

LAWRENCE "LARRY" LEWIS PASSES

Passing of A Real Ferroequinologist

On Saturday, April 29, 1995, Lawrence "Larry" Lewis, age 62, passed away after having a massive stroke some three days before. When my wife and I moved to St. Anne, IL. in 1984, to take care of my mother-in-law, she told me her neighbor was 'strange' because he had trains. Being a model railroader myself, it made my transition to St. Anne a good beginning. Before we moved to a larger house, and afterwards, Larry would come over for coffee and we would discuss trains and the NMRA.

Like so many of us, his present railroad had been under construction a long time. It is by all standards massive in size with about 60% of it operational in HO, HO3, traction and live outside third rail. One of the unique features is a mountain seven feet high from the floor and at least as wide in which the operator for the narrow gauge and a large yard sat and controlled their functions. Trolley cars operate in one section with correct in street rail. As many know, Larry was a wealth of railroad, traction and overhead catenary knowledge. Because he grew up in the Chicago metro area, he knew the places to take great pictures. But to my knowledge he never owned a camera. He wrote many articles for publication on an old Underwood typewriter. His extensive files weren't catalogued, but he knew where every little tidbit of information was located. When the former President of the NorthEast Region, Dick Towle and his son Rick (who works for AMTRAK and the MBTA), visited me several years ago, Larry took us up alleys to clandestine spots for the greatest pictures of Chicago operating railroads. When I needed help on my railroad

Waybill - Fall '95

Larry would come to help, have his Diet Coke (Larry was diabetic), sit on a stool and offer his advice. On many a day off Larry, a friend Junior and I would sit by Cote Lake in St. Anne and watch the CSX, UP and KB&S trains roll by.

I thought I knew Larry well, but after talking with Past Region President Palmer Kloster, I realize that things had changed. Neither of us had been in Larry's house, or railroad 'building' for some time. When asked how construction was coming along, he mumbled something about how he hadn't worked on it lately. After Larry's death we found out he hadn't had electricity, water, gas and of course phone service for months. I guess we really don't know people as well as we should.

Larry was obstinate, and at times a royal pain, but like true friends, I'll miss him

Donald Minnich
Election Chairman - MWR

In Memorium

Larry Lewis	St. Anne, IL
John Cherty	Milwaukee, WI
James Stone	Mount Horeb, WI
Fred A. Hankins	Indianapolis, IN
Marion Kershner	Indianapolis, IN
Andrew Sim Jr.	Palatine, IL
C.H. McDuffy	Chicago, IL

It is especially sad to note that John Cherty was a Charter Member of the NMRA. There are very few left and we owe them a lot for their dedication and effort to build this organization. Our sympathies to all the friends and family of these members who have reached the end of their run.

1996 Spring (I do No have a Fall 1996 issue)



W A Y B I L L S 9 6 P9

Sounds from the Boardroom

One of the topics of discussion was regional conventions. We have one in the spring and one in the fall. The cost of sponsoring the conventions is on the rise, with using hotel facilities being the biggest cost. Some divisions can handle the financial responsibility while others can not. Some ideas from the board are: Having one large convention a year, using local colleges for convention sites or some other public site. This would reduce the cost to the divisions and make it much within the financial reach of many. If there are any ideas out there contact a member of the board or your superintendent so they can pass the information along.

The subject of a regional picnic or a joint get together for all of the divisions, in Union, IL, at the Railroad Museum for a day of fun train watching is coming together. It would take place sometime in the summer of 1996. The weekend will be set when there is a lot of operations of all types of equipment at the museum. A committee is to be formed to look into this. I would like to hear from the division superintendents on this matter. Would your division like to participate in this? Please contact:

Gary E. Children
2135 S 95th St
West Allis, WI 53227-1418

During the Board Meeting there was some discussion about printing a booklet covering the events coming up in the region. This would be

made available to members of the region at the cost of covering the printing and mailing. This would come out twice a year, and cover most of the events in the region. Contact a member of BOD if you are interested.

Fall 1996 Convention

The Midwest Regional fall convention, *Rails o' Plenty 96*, will be held Nov. 15-17 at the Hyatt Lisle in Lisle IL. It is shaping up to be a fine convention, with plenty of clinics and layouts for touring and operating.

The general theme of *Rails o' Plenty* will be agriculture and railroading, although there will be a good number of clinics outside the theme, as well. An extensive non-rail program is planned, going beyond the usual trips to the local shopping and antique district.

Full details on non-rail and extra fare activities (if any) will be published in the next issue of the Waybill. Register now for the convention and save on your registration fee! For more information send a self addressed stamped envelope to:

Rails o' Plenty
Fred Henize
23009 S. Frances Way
Channahon, IL 60410

A hotel registration form will also be published in the next Waybill, along with directions on how to find it. Note that there are no other lodging establishments within walking distance. Nightly rates will be \$69 single/double, \$79 triple/quad.

1997 Spring

FROM THE FOREMAN'S DESK

BY

JIM ROBERTS

Since the last Waybill, I received a letter written in response to an editorial written in one of our Division's newsletters. It was criticism of how the region is headed. For the most part it was constructive. The tone however, and this is just my perception, was negative. What was seriously lacking I feel were any solutions to this member's complaints. His was the only letter that I received in response to the editorial. As for my opinion of the editorial, I feel that its writer was sorely misinformed. Being a past Waybill editor doesn't give anyone license to take potshots at the Midwest Region without offering up any solutions, especially if you don't come to Region Board Meetings or take the time to read the Minutes of the Board Meetings. What happened to common courtesy? I never received a copy of the newsletter. I was given a copy of it by a friend at my local Division Meeting.

We'd like to hear some input from our members. We need to know your opinions. Talk to your Division Superintendents and let them know how you feel. If you can, come to a Region Board Meeting. Their location and time are in the minutes of the last meeting. Ask your Superintendent for the details. If you can't make a Winter or Summer Board Meeting, or our non-convention meetings, try coming to a Fall or Spring Convention. Make it a point to come to the board meeting if you get to the Convention. Board Meetings are open to all NMRA Midwest Region Members.

There are no secrets between the Board of Directors and Our Membership.

I hope that the current cynicism that seems to be affecting the opinions of our elected Local, State and National Officials as a whole doesn't spill over into our volunteer organization. The Board of Directors does the best job possible with the resources that it has available for its activities. I personally feel that the voting membership as a whole supports the Region.

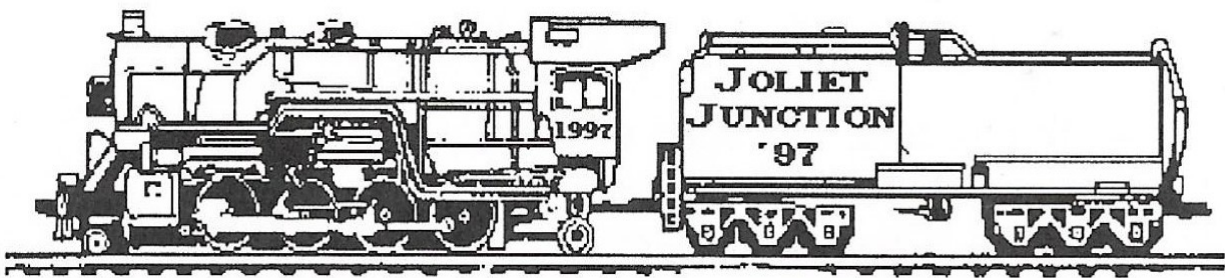
I am not running for Re-Election. Working two jobs, going to school two to four nights a week to finish my degree and a young son are demanding more and more of my time. I suspect that my wife, Erica, is not quite sure what I look like; our schedules have become that crazy between her homebased business and my commitments. I wholeheartedly support what the Midwest Region stands for and what the Board is working to accomplish. I cannot devote the time to the duties required to be a good President. I hope that you will take the time to send in your ballot and vote for the candidates of your choice.

I cannot thank everyone on the Board of Directors personally here in the space allotted to me in the Waybill. All I'll say is Thanks, you all know who you are. I know that you're all on the right track. Keep up the good work.

Our Spring Convention has been put together at the last minute. Originally, it was to be hosted by the Capital Division in Springfield, IL. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the original plans fell through. Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of Fred Henize, Superintendent of The DuPage Division, our Convention will be hosted by the Midwest Region in Joliet, IL. I'm sorry for any inconvenience that this short notice will cause members, but hope that you will all take the time to attend.

Sincerely,

Jim Roberts Midwest Region President. #



JOIN US IN JOLIET, IL
MAY 2 - 4 FOR OUR
SPRING CONVENTION

1997 Spring

MEET THE CANDIDATES

FOR PRESIDENT. . .

James J. O'Toole

I have been active in model railroading since I was a kid, starting with the typical American Flyer around the tree into a table top layout my father built. In the 1950's, while still in high school, I worked in a toy shop that also had a model railroad department and switched to the new "HO" size. Combinations of armchair and active modeling spanned the next many years, until I have finally started my current layout, the Wyoming Western Railway, a fictional division of the C.B.&Q. Now the problem is time and building a layout big enough to hold everything I've built.

For a few years, we lived outside of Cleveland, Ohio, and I joined the NMRA in 1976, and became active in Division 5, MCR. I held positions of Division Contest Chairman for 4 years, and chaired the committee for the Division's annual fund raising Swap Meet and Train Show. Based on the guidelines I established, the Train Show grew from 150 tables for a 2 day show, to in excess of 300 tables and a gross income of over \$12,000.

I became a "Life Member" in 1987, when we moved back to the Chicago area, and joined the Dupage Division. I have served as Contest Chairman for 4 years, Assistant Superintendent for 4 years, served actively on 3 separate region Convention Committees, and arranged 3 special bus trips for Dupage Division members. I am currently serving as Midwest Region Secretary and Midwest Region Director at Large.

I have enjoyed my association with model railroading, especially the many individuals I have met, both locally and nationally. I have learned from many of them that service to the NMRA can enrich my interest in model railroading, and that you get what you give. What I have gotten is a great group of friends, and learned that there are many problems that need attention both in the Region and at National. I intend to provide my capabilities to help direct, or redirect the Region management to better serve the Region members. Progress has been made in the last few years, but more needs to be done. The Region has a cash flow problem; we can barely cover our operating costs; we need better communication with the Divisions (both to and from); and we need to expand membership, as well as membership participation. I look forward to the challenges this offers.

Gary Children

I have been a Model Railroader for many years. I am a Past President of the Wisconsin Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society and am currently the Layout Tour Director for the WISE Division. I have just finished two terms as Director At Large for the Midwest Region and presently serve as a Model Contest Co-Chairman for the Midwest Region. I am a member of the Badgerland S Scalers and the Santa Fe Historical Society. I am also a Life Member of the NMRA.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT. . .

Al Kramm, Jr.

I am 67 years old, married with seven grown children and am retired from the Electro-Motive Division of GM as an air brake engineer. I started model railroading in 1941 with an HO gauge Varney dock side 0-4-0 and then switched to O Scale and On3 in 1959. I was an NMRA member from 1946 - 1960, and then rejoined in 1963 and became a life member in 1974. I am a second generation NMRA member. My dad was Vice President in 1938 and President in 1939. I have held the following positions:

- National Narrow Gauge Standards Chairman 1966 - 1998.
- Regional DAL 1986 - 1990.
- Calumet Division Official since 1987 holding all positions except chief clerk. At present I am Paymaster for the division.

I feel the most serious problem facing the NMRA is the consistent running in the red in our budgets.

FOR DIRECTORS AT LARGE. . .

Jim Roberts

Although family and job have demanded more of my attentions, I would like to serve the Midwest Region as best as I can. I have served as the DuPage Division Paymaster and Midwest Region Treasurer and President. I model in HO and O Scales and am fond of Prototype Photography. My wife and I have a very active two year old who is a budding Railfan. I am presently finishing up a Bachelor's of Science in Computer Science at night. I'd like to help out as best I can. I feel that I can do that as a Director at Large.

Richard Cecil

I have been an active member of the NMRA on both the Regional and Local level. I have served as Superintendent of the WISE Division and was Regional Vice President for four years in the mid 1980's. I served as General Chairman for the 1985 National Convention. I am an HO modeler and an avid Railfan. I am married and am enjoying an active retirement. I look forward to serving on the Midwest Region Board of Directors.

Ernest Rizzuto

Experience:

- NMRA member for 25 years
- Member of Board of Directors, Calumet Division
- Superintendent, Calumet Division, 2 years
- Clerk, Calumet Division -- 2 years
- Regional Director-at-Large -- one 2-year term

I am also a member of the Lake Shore Model Railroad Club, the Santa Fe Railway Historical and Modeling Society, and the Rock Island Historical Society. I model in HO scale and have won many awards for both model building and photography. I am constructing a layout in my garage that will feature both Santa Fe and Rock Island in the mid-1970s. I am the father of three grown children and the grandfather of six.

I want to be a regional Director-at-Large because I feel that my experience in both real and model railroading can help the region to expand membership, encourage model railroading as a hobby, and increase the participation of the current members in the NMRA activities on both a regional and divisional level. ♣

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT WAYBILL. . .

The deadline is **August 23rd**. I need all information by that date as it will go to print the following week. Getting the candidates information held up this issue a bit, but I can't allow that to happen next time. Please try and keep your personal information to 100 words or less if possible. I hate to drop the font any smaller... but I can :-) ♣

THE LAST WORD. . .

Because of the last minute convention and information I felt was important, as well as at least one new feature, we may have left out some items which you feel should have been included. The one thing that comes to mind are the contest winners. They are not here because I never got a list, but I also feel that these should be published at the Region level. My reasons are two fold: faster recognition as the Region newsletters are published more frequently and space constraints in the Waybill. It would also be great if the Regions gave a little blurb about winners from their area. If you have any concerns about this, or any other issues concerning the Waybill and what it should or should not carry, please let me know.

DON'T FORGET THE NMRA ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB...

NMRA on the Web

<http://www.nmra.org>

Midwest Region

<http://www.theramp.net/railroad/mwr/mwrhome.html>

THE LAKE JUNCTION '97

<http://www.mmwg.com/mmwgweb/mwr/con9701.shtml>

1997 Spring

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BECAUSE OF SPACE CONSTRAINTS, WE CANNOT PRINT THE ENTIRE MINUTES HERE, BUT WE HAVE HIGHLIGHTED IMPORTANT ISSUES.

Dave Liesse submitted the attached proposed budget for BOD approval. This reflects a very austere operating budget and also reflects the state of the financial condition of the Region.

A discussion was held regarding the potential for Region dues as a possible way to maintain operating funds for the Region. The Midwest Region is one of two Regions not charging regional dues. President Roberts asked for a motion to set up a committee to study region dues and the implications, and the motion passed. The committee will consist of: Jim Roberts, Fred Henize, Palmer Kloster, Jim O'Toole, John Drozdak, Dave Liesse and Gary Children. A report from the committee is requested at the July meeting.

Jim Carrow of IVD presented a letter relating the the split of the old IVD into 3 new divisions. Since the funding divided for the new divisions is still being held by IVD, the division requested Region BOD review and approval of the IVD to hold the funds until the end of 1997. If the new Capital Division is not organized and active at that time, the funds will revert back to the IVD for their use. A motion was presented and passed in support of the IVD request. ‡

FROM THE TREASURER

The Midwest Region finished the year with a net loss of \$1,262.13. This was primarily due to declining revenues from conventions. Whereas, just a few years ago, it was not unusual to net over \$2,000 from a convention, we are now lucky to make \$1,500. Adding to that, the recent increases in the cost of paper and postage have made it more expensive to produce the Waybill.

This year's budget projects another large loss, although it was compiled without the benefit of knowing what has happening with the Spring Convention. The outlook may be brighter than it seems, but I prefer to maintain the pessimistic view (the safer course when dealing with finances) until there is solid reason to do otherwise. Note, that the assets of the Region are actually on the order of \$2,500 to \$3,000 greater than shown; we have another CD that was set up differently and we do not get a regular statement for it. At some point this year, I will get it fully incorporated into the financial records, but it will take time while I piece together the information from several pieces of paper.

The bottom line is that the Region has serious financial difficulties, but they are not as grave as we originally thought. It is time, though, to start looking into ways to balance the budget better because most solutions require a good deal of lead time. This will be a topic of discussion at the Spring Convention; come and voice your opinions. If you are unable to attend, contact me or any other Region Officer to get more details and/or to express your views.

David S. Liesse
Treasurer, MWR ‡

Midwest Region, NMRA Balance Sheet December 31, 1996

Assets		
Cash - Checking	1,161.04	
Cash - CD	2,937.93	
Total Assets		4,198.97
Liabilities		
Escrow - Moskal Award	330.20	
Total Liabilities		330.20
Capital		
Retained Earnings	5,130.90	
Net Income	<1,262.13>	
Total Capital		3,868.77
Total Liabilities and Capital		4,198.97

FALL ELECTION RESULTS

Here are the winners.....

Bill Fulton	Illinois Valley Division
Mike Hurlburt	North Shore and Western Division
Keith McMillan	DuPage Division
Hampton Rothwell	South Central Wisconsin Division

Thanks to the following for throwing your hats in.

Ernest Rizzuto	Calumet Division
Bill Jenkins	Central Indiana Division ‡

OTHER NOTICES

The Dues Committee will meet Saturday Morning May 5th at the Convention. Details will be announced in the Convention Handout. It will be open to all interested Midwest Region Members. ‡



1997 Spring

FROM THE DISPATCHER'S DESK

**BY
DANIEL S. DAWDY**

Welcome to the Waybill. This is the first edition under my direction and it's time you all knew a little bit about me. I have been involved with model trains since I was born. My father was heavily into Lionel and I grew up in the 1960's building mountains with asbestos powder and cleaning track with carbon tetrachloride! (Yes... by today's standards, I should be dead but we didn't know about the hazards back then.)

Once I was on my own in the 1970's, I really thought Lionel was a dying entity and I began to sell it off. I then went into O Scale where I am today. In the early 1980's, I was with a group of modelers who formed a module group called Southern Wisconsin O Scalers. (A re-birth of that old group is alive and well today as The Madison O Scalers. They will be showing at The Lake Junction Convention this summer.)

After going back to school and receiving my degree in electronics, I moved to Lisle, IL where I live with my wife Amy. It's here I meet Ted Schnepf and began working on his massive O Scale layout in Elgin, IL. That layout has now spawned the Fox Valley O Scalers.

I have been an NMRA member for 5 years and was on the original DCC working committee. I am the assistant Webmaster for the NMRA National World Wide Web Site, as well as, the Midwest Division Web Site.

My wife and I also own Ribbon Rail Productions which does publishing on the Internet. Many of you may have visited our hobby site, The Cyberspace World Railroad or www.rrhistorical.com and, if you live in the Chicago area, www.metrarail.com, the Chicago Metra pages. I also collect railroad lanterns, and have a modest but growing collection.

I look forward to meeting many of you at upcoming conventions as I become more involved in the division and region. †

1997 Fall



THE WAYBILL

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
MIDWEST REGION
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION
DANIEL S. DAWDY, EDITOR
319 N. NAPERVILLE ROAD SUITE 348
BOLINGBROOK, IL 60490



JOIN US IN HOMEWOOD, IL
OCT. 10-12 FOR OUR
FALL CONVENTION



RECEIVED SEP 17 1997

PROJECTS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S WORKBENCH BY JIM O'TOOLE

Lately, there have been many discussions related to the financial condition of the Region. This has been and, for the foreseeable future, will be a major concern as to the future unless something is set in place now. Now is the time to direct our attention to securing a plausible base for strengthening the conditions that the Region needs to operate. The primary reason for the Region to exist and service our Region membership is the dissemination of information from the various Divisions and National, and coordination of Region activities. It is also the place local Divisions should be able to request help and assistance.

The Midwest Region is now the largest Region, in membership (2,669) in the entire NMRA, and this was before the National in Madison. Membership sales at the National exceeded \$8,000. The Midwest Region must do a better job of drawing these new people to our Divisions, and giving them information about what is going on in their area. The same efforts need to be put forth for "dropped" members. Why did they select not to renew membership, and is it something that we can address and/or correct?

The Midwest Region has had, and is experiencing a very limited cash flow. We do not have the necessary funding to produce and promote everything that we should. The Region is not intended to be "rich", and "Not for Profit" also does not mean

poverty, but there are necessary services that must be provided. The Region has been absolutely "bare bones" for too long. Much of the criticism directed to the Region BOD in the past has been related to the Region not having the money to do its job.

The financial conditions of the Region have us dependent on the shared proceeds of the twice annual Region conventions. Falling attendance, and other factors, have reduced the Region portion of the net profits to a point that will not even support the Region's limited services. No one at the Region is paid, and only limited reimbursement of necessary expenses is allowed for. This funding can only be stretched so far. No projected budgeting can effectively be established because each Regional convention is handled by a different Division, with different results and profits. There are too many uncontrolled factors related to each individual convention to make adequate projection of the Region's share of the proceeds.

There are two most important Region services that account for the majority of our standard expenditures: the WAYBILL and Membership.

WAYBILL

The WAYBILL is the Region newsletter and is the most direct form of contact with each individual member of the Region. We cannot depend on the Region BOD meetings, BOD meeting notes, and Superintendents reports at Division meetings, especially if members are not attending the meetings to get "the word out". The WAYBILL is the only direct form of contact with each member. All Region balloting is issued to the members with the WAYBILL.

Continued on page 8

PROJECTS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S WORKBENCH

Continued from page 1

The WAYBILL has become very limited in scope due to available funding. The printing cost have been rising, and postage is out of sight. The costs of printing, and mailing (second class mail) is now more than half of our annual budget. This includes only two issues a year, and very limited content and information. Other Regions are producing very informative newsletters relating to the activities of the entire region. Members have access to information about what other Divisions are planning and doing. I just received a copy of the recent newsletter from SER (South East Region) which included 28 pages (8 1/2" by 11") of information on activities by all of the Divisions in the Region and is issued 4 times per year. I understand that as impressive as the newsletter was, it's not among the best. The SER Region has a total membership of 504 members, Midwest has 2,669. The WAYBILL must be improved to be more informative to all Region members. This in no way is a competition, but is a level of service that should be achieved.

There should be more than two issues per year to provide updated and timely information on changed schedules and activities. If there is a problem with mail service, the basic information will still get to each individual.

MEMBERSHIP

As of July 31, 1997, the Midwest Region was the largest Region by 30 members (2,669 vs Mideast Region at 2,639). After the National in Madison, we are by far the largest. The major problem now facing us is how to retain these new members, and maintain the existing members. It is necessary to contact, invite and culture these new members to have them become active participants. This starts with the Membership Committee providing packs of information about local Divisions to each new member with meeting schedules and general Midwest Region data. This is most important for the new member, and a possible reason existing members drop out. No information translates to no participation.

FINANCIAL

There has been discussion for a long time regarding possible dues for the Region. This is a way to offset the Region operating costs. Hopefully, it is not the only method!

I, for one, do not want Region dues! I am asking for recommendations of other means of generating funding for the Region. If anyone has constructive ideas on how we can implement fund raising from a dependable profit source, please contact me. But without a dependable means of increasing the necessary cash flow for the Region, the dues may be the only way to assure the continued services for the Region. The elimination of Region services is not the answer, but will increase member dissatisfaction. As has been stated many times, the Midwest Region is one of only two Regions in the NMRA that is not a dues paying Region, the other is Mid Central Region (Ohio plus). We are not trying to run with the pack, but must support the Midwest Region services the members deserve.

Considerable discussion has taken place on the Internet, Web Page, E-mail, and between many of the Region members actually seeing each other, regarding this issue. I am not cyber-spaced so I don't have access to these electronic discussions. I have had many discussions with people (face to face) as to the necessity for generating money. Since nothing has been formally decided at the Region level, these discussions are just that, discussions. But now it is time to resolve the issue of how to finance the Region.

If anyone has constructive ideas to be reviewed for funding, please let me know immediately. I am asking the Region BOD to be prepared to set a direction in motion at the Calumet Convention BOD meeting, October 11, 1997. We can and will review various concepts to determine what is going to be the most practical for the Region. The only requirement is to find a funding method that is long term, and cost effective to implement.

I am planning to conduct a Clinic at the Calumet Convention to have an open forum for members to listen, question, and constructively criticize the activities of the Region, especially regarding finance. Member input is most important, and requested. The Region has been considered an "entity that's in another world" and doesn't do anything. The programs that Jim Roberts started have changed the direction of what Region was and is now trying to do for the members. These programs will continue and be expanded. There is "new blood" helping to manage the Region, and we are looking for "newer blood" to become actively involved. The old adage of "you get what you give" truly applies to the NMRA.

We are quickly approaching the year 2000. If we expect to make it that far, changes must be made now. I am asking for your support to reinforce the Midwest Region, which will also reinforce your Division. The Midwest Region BOD meetings are always open to any member of the Region to attend as a guest. We invite your constructive comments and they will be responded to. This is your organization!

Sincerely,
Jim O'Toole
Midwest Region President

WAYBILL

Mid West Region NMRA

July 1998

About This WAYBILL

Jim O'Toole

This issue of the WAYBILL will be in your hands in early August. This is a departure from the schedules the WAYBILL has been issued in the past. A major reason for this change is the early Fall Meet in Princeton, IL. On September 18 – 20, 1998. This meet is being hosted by the Illinois Valley Division, and promises to be different. Check the registration data included with this issue.

Past issues of the WAYBILL have been scheduled much later in the Fall and did not allow enough time for members to properly schedule attending the Fall Meet. Any activities that were available to members were listed too late for anyone to use.

Hopefully, sending this issue out for delivery the first week in August will provide enough time for members to pre-register for the Fall Meet. The WAYBILL is also being issued now to provide more information about other railroad activities that may be of interest to everyone. This will include a listing of each Division's planned meetings, clinics and other activities. Since this is the first time and schedule to include this information, some of the Divisions have not been able to include their schedules. We have included names and phone numbers of Division contacts. As we prepare the next issue of the WAYBILL, additional information regarding Division activities will

Mid West Region Board approves Region Dues

Jim O'Toole

A major topic of discussion over the last 20 + years has been the necessity of having Region dues. The Region has completely depended on the shared profits from the Region conventions to finance all of the Region services provided to the Divisions and individual Region members. The lack of any services being provided by the Region is the result of not having enough money to provide those activities. By not enough, I'm talking about a bare bones budget of printing 2 small issues of the WAYBILL, and some incidental expenses. No one can predict how successful our conventions will be, or if they will show any profit at all.

Over the last year, the topic of finding another means of generating funding has been requested and limited responses were received from some Region members. Almost all of the ideas presented had merit, but also included added costs of requiring many, many more volunteers and a lot of dedicated time. Something few of us have.

Almost all of the other Regions in the NMRA have a dues program. The only other Region not having a dues program is Mid Central Region: Ohio, Eastern Indiana. The Rocky Mountain Division has just voted to remove dues, but they have a Region bank account with over \$70,000.00 in it.

The BOD of the Mid West Region has struggled to find other means to provide financial support, and a dues program has been the only viable direction. I, for one, did not and do not want dues. But, without any practical options, there is no other choice.

At the July 11, 1998, Mid West Region Board of Directors Meeting, a program of Region dues, its structure and scheduling was adopted.

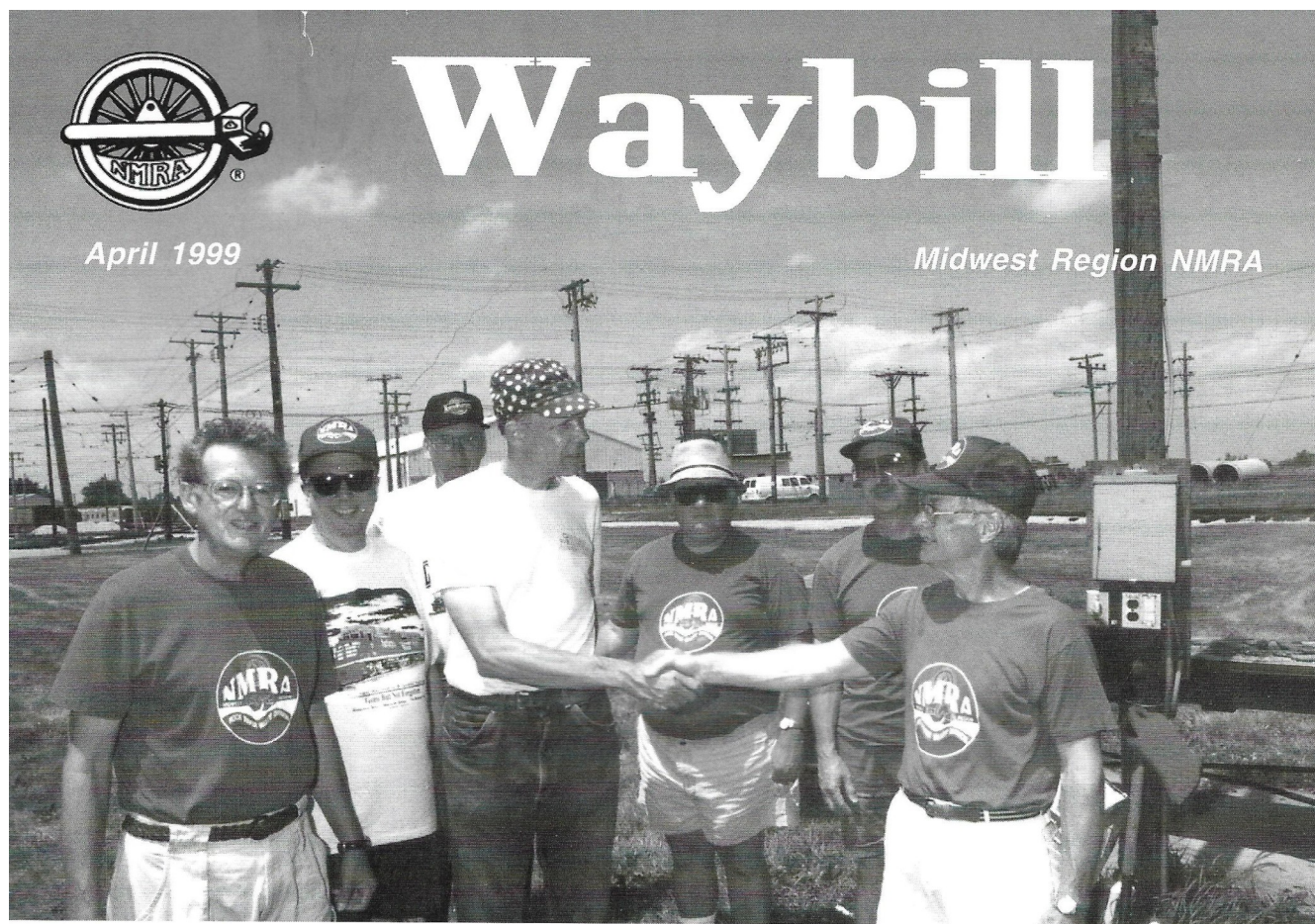
A serious concern by the BOD was the future performance of the Region in response to services provided to the Region Members. The following is the adopted BY-LAW accepted by the Board:

Article VIII

IN THIS ISSUE:

New WAYBILL	Page 1
Mid West Dues	Page 1
Contest Winners from Train Master '98, Beloit, IL	Page 2
Planned Division Programs	Page 3
President's Report	Page 5
Gandy Dancer's Registration, for September 18-20, 1998	Page

1999 April



Shaking hands following the National Model Railroad Association donation towards acquisition and restoration of Rock Island 264070 are Bob Kutella, IRM Freight Car Superintendent (center) and Clarence Welte, Membership Chairman of NMRA's Rock River Valley Division while other division members look on—left to right: Charles Wickhorst (Division Superintendent), John Mann, MMR (Paymaster), Rick Freise, Bob Kutella, Lyle Fleener (deceased), Don Brindle (Chief Clerk), and Clarence Welte.

Illinois Railway Museum photo by Dale Nagel

1999 April

It was announced that the Quad Cities group was changed to the Mid Continent Region, but is now reassigned back to the Midwest Region.



Youth in Model Railroading

The unexpected proceeds from the National Convention in Madison have left the MWR Region with a dilemma. The BOD has approved and placed the \$5,400.00 into a special account for supporting the youth we so desperately need. The average age of our current Region membership cost has risen higher than the national average and doesn't look like it is going to go down in the near future. Without an infusion of young people, there is a finite future for the hobby.

This money was a one-time gift. It should not be squandered away but put to the best use possible. Considering the financial shape the Region has been in for many years, it has been suggested that this money be put into the general fund for Region expenses. Under the current operating budget, providing the same lack of services as before, the money would last about 1 1/2 years and not change the financial status of the Region at all. This is why the Region dues program had to be adopted. The financial picture has to be a long term direction not based on "found" money.

The future and direction of the Youth in Model Railroading Fund must be established and properly clarified to promote this hobby to young people, maybe not be get active during their teen years, but to place an interest and have them become active as family and finances allow after the kids are grown and gone. National surveys have shown this to be the entry point of most of the active modelers. But the initial interest still goes back to their youth. Cars and the opposite sex are hard to compete with, especially with school

to fill your free time.

The Region is requesting assistance from our members to outline a program to be adopted, and establish a clarified, workable fund program. Some of the main areas that need "discussion" are:

1. How should the fund be used.
2. What conditions should be met to have access for funding.
3. How can additional money be added to the fund.
4. Many Divisions have a youth program already in place, especially Boy Scouting.
5. Should this program support the Division activity or be a separate for the Region program.
6. Are there any specific programs in addition to Boy Scouts that should be included.
7. To what extent should the support from the Region be direct or indirect to the Divisions.

Currently, some of the Divisions have a active Boy Scout Merit Badge program. These Divisions also have treasuries that can support this activity. This fund will consider all Divisions equal and offer the Region support the same. Divisions may elect to decline the Region support if they desire. That would be their choice.

We are asking for your ideas, comments, suggestions, and assistance with this program. Please direct any input to Jim O'Toole, 346 Colony Green Dr., Bloomingdale, IL 60108. 📧

Dues

The Midwest Region has begun collecting Region dues as adopted by the Region BOD. National did not include the dues option on the January renewals but has incorporated this in the February renewals. Its too early to get an accurate pulse of the response but indications are very encouraging. Some Life members in the Region have been sending their Region dues to the BOD officers and some have included sizable donations to the Region.

The one fact that is usually overlooked is the provision in the adoption of the dues program that will cause the dues collection program to be reviewed in five years to assure that the Region is changing its position and services

to be more responsive to the individual member. If it is the opinion of the then BOD that the Region has not improved services, the dues will be dropped. The Divisions have a service to the member at a very local level. The Region should be supporting the Divisions and coordinating Division activity within the entire Region. This will be something new for the MWR.

Your donation of the \$6.00 annual dues will assist the Region to improve and increase the contents of the *Waybill* and make it a usable newsletter. Membership will be highlighted to do a better service of addressing new members, and trying to retain existing members. We do a great job getting new members

signed up and then nothing to keep them interested after they join.

The Midwest Region is asking for your support by having you join the changed Region. The more members that stay active the stronger the programs Region can offer. The revitalized *Waybill* will be offered to all NMRA members for only 1999. After that it will be sent only to MWR Members. Participation for MWR members at conventions will offer discount registration and special programs.

The Midwest Region is looking forward to the future and would like to have each of you as a part of it. Please join us! 📧

1999 April


“New” Waybill

This issue of the *Waybill* is the beginning of the Midwest Region program to lift ourselves out of the doldrums of the last many years. The BOD has made a commitment to the Region membership to improve the services that they should expect from the Region. The *Waybill* is the first major item to be addressed.

This issue contains more information and general news than any previous issue in the last many years. This will increase with future issues. The *Waybill* will also incorporate articles submitted by Region members relating to prototype railroading,

model construction, concepts for modeling, and handy tips for construction. If you have anything of interest, please submit it to the *Waybill* and it will be included in future issues. If you have comment letters to or about the Region, they will be included also. The MWR is dependent on the directions from the BOD for policies but we definitely need feedback from the general member as to his concerns and ideas.

I understand that there are articles submitted to the *Waybill* previously that were never published. If anyone has articles prepared and not published,

please contact Jim O'Toole and forward these articles to him for future issues. These will earn points for MMR as Author Credits. I'm sure many of you discuss modeling tips or prototype information with your buddies, why not share them with the rest of us. This can also include questions about something you need, or questions about how to do something, or specific details. Coverage of the entire Region will provide some answers that are useful, and possibly some you didn't want. This entire hobby is made up of desired information to help each of us do a better modeling job, so why not ask. If it helps, it doesn't hurt. 

A Word from the Trustee

By: Jack Pettee, MWR Trustee

Before I get to far into this column, I would like you to know I'm writing it on March 18, 1999. This date may affect some of the things I will be writing about versus what is going on at National when you actually read it.

First a couple of words about the board meeting I attended in January. I was displeased about several things and pleased with others. The major displeasure was from the fact the financial reports given to the board were in error and had to be withdrawn. This was caused by the new Treasurer changing to a different computer program to keep the financial records on and not having enough time to work out all the details. The board was told that we would have up-to-date financial reports ASAP, and I now hear this will happen before the end of April. We trustees only get these reports at each meeting and, of course, this is after the fact, so financial reports to me are quite important.

One thing we did learn from the financial report was approximately \$147,000.00 of investments were sold off. These investments were all Life Account funds, which is a fund that is very short of money to begin with. An accounting for this money was immediately asked for and I'm sorry to say it could not be given. There was a lot of midnight oil burned and we did receive an accounting at the next days meeting. The funds were needed to cover a \$23K loss


from last year, to fund the new "Living Legends" commemorative car series and for a cash flow problem. This action drew great concern from the majority of the trustees, including yours truly, as it was felt the Association should have a line of credit available to cover these sort of needs, not sell off investments. The trustees then called for a plan to pay back this money and requested a full report on this plan and on how much has been paid back by our next meeting in St. Paul. President Charles told us this report would be filed by that time.

A couple of bright spots did come about because of the above. An investment policy was presented to the board by the treasurer and approved. This policy provides an outline of the needs of the Association in the future and will be used in conjunction with the use of a professional investment counselor so our investment needs are handled in a more professional fashion. Also, a motion was written and passed that basically states all future monies received for the Life Account will be invested in that account alone and cannot be used for any other purpose without the approval of the NMRA Board of Trustees.

Another bright spot from this meeting was when the Executive Director told us she needed a computer programmer to be hired so these on-going computer problems can be solved once and for all.

The board agreed and as of this writing this programmer is in the office working on this problem. I have been told the programmer understands the problems and figures the majority can be fixed within two or three days.

There are several other things I would like to tell you all about but time and space do not allow me to do this. I will be discussing many of these topics at my clinic at the Spring Convention, so please plan on attending.

REGION DUES: There was a letter mailed out from the NMRA office in January of 1999 explaining how region dues would be collected and that the NMRA members DO have a choice of joining the MWR or not. It has become quite apparent over the last few days that a great many of you may not have received this letter. I am one of those that did not. Also, when dues renewal notices are sent out I understand they are not clear in the fact that you DO NOT have to join MWR and appear that you must join both organizations. I have not seen this dues renewal notice as yet, although a copy is in the mail. Jim O'Toole and I will be working on clearing up this confusion over the next few days. Even though I would like to see all of you pay the \$6.00 and join MWR, please do not feel you must do this. If you do not want to join MWR just return the dues notice with a check for your NMRA dues only. 

1999 August

Whit Towers passed away

It was announced that the legendary Whit Towers passed away on June 12, 1999 at the age of 82. He was a favorite Bulletin Editor for many years and won countless awards from the NMRA.

1999 December

Mid West Region Membership

We have reached the end of the “free” issues of the *Waybill*. This is the last issue that will be mailed to the entire NMRA membership residing within the boundaries of the Mid West Region. The *Waybill* was a service provided by the Region, but as has been discussed before, the cost was increasing considerably to continue to send it out at no charge. Because of the increased costs, the content had reduced to almost nothing. The Region BOD and membership of the Region have instituted a program of Mid West Region dues for membership, and part of the dues structure has been assigned to improve and increase the content and information in the *Waybill*, as well as support other Region programs. We do hope that the recent issues of the *Waybill* have shown a changed format and content over issues of over a few years ago. There is more to do and further areas to expand into. This will be accomplished!

The NMRA members living within the area of the Mid West Region have been joining the Region as Region members but there are still more to go. There are 2,700 NMRA members within the Region, and we had projected at least 1,000 to join the first year. Fortunately we have surpassed this projection and are increasing monthly. Due to an oversight

by National office, they had not contacted multi-year members or Life members for Region membership. As this is being prepared, National is direct contacting these members.

The Region officers and BOD encourage you to join the Mid West Region. We have definite plans to improve the services available from the Region and provide more information about activities within the Region.

The Mid West Region is a very large geographic area, covering western Kentucky, eastern and central Indiana, a part of southwestern Michigan, eastern, central and northern Illinois, eastern and central Wisconsin, and the Upper peninsula of Michigan. This is a large and diverse area covering major cities and rural farmland. Members come from all levels; corporate management, middle management, general office, production, farmer, and retired from all of these positions. All are interested in model railroading and their employ, or retirement, have no bearing on their hobby. It is just an interest in model railroading. Region membership will bring more of the model railroad local activities together for everyone.

Please join the Mid West Region now and **KEEP YOUR NAME ON THE WAYBILL MAILING LIST.** 📧