

Midwest Region, NMRA Preliminary Meeting Minutes

Meeting Details:

- Date: November 8, 2025
- Time: 10:00
- Location: Zoom
- Attendees: John Coy, Robert Perry, Jan Burnside, Phillip Burnside, Bob McGeever, Larry Nelson, Bob Wundrock, Prescilla Roderick, David Mashino, Ron Johnson, John Poray, Art Dawson, Jr., Bob Landwehr, Jim Landwehr, Gary Baker, Daniel Banks, Mike Lehman, Michael Hirvela, Marty Hendrickx, Greg Bueltmann, David Leider, Thomas Ose, Jim Osborn, Denis Zamirowski, Michael Roderick
- Absent: Burnell Breaker, Paul Hillmer, Alex Schneider
- Facilitator: Jim Osborn

Agenda:

- Call to order by John Coy
- Roll Call by Jan Burnside
- Minutes from Meeting of May 3, 2025, introduced. Motion to approve by Bob McGeever and seconded by Robert Perry. Motion carried unanimously.
- John Coy asked for any comments on the Reports. Prescilla Roderick moved that all Reports be accepted as is with the exception of the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Prescilla Roderick. Seconded by John Poray. Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion to approve all of the Director at Large reports by Bob McGeever. Seconded by Prescilla Roderick. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion to approve all of the Division Director reports by Gary Baker. Dan Banks seconded. Motion to approve passed unanimously.
- Motion to approve all of the Officer Reports by Prescilla Roderick. Seconded by Thomas Ose. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Discussion Points:

- Financial Review / Audit: Jim Osborn questioned the current records retention and whether there was a policy; if not, suggested we develop a policy for record retention in compliance with National. Some records must be kept "in perpetuity." Discussion followed regarding record destruction policies. Seven years was suggested for financial records, but others must be kept longer. John will pass on to Rod Weinschenk for further research.
- Treasurer report: No questions. Question by Bob McGeever regarding the funds. What is the balance? Phillip Burnside was unable to answer due to lack of available information. The funds are not in a separate account and no checks have been issued recently. Bob McGeever will check on this; he thinks it is about \$2,000. Youth funds got intermingled with the rest of the funds. There was an original donation that has been whittled down. He will dig out the report and sent to Phillip

Burnside. Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report by Dan Banks. Seconded by Gary Baker. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

- **Youth fund:** Thomas Ose reported that, as of today there have been two requests for \$500 he recommends they be approved both are for train programs for youth. Two more are pending. Phillip Burnside: Where should we send the money? Thomas will send the requests to Jan Burnside. One is going to Larry Tschopp for arts for train kits; one is to Steve Preston for kits to give to kids to learn about trains. He is from the South Central Division. Mike Lehman added that Larry's request is for art supplies for the train show at Lincoln Square in Urbana, IL. Thomas Ose moved to accept the first request for \$500 for Larry Tschopp be approved; Seconded by Dan Banks. Motion carried. Dan Banks added that this in keeping with the NMRA directive. Thomas Ose moved to accept the second request for \$500; seconded by Prescilla Roderick. Motion carried. Prescilla Roderick asked how funds are raised for the youth funds? It was donated a long time ago by Bob McGeever. Discussion followed. Do we need a designated fund? Thomas Ose asked whether youth groups have to join the NMRA? John replied yes and had to be non-profit.
- **Verification of Officers:** This is a work in progress and is necessary for the NMRA insurance coverage. Jan Burnside is working with the Divisions to complete this task. Five of ten reporting so far with a few errors that she is working to correct.
- **Insurance:** Looking for insurance for D&O coverage for the MWR. Bob Perry is actively looking. National insurance does not cover Regional activities. Marty Hendrickx has some information – he was the original purchaser. Trying to find specific D&O coverage. What we have is general liability. D&O is a different level/type of coverage. Discussion followed regarding types of coverage, types that would protect the personal assets of directors from liability. John suggested that we contact the NMRA attorney. Bob Perry: typically, they cannot give any form of assistance. AON is one of the companies that provides coverage of this type to nonprofits. Per John Poray, not the only company. Marty Hendrickx will send Bob Perry what he has for his group. John Coy suggested creation of an ad hoc committee consisting of John Poray, Bob Perry, Dan Banks, and Marty Hendrickx.

New Business:

- **Constitution and Bylaws:** John thanks all for their help with the tasks of revising the bylaws and constitution to reflect current CPPM documents. Burnell Breaker had requested some changes, but due to a lack of time forced a decision now. John Coy move to accept the Constitution as it is. Prescilla Roderick seconded. Motion to accept the Constitution passed. John Coy move to accept Bylaws as they are. Bob Perry seconded. Motion to accept bylaws passed. They can and may need to be changed at a later date. Bob Perry: will be posted online? Jim Osborn: Yes. Is the Midwest Region incorporated? Yest in Illinois. John Poray suggested that the updated Constitution and Bylaws need to be sent to the state of Illinois.
- **New Clerk:** John Moved to accept Jan as Clerk. Bob Perry seconded. No objections. Motions passed.
- **Awards check from National:** Explanation provided by Phillip Burnside regarding a check from NMRA. Per normal process, every six months we get a rebate from National for \$1 per member. We received a check for \$981 from National. Typically, we wait until we get the second check before we send funds to the Divisions, but some need the funds. However, this is the only income for the

MWR. We are not in trouble at this point, but we need to make a decision re the funds. Discussion followed. Dan Banks: is that our entire income? Phillip Burnside: Currently, yes. Dan Banks: And IT expenses are coming up. Seems like we are in a loss position. John Coy: I got the idea that this was kind of automatic that we send it on. But we have no Meet coming up in the near future, so we are limited. Maybe we should send them on a case-by-case basis? Dan Banks: I understand that it is a long term issue, but some are hurting and not in our best interest to hold the funds at this time. Mike Lehman: In our Division, that money funds our whole back office. He is okay with having to apply for it, but it is their income. Bob McGeever: some time ago, we decided to just send it on. Phillip Burnside: per the NMRA, it is up to the Region. Bob McGeever: about half the Divisions need it; half not.

John Coy moved to not automatically distribute to the Divisions. Seconded by Phillip Burnside.

Greg Bueltmann objected. No vote taken.

John Coy next motion to have the Divisions request the money and be approved by the Executive board; no second.

Bob McGeever suggested we suspend payments and then determine the needs of the Divisions and then create a plan. John Poray seconded. Gary Baker noted that the dates are not set – would we hold the funds until the next meeting? Bob McGeever – Modify the method. John Poray: When is the next time the money will come in? Phillip Burnside: Next Spring. Dan Banks: Distribute when requested rather than automatically. New policy needs to be set before next spring. Marty Hendrickx: leave it to the Division heads. Greg B – the Divisions that rely on these funds are the least able to respond to paperwork. More discussion followed bout to proceed. Bob M. suggested and ad hoc committee to figure it out. Bob McGeever; Phillip Burnside, Greg Bueltmann; Marty Hendricks, John Poray and Prescilla Roderick on the committee. All motions withdrawn and committee created.

- **Internet related fees:** Jim Osborn made a motion for payment of IT fees; Prescilla Roderick made motion; Bob McGeever seconded. Motion passed.

Post – Agenda Discussion:

- Bob Wondrunk asked how many Divisions are equipped to project Zoom meetings/clinics. Illinois Terminal Division can but has not per Mike Lehman. How many used interdivisional clinicians? Are all of the live clinics member-created only? Discussions followed; Dan Banks – it varies. Bob Wundrock received a request that every Division publish the announcement of their Divisional meeting and the clinics, and the subject matter be available by Zoom. He is finding that the language in our descriptions as to what should be done by the clinic chair may need to be changed. It is an ongoing process. He is getting various responses and availability changes and suggested that we have to find a way to try to update clinic info so that every Division has current info. John Coy: Connie Coy had suggested that we call it the “Clinic Information Interchange.” He asked that any questions come to him. Jim Osborn: an entire webpage is devoted to clinics; send anything you have to him. Mike Lehman: best to think of this as an ongoing process. We need to have folks record their clinics so they can become part of a bank or library. Greg Bueltmann reported that their Division does clinics most Thursday nights and they are recorded; his estimate is that they have over two hundred to date. They are open to all. Dan Banks commended Greg’s Division on their clinics. Greg Bueltmann: YouTube channel has shown great stats and subscribers to their channel. In October, they watched over 120 hours.
- Annual Regional Certification: Already addressed.
- Bob Perry: Regional convention? No, but a meeting in November. Is there a plan for a 2026 Meet? John Coy: no, but one might be in the works for 2027.

- John Coy and Greg Bueltmann: Member Zoom meeting on Thursday 6:30 central and 7:30 EDT. November 13; will include a clinic on the Monon.
- John Coy intends to have a Regional in 2027 because the national is on the coast in 2027. Dan Banks noted that we need a Division to host at the chosen locale. Costs are a consideration. Greg Bueltmann: any thoughts about combining with another Region? Not at this time per Dan Banks. Discussion on options followed.
- Jim Osborn: Nominees for the next election? No. We need the slate.
- Ron Johnson: Report unavailable, but he was on the committee to investigate the youth issue. There are some concerns and some confusion regarding interfacing with youth organizations. Dan Banks noted that if listed as “at risk” allowed to engage but not one-on-one without a guardian present. Bob McGeever: Policy was confusing but some was clear; sponsorship was unclear in some circumstances, but clarification came eventually. Ron Johnson: started in Rockford but COVID eliminated it. Bob McGeever: age groups are limited. Thomas Ose: mentoring programs are their approach. Approaches vary; must follow the groups’ policies. Cannot be running a baby-sitting service; parents must be present. Gary Baker also commented on the status of their programs/activities.
- Phillip Burnside: We need to send out the conflict of interest statement that all need to sign and return to Jan.

Next Meeting:

Date:

Time:

Location: Zoom

Agenda:

Adjournment:

John Poray moved to adjourn the meeting. Phillip Burnside seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourned at 11:36 am