

Region News

Midwest Region Achievement Program Report

by Jim Landwehr- MWR AP Manager

I am happy to report that there has been a lot of activity from our members. They continue to take part in the Achievement Program all over the Midwest Region.

The following members received awards:

Patrick Golden	La Grange, IL	Official
John Mann	Cherry Valley, IL	Motive Power

As always, work with your division Achievement Program Manager first, and if there is a problem, feel free to contact me.
Thanks, Jim

Election Biographies for 2024 Candidates

Yes, once again it is election time. Up for election are President, Vice-president and four positions for Director-at-Large. This year we have two candidates for vice-president and seven for three vacancies for Director-at-large meaning your vote is of upmost importance if you want your candidate(s) to win. **The ballot is on page 9** If you prefer to vote online, Webmaster Jim Osborn has set up an eballot on the JotForm secure site, the ballot can be reached at: <https://form.jotform.com/233234651436958>

President John Coy MMR® Central Indiana Division

My name is John Robert Coy, MMR #730. I am asking for your vote to become President for the Midwest Region.

I am life-long model railroader. I joined the NMRA-- August 2018. In November-- 2018, I was appointed as a



Member of the Central Indiana Division (CID) Board. Since that moment, I have served the NMRA continuously on my Division or Region Board. I'm the current Assistant Superintendent of the CID.

I truly enjoy serving all of you. To say I'm heavily involved would be the understatement of the year. I have attended the vast majority of Division/Region events. I am the Chair for Modeler's Meet, and have Chaired or Co-Chaired several public train display events. It is a rare occasion that I miss an event.

My hope is to continue my involvement by becoming elected as the President for the MWR. I possess an excellent skill set in business operations and have years of experience on NMRA Boards.

I have earned my MMR and have actively promoted the AP and have encouraged countless others to become involved in the program. I am currently assisting the NMRA National by assembling MMR bios and getting them placed online where they may be easily accessible. I was recently honored by Gordy Robinson with a President's Award for my work.

I am currently in the process of writing the ninety (90) year history of the NMRA. This work will be the most comprehensive history of the NMRA ever written and compiled into one document.

I am exceptionally well-prepared to serve you and the NMRA. My professional career (administration), educational background (graduate degree), vocational training and life experience, serving almost my entire NMRA tenure as an NMRA Board Member--along with my passion for model railroading and railroading has provided me with the skill set needed to successfully serve as President for the MWR. Please vote for me.

Thank you.

Vice-President Dr. Robert Perry (incumbent DAL) Central Indiana Division

My name is Dr. Robert Perry. I would kindly ask for your consideration for your vote to become Vice President for the Midwest Region of the NMRA. I am a lifelong model railroader in HO scale. Currently, I am a Director at Large for the



MWR having been appointed after volunteering to fill a vacant post in the group. I subsequently was elected to continue in this role in the last election. My term will be completed in April of 2025. I am also serving on the division level with the CID as a Trainmaster, the Avon Display Manager, Layout Tour Manager and Co-Manager of the Modeler's Meets.

I have been a member of the NMRA in Massachusetts and Florida but was in very inactive divisions. Since moving to Indiana six years ago and becoming part of the CID and MWR I have met and become close friends with many other members some of which live very close to me. It has been a tremendous benefit to me to have the camaraderie and mentorship of these fine gentlemen. I have learned a tremendous amount from them. They have encouraged me to become active in the NMRA Achievement Program and will have completed my final AP certificate (Official) in April. My personal goal is to be able to help others improve their modeling especially through new technologies. I have given many lectures in electronics, Arduino programming, robotics and 3D design and printing. It is hoped that through my continued involvement in the MWR that I will be able to effectively fulfill this goal and be of assistance to many fellow model railroaders. Respectfully yours, Bob Perry

Vice President
Mike Roderick
Central Indiana Division

I am running for the Vice President for the Midwest Region. I am fifty-six (56) years old and have enjoyed trains most of my life. My father & grandfather's collected N-scale and HO trains when I was a child and I have some of their trains today. I currently model in HO scale trains. I enjoy working on my layout at home. I enjoy operation session's and once my layout gets done, I will have some at my house. I am a member of the North Shore Model Railroad club in Boston and was chairman of operations for them. I am also the former President of the Naptown Whiteriver Railroad club in Indianapolis and ran operations and train shows for them.



I decided to devote my time to CID as a Trainmaster. I am the Chairman of the Largest 2-Day Train Show in Indiana. This Show was the Franklin and now has changed names to the Johnson County Train Show which is held in August of each year. I am currently working toward my NMRA-MMR and have completed 3 of the 7 requirements and I almost have the 4th completed for the MMR.

I am of one of several merit badge counselors for Boy Scouts of America for CID.

I am currently a past Directors at Large. I will do whatever I can to help in this position as Vice President of the Midwest Region.

Director-At-Large
Larry Nelson
Illinois Valley Division

My name is Larry Nelson. I would like to offer my time and enthusiasm for this position as Director at Large NMRA Mid West Region. Since my retirement I have become very active in the Illinois Valley Division. Over the last several years. I have tried to encourage and promote the hobby of model railroading both in and outside the NMRA. We have actively reached out to young families and their children with our modular layout which promotes model railroading by allowing children to operate trains. We are refurbishing used equipment to give away as starter sets for children. I also have written many articles for our Illinois Valley newsletter "The Timetable" and have presented several clinics at our IVD meetings. I make an effort to enter items into every contest that we hold, not only to win, but to encourage others to participate. I have also displayed model railroading in showcases at local libraries and area museums. I think this is something the NMRA should be doing in every library around the world! JUST ASK! They are always looking for new displays every month!

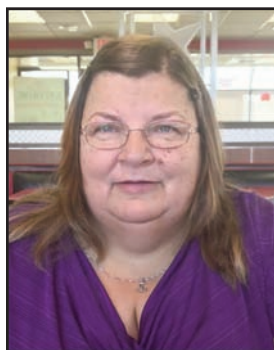


My wife Diane and I live at Lake Wee Ma Tuk west of Canton, Illinois. We have two children and five grandson's. We celebrated 52 years of marriage this year. We are both active in our hobbies. Jointly we are art collectors and flower gardeners. I am trying to encourage her to join me in model railroading.

She said no to building and running trains, but supports and encourages my involvement. I am building a point to point switching layout in my basement. I host operating sessions about every other month. I also have an Inglenook switching puzzle to keep operators busy between duties. Hopefully I can bring some new ideas to the Midwest Region as a Director at Large. Thank you for your consideration. Larry Nelson

Director-At-Large
Precilla Roderick (incumbent DAL)
Central Indiana Division

I am running for the Director at Large for the Midwest Region. I have enjoyed being the Chief Clerk for the past four years of the Central Indiana Division of NMRA. I have been the Director at Large for the Midwest Region since May 2023.



I am sixty-six (66) years old and have enjoyed trains since I have been with my husband for over 9 years now. I enjoyed going to train shows with him, and I support my husband in all the train events that we do together. We have a layout that we are working on at our home so we can have operation session at our house and enjoy running trains ourselves.

I work as the HR Recruitment Coordinator for Indianapolis EMS and do take minutes for different meetings at work. I have been with Indianapolis EMS for 19 years and I have been an EMT for over 30 years.

If I am elected as one of the Directors at Large I will do whatever I can to help in this position.

Director-At-Large
Mike Hirvela (incumbent VP)
Fox Valley Division

I have been your MWR Vice-President for the last four years, and now find myself term-limited. I have supported our Region President and the board in carrying out MWR VP duties for the benefit of our members. The last two years have seen some challenges from the seemingly lasting impact of COVID

health issues on membership and meeting attendance, to reorganizing a division for their future, along with a variety of region issues. I thought about higher office, but find my personal schedule and time constraints preclude running for MWR President, and I feel my best contribution would be as a Director-At-Large. I fully understand that the next few years will have their own challenges. Our job is to find solutions.

So, if you feel I have done an adequate job as MWR VP, I would appreciate your vote for Director-At-Large. But, if you feel otherwise, make your choice known when the ballot comes around.

Director-At-Large
Bob Wundrock MMR®730
South Central Wisconsin Division

In 2010 I was awarded NMRA Master Model Railroader #446.

I've been an NMRA member since 1973 and have been a member of the South Central Wisconsin Division (SCWD) since 1986. During that time I held SCWD positions of Superintendent, Board of Directors, Clerk, Clinics' Chair and newsletter editor. I've been a member of the Soo Line Historical & Technical Society since 1978.

Over the years I have written articles that have been published in the NMRA Bulletin, Scale Rails, NMRA Magazine, Model Railroader, Trains, Railroad Model Craftsman and the SOO, magazine of the Soo Line Historical & Technical Society. I model the Soo Line in the early 1950's and host monthly operations sessions on my HO layout. My belief is that model railroading is a never-ending education process.



Director-At-Large
Jim Temple
Michiana Division

I've pondered the question: what could I contribute to MWR as a Director At-Large? Maybe, not much! At 80, am I too old to have any fresh ideas? But then, maybe my experience can help MWR make some good moves:



- Paymaster/Treasurer of the Michiana Division since it was formed 15 years ago.
- Paymaster for the 2024 "Round the Bend" MWR Convention, including the planning during many months ahead of that event.
- Volunteer Board member, for 2 credit unions and other non-profit organizations.
- Assistant Treasurer for the San Antonio Model Railroad Association, Lone Star Region, for a few years before moving to Michigan in 2007.
- Career in public accounting and industry, auditing and corporate accounting.
- President of Hawaii chapters of the Institute of Management Accountants and the Institute of Internal Auditors.
- But there is no railroad layout at my home: operating on others' layouts and repairing bad order cars is how I have most of my model railroad fun.
- And it seems I'm too old to be interested in working on MRR certificates (although I salute those who do).

What does MWR need? It probably needs ways to attract and keep members, right? What ideas do I have? Maybe nothing new, but I'm willing to consider ways to add value through our members' love of model railroading. The MWR and every Division, including Michiana, work to provide interesting learning experiences and networks among members. The broad membership is where the ideas need to come from. What works for them? How do we find out? In addition to past successes, input from our members is always needed to know what to offer, and the "what" is likely to change over time.

Jim Temple

Director-At-Large
Jeff Deasy
Illinois Valley Division

My name is Jeff Deasy, I live in Chatham, IL (suburb of Springfield). I am a transplant to Illinois and was raised in Franklin, Kentucky, a small town south of Bowling Green. I met the love of my life, we married and had two children.

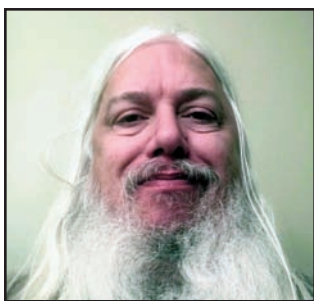


(almost 45 years ago!) During this season of my life, I became interested in HO Train layouts, of course back then it was DC. I had a 4X8 layout that I worked on for years and of course changed and changed again.

My wife and I had been married roughly 16 years when we felt called to Foreign Mission Work, so we left the US and moved first to Brazil for 11 years and then to Kenya for 9 years. We returned to the US in 2016. During our time overseas I packed my layout and trains and stored them not knowing if I would ever get them out again. When we returned to the US in 2016, I did get them back out (changed to DCC), started looking around to like-minded people that enjoyed Train layouts both local and national that I could learn and get inspiration from. (a lot had changed since we had been out of the US!) I found NMRA, joined NMRA, joined the local NMRA Division (Illinois Valley Division) in 2016 and have been a member since. At the local level I started out as a member, then was the Trainmaster over Region 2, then appointed as the Paymaster which I have been for the last several years. I also have been the Webmaster for our Division for almost a year. I would love to see more and more of all ages enjoy Model Railroading as I do and have for years.

Director-At-Large
Mark Faust
Central Indiana Division

Greetings. My name is Mark Faust and I am running for Director at Large. I am a software engineer with experience working in government information systems and in the automotive industry. I started model railroading as a boy and I still own the 4x8 lay-



out we put under the family Christmas tree in the 70's and 80's. For many years I traveled extensively for work, and thus I and my 4x8 have traveled many miles together. We have lived in many states (11 for me, five for the layout - it's still mad at me

for not taking it to Hawaii). Since 2011, we have called Indiana home.

I joined the NMRA in 2016 and have been an active participant now for several years. I serve on the CID board of directors, volunteer to help out at train shows and displays, and partner with another member to run the monthly Zoom meetings for the division. I would like to find ways to draw out more of our membership to participate. I believe once people join in one of our activities, many will go from magazine-reading-only members to regular participants. Additionally, with my background in engineering, I believe we have a lot of technology that can be useful for the model railroading community today. I like to explore and shake down these technologies and then pass them on to other members. I enjoy the many friendships and welcome the many ideas and inspirations that the NMRA offers. I would be honored to serve as a Director at Large. I will bring enthusiasm and creativity if elected to the position. Thanks for your consideration.

National News Convention Update

Barry Hensel
Station No. VI Publicity Chairman

Hello NMRA members! In the last NMRA eBulletin, we introduced ourselves to you, told you a bit about our HQ hotel and convention site, and touched on 3 of the important reasons for attending a national convention – layout tours, op sessions and clinics, and our great pricing policy. Let's take a look at a few more activities and reasons for attending STATION No. VI, taking place on July 14-19, 2025 in Novi, Michigan.

STATION No. VI Yard Sale:

At the HQ hotel, we'll have a room set aside for our Yard Sale. This is not an auction, but a simple sale of items that you and other participants bring in for sale. Bring an item – structure, rolling stock, locomotive, detail parts, whatever you wish – and we'll sell it for you! Items are registered with our Yard Sale team and then you place them on a table. Other convention attendees will be allowed to view the room and select items they wish to buy. They simply take the item to the check-out table, pay for it (no haggling – the price is the price) and they are on their way with their new-found treasure. Our team keeps track of your sold items and takes a 10% commission. The rest is held in cash for you to pick up at the end of the week. You can attend a convention, have great fun, and also make money!

The NMRA will be hosting the traditional National Train Show during STATION No. VI for two days on Saturday and Sunday (not Friday), with layouts, vendors, and displays. The show will be held at a nearby convention center. You can drive there in about 15 minutes, or you can purchase a bus ticket to get a ride to the show. Your registration includes a ticket to the National Train Show, so all you have to do is... attend!

Let's talk turkey... or chicken... or BBQ... or just basic food! The HQ hotel has a full service restaurant for your convenience. We're also planning on a concession stand, serving lighter, quicker meals (burgers, wraps, etc.) during the convention hours. If you want to get away for a bit, well, we've got you covered there, too. How about close to 50 eateries within 3-4 miles of the HQ hotel? We're talking fast food to sit-down meals of all kinds and price ranges, including many local favorites, some nationally known, and some very unique local establishments. We'll have listings of these in your event program. Well, that's all we have room for in this issue of the NMRA eBulletin. We'll chime in again in January 2025, as we get even closer to our convention dates – July 14-19, 2025. STATION No. VI is only eight months away. Register now and get in on the fun in 2025!

Questions? Please visit nmra2025.com and use the contacts page to let us know what we can answer for you!

The election ballot is on page 9.