. Tour the Glacier National Park, Great Northern Railroad layout in the home of John & Connie Coy

Introductions: Introductions were held.

Audit Procedures Discussed - R.Weinschenk reviewed the emailed information shared by President John Coy. He felt that the information received looked straight forward; however, it did raise questions.

4. **Revenue Sharing** – R.Weinschenk asked what “revenue sharing” pertained to. President J.Coy informed the group that the NMRA collects annual dues from its members and then distributes \$2.00 per member to that member's home district. R.Weinschenk then stated that the records received by email appeared to show that the region's expenses far outweigh revenues brought in, with the “revenue sharing” being the largest expense.
5. **Distributions to “For Profit” groups** – Weinschenk questioned the distribution of funds for expenses beyond that of revenues received stating it wasn't strategically sound and that if continued the “region” would eventually fall short. J.Coy informed the committee that the NMRA and MW Region is a “not-for-profit” entity and may distribute its funds to other “not-for-profit” organizations, like the individual districts. This raised the question by the committee as to whether all of the individual underlying districts were in fact, held 501c3 status making them “not-for-profit” entities. If they weren't, wouldn't that make them a “for-profit” entity, thus ineligible for funding? J.Coy will look into this.
6. **State Farm Insurance** – R.Weinschenk asked what exactly we were insuring through State Farm Insurance? Was it building, property, vehicle or board of directors? J.Coy will look into this.

Additional Records and Supporting Documents Requested – Although the emailed records looked straight forward, it was noted that we didn't have any supporting documentation for any of the expenses listed in the email or the checks listed on the bank register. The committee requests that the past records be transferred to current Treasurer Phillip Burnside, whether it is all digitized or in storage totes. The committee would like to audit these records when received, beginning with January 1 – December 31, 2023.

They would like to look at January 1, 2024 to present day together. They reserve the opportunity to go back further, if necessary.

Suggestions Until Documents Received – the committee gave the following suggestions, based on members past experiences:

1. **Maturity of CD's** – When each CD matures, it should be reviewed to see if “reinvestment” is possible to get the best rate possible, instead of letting it set in place. At that time, if funds are needed to meet expenses, then it should be “cashed”
2. **Limit Access to Accounts** – It was suggested to keep access to funds limited to at least three (3) people able to write checks, based on the by-laws. Suggested: Treasurer, President and/or Vice-President. It was felt that the Secretary should act as a record-keeper and be the one to be the “check” and “balance” for the group. It was also suggested that two (2) signatures be required on each check.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m. A tour was given of the Coy's Glacier Line o-scale home layout.

Minutes presented by Rod Weinschenk, Audit Committee Chair.

Roderick M. Weinschenk

Roderick M. Weinschenk

MIDWEST REGION DIVISION CLINICS/CHAIRS 2025	
"CLINIC INFORMATION INTERCHANGE"	
DIVISION/CONTACT	FOR 11/8/2025
	PREPARED BY BOB WUNDROCK
CENTRAL INDIANA	
Dan Banks	wabashbanks@att.net
CLINICIANS	
Michael Roderick	franklintrainshow@gmail.com
Phillip Burnside MMR	csxt801@gmail.com
John Munson	john.h.munson@gmail.com
Eric Peterson	ericgpet@gmail.com
Daniel Banks	wabashbanks@att.net
DUPAGE	in progress
Bill Drzal 630-707-7866	cgwfan22@earthlink.net
FOX VALLEY	in progress
Gary Saxton	gbs46@sbcglobal.net
ILLINOIS TERMINAL	
MIKE LEHMAN	clinic@IllinoisTerminalDivision.org
Clinician	
Larry Tschopp	lttschopp119@gmail.com
ILLINOIS VALLEY	
Gary Baker	afpgary@mac.com
CLINICIANS	
Minton Dings -	greenriverbranch1957@gmail.com
tmo@osemicro.com	Thomas Ose - tmo@osemicro.com
MICHIANA	
GREG BUELTSMANN (SUPER)	greg@uncleheavy.com
Recorded clinics	http://michiana-nmra.org/videoarchive.php
CLINICIANS	
Chuck Hart	chart7968@yahoo.com
Dan Brewer	dbrewer@nd.edu
Ron Christensen	rxensen@yahoo.com
Bob Blake	rm7blake@earthlink.net

ROCK RIVER VALLEY	
Marty Hendrickx (super)	mhendrickx@charter.net
John Mann (clinics chair)	jjmannmmr@comcast.net
<u>CLINICIANS</u>	
Ken Mosny	
Gary Loiselle	
SCWD	
Bob Wundrock (clinics chair)	rwundrock@yahoo.com
also a clinician	
WINNEBAGOLAND	in progress
Phil Herman (super)	herman.philip@att.net
WISCONSIN SOUTHEASTERN	
Dave Nelson	engine1385@aol.com
also a clinician	

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 2025

To: Board of Directors
From: Jim Osborn, Election Committee Chairman
Date: October 2, 2025
Subject: Election Committee Report

Activities since Last Board Meeting

- 1) Destruction of the ballots from the last election per BoD approval.

Planned Activities

- 1) Update the Election Webpage when information is available from the nominating committee.
- 2) Create the election ballot after the BoD approves the candidate slate at the November 2025 BoD meeting per the Election Committee Policy and Procedure. The ballot will be in both “paper” form for the *Waybill* and as an e-ballot as specified in the Election Policy & Procedure.
- 3) Forward the “paper” ballot and voting instruction for on-line voting to the *Waybill* editor for inclusion in the winter *Waybill* and launch the on-line e-ballot form.
- 4) Receive and count the ballots after the forthcoming election and prepare the Election committee report for the next BoD meeting.

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 2025

To: Board of Directors

From: Jim Osborn, Internet Committee Chm.

Date: October 2, 2025

Subject: Internet Committee Report

Activities since the Last Board Meeting

- 1) Made updates to the MWR web site per requests from National, the Region & the membership.
- 2) Assisted with the Waybill electronic publishing.
- 3) Posted current PDF versions of the Waybill on the web site.
- 4) Assisted with several miscellaneous Division web site issues and updates.
- 5) Assisted the DuPage division with the population of their mobile friendly web site.
- 6) Assisted the President & Secretary with various web related documents and associated emails.
- 7) Continued to support the use of the Constant Contact email application. Currently the Constant Contact Account is shared among the FVD, SCWD, WISE, CID & RRVD as well as the MWR.
- 8) Tended to monthly updates of the MWR email account.
- 9) Refined the Non-region Waybill distribution email list.

Planned Activities

- 1) Continue with the general management and maintenance of the MWR web site and internet activities as appropriate.
- 2) Continue to assist with publishing electronic Waybill notices.
- 3) Supported any division web requirements as requested.
- 4) Assist the Secretary and President with the use of the Constant Contact application for the region.
- 5) Continue to manage monthly updates to the email data base per inputs from the Membership Chairman.
- 6) Support the upcoming election process.
- 7) Paid web related application fees as required. Constant Contact was \$739.20 paid 3/4/25 and JotForm of \$45 12/11/2024.
- 8) Future web related expenses for budgeting:

a. 12/11/25	JotForm License	\$45.00	1 year
b. 2/1/26	Constant Contact Subscription	\$832.00	1 year
c. 7/9/26	KnownHost Web Hosting Agreement (split with FVD)	\$168.00	1 year
d. 11/24/26	MWR Internet Domain Registration	\$34.00	2 years
e.	Total estimated expenses for the next 12 months:	\$1079.00	
f.	Estimated price increases (+10%)	\$1200.00	(estimated)
- 9) Request BoD approval for the item 8 expenses

To: Board of Directors
From: Bob Landwehr
Date: October 26, 2025
Subject: Membership Report

MWR Membership Fall 2025 Report

The membership trend is still going down, losing on average about 2-3 members a month.

Month	Monthly total	Monthly adds (joined)	Net gain/lose ¹
04-30-2025	1066	2	-6
05-30-2025	1066	4	0
06-30-2025	1061	5	-5
07-30-2025	1061	4	0
08-30-2025	1056	1	-5
09-30-2025	1053	4	-3

¹ Net gain/lose – Members that have not renewed their membership before Oct 1st.

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 8, 2025

To: Board of Directors
From: Thomas Ose
Date: 10/14/2025
Subject: Youth Group Funding

Activities since the last board meeting

1. Approved one request for reimbursement. (Larry Tschopp)
2. Waiting on documentation from Steve Preston in order to approve funding.
3. Two more funding opportunities are in the planning stage.
4. Worked on combining documentation including form and instructions, Also looking at updating the bylaws.

Planned Activities

1. Continue to search for more groups to fund
2. Continue on documentation efforts
3. Start thinking about how to get more funding into the Youth account.

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 2025

To: Board of Directors

From: Michael L. Hirvela, MWR Director-At-Large

Date: November 1, 2025

Subject: Director-At-Large Report for MWR BoD – May – November 2025

Activities since Last Board Meeting

No report.

Planned Activities

Continue to be supportive of the Region's efforts in regard to re-writing of the Region's base documents, providing comment and suggestions for the Constitution and By-Law re-write.

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 8, 2025

To: Board of Directors

From: Dave Mashino

Date: 10/14/2025

Subject: DAL Report

Activities since the last board meeting

I participated in Ron Johnson's zoom meeting regarding the MWR youth program.

As editor of the Central Indiana Division's Rusty Spike newsletter, I am working to increase the readership of and the participation of the membership in the quarterly publication. We have increased the number of articles and are starting to see submissions from members that have not contributed in the past.

As manager of the Division's Danville Train Show I suggested implementing a program to offer a \$50 gift certificate for an online first-time membership completed at the show. This is in response to the NMRA president's call to increase our membership. We will try this at our next two CID shows.

Planned Activities

Continue as Rusty Spike editor to improve the publication.

Work to make our Nov. 22nd CID Danville train show the best that it can be.

Complete a module for our CID HO scale modular group.

I will continue work on the Wildcat Valley Railway, my own HO scale basement empire set in the early 20th century.

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, October 2025

To: Board of Directors
From: Burnell Breaker – WISE Superintendent
Date: October 18, 2025
Subject: WISE Division Report

Activities since Last Board Meeting

October 12, 2025 – KMBS Model Railroad Show, had tables to sell estate items and promote the Division and NMRA.
Monthly meet October 18 with 25 people in attendance.
We are still accepting model railroad estate donations to sell the items as a way to raise money for the WISE Division

Planned Activities

Membership Meetings – March 21, 2025, April 18, 2025

Dates TBA – Lionel Railroad Club Show, will have tables to sell estate items and promote the Division and NMRA.

November 1 & 2, 2025 – Trainfest with a booth to promote the Division and NMRA.

January 10, 2026 – Train School with various stations to help modelers

April 2026 – Metro Railroad Club Train Show, will have tables to sell estate items and promote the Division and NMRA.

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 8, 2025

To: Board of Directors
From: Paul Hillmer
Date: 10/20/2025
Subject: Winnebagoland Division Report to region

Activities since the last board meeting

WLD held our annual Fall Meet 10/4/2025 in Marinette WI Holy Family Parish Church. We had around 45 members and non-members attend. Which is a good turnout and trend in our division.

WLD member Dave Rickaby organized with the Wisconsin & Michigan Club Members. Friday night 10/3/25 we had operating sessions at Dave's and Joe Siedls amazing layouts attended by 12.

Saturday meet had 3 clinics, photo and model contests, and an RPM/Modelers roundtable.

The RPM roundtable was WELL attended and popular and organized by Justin Hendreckson, owner of Engine House in Green Bay. We really liked this tie in with the meet.

A local youth group provided lunch and we did our awards for the contest.

In the afternoon we had 6 home layouts on tour in the Marinette and Menominee MI area..

We had a successful meet and fun for all. It was also 90 degrees outside which was crazy for October.

We also had our board meetings held at the Soo Historical Society and via zoom 6/7/2025 and 9/6/2025.

Planned Activities

- WLD Workshop Wednesday (7-9pm) ZOOM call in EOM 10/22/25, 12/17/25, 2/18/26, and 4/22/26. Open to all members WLD and non members.

- 29th annual WLD operating day 11/8/25 in Appleton WI this year. 4 home layouts open for ops and limit is 20 ish. Including my N scale Badger Mid Western layout FYI.

-next board Meeting 1/26/26 at Arctic Run Train Show Stevens Point WI

-WLD Spring Meet and Annual Meeting 5/2/26 Waupaca Depot Waupaca WI

-co Sponsor and table and booth at Title Town Train Show Green Bay 5/9 & 5/10/2026

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 8, 2025

To: Board of Directors

From: Gary Baker – Supt Illinois Valley Division

Date: October 8, 2025

Subject: Division Activities

Activities since the last board meeting

Our portable layout continues to be very popular in central Illinois. The Wildlife Prairie Park event that took place the week after the May Board meeting was a great success with good weather and therefore lots of kids to run our trains. As with the Springfield Train Show in March we rewarded the kids with a locomotive engineer's license to take home with them. The annual 4 day Spoon River drive event at the Fulton County narrow gauge museum in Lewistown is taking place as I write this update and it continues to be a perennial favorite.

The annual summer picnic at Peck Park was moved to September this year and it was a great success once again. There was lots of fellowship with members and their significant others and the trains were really rolling this year on the two main lines that run adjacent to the park with more than two dozen trains passing by during the 4 hour event.

Operating sessions among our members are increasing with more of a focus on prototypical operations. As a result two members are currently accumulating hours toward achieving the dispatcher AP certificate. For those members who just want to run trains and socialize we now have five active members scheduling periodic operating sessions.

Planned Activities

Upcoming activities involving the portable layout are scheduled for the Peoria Train Show at Illinois Central College on November 16th and we hope to be invited back to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield in December after a very good turnout of smiling kids last year. Once again, our members will be putting together starter layouts to raffle off for free at both events and hopefully the membership table that we set up at each event to promote the NMRA will continue to attract newcomers.

Upcoming IVD meets are scheduled for November 15th at the old Amtrak Station in Normal Illinois, the Chatham Depot on January 17th , and the Peoria North Branch Library on March 21st for our annual election of officers.

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 8, 2025

To: Board of Directors

From: Daniel Banks

Date: 10-27-25

Subject: Central Indiana Division Superintendent Report & MWR Convention Report

Activities since the last board meeting

The CID did not hold it's usual August train show this year. We continue to look for a suitable venue. We held our general membership meeting/picnic on August 23rd. The division participated in the 90th celebration organized by John Coy.

Planned Activities

Danville IN Train Show on Nov 22

Modeler's Meet Jan 3

Lebanon Train Show Jan 25

Booth with demonstrations/portable layouts at Great Train Show Feb 7-8

CID portable Layout show @Avon public library Feb 21

CID portable Layout show @Fort Ben public library Feb 21

Modeler's Meet April 11

MWR Convention Report

There has been no progress on the next MWR Convention

Type text here

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 2025

To: Board of Directors

From: Michael L. Hirvela, Superintendent, Fox Valley Division

Date: November 1, 2025

Subject: Fox Valley Division Activity Report for MWR Board of Directors' meeting Nov, 2025,

Activities since Last Board Meeting

The FVD wrapped our 2024-2025 season in May. During the summer, our membership participated in a summer outing in July to the Illinois Railway Museum for a "behind-the-scenes-tour" of the Diesel Shop. We also visited the archives of the Milwaukee Road and the Chicago & North Western Railway Historical Societies who welcomed us.

The division has commenced holding monthly member meetings both in-person and over the Zoom computer system commencing in September 2025, planned through May 2026. In-person meetings have been held at the Gary Morava Recreation Center of the Prospect Heights Park District in Prospect Heights, IL, and may be held at the Glenview Public Library in Glenview, IL. The Division Board decided to continue to use the library in Glenview as there is no charge to use the space. An issue that has revealed itself is that the requested meeting dates are subject to the library's schedule with not much advance notice. For comparison, the Prospect Heights Park District charges us \$30 per hour for the meeting room – a smaller room than we have used in the past due to an increase that far exceeds reasonable. Thus for a 4.5 hour meeting time period, the park district charges us \$135.

Member participation in the monthly meetings averages 15 in-person and another 15 over the net for an overall average of 30. This is an average attendance before the COVID situation. While we are encouraged by the monthly attendance, it is below last year.

Presentations in-person and via the Zoom computer system. Thus far this season at the time of this writing, we have had local presenter talking about lighting various features on your model railroad. We have future presentations scheduled from outside our division using the Zoom method.

The Division was again contacted by the Chaplain of the Children's Hospital at Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, IL, for assistance with a broken push button which activates a power relay and timer relay to power the track.

Division personnel obtained replacement pushbuttons and installed a new one and the railroad works fine. Additional scenery work is desired and some maintenance will be scheduled. Further, some judicious surgery on some tunnel portal edges will be needed to allow a Kato Amtrak Superliner set to run on all tracks. Overall, the experience is a win-win for the Children's Hospital, the FVD, MWR and The NMRA.

The FVD co-sponsored the Chicagoland Railroad Prototype Modelers meet at Northern Illinois University in Naperville, IL, October 16-18, 2025.

Planned Activities

The division plans on holding monthly member meetings through May of 2026 wherever space is available. We're playing it by ear.

Regards,
Michael Hirvela
Superintendent, FVD

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, May 3, 2025

To: Board of Directors

From: Alex Schneider, Superintendent, Du Page Division

Date: October 6, 2025

Subject: Du Page Division Report

Activities since Last Board Meeting

1. Monthly meetings are held on the second Sunday of September and the first Sunday of October through April. They include a model railroad presentation, a member-judged contest, refreshments, and business as needed.
2. Division board meetings following the monthly meetings, September and October.
3. Tour of home and club layouts within the Division, May.

Planned Activities

1. Division board meetings in November and February.
2. All American Railroad (public) show, Lyons Twp. HS, La Grange IL – March 28, 2026.
3. Layout tour planned for afternoon of Sunday, May 3.
4. Outing during summer months, date TBA.

Division Officers

- | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Elected officers | Term expires | Phone |
| a. Superintendent – Alex Schneider | (5-31-2027) | 312-403-0831 |
| b. Assistant Superintendent – Bill Drzal X | (5-31-2026) | 630-707-7866 |
| c. Chief Clerk – Jim Marciniak | (5-31-2027) | 312-607-9985 |
| d. Paymaster – Ron Scharping | (5-31-2026) | 630-968-0157 |
| 2. Trainmasters – maximum of ten excluding elected officers -- All one year terms expiring 8-1-2026. | | |
| a. Jeff Geisler At Large | | 630-805-0919 |
| b. Patrick Golden AARR Show | | 708-738-5129 |
| c. Fred Henize Contests | | 815-260-1945 |
| d. Ron Scharping Membership (also paymaster) | | 630-968-0157 |
| e. Rob Schiavone Achievement | | 630-690-3262 |
| f. Kim Schlytter Nametags and Greetings | | 331-702-0044 |
| g. Tim Schubert Crossbuck Editor | | 630-930-3241 |

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 8, 2025

To: Board of Directors

From: Greg Bueltmann, Michiana Division

Date: November 8, 2025

Subject: Michiana Activity Report

Activities since Last Board Meeting

Michiana BoD Meetings (6/16/2025, 9/8/2025)

Michiana Division Outings (5/17/2025 Membership Meeting in Mishawaka, IN; 6/21/2025 Division Outing to Stevensville, MI Steel Industry Presentation; 9/20/2025 Division Outing to LaPorte Exchange; 10/18/2025 Division Outing to Monon Connection Museum)

Weekly Thursday Evening Zoom Calls

Date	Topic	Presenter
4/10/25	M&StL Paperwork - Model Photos	Ron Christensen
4/24/25	Upgrading Roundhouse 50' DD Box Cars	Clark Propst
5/1/25	Remake of East Marshalltown	Ron Christensen
5/8/25	Tod und Verklärung (Translation: Death and Transfiguration)	Bob Wundrock
6/5/25	Building Styrene Buildings	Clark Propst
6/19/25	Junctions and Interchanges clinic	Dave Nelson
6/26/25	Creating Photo Backdrops Using AI	Bob Wundrock
7/17/25	Hoisting Pulpwood. Pulpwood Hoisting Operations on Ashland's Chequamegon Bay	Bob Wundrock
7/30/25	Building Tower CK	Mark Carlson
8/7/25	Modeling Tama	Ron Christensen
8/21/25	CNWS Modeler	Ron Christensen
9/11/25	Cleaning Train	Lester Breuer
9/18/25	How to Build Your Favorite Prototype Bridge	Lloyd Keyser
9/25/25	Rock and Stone Open Loads	David Nelson
10/2/25	Panel discussion - backdrops, 3D printing, locomotive gears	Ron Christensen
10/9/25	Elevators and Other Buildings	Ron Christensen

Planned Activities

Quarterly BoD Meetings, Monthly Clinics, and weekly Thursday sessions will continue.

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 8, 2025

To: Board of Directors
From: Bob McGeever
Date: October 24, 2025
Subject: Past Presidents Report.

To paraphrase Mel Brooks, its good to be the Past President.

Activities since the last board meeting

Transition Treasurers duties to Phil Burnside.

Provide some assistance to Jan Burnside in her new role as MWR Clerk.

Took on the role of Trainfest Layout Coordinator.

Fired up the activity of the committee that puts on the Mad City Show and Sale every February in Madison Wisconsin.

Fulfilled a promise to my wife that this year's vacation would have nothing to do with Model Railroading.

Planned Activities

Spend four days at Trainfest learning the setup and tear down process at the venue. Should be able to make process improvements for Trainfest 2026. Spend a little time with each layout to get feedback on what worked nicely and what did not work so nice for the 2025 show.

Continue work on Mad City Show and Sale.

To: Board of Directors
 From: Phillip H Burnside, MMR
 Date: October 26, 2025
 Subject: Treasurers Report

Twice a year the NMRA National sends rebate checks to each Region. This money is calculated as \$1/full member each time (\$2/year) for AP and communication expenses in the region and Divisions. According to the NMRA National Chief Financial Officer the intent is that the Region BOD decides how it will distribute the funds or not. Some Regions distribute the funds to the Divisions and others keep it all in the Region Treasury to cover the indicated expenses at the Region level. Some Regions give grants to Divisions for special events and projects. Currently this is the only income the Midwest Region is going to get this year. I recommend we consider helping the Divisions that are identified as needing the assistance and keep the balance for operating expenses. This will be discussed as "New Business" Item 44.

The following is a recap of the accounts for this fiscal year.

Midwest Region NMRA				
2025 Balance Sheet				
		January 1, 2025	October 20, 2025	Net
Accounts	BMO Checking	\$ 17,587.37	\$ 16,160.69	\$ (1,426.68)
	BMO Money Market	\$ 5,045.62	\$ 5,079.24	\$ 33.62
	BMO CD	\$ 15,545.72	\$ 15,933.74	\$ 388.02
Net		\$ 38,178.71	\$ 37,173.67	\$ (1,005.04)

BMO Checking				
Income	Expenses			
Rebate from National	Memorial Contribution	Bank Fees	Overhead	Rebate to Divisions
\$ 1,986.00	\$ 155.00	\$ 30.25	\$ 1,570.43	\$ 1,657.00

Meeting of Board of Directors, MWR, NMRA November 8, 2025

To: Board of Directors

From: Dr. Robert Perry, MMR #782, MWR Vice-President

Date: October 3, 2025

Subject: November MWR BOD Zoom Meeting

Activities since Last Board Meeting

- Continued as a Trainmaster for the CID after filling a vacancy. This is in addition to my roles as Avon Train Display Manager, Mooresville Library Train Display Co-Manager and Co-Manager of Modeler's Meets for the CID.
- Brainstorming with John Coy and others, regarding amending the Constitution of the MWR to provide clarification and correct any inaccuracies. This will be presented at this meeting for Board approval.
- Have been investigating issues related to the MWR's D&O Insurance. This will be discussed further at our meeting.
- Worked on organizing the Modeler's Meet at the Irvington Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis with Co-Manager John Coy for October 4, 2025. The main presentation will be "Designing a Layout Using Sanborn Maps".
- Although not an official NMRA event, I arranged for Avon IN residents; John Coy and Phil Burnside and myself, to participate in the Celebrating Avon Event at our local library on August 30th by bringing model railroad displays. Discussions ensued with several attendees that are model railroaders (or wannabees) about the merits of NMRA membership.
- Received a request for my Marieville diorama to be permanently housed at the Marieville Historical Society Museum in Marieville, P.Q., Canada. Will arrange to deliver it personally when able.
- Received my 8th AP certificate for the "Official"

Planned Activities

- Will be pursuing arrangements for a Library train show at the Mooresville Public Library for next year. The library is undergoing renovations and will not be available to host us this year.

- At a future date, I will be assisting John Coy in setting up a lecture(s) on Model Railroading and the NMRA at the Avon-Washington Township Library.
- Will be attempting to arrange various events across the CID and MWR that are outside of our typical geographic area for meetings and events to allow for better participation in outlying areas. I am hoping to be able to create, along with MWR President John Coy, a more diversified schedule of events that will be open to members of the MWR and be easier to attend for members that are across our Midwest Region.

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 2025

To: Board of Directors

From: John Robert Coy, President, MWR

Date: November 2025

Subject: My first report as President to the Midwest Region Board

There is a lot going on in the MWR since my installation as President in May 2025. My list follows below:

I, with the assistance of other Board Members, have updated the MWR Constitution due to it being invalid for referring to NMRA national documents which have not existed for many years.

I, with the assistance of other Board Members, have updated the MWR By-Laws due to it being invalid for referring to NMRA national documents which have not existed for many years.

I have attended two Regional Advisory Council (RAC) Zoom meetings.

I appointed Jan Burnside as MWR Regional Secretary due to the passing of Connie Coy.

The region has held two Regional events thusfar. A visit to the Linden Railroad Museum in Linden, Indiana and also I set-up and coordinated a 90th anniversary celebration of the NMRA on Labor Day 2025; which had a good turnout.

I wish to thank national representatives Fred Soward, Central District Director and National AP Chairman Ray Persing for attending and speaking.

I recognized Barbara Soward as an “Honorary” member of the MWR for her going above and beyond in assisting a special needs person at an NMRA event.

Currently, in the process, with MWR Vice-President Bob Perry of setting up future Regional events in 2026. The Rochelle Railroad Park in north central Illinois will be one of the events.

The Audit Committee gathered twice and went through MWR Financial records. Please look for their report.

There will not be a regional convention in 2026. This is due to the fact that the national convention is in Chattanooga, TN, which is the NMRA's “home turf” and within driving distance from the Midwest Region.

Region	Division	Code	Description	Qty	Amount
28	01	BM	BASIC MEMBER (BM)	55	\$55.00
28	01	FM	FAMILY MEMBER (FM)	4	\$0.00
28	01	LM	LIFE MEMBER (LM)	26	\$26.00
28	01	PM	PREMIUM MEMBER (PM)	34	\$34.00
28	01	RP	RAIL PASS MEMBER (RP)	2	\$0.00
				121	\$115.00
28	02	BM	BASIC MEMBER (BM)	57	\$57.00
28	02	FM	FAMILY MEMBER (FM)	10	\$0.00
28	02	LM	LIFE MEMBER (LM)	14	\$14.00
28	02	PM	PREMIUM MEMBER (PM)	36	\$36.00
28	02	RP	RAIL PASS MEMBER (RP)	2	\$0.00
28	02	ST	STUDENT (ST)	1	\$0.00
				120	\$107.00
28	03	BM	BASIC MEMBER (BM)	39	\$39.00
28	03	FM	FAMILY MEMBER (FM)	4	\$0.00
28	03	LM	LIFE MEMBER (LM)	20	\$20.00
28	03	LMNM	LIFE MEMBER NO MAGAZINE (LMNM)	1	\$1.00
28	03	PM	PREMIUM MEMBER (PM)	40	\$40.00
28	03	RP	RAIL PASS MEMBER (RP)	2	\$0.00
28	03	SM	SUSTAINING MEMBER (SM)	1	\$1.00
				107	\$101.00
28	05	BM	BASIC MEMBER (BM)	22	\$22.00
28	05	FM	FAMILY MEMBER (FM)	7	\$0.00
28	05	LM	LIFE MEMBER (LM)	12	\$12.00
28	05	PM	PREMIUM MEMBER (PM)	33	\$33.00
28	05	RP	RAIL PASS MEMBER (RP)	7	\$0.00
				81	\$67.00
28	06	BM	BASIC MEMBER (BM)	76	\$76.00
28	06	FM	FAMILY MEMBER (FM)	10	\$0.00
28	06	LM	LIFE MEMBER (LM)	25	\$25.00
28	06	PM	PREMIUM MEMBER (PM)	76	\$76.00
28	06	RP	RAIL PASS MEMBER (RP)	4	\$0.00
28	06	SM	SUSTAINING MEMBER (SM)	2	\$2.00
				193	\$179.00
28	07	BM	BASIC MEMBER (BM)	7	\$7.00
28	07	FM	FAMILY MEMBER (FM)	1	\$0.00
28	07	LM	LIFE MEMBER (LM)	2	\$2.00
28	07	PM	PREMIUM MEMBER (PM)	11	\$11.00
				21	\$20.00

28	09	BM	BASIC MEMBER (BM)	42	\$42.00
28	09	FM	FAMILY MEMBER (FM)	6	\$0.00
28	09	LM	LIFE MEMBER (LM)	22	\$22.00
28	09	LMNM	LIFE MEMBER NO MAGAZINE (LMNM)	1	\$1.00
28	09	PM	PREMIUM MEMBER (PM)	61	\$61.00
28	09	RP	RAIL PASS MEMBER (RP)	2	\$0.00
28	09	SM	SUSTAINING MEMBER (SM)	3	\$3.00
				137	\$129.00
28	10	BM	BASIC MEMBER (BM)	25	\$25.00
28	10	FM	FAMILY MEMBER (FM)	3	\$0.00
28	10	LM	LIFE MEMBER (LM)	16	\$16.00
28	10	LMNM	LIFE MEMBER NO MAGAZINE (LMNM)	1	\$1.00
28	10	PM	PREMIUM MEMBER (PM)	19	\$19.00
28	10	RP	RAIL PASS MEMBER (RP)	1	\$0.00
				65	\$61.00
28	11	BM	BASIC MEMBER (BM)	50	\$50.00
28	11	FM	FAMILY MEMBER (FM)	6	\$0.00
28	11	HLM	HONORARY LIFE MEMBER (HLM)	1	\$1.00
28	11	LM	LIFE MEMBER (LM)	37	\$37.00
28	11	PM	PREMIUM MEMBER (PM)	57	\$57.00
28	11	RP	RAIL PASS MEMBER (RP)	1	\$0.00
28	11	SM	SUSTAINING MEMBER (SM)	2	\$2.00
				154	\$147.00
28	15	BM	BASIC MEMBER (BM)	18	\$18.00
28	15	FM	FAMILY MEMBER (FM)	1	\$0.00
28	15	LM	LIFE MEMBER (LM)	16	\$16.00
28	15	PM	PREMIUM MEMBER (PM)	21	\$21.00
28	15	RP	RAIL PASS MEMBER (RP)	1	\$0.00
				57	\$55.00
Total				1056	\$981.00
			APPROVED REBATE AMOUNTS		
			Affiliate Member - \$1.00		
			Family Member - \$0.00		
			Honorary Life Member - \$1.00		
			Life Fund Member (Non-Actuarial) - \$1.00		
			Life Member (Actuarial) - \$1.00		
			Regular Member - \$1.00		
			Rail Pass Member - \$0.00		
			Sustaining Member - \$1.00		
			Student Member - \$0.00		