

President's Report

By Jim O'Toole

THE *Waybill*

If you are still looking for the **Spring *Waybill***, so am I. Do to unusual circumstances, the Spring *Waybill* never made it to the printers. We tried to get the *Waybill* to the printers for the middle of April, and it didn't happen. **Larry Kotula** ended up being transferred back to Arkansas, and, in the commotion, the *Waybill* was set aside. By the time we caught up with everything, the Spring Convention was history.

Since the next *Waybill* is scheduled for August, we thought it was better to hold everything for the August issue and make a larger issue. We have more information regarding the Fall Meet in Appleton, and new information for the Indianapolis Spring 2001 Convention.

The Mid West Region is now a Full Dues Paying Region with our first year behind us. The Region Membership has passed the projected 1,000 active Region Members. The NMRA lists the Mid West Region as having 2600 members, and we still have to show these non-Region members the advantage of

supporting the Region for the future. I don't expect that we can convince everyone to join, but of the 1500 who have joined already, there is a challenge to gain the interest of the rest.

This first year has had its growing problems. The *Waybill* has changed and gotten a new look. Recently, our *Waybill* Editor, Larry Kotula, moved back to Arkansas, so we are again looking for a capable volunteer to handle the *Waybill*. I will try to produce a usable newsletter and hopefully edit out the mistakes that crept into everything written in previous issues. That's what happens when you try to cram too much work into not enough time.

REGION SECRETARY RETIRES

Alan Paine has stepped down as **Region Secretary** for personal reasons. I wish to thank him for what he has done. It was a pleasure to work with him and have him as part of the BOD. Alan says he will not disappear, he wants to be active in the SCWD, and possibly become active again at the Region level. Again Alan, thanks for your efforts. They are appreciated.

NEW REGION SECRETARY & OTHER TECHNICAL ADVANCES

Bert Lattan of the NS&W has taken over as the **Region Secretary**, and has he hit the floor running. He has really jumped in with both feet. Bert has also taken over as the **Webmaster** for the Region, and has gotten involved in working with **Dick Cecil**, **Andy Hauser**, and **Mike Hurlburt** to finally get the **Region Executive Handbook** updated and corrected. This is something that has not been done since the early 1970's. There will be some changes in the "By Laws," and possible changes in the "Constitution." These may be ready for the Appleton BOD Meeting.

Bert is also bringing the Region into the 21st Century. He is trying to provide all of the Region BOD reports and as much other useful information on the **Region Website**. He is also sending out the BOD meeting notes to the Board members by E-mail and reducing the costs of printing and mailing the packages. He will still send hard copy reports to those not using computers or on the Internet.

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Mid West Region NMRA

Youth In Model Railroading Fund

At the Appleton Fall Meet, Captain Al Nelson accepted the Chairperson position to handle the Region's Youth in Model Railroading Program. Al will develop and outline a program as to how to best use the funding, develop programs for youth, establish receipting of new funding, and determine how to better promote the hobby to next generation.

Captain Al is the NMRA National Coordinator for the Boy Scouts of America, and has established some great achievements and attention to model railroading with the scouts.

The Region needs to expand the scout program to incorporate more

of youth participation, including both boys and girls, in what model railroading is all about. Remember, railroading is not only history but also current events. We are involved with research, electronics, carpentry, artistic concepts and abilities, planning, and scheduling.

We are well aware that the average age of the average model railroader is rising, and there appears to be less interest in model railroading, what with the computer age and so many other interests. NMRA research has found that an exposure to model railroading at an impressionable age does lead to continued

involvement for the entire family. For parents after the children are gone and there is more discretionary income available... and as a hobby young adults can grow with. We need to provide the proper exposure to the hobby in the early years to set the groundwork for later involvement.

Any suggestions as to how to best use this fund to help promote getting kids properly involved with the hobby, such as the Boy Scout Merit Badge Program, or other direct contact activity is what we're looking for. If you have ideas, been involved with a program in the past, or know of a current program we can support, let us know.



President's Report

Jim O'Toole

The Mid West Region is moving ahead. This issue of the *Waybill* includes the ballot of candidates for the Spring 2001 election. We have at least two candidates each for President and Vice President and a full slate for Director-At-Large. Please select your choice and return your ballot by March 15.

A financial report from Dave Liesse is also included. The MWR is reaching a financial position that it has never had before. By no means are we wealthy, but we are reaching a condition that will allow the Region to begin to accomplish many of the goals of being an fully operating service to our members. Programs that should have been a standard can now be established or reactivated too better serve the divisions and members. The next group of Region officers will have an opportunity to really make the Mid West Region a viable Region in the NMRA and actively support both the divisions and members to their best interests. The Region will still promote the ideal that you *will* get back what you put in, but now we can expand the opportunities.

EDITORIAL RESPONSE

The Editorial article in the August 2000 *Waybill* generated some interesting discussions and only one e-mail response, and this from a MWR member living far outside of the Region. His comment was in accordance with the concept of the article, but took it one step further. His concern was the model railroaders that visit storefront hobby shops and just browse and don't purchase anything.

I'm sure we are all guilty of this. Yes, there are times I will visit a hobby shop and leave without making a purchase. Its not because I don't want to spend my money, but nothing happened to attract my interest to "have to have" right now. I'm sure this is the same for almost everyone else. I am an impulse buyer. I may go to the hobby shop with the intent to purchase a certain item, but will usually purchase "impulse" items as well. Like most of you, I will plan to spend \$20.00 and leave with \$50.00 of "stuff."

I don't know of any way to change the situation this member was concerned about. Maybe we should remember that the store front hobby shops are there to support us *in* the hobby. Shouldn't we support them *for* the hobby?

EDITORIAL

I'm going to try another editorial and this one will be about volunteering. The NMRA is made up of a lot of volunteers. In fact, the only paid employees are in the NMRA National office Chattanooga, Tennessee. The Library staff, Executive Director Connie Rudder, and Keeli Crewe's office staff are the only paid personnel. They are probably even underpaid for the extensive amount of work they put in. Everyone else is a volunteer. This organization could not begin to exist or function without all of the volunteers.

Unfortunately, we are finding less and less volunteers willing to put forth a little time to help to do the many things that need to be taken care of. I am not going to

address the problems that National has, but those similar problems exist even at the Region and Division levels. Volunteers are needed at all levels.

Volunteering does not cost you anything outside of a little time and some effort, but the actual payback is tremendous. Until you have volunteered your efforts, you will never know the pleasure, self satisfaction, chance to meet new people, expand your knowledge, and the camaraderie of the many friends you develop.

When people ask "*What does the NMRA do for me?*," the answer should be "*What have you done for the NMRA to tap into the opportunities available?*" Here is an opportunity to get back a minimum of a tenfold increase of what you put in. This is a great hobby, in all its facets, and enjoyment and friendship are possibly the biggest advantages.


All of this leads up to a fact that we need help. There are volunteers needed at the Division level as well as at the Region. My suggestion is to see where you can help out your division, and jump in. Ask your Division Officers what you might do, where they need some assistance, or offer to run for a chairperson position. All of the officers started were you are before they volunteered. It is an evolution and the end result is your own gratification. I dare you to ask any of them if they regret doing what they are doing for the NMRA. Have them explain the benefits of what they have experienced after they volunteered the first time. Then try to shut them up!

This is a great way to gain some of the benefits of NMRA membership. This is also a great way to get to know some of your other fellow modelers. If you work with them on a volunteer project, they get to know what you can do and what your interests in the hobby are. What better way to get to know people.

I see many people just sit in division meetings and don't talk to others. You are really wasting your time. Talk to your fellow members. Participate in the activities going on, but participate by getting involved. You will not just learn who someone is, but you may learn how he does various modeling techniques that you thought you knew before. He may know about something about the prototype that you want to research. He may have grown up or lived in an area you want to model. What a resource!

Volunteering at the Division or Regional level will expose you to people that you may not have met otherwise. Almost all of the "known" model railroaders are more than willing to share information, even more so when they see you participating in activities.

Volunteer and you will see your horizons expand multifold. You will find that the volunteering itself will expand your outlook, but the expansion of new friends that develop because of volunteering will increase unbelievably.

Remember the ad slogan "Try it, you'll like it." We wouldn't have the people we have today as volunteers if they didn't! 

Gary Children MWR "Volunteer Of The Year" Award By National

At the Paper Valley 2000 Fall Meet, Gary Children was awarded the "Region Volunteer of the Year" award from the National Model Railroad Association. This award is presented to an individual within each Region who has shown dedication toward achieving the Region's goals in a volunteer capacity.

Gary Children has probably been the least vocal of his services of anyone. He is the Region Model Contest Chairperson, and has fulfilled this obligation without fanfare, has put forth exemplary service, and extended himself beyond just "doing his job." Gary has made sure that the contest rooms have been properly prepared, contest tables arranged, and each and every contest entrant has been properly entered, the classification of Novice or Master assigned, each model clearly identified, and most important, that the contest room is attended during all hours that the room is open for viewing. Gary is very active during the judging process, assisting wherever necessary, and being sure that all judging sheets are tallied. It is Gary's responsibility to account for each judging sheet, and that it has been correctly totaled, Merit points identified and credited, and the award certificates filled out. If plaques are to be awarded, this is also his responsibility to assign the proper plaques.

Gary usually does not get to attend the normal functions of a convention because of the hours that he has to spend in the contest room. He generally misses the layout

tours on Saturday, he misses the clinics, and has to attend the dinner or brunch. As you can see, he surely doesn't miss the food. Gary presents the contest awards at these meals as part of the ceremonies. Generally he also presents the Photo Contest awards too.

If there are requests for a volunteer to handle a Special Project of the Board of Directors, Gary is usually the first to offer his time and efforts.

When the Region was low on funds, Gary opened his wallet to pay for having the stock of plaques replenished, and carried the bill until the Region was able to get some money to reimburse him. He had also shopped around to find the best quality and price to have new plaques made, and presented his recommendations to the board.

If you attend our auctions, you will find Gary working in the background moving auction items to the auctioneer, and moving them out of the way after each item is sold.

The Region has gotten to depend on Gary without acknowledging everything he does. That's what happens if you don't toot your own horn. This is what can happen when we just depend on someone being there to help out.

The Region felt it was time for us to toot Gary's horn and recognize what he does and what it means to the Region. Without him the contests wouldn't go as smoothly, and we would need many more volunteers to accomplish what Gary does by himself. Thanks Gary, for all of your efforts. They haven't been overlooked! Congratulations!



Mid West Region NMRA

See You at
Hoosier Connection
2001



Waybill • Winter 2000 • 3

2001 Summer



Richard Cecil,
the newly-elected MWR President

I'd like you to meet **Richard Cecil**, your new Mid West Region President. Of course, a lot of you already know Dick. He's been active in Region activities for more

than a few years, but for those of you who don't attend MWR meets, here's a photo I took at this Spring's meet.

As your outgoing MWR president, I present my final report. It has been four years since I was allowed to lead the Mid West Region and set the direction to bring the MWR back from certain financial ruin. Our financial position at that time would, if we were lucky, have allowed us to operate for maybe six months at the most. The treasury was almost non-existent. Almost all of the Region Services were forced to reduce or cancel their programs in past years due to lack of funds to work with. The MWR was looked at as the example not to follow by the other Regions.

We reviewed the situation and recommended a direction to establish a Region Program as the most practical of any options presented. There was a general reluctance to accept dues but after the point was put to the membership vote, it was accepted, and passed. We had established a target of trying to retain at least 1,000 members as Region Members. The NMRA showed a total national membership of 2,600 living in the Region when we started dues. The Mid West Region currently has in excess of 1,600 Supporting Region Members.

Our current financial position has money in the bank, and the Region is stable. We are not rich, but have money to re-establish services to our members. The tight control of finances by our Treasurer, and restraint in spending by the Board of Directors has established a responsible program of monetary stability. A copy of the financial report can be found in this issue of the *Waybill*.

The Board of Directors has embarked on a program of updating and upgrading the MWR Constitution and Bylaws. Many of the provisions of the MWR Constitution need to be changed to incorporate current legal requirements. There are statements that can be construed to be out of line with the law. Some of the Bylaws require changes to allow the Board of Directors to properly manage the business of the Region with these new laws. Some of the reviewed items have created some interesting "discussions" at the Board of Directors meetings. Any and all of the changes in the MWR Constitution will be

Ex-President's Report

By Jim O'Toole

submitted to the membership for approval and acceptance by vote before the changes can be adopted.

The MWR has made headway on application for our 501c3 application. Reviewing situations that other groups have gone through with their applications, our committee has checked specifically all of our documentation and the requirements of the IRS before we submit. We will ask to have a vote of approval by voting Region Members at our next annual meeting at the Spring Convention 2002. This is a requirement for the final petition of the 501c3 request.

The *Waybill* has improved, even though I still allow mistakes to sneak in when I'm not looking. The Region is still looking for someone capable to take charge of the *Waybill*. The improvement from photocopied issues to the current magazine is apparent. We have had the assistance of Greg Heier and Joy Forsberg, of *48/ft, O Scale News*, to do the actual layout and preparation of the copy and pictures for printing, and arranging to have Rochelle Printing do the printing and mailing of the magazine has actually saved money. The issues of the *Waybill* cost us less than a dollar an issue. Since Rochelle Printing uses the glossy, polished paper for their other printing, it actually costs us less than using standard paper. It would cost too much to have them change the large paper rolls on the presses from the paper they normally use. We still need input from members about railroad and modeling related topics to include in the *Waybill*.

The Youth in Railroading Fund has been sitting, and gaining interest money, for four years. We need your ideas on ways to utilize the funding in ways to attract youth, both boys and girls, to look at model railroading as a possible hobby. Captain Al Nelson has agreed to chair a committee to outline a program of how the fund is to be used, how to add to the fund, and what kind of programs to develop. Any and all ideas submitted will be reviewed towards implementation.

As a final note, I would like to seriously thank everyone on the Board of Directors, both recently past and current, for all of their support, and faith, and specifically their assistance during the last four years. Together we have changed the direction of the Mid West Region, and brought it back to life. The Region was not managed by a single individual but a cohesive team dedicated to improving the quality of membership in the Region. We have started a positive program and the new Region management will continue that direction. My only request is that everyone support them as you have supported our team. As I stated in a previous editorial, getting involved will tremendously improve what you can get out of the NMRA.

Trustee Report by New Trustee Dave Liesse

Hello, all... I'm Dave Liesse, the new Trustee from the Mid West Region, and I'm here to help you. The Trustee has two basic responsibilities: set policy for the NMRA, and act as a liaison between the Mid West Region members and the national organization. In that regard, please feel free to contact me at any time.

We recently had a Board of Trustees meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, just before the NMRA National Convention. I won't go into details here, as I've sent them to all the Division newsletter editors, but I will mention the dues increase; we can't do enough to get the word out. Effective September 1st, Regular dues for the NMRA will increase to \$45.00 per year. The other categories of membership, which are all based on the regular rate, will go up correspondingly (new rates are \$90.00 Sustaining, \$30.00 Youth, \$23.00 Affiliate, and \$9.00 Family). For a further explanation read my column in your Division newsletter, get in touch with me, check Allen Pollock's column in the *Bulletin* or check the "News" section on the NMRA's web site www.nmra.org.

I'm sending separate columns to the Divisions and to the Region, so the majority of you don't have to read the same stuff twice. I realize, though, that some of you live in inactive divisions that don't publish newsletters. If you'd like to receive a copy of what I send to the divisions, just let me know and I'll be sure that you get one.

We're looking for three region-level representatives for national programs. If you'd be interested in filling any of these positions, let me know.

AP MANAGER John Mann has made known his desire to be relieved in this position, and I'm looking for a good worker to fill his shoes. Contrary to popular misconception, you do *NOT* need to be a Master Model Railroader to do this job. It's primarily administrative in nature, involving a lot of paperwork. At the same time, it can be very rewarding when you present mem-

bers with their award certificates. The full job description is too long to put into this column, so I'm submitting it separately for inclusion in this issue of the *Waybill*. If it turns out that there's not enough room for it, and you want to know more, please get in touch with me and I'll get you a copy of the job description.

EDUCATION COORDINATOR This is a new position being requested by Rich Coleman, the National Director of Education. The responsibilities of this job will be to coordinate information on all the educational activities taking place within the Region, keep Rich informed, and more or less act as a clearing house between Divisions. Aside from the obvious help this provides with the flow of information, it will also help to document the educational activities of the Association, activities which form the basis of our 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. Having this information readily at hand certainly won't hurt the Mid West Region's application for this status, either.

MEMBER AID COORDINATOR Member Aid is a program that provides, on request, modeling information to NMRA members. The National Chair, Wil Seaver, needs a committee member from each Region to help with this program. Responsibilities include receiving requests for information and either answering them or passing them along to someone else who can. While it has been argued that this is the responsibility of every single member, and that such help is readily available through the Divisions, the fact is that there are members who, by remoteness or schedule, can't regularly attend Division Meets and may not know any other members. There are also times when no one seems to know the answer. The Member Aid Coordinator serves as a single point of contact available to everyone.

Again, please get in touch with me if you're interested in filling any of these positions. My contact information is listed in this issue of the *Waybill* on page 2.

REGION TREASURER ASKS TO STEP DOWN.

Dave Liesse has been our Region Treasurer for the last many six years and has been very instrumental in the current financial position the Mid West Region has achieved. Dave has established a solid structure to all of the various accounts and set up a complete proper accounting system. The Region has depended on available, and willing, volunteers to manage our funds, and they have done an admirable job, and, with the increase in funding the Region now has, the bookkeeping must be structured in accordance with accepted accounting procedures. Dave has accomplished this. Unfortunately, Dave has asked to step down as Treasurer due to workload at his paying job. For some reason he feels that it is necessary to earn money to support his hobby, rather than spend all day working on the hobby. Dave will maintain the books until the Summer Board of Director meeting to allow an easier transition of the bank account signatures with the new officers.

Annette Hauser has volunteered to be the new Region Treasurer. Annette has an accounting background and has held many positions with the Calumet Division and been involved with the Region as a DAL. Richard Cecil, the new Region President, has gladly accepted Annette for the Treasurer with Dave's recommendation.

Al Armitage Passes

September 21, 2001, Al Armitage passed away at age 88, and left the hobby of modelling with his legacy. Many of us did not meet or know Al first hand, and some of you may have been fortunate to have had that pleasure, but all of us have been touched by his foresight and "gift" to the hobby because of his promotion of styrene plastic for the many applications of this material.

Back when most of us were trying to work with wood (and many not succeeding), Al was extolling the many virtues of styrene. The early modelling projects that appeared in the hobby press so overwhelmed us, that we didn't get the message for a long time. We still can look at these accomplishments with wonderment. It probably wasn't until he worked his miracles at Revell, then Kemtron, and when Evergreen began producing excellent

strip stock, that modelling with styrene became a more common and popular material to use. Many became familiar with styrene using the Revell railroad structure kits to begin with, and then learned how to kitbash these kits into something more suitable to our own railroad needs and character.

Over the last few years, *Mainline Modeler* has had many articles by Al relating to his modelling background and concepts. The December 2001 issue of *Mainline Modeler* has a "Mainline Commentary" and an article about Al showing the expanse of his skills in modelling, and not limited to just to railroad models.

Thank you Al for all you have given us, and the many skills you have challenged us with. Our best wishes to your family.

President's Award Given At Ft. Wayne...

Jack Pettee Honored

Jack Pettee was honored at the *Fort Wayne Tri-Regional Convention* by Allen Pollack, NMRA National President, with the President's Award. Allen presented the award during the banquet Saturday night. The President's Award is awarded by an NMRA president based on his evaluation of a member's contribution to the NMRA.

Jack has been very active as MWR Trustee, and has served on various National Committees, including the Long Range Planning Committee and the Internet Committee, among many others. Jack's services have extended over many years at both Regional and National levels.

Jack's two terms as MWR Trustee has helped the refocus of the Region as a necessary and effective liaison with the National Office. Jack had recently run for NMRA Vice President in opposition to John Roberts, the current vice president. Until a health problem caused him to step down as MWR Trustee, Jack had anticipated maintaining that function. Fortunately the health problem has been identified, and is being managed; Jack is returning to better health.

Congratulations on the President' Award, and we look forward to getting involved again.

These are just three of the locomotives you'll see when you visit Illinois Railway Museum during Rockford Route Two Thousand Too...t.

Illinois Railway Museum photo by James Kolonowski



2002 Summer

Constitutional Amendment Results

The Constitutional Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation as published in the WAYBILL in December 2001, were passed. The major reason for this change was to bring the Midwest Region in line with the requirements of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to allow the Region to finally apply for our 501c3 tax status. We have desired this status for many years and have finally reached the final hurdle to prepare the necessary applications for review and approval. Dave Liesse has bulldozed this effort to get it completed. He had consulted with other groups that have applied for the 501c3 status. The IRS is very particular about the data and format of information they require. Dave has taken advantage of the experience of the others to assure a "no problem" application. The changes to the Articles of Incorporation were the last step toward satisfying the requirements.

The changes to the Articles of Incorporation were passed by the mail ballot as 164 in favor and 14 declined. Those present at the Annual Meeting approved the acceptance of the ballot results and have given approval to proceed with the application for the 501c3.

Election Results

The recent election has now been concluded. The results were announced at the Annual Meeting held at the Clock Tower Motel on April 27, 2002. A total of 180 ballots were received by Linda Kloster, Election Chairperson. Congratulations to all. The following are the announced results for the positions of Director at Large (DAL):

DAL Wise Division

Mike Hurlburt, 168 votes

DAL Rock River Valley Division

Bob Guinter, 163 votes

DAL Winnebago Division

Capt. Al Nelson, 163 votes

DAL DuPage Division

Ron Scharping 162 votes

2002 Winter

JOHN TEWS BECOMES MMR #313

President's Report

by Richard Cecil, President MWR

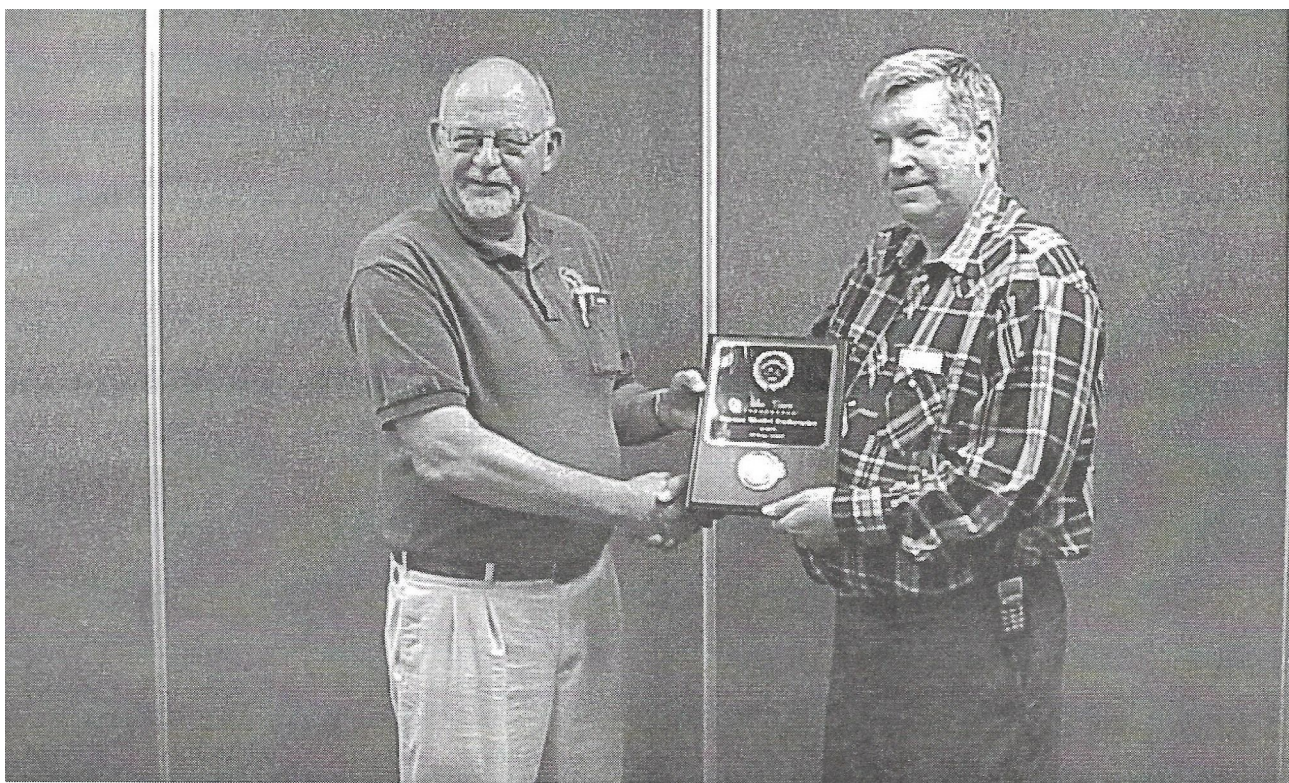
Some changes have been made. We now have a new Editor of the Waybill. For too long, past President O'Toole was the acting Editor and did an excellent job. However, Jim's new job precludes him from continuing in that role. In fact, he should not have had to do it. But, as usual, some jobs are hard to fill in a volunteer organization. In plain English, too few step forward to do their share.

At the annual meeting I announced that I had no intention in following in Jim's steps. I asked for a new Editor, but acknowledged that I didn't expect anyone to jump up and take the job. So I gave the members present five minutes to do so. Lo and behold a gracious lady stepped forward in the allotted five minutes and I accepted her offer. Clearly it was one "I could not refuse".

Your new editor is Barb Rothwell from the South Central Wisconsin Division, where she serves as the Ass't. Superintendent. Barb has also been a major player in SCWD's Mad City Model Railroad Show and the 1997 National NMRA convention held in Madison. Thank you Barb and welcome aboard.

For the last 7 years, Mike Hurlburt has given the Region yeoman's service as the Region Convention Committee Chairman. He has asked to be relieved of that duty because of approaching "burn-out". Having served in that capacity myself, I know what he means. I can't thank him enough of those years of dedicated service to the Region. He has indicated that will serve as the Clinic Clearing House Chairman. It's good to be able to continue counting on Mike's knowledge and expertise. The new Convention Committee Chairman is Reid Kahrs, who goes to more conventions than anyone I know. I'm sure he will follow in Mike's footsteps.

One final note: About 90% of the Region membership passed up the opportunity to attend the Rockford convention in April. You missed an excellent convention as well as the chance to meet and chat with some of the best modelers in the NMRA. It is your loss. But more important is the downside risk of poor attendance at our conventions. The effort to stage these functions deserve greater participation by you. Let us not get to the point where putting on a convention "isn't worth the effort". It's your Region. Don't help destroy it!



Dr. Cedor Aronow (left) , WISE Division Achievement Program Chairman, presents John H. Tews with his MMR #313 Plaque at the WISE Division October 20th meet. John's Timber River Railway has been featured in Model Railroader magazine (Nov. 1992), on series two of PSB's "TRACKS AHEAD" and as part of the World's Greatest Hobby recent promo video.

2003 Spring

Mad City Train Show!!!



36th Annual Mad City Model Railroad Show and Sale, February 15 & 16, 2003 – Madison WI.

2003 Spring



Trustee's Report

I've just returned home from the mid-year Board of Trustees meeting in Seattle, which is more than I can say for the poor folks from the east coast! Most of us left on Sunday, but at least two were still trying to get flights out on Tuesday.

The big news, of course, is the NMRA's Long Range Plan, which I've been talking about in vague terms for several months. It's time to start getting more specific. Unfortunately, there's a lot more to say than I can fit into one column, so stay tuned in future issues. This time around I'm going to address some topics that are likely to be the most misunderstood: our governing documents and single membership.

The NMRA is incorporated in the State of Ohio and, as a result, we are subject to the laws of Ohio. In recent years, Ohio has dramatically updated its laws concerning not-for-profit organizations, actually bringing them into the 21st century! Some minor changes we'll be making include using the term "director" instead of "trustee" and having "regulations" instead of "bylaws".

A more significant change, allowed but not required under the law, is that we, the Board of Trustees (we haven't changed the name, yet), propose to eliminate the NMRA's Constitution and fold its provisions into the bylaws (we haven't changed that name, yet, either; I'll continue to use the old ones to minimize confusion). Maybe a constitution was required once upon a time – nobody on the board

was around when it was adopted – but now it's more redundant than anything else. In Ohio, as in most states, a corporation is required to have Articles of Incorporation, which are filed with the state, and a set of bylaws or regulations, which typically are not filed. These two documents together constitute the governing documents of the corporation.

In the NMRA's case, the articles in the Constitution are usually worded in the form "such-and-so shall be done in accordance with the bylaws." Rather than keep everyone busy cross-referencing the two documents, why not just eliminate the extra one?

There is the matter that amendments to the Constitution require a vote of the membership, while changes to the bylaws require only a vote of the trustees. In the new bylaws that will be proposed, however, we will specify certain sections – those transferred from the Constitution – that will still require a vote of the membership. Thus, we are preserving the members' input into the most important guidelines under which we operate.

Another item that is probably already being discussed everywhere is the single membership concept. Once the Long Range Plan is implemented, the idea is that one dues payment will automatically confer membership at all levels of the organization: national, regional, and divisional. This, of course, is the way things used to be in the Midwest Region, before we ran out of money. Part of the single dues payment, though, will be remanded to the regions to cover the administrative costs incurred in support of national programs.

A figure you're going to hear bandied about is \$3. We set this as the amount that will go back to the regions. If it were in place today, it would mean you'd be paying \$48 instead of \$45 for your annual dues. Before anyone flies into a rage about another dues increase, though, let me explain that our intent is for this to be revenue neutral. How the regions use this money is up to them, but our hope is that region dues will be decreased by an equal amount. Thus, if you are paying \$51 now to belong to both the NMRA and the Midwest Region, your payment will still be \$51; region dues would be decreased to

Continued on following page

2003 Spring

\$3 (this is news to the region board, by the way – I'm literally writing this the night after getting home).

Of course, with the concept of single membership, the term "region dues" is somewhat misleading, as well. A study we conducted last year showed that virtually all the region dues, in every region, is used as a subscription to the region's publication. Hence, it might be that the *Waybill*, in our case, will become a subscription-only publication.

I'm sure that now I've confused you more than you were before, and I wish I had more space available to explain everything in greater detail, but there are other articles to go in this issue, as well. I will be talking about the Long Range Plan at the region convention in Green Bay, and at some divisions. I'll also provide more details in each issue of the *Waybill*, and it will be discussed at great length in the *Bulletin*. I will also try to put together something to send to all the divisions. If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to ask. E-mail is the most reliable way to get hold of me; my address is mwrt@hq.nmra.org.

⊗

Strasburg Break In

Thieves forcibly broke in at the Strasburg Rail Road's engine house, and took the following items:

- The number plates from engines #31, #90, #475.
- Classification lights from engines #31, and #89.
- 1 new classification light.
- 6 rear end marker lamps, 4 kerosene, and 2 converted to battery operation.
- 1 photograph of engine #89 on the Green Mountain.
- Side view with specifications.
- 1 Strasburg Rail Road rule book. Red loose leaf format.
- 1 Small (about ? normal size) locomotive brass bell and yoke.
- 1 ICC steam locomotive defect chart.

They also forced open (and destroyed in the process) a steel door to the back shop, but we

haven't spotted anything missing from in there yet. It appears that there were two perpetrators in that they left many footprints and tire tracks in the snow. Pennsylvania State Police are investigating. They seemed to have a specific "shopping list" in that they took only railfan collectibles, and only specific ones at that. We at the Strasburg Rail Road ask for the help of the community to return our property to us, and to bring these criminals to justice. If anyone has any information, please call the Strasburg Rail Road at 717-687-8421.

If you see any of these items on eBay or at a railroadiana show, please contact the railroad or PA State police.

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North Shore and Western Division Elections

Each spring we elect officers (Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Chief Clerk and Paymaster) for the next season. This year the election will be on Sunday, May 18. Shortly after the election, the Division BOD meets and appoints Committee Chairs for the next season. Right now we have eight people doing 13 jobs. It would spread out the workload if we could get more people to help out. If you would like to serve as an Officer or a Committee Chair, please contact Jim Spice as soon as possible, but no later than March 14, since the Division BOD will be slating one or more candidates for each office on March 15. It would be nice to have a contest for some of these offices. –Bert Lattan

⊗

2003 Spring

NEW MWR WEBSITE!

New Website

The Midwest Region has a new website! You can now find us at www.mwr-nmra.org. The Midwest Region also hosts some of the Midwest Division's website. Below is a list of the Divisions and their new website address that will be affected:

Calumet - <http://www.mwr-nmra.org/calumet>
Capitol (Inactive) - <http://www.mwr-nmra.org/capitol>
Dupage - <http://www.mwr-nmra.org/dupage>
Fox Valley - <http://www.mwr-nmra.org/fvd>
Illinois Valley - <http://www.mwr-nmra.org/ivd>
Rock Island (Inactive) - <http://www.mwr-nmra.org/rid>
Southern Illinois (Inactive) - <http://www.mwr-nmra.org/sid>

Please note that the MWR, and respective Division's old web addresses will still be active, although the user will be automatically forwarded to the new site.

2003 Fall

There is a huge Trustee's Report listing future national conventions.

In addition, Robert Hamm is listed as becoming MMR #322.

2003 Winter

Three new MMRs listed: Noll Horan, #326, Tony Capato, #327 and Fred Headon, #328.

2004 Summer

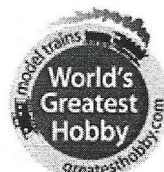
Waybill

Summer 2004

Mid West Region NMRA



Milwaukee Express 2004 MWR Regional Convention
Thanks for coming, from our host, WISE Superintendent, Bonnie Janke

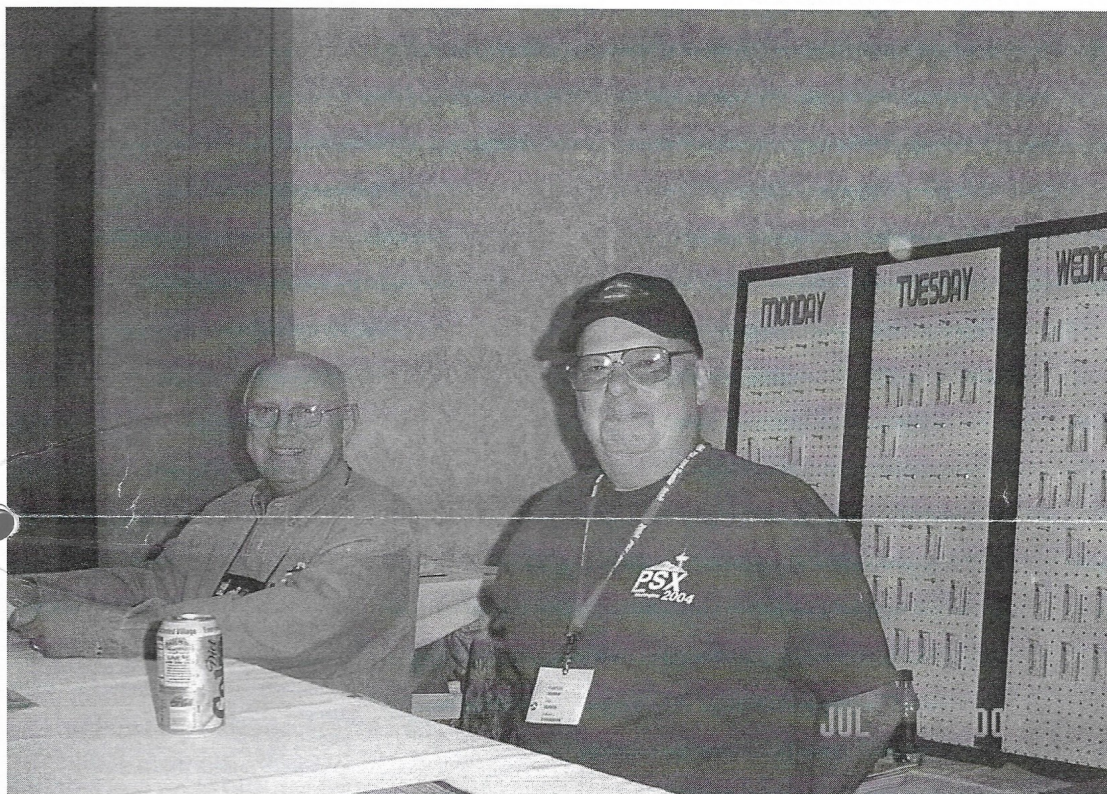


2004 Fall

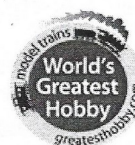
Waybill

Fall 2004

Mid West Region NMRA



*Regional Workers, Captain Al Nelson and Gary Children,
at the PSX National NMRA Convention*



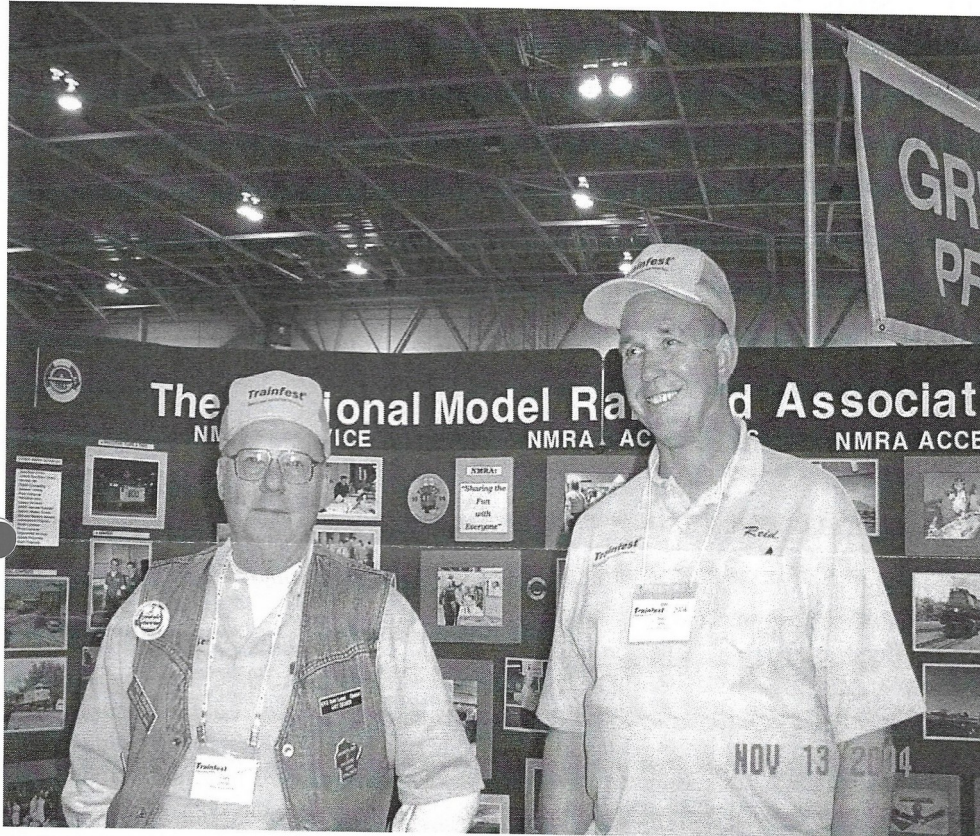
2004 Winter

2004 Winter

Waybill

Winter 2004

Mid West Region NMRA



*Train Fest Workers Gary Children (Region VP), and Reid Kahrs (Region Trustee),
at the WISE Division sponsored Train Fest, held in Milwaukee, WI.*



Al Kamm, Jr. of the Calumet Division is announced as MMR #340