

2020 Spring

Waybill

Mid West Region NMRA –
Spring 2020

President's Report

Steve Studley President, MWR

Continuing Education

It is that time of year to not only get some modeling accomplished, but it is also a prime time to learn more about our hobby. Division meets/activities are currently being held, the region's convention will soon be here, train shows are in abundance and, due to the weather, it's often a good time to stay indoors and do some reading or watch instructional videos. All of the above listed activities can provide the railroad modeler ways to increase their knowledge of railroads and modeling.

How do you do that? If the event you are attending, or planning to attend, offers clinics – find a clinic with a subject that interests you and make sure you are in the audience. Listen and take notes or make sure you have a copy of the clinician's handout for later study. If you are anything like me, unless you take notes, you won't remember the important points. Train shows often include portable, modular layouts for viewing. Study what has been accomplished on those modules. Quite often you will see a model building, piece of rolling stock, or track arrangement that interests you. Ask a member of the layout group about it to learn the particulars. Don't be afraid to ask, but also remember to thank the modeler for bringing their layout to the show for all to see. Yesterday I helped staff the Central Indiana Division's booth at the Great Train Show in Indianapolis. A fair amount of the day was spent answering questions from the show attendees. If you have modeling questions, seek out your NMRA/Division's booth and talk to the modelers who are staffing the booth. If we can't immediately answer your question, we will ask others and get the information to you.

Why would you want to do that? The phrase "knowledge is power" is attributed to Francis Bacon.

So how does that help us? If we can increase our knowledge of a subject through education, we also increase our power to overcome the difficulties associated with that subject. Learning more about the subject allows us to more easily solve problems, thus increasing our

enjoyment by decreasing our frustrations. Since model railroading is (supposed to be) fun, anything we can do to decrease frustrations must be good. Right? Right! Learning new techniques for kit building, kitbashing, or scratchbuilding will allow you to become a better modeler. Better modeler = better models. Learning more about electronics will allow you to keep from zapping LEDs or letting the magic smoke out of DCC decoders. Both are good things.

How can we help? The following is an excerpt from the Midwest Region Constitution: The purposes of the Region, as set forth in its Articles of Incorporation, are to promote, stimulate, foster, and encourage by all manner and means the art and craft of model railroading and the preservation of the history, science, and technology thereof. So education is a basic reason for our organization. One of the ideas the Region is currently developing is how can we help those who have questions about electricity and electronics. Education Coordinator Eric Peterson and I were discussing this yesterday and are in the process of formulating a pathway to increase modelers' knowledge of electronics. Those of you with questions can help us by sending those questions to us. That will allow us to understand what people want to learn about. Send them to me at: sastudley@comcast.net

The Midwest Regional Convention, Peoria Rocket 2020, will be held this year in – you guessed it – Peoria, IL. The convention will be hosted by the Illinois Valley and Illinois Terminal Divisions. Dates are May 14–17, 2020 and convention information and registration form may be found on the convention's website: www.peoriarocket2020.org

Be sure to go to the website and check out what will be available at the convention. Make your choices, get your hotel reservation, and send in your registration so you won't miss the clinics, layouts, and friends at The Peoria Rocket 2020! See you there. In the meantime – back to the layout! Steve



2020 Spring



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:

Michael Roderick	Greenwood, IN	Dispatch
Jeremy Dummier	Wauconda, IL	Volunteer
Jim Osborn	Mc Henry, IL	Structure
Eric Smith	Fishers, IN	Author
Connie Coy	Avon, IN	Author

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

Thanks, Jim

Waybill

Mid West Region NMRA – Summer 2020

President's Report

Steve Studley President, MWR

Pandemic

We are living in a very strange time in history. Non-essential businesses are closed; restaurants are open for carry-out or drive-through service only. There are to be no gatherings of large groups of people, and even then, we need to worry about "social distancing". I suspect many of our local hobby shops are also closed. We are told to stay at home and shelter-in-place. These restrictions started in March and are mostly still in effect. Indiana has begun the process to open up again, but the county in which I live still retains the restrictions.

The restrictions that were put in place for Illinois caused the Board to reconsider holding our Midwest Regional convention. We had already heard from some members who were not going to attend based on their personal health considerations. And let's face it; most of us are in the at-risk group whose age is greater than 60 yrs. In late March, with restrictions in place in Illinois, the Peoria Rocket 2020 convention committee and the MWR Executive Board decided to consider postponing the convention. After checking with the hotel for other possible dates and learning that our best choice would be just after Trainfest and just prior to Thanksgiving, we decided to cancel. At that time, NMRA was still planning to hold the National Convention and National Train Show in St. Louis. After running into countless difficulties trying to schedule planning meetings and having layout owners rethink having large numbers of people trekking through their houses, the Gateway 2020 committee and the NMRA decided to cancel the National Convention.

Unfortunately, by cancelling Peoria Rocket 2020 all the work that had been accomplished by the two host Divisions – Illinois Valley and Illinois

Terminal – has all been for naught. We appreciate their labors in planning for the MWR regional convention and are very sorry that it wasn't to be. Thanks also to all the clinicians, layout owners, and volunteers who were ready to help; and those who had already signed up to attend. Special thanks go to Mike Shockley and the convention committee for the countless hours spent getting ready for the Rocket.

We have seen that most (all?) division in-person meetings have been cancelled for the rest of the spring. We await a better situation for the fall modeling season. Hopefully, the health crisis will have calmed down by then and we can get back to what some health officials have named the "new normal". In the meantime, we have learned to utilize video-conferencing applications to allow us to still have some semblance of getting together to discuss model railroading. The MWR Board will have their spring meeting via video-conferencing in late May. Notifications for the Board and the MWR members' annual meetings will be sent by email.

I was able to attend 17 of the 25 (have to get some sleep) hours of clinics of the first NMRA-X virtual convention. This was a Facebook, live video-conference that included 25 hours of internationally presented clinics. The second of these will be held on May 16. Check NMRA-X on Facebook to see if there will be other events. I think there will be another one in mid-June. For further information, check NMRA-X on Facebook or the NMRA website.

Since we are hoping for better conditions in the future, we can also start making plans to attend the 2021 MWR convention in the Rockford, IL area: Rockford Railroad Convention. The RRVD convention committee is in the early planning stages for the convention. As information becomes available, it will be posted on the MWR website. Click on the Conventions tab at the top of the page.

In the meantime – back to the layout!

Steve

2020 Fall

Waybill

Mid West Region NMRA –
Fall 2020

President's Report

Steve Studley President, MWR

Pandemic II

Although the threat of COVID-19 remains with us, we are seeing a lessening of the restrictions that had been in place at the time of the last writing. More businesses are now open, but with that come continued restrictions regarding masks and social distancing. Hopefully we will soon be able to attend conventions and other model railroad events once again in-person. Until that time, we are thankful that there are video conferencing apps that allow us to meet and interact virtually. I trust you have been able to put these apps to good use by attending meetings, clinics, and other model railroading virtual events. Zoom is a prime example of one of these programs.

Zoom may be a four-letter word, but it's a good word, not a bad one. The program allows a group member to share a presentation with others in the group. And, similar to an in-person clinic, questions may be asked and answers received. During the viewing, questions may be asked either orally, for an immediate answer, or typed into a chat frame, for an answer after the presentation. If Zoom, or other similar programs, weren't readily available and fairly easy to use we'd have a much harder time experiencing the educational and social aspects of our hobby.

I'm very happy these virtual meetings are available. I've been able to attend several meetings of the Central Indiana Division's (CID) Track Talk and a few of Michiana Division's monthly meetings. After the cancellations of the MWR 2020 Regional and the 2020 NMRA National Conventions, being unable to attend clinics was causing withdrawal symptoms. Fortunately, clinics have been made available virtually and have been proven to be easy to attend. I hope

you, too, have been taking advantage of events that might be sponsored by your division. Right now, without in-person meetings, virtual meetings are providing us with continued model railroad educational opportunities. As of this writing, for the rest of 2020, it appears that some of the MWR divisions will continue to hold virtual meetings in place of in-person meetings and some divisions will hold both. If you are concerned about meeting with others, you can still attend virtually and not miss out on the presentations.

Gordie Robinson and his world-wide crew have offered day-long meetings with hour-long clinics under the NMRAx title. Clinicians for these events are from everywhere. We have had presenters from Australia, New Zealand, UK, United States, and Canada. The streaming event is available on Facebook (you do not need to have a Facebook account to view the event) and on YouTube. Information about these meetings is available on the NMRA website. The events are recorded in 5 – 6 hour blocks and stored for viewing on YouTube a few days after the meeting. Later, the individual clinics are separated from these blocks and placed on the NMRA YouTube channel. Not only have there been several NMRAx meetings, there has also been a day-long event, SERx, sponsored by the Southeastern Region and a five-day event, Gatewayx, sponsored by the Gateway Division that took place during the dates scheduled for the National Convention.

Remember, the 2021 MWR convention, The Rockford Railroad Convention, will be held in Rockford, IL Thursday, May 20th through Sunday, May 23rd, 2021. The RRVD convention committee has the major events set and they continue to plan for the convention. As information becomes available, it will be posted on the MWR website. Click on the Conventions tab at the top of the page. Mark your calendars - and cross your fingers that the virus leaves us alone next May.

In the meantime – back to the layout!
Steve

.....Bob McGeever of the SCWD received the Presidents Award for Service to the Division for 2020. This award was established in 2017 to recognize one individual in a division who has done "beyond-the-call-of-duty" work to make his or her local Division effective, engaging and welcoming to members. Bob is the current region secretary and is running for MWR president. Congratulations!



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:

John Coy	Avon, IN	Scenery
Eric Smith	Fishers, IN	Volunteer
Emory Luebke	Greenville, WI	Structure

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 2021 candidates

Yes, it is once again election time. Up for election are President, Vice President and three positions for Director-at-Large. The ballot is on page 4.

President**Bob McGeever, South Central Wisconsin Division**

I am a retired Manufacturing Engineer. I retired from Thermo Fisher Scientific about 5 years ago. Over my career I worked on Industrial Controls, Patient Monitors, Anesthesia Equipment, Scientific Instruments and Calibration Services. I specialized in new product introductions, test engineering, and moving products from one production facility to another facility.



I have been married 44 years. My wife is also retired. We live in Stoughton Wisconsin. Besides being an active member of the NMRA, she has just earned her Master Gardener Certificate. Given our hobbies, she often spends the day outside working with 1 to 1 scale scenery while I am in the basement working on 1 to 160 scale scenery.

I grew up interested in model railroading but as an adult I never had the time or space for a layout for many years. I returned to the hobby about 15 years ago. After several years of meaning to, I joined the NMRA in 2010 and became active in the South Central Wisconsin Division of the Midwest Region. I am currently the Paymaster and Past Superintendent. I am also the chair of the Mad City Model Railroad Show and Sale committee. I currently serve as the Secretary of the Midwest Region. It would be an honor to serve as the Midwest Region President

Vice-President**Mike Hirvela, Fox Valley Division**

With the support and encouragement of folks I respect, I have decided to run for MWR VP. I have been Superintendent of the Fox Valley Division for a few years and have represented the FVD on the

MWR Board during that time. I have previously held division positions as Membership Trainmaster and Member Promotion Trainmaster, promoting the advantages of membership in the NMRA to potential members at various shows and events. Prior to these positions, I was "just a member" enjoying the benefits of membership and camaraderie of a lot of fellow model railroaders I now consider close friends. I have been interested in trains, railroading and model railroading for longer than I care to admit, and I hope to continue this life-time hobby for a long time to come. Your consideration is most heartily appreciated.

**Director-at-Large****John Coy, Central Indiana Division, incumbent**

Thanks to all of you! These past few years have absolutely been my most enjoyable of 50 years in this hobby. I am proud to be a NMRA Member and honored to represent you as D.A.L. I have represented you to the best of my abilities. I have participated in more events / meetings than I can recall.



I am actively involved in many things including: representing you, future events and the AP. I just had my first article published (June 2020) in the NMRA Magazine! I am participating currently in many on-line events.

I am passionate about the hobby and appreciate modeling in all scales. There are so many different approaches to the hobby. Everyone has something to share from the Novice to the Master. We can all learn from one another.

The best thing about the NMRA is meeting, getting to know and interacting with people you encounter along the way. Our trains are great, but the relationships we develop are even greater!

Today, I ask for your vote. Please vote for me so that I may continue to represent you while promoting the hobby.

Director-at-Large**James Landwehr, Fox Valley Division, incumbent**

Hi. My name is James Landwehr and I'm running for Midwest Region Director-at-Large. As a previously elected DAL officer (2014-2018 and 2019-2020), I attended every Board of Directors meeting. In the fall of 2014 I also accepted the position as Midwest Regional Achievement Program Manager, which I still hold, to help assist members on their journey through the achievement program.



I've been a member with the NMRA since 2006. Over the years of membership, I've had the opportunity to be increasingly involved in the NMRA and have been a board member of the Fox Valley Division since 2007 as the Achievement Program & Contest Trainmaster. My responsibilities afforded me the opportunity to assist members of our division on their way through the Achievement Program, and promote the monthly contest participation. I would be honored to serve the Midwest Region as a Director-at-Large.

Director-at-Large**Philip Burnside, Central Indiana Division**

My friends call me the mad scientist because if I see something, I like I design and build a model of it. I have been an avid model railroad since my father and I starting building models together some 45 years ago. My father and I were active members in the Baltimore Society of Model Engineers throughout the 1980's. I have lived in Avon, IN for sixteen years. I am modeling the present-day steel industry located in Pittsburgh PA. To build many of the unique scenes I have been using my mechanical engineering knowledge to design and build most of the steel mill on my layout using 3D printing. In addition, I also serve on the Board of Directors for the NMRA Steel Mill Models Special Interest Group. I have received several awards for my 3D printed models include the Dean



Freytag award for the most unique industrial building at the 2016 NMRA national convention. This was an animated model was of the 1920's blowing engine house for the Edgar Thompson Steel Mill. I also retired from the US Navy August 1st, 2020 after 30 years of service that included a tour on the ground in Iraq.

Director-at-Large**Jerry Peterson, Michiana Division, incumbent**

Personal: My name is Jerry Peterson, and I live in Stevensville, Michigan. I am married with three children and five grandchildren.



Professional Background: I retired in 2017 after 32 years working at the Cook Nuclear Plant in Bridgman, Michigan. During my time there, I was a Plant Operator, a Senior Administrative Compliance Coordinator, a Senior Project Engineer and finished my career as the Procedure Program Owner. Prior to working at Cook, I spent fourteen years in the Nuclear Navy serving on various submarines and support ships.

Hobby Experience & Interests: I started with my 1948 American Flyer train set, which still runs around our Christmas tree. In the mid 1970's my eldest son and I constructed an 8ft by 8ft HO layout capable of running 3 trains simultaneously. We moved this layout from Groton, Connecticut to Virginia Beach, Virginia to Berrien Springs, Michigan. The layout currently resides in Bellevue, Nebraska with my son. Currently, I am currently moving my N scale layout from my office to our basement and doubling its size. My grandchildren continue to help with the move and the expansion. I am working with our local MMR to expand my knowledge, understand and experience with operations side of model railroading.

NMRA Experience: I have been an NMRA member since March of 2013 and currently the Michiana Division Achievement Program Manager. I have served the last two years as a Director at Large and I am interested in continuing to serve as a Midwest Region At-Large Board member. In this position, I can continue to serve the NMRA to increase my awareness of issues and opportunities facing the organization and our region, and to learn more about our organization and the hobby in general.

Editor's Column

Congratulation to the new officers of the MWR. To see who they are, they are listed on page 4.

Also congratulations to Emory Luebke of the WinnebagoLand Division for getting his MMR 669. Emory is the archivist for the Soo Line Historical & Technical Society and joins a group of distinguished MMR's up in the far north division.



It is good that things are starting to loosen up as far as the Covid Crisis. I am looking forward to attending a train show down here in Florida at the end of February. There is also a show scheduled for May 15 and 16 in Franklin, Indiana. See pages 7 and 11 for more details.

When this is all over we can all wear T shirts saying that we survived Covid. I am one of the statistics, as I got it in March of last year, although I did not know it until I got an antibody test. I still can not smell.

The Midwest Regional Convention has been rescheduled for September 16-19, 2021.

I heard that the Titledown Train Show in Green Bay Wisconsin will be running April 17-18, 2020.

The folks running Indy Junction, the tri-regional convention are going ahead with their plans for the spring of 2022.

The 2022 NMRA National Convention is scheduled for St Louis, Missouri from Sunday August 7, 2022 to Monday, August 15, 2022. Visit NMRA.org for more details

The cover photo is of Don Cook MMR's layout. See more on page 7. Photo by David Leider

My wife and I purchased a home in Pinellas Park, Florida. (Between St. Petersburg and Clearwater.) It has a nice two car garage that is free of all appliances except a water heater that is wall mounted.

We have 3 months before our lease is up which will give me plenty of time to put up wood framing and sheetrock with lots of insulation to keep it cool in summer. I will build a removable wall behind the garage door that can be taken down if we need to sell. I also intend to get the floor coated and a hurricane-proof garage door installed.

It has been too long since I took down my old layout. It was a long, narrow track plan, so I intend on putting it in the garage diagonally. The section behind it will be used for storage and the front for my workbench, etc.

Look for updates on my progress in future issues.

Below are some photos of the old layout taken by Bill Schaumburg.



Waybill

Mid West Region NMRA – Spring 2021

President's Report

Steve Studley President, MWR

In Indiana, the data tracking COVID-19 are moving in a direction showing things are getting better. Certainly we are not yet out of the woods, but we can see the light through the trees. Penny and I have received our first COVID shots; with the second shots planned for the last week of February. I'm looking forward to more freedom, travels away from home, and work sessions with friends. To help keep the pandemic data moving toward better numbers, remember to: Mask up, continue social distancing, and wash your hands often.

In the meantime, we still must work our way through continued cancellations and postponements of train shows, activities, and meets. Unfortunately, the NMRA National Convention for 2021 has been cancelled. The MWR regional convention has been postponed and is now rescheduled to September, 2021. See more information at the end of this article. As we come out of pandemic hibernation, we will be able to once again visit with our fellow modelers and attend train shows. With the added freedom, we will also be able to perform in-person business with our Local Hobby Store (LHS). Local television news has been featuring dining establishments as they struggle to remain in business during these difficult times. Likewise, our LHS businesses are hoping to get rid of the COVID constraints. This must be especially true of those shops that do not have online access. When the time comes, remember to visit and shop at your LHS.

If you are a modeler who fits the stereotype of one who has enough engines, cars, structure kits, etc. stored in your railroad space, you should have fared well during the months we've been stuck at home. I know I have not had to purchase many supplies to continue with projects on my workbench. I

have also spent a fair amount of time working on spreadsheets and Arduino sketches for a signaling project on the Midwest Central. Another project is for a Central Indiana Division (CID) Favorites contest that will be held in November. While the weather was still favorable, I was able to make site visits and gather photos of the subject I'll be modeling. I still need to take some field measurements of a highway bridge 20-some miles from home. The current weather conditions (snow) will force me to work on other in-home model railroad projects, instead. Recently, while speaking with other region members, it is clear that we have all been able to spend quality (and in some cases – quantity) time working on our railroads. We've all heard the adage about making lemonade when given lemons. I propose a pandemic related adage: When told to stay home – work on the railroad.

There is a new date for the regional convention. The 2021 MWR convention, The Rockford Railroad Convention, has been POSTPONED from the spring to September 16-19, 2021. The RRVD convention committee has the major events set and they continue to plan for the convention. As information becomes available, it will be posted on the MWR website. Click on the Conventions tab at the top of the page. Mark your calendars.

Since we won't be having a spring convention we will not have a chance to have our typical in-person Saturday Members' Meeting or Sunday morning Board of Directors meeting at the convention hotel. Instead, we will hold another virtual MWR Board meeting to deal with the business of the region. One of the items we will need to vote on will be to move the annual Members' Meeting to the fall convention. We will hope that all goes well and we will be able to hold an in-person Members' Meeting during The Rockford Railroad Convention. Our MWR Board (Zoom) meeting will be held on May 23, at 1:00pm CDT. Note this is a different time from our normal start times. Board members will receive the meeting link via email. If other members would like to join us, please let me know so you, too, receive the link information.

In the meantime – back to the layout!
Steve

**Spring Board of Directors Meeting
VIRTUAL via ZOOM
May 23, 2021, 1 p.m. CDT**

MWR ELECTION RESULTS

The ballots of the recent election were counted on February 4, 2020 by Election Committee members Jim Osborn and Bert Lattan.

The results of the voting are:

For President: Bob McGeever 192 votes

For Vice President: Michael Hirvela 192 votes

For Director-at-Large:

Jim Landwehr 162 votes

John Coy 150 votes

Jerry Peterson 132 votes

Phillips Burnside 112 votes

There were no write-in candidates

The winners of the election are:

For President: Bob McGeever South Central Wisconsin Division

For Vice President: Michael Hirvela Fox Valley Division

For Director-at-Large:

Jim Landwehr, Fox Valley Division

John Coy, Central Indiana Division

Jerry Peterson, Michiana Division

Balloting Summary:

Total E-Ballots Received 167

Total Paper Ballots Received 52

Total Ballots Received 219

Valid Ballots 195

Invalid Ballots 4 Out of region or spoiled

Canceled Ballots 20 Members that voted twice

Votes not cast (under voted) 35

Respectively submitted,

Jim Osborn

Bert Lattan

2021 Summer

Congratulations to Jim Osborn for becoming MMR #677!

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:

Jim Osborn	Mc Henry, IL	MMR
Jim Osborn	McHenry, IL	Cars
Michael Hirvela	Waukegan, IL	Civil
Gary Loiselle	Rockford, IL	Cars
Phillip Burnside	Avon, IN	Scenery
Phillip Burnside	Avon, IN	Volunteer
Connie Coy	Avon, IN	Electrical
Connie Coy	Avon, IN	Golden Spike

Our spring MWR Board (Zoom) meeting will be/was held on May 23, at 1:00pm CDT. At the end of that meeting, the newly elected MWR Board members will be installed. They are:

President: Bob McGeever, South Central Wisconsin Division

Vice President: Michael Hirvela, Fox Valley Division

Directors-at-Large:

Jim Landwehr, Fox Valley Division

John Coy, Central Indiana Division

Jerry Peterson, Michiana Division

Congratulations and thanks for volunteering to serve the members of the Midwest Region!

There will also be a change made in the position of Immediate Past President. After many years of service to the MWR Board, Paul Mangan will be stepping down from this position and I will move into it. Thanks, Paul, for your work on the Board. Thanks also to Reid Kahrs, who has served as Vice President for the last four years.

I would like to thank the members of the Midwest Region for electing me to two terms as President of the MWR Board of Directors. I'm pleased to have been able to serve the region membership in this position for the last four years. I'd also like to thank the other members of the Board for their service during this time. Thank you, one and all!

In the meantime – back to the layout!
Steve

2021 Summer



Marriott East, 7202 E 21st St
Indianapolis, IN 46219



Clinics
Layout Tours
Ops Sessions
Prototype Tours



Four Full Days
Three Regions
Two Day Train Show
One Convention
May 18-22, 2022



www.IndyJunction2022.org



RPM
CONFERENCE



Waybill

Mid West Region NMRA – Fall 2021

President's Report

Bob McGeever President, MWR

Let me take this moment to introduce myself. I am Bob McGeever, the rookie President of the Midwest Region of the NMRA. Any resemblance to a deer in the headlights is completely coincidental. I live in Stoughton Wisconsin. I am a member of the South Central Wisconsin Division.

As you read this report, you will notice I don't seem to have an agenda or defined action items at this point in my tenure. And you would be correct. I did not run for MWR President because I thought the region needed some sort of "new broom" with a dramatic 100-day agenda. Sure, Covid has been a challenge, but it has not taken out the MWR. Many divisions are doing really interesting things using Zoom in place of face-to-face meetings. Some have been able to return to face-to-face activities. We've even had a few train shows in the last few months. All in all, under the circumstances, we seem to be doing pretty good. So, my first priority is not to screw things up. I want to learn about what is going well in the divisions, what is not going so well in the divisions and what the region could do to help. Or not help, if none is needed. I am in my listen and learn mode right now.

I am developing the impression that increased communications and interactions between the divisions will be needed to cope with the primary challenge all volunteer based groups are dealing with right now: membership.

I am developing the impression that the region might be able to help with the common services each division has to create each time they put on a Regional Convention. Things like registration, ticket sales, printing programs, and processing credit cards. I would like to make it easier for a division to put on a convention. I would like to let the convention committee focus more on the unique content of their conven-

tion and less on the activities common to all conventions.

But I am in my listen and learn mode. So all grand action plans are on hold until the MWR BOD and Division leadership agrees that we should act on an objective as a team.

What do I model?

I model the southern branch of the Wisconsin and Southern in N scale. It runs right through the town I live in. Prototype research is pretty easy for me compared to something like Colorado narrow gauge. I was attracted to WSOR because it is a short line that directly interacts with the customers. Almost every train will spot or pick up cars at a customer site. It is dark territory controlled by track warrants which are issued by radio to the crews. The crews are responsible for the operation of all the mainline turnouts. If you like switching, it is a great choice for a prototype. If you want to run passenger trains or unit trains or high priority freight trains, it is not a good choice. I really like switching. I've described my layout as a set of interconnected switching puzzles.

Ten years ago, when I was selecting my DCC system, I really liked the NCE throttles compared to the other throttles. My operational model is simple. I do not need to use any of the advanced features of DCC. With dark territory and no centralized control of turnouts, all I need to do is drive trains. My strong preference for the NCE throttles drove the decision. If I was making the decision today, I might go with a Wi-Fi throttle system.

I use Atlas Code 55 track. I think it is the best-looking N scale track system available. You don't get into N scale if you have a strong desire to use hand laid track with custom built turnouts. About 80% of the layout is flex track. Despite what I have heard over the internet, I have found the Atlas Code 55 track system to be very reliable.

I use JMRI Operations Pro to generate the switch lists for operations. It is a program with a lot of "character". It is not for the faint of heart. But the price is right. It beats all heck out of writing my own program.

Regional Topics

One of my goals in my first few months as the MWR President is to spend some time with each of the divisions. It could be by Zoom or it could be in person. Zoom visits have been the most common visit so far. I think I have spent some time with about

2021 Fall

half the divisions. It has been a great experience. If you copy me on an invite for a divisional Zoom meeting, I will try to drop in. Same goes for face-to-face meetings or special events like train shows. The travel time can be an issue. Wisconsin is not exactly the center of the region.

There is no formal job training program for new region presidents. The closest thing I have found is the annual meeting of the Regional Advisory Committee, ominously known as the RAC. The RAC is the communications channel between the Regions and the National NMRA BOD. This spring I got to sit in on the meeting. All 10 hours of it. I learned a number of interesting things. Like the average age of an NMRA member is 68. Like only about 10% of the NMRA members use the NMRA web site. The most important thing I learned is that no matter what challenge a division is facing, there probably are a lot of other divisions with the same challenge. All of us are pretty much in the same boat these days. This is not necessarily a bad thing. Having 1000 people spread over many divisions working on a solution to a problem raises the odds that a solution will be found. The trick is to share a solution between divisions once one of them finds it. In my old job this was called sharing of best practices.

Not surprisingly, the biggest issue that came up during the RAC sessions was NMRA membership. NMRA membership has been declining for years. The decline in membership accelerated under the Covid restrictions. We were not the only volunteer group facing this challenge prior to Covid. We were not the only volunteer group to see an accelerated loss of membership under Covid. I believe the return to face-to-face meetings is the first step to increasing our membership. More on this topic later.

Fall MWR BOD meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Membership.

We had planned to hold the Fall MWR Board of Directors meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Membership at Trainfest 2021 in Milwaukee on November 14th. But Trainfest 2021 has been canceled. The Rock River Valley Division stepped up and volunteered to host the meetings. The plan is to hold both meetings in Rockford Illinois on November 14th. The BOD meeting will be held from 9 AM to Noon at the Machine Shed Restaurant, 7475 E State St, Rockford.

The Annual Meeting of the Membership will be

held at 1 PM as part of the RRVD regular monthly meeting at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 1829 N. Rockton Ave, Rockford. There is still a chance that the Covid situation will mess up our plans to get back to face to face meetings, so stay tuned.

With my new title I got a new email address: mwrprez@mwr-nmra.org. Please use it. I want to hear your ideas, thoughts, or concerns about the current status and future of the Midwest Region.

Region News

Midwest Region Achievement Program Report

by Jim Landwehr- MWR AP Manager

Great news regarding the Achievement Program! We now have a brand new Master Model Railroader in our Midwest Region! It is my pleasure to announce that on April 24, 2021 National awarded Master Model Railroader #677 to James Osborn of Mc Henry, IL. He earned his certificates in Cars, Author, Volunteer, Official, Electrical, Civil, Scenery, Dispatch and Structure. If you know Jim or see him at a meet, be sure to congratulate him on this major achievement in the hobby. From everyone in the Midwest Region, congratulations, Jim on earning Master Model Railroader # 677.

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:

Jim Osborn	Mc Henry, IL	MMR
Jim Osborn	McHenry, IL	Cars
Michael Hirvela	Waukegan, IL	Civil
Gary Loiselle	Rockford, IL	Cars
Phillip Burnside	Avon, IN	Scenery
Phillip Burnside	Avon, IN	Volunteer
Connie Coy	Avon, IN	Electrical
Connie Coy	Avon, IN	Golden Spike

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

Thanks, Jim

2021 Winter

President's Report

Bob McGeever President, MWR

Report to the MWR members regards the WISE Division.

The following is a rather dry and not very exciting read. But I believe it is very important that all members of the MWR understand the status of the WISE Division.

At my very first Midwest Region BOD meeting as the new MWR President I received a report from the Superintendent of the WISE division that made it clear that the division was in big trouble. He raised the possibility that the division might have to dissolve if conditions did not improve. I began sitting in on WISE BOD meetings. It was clear to me that the trouble the WISE was experiencing was the result of the burden of being the host of Trainfest.

In late October that burden broke the WISE executive committee. The Paymaster, Asst Super and Super announced their intentions to resign their positions. At a special meeting of the BOD, dissolving of the division and merger with the SCWD was brought up. The intentions of the Super, Asst Super and Treasurer to resign were affirmed. On October 27th I received an email from the Chief Clerk with the subject line "Now what?" Now what indeed.

I started reading the WISE and MWR bylaws to see if a situation like this was covered. Strangely, it wasn't, but I did find a couple of possible paths through the crisis.

As of October 27th, no official resignations had occurred. Statements of intentions on Facebook and the like don't count as resignations. Nobody had submitted a letter of resignation to the BOD and the BOD had not acted on any such letters. The WISE BOD still existed and could deal with all this at their Nov 10th BOD meeting. I talked to the Treasurer as the assets of the WISE division needed to be protected. I asked him to postpone his resignation until we could find a way through the rest of the crisis. He agreed to stay on. Now we had a little time to figure out some options.

The first option was to dissolve the WISE. I really wanted to avoid this. The second option was for other members of the WISE BOD to volunteer to become the new Super and Asst Super. This was my preferred option, but it didn't happen. The third option was for the division to become inactive under Article 5

Section 8 of the MWR bylaws. As far as I know, this had never happened before. But it would provide a path to rebuild the WISE division. They would be placing the division in a form of receivership. This was the option the WISE BOD chose.

At their Nov 10th meeting, the WISE BOD was unable to find replacements for the Super and Asst Super. They voted to declare the division inactive under Article 5 Section 8 of the MWR bylaws.

At the Nov 14th meeting of the MWR BOD, a motion was passed with the following clauses:

- 1) The Midwest Region BOD accept the motion of the WISE BOD and declare that the WISE division is inactive under Article 5 Section 8 of the MWR bylaws.
- 2) The MWR BOD accepts the recommendation of the MWR President to create a WISE division Executive Committee and appoint, under the authority of Article 5 Section 8 of the MWR bylaws, Burnell Breaker as Superintendent, Robert Niedermann as Assistant Superintendent, Dennis Janssen as Paymaster, and David Rohr as Chief Clerk. All four have agreed to serve in these interim positions. They are chartered to develop a plan to reactivate the division, or failing that, a proposal to dissolve the division. They are given full control over the WISE division and its assets. They will report to the MWR Executive Committee on a monthly basis the status of the division.
- 3) All portions of the WISE Constitution and Bylaws that conflict with this grant of authority are suspended until such time that MWR BOD approves a reactivation plan for the WISE division.
- 4) The MWR BOD grants the Executive Committee the authority to decide issues and take actions as needed to support the work of the interim WISE Division Executive Committee.

In short, we are attempting to perform a power up reset on the WISE division. Any help the region members can give Burnell, Bob, Dennis and David would be greatly appreciated. The future of the WISE division has been entrusted to them.

**Midwest Region Annual Membership
Meeting
The Marriott Indianapolis East
7202 E 21st St Indianapolis, IN 46219
May 22, 10:00 a.m. ET**

Region News

Midwest Region Achievement Program Report

by Jim Landwehr- MWR AP Manager

Great news regarding the Achievement Program! We now have a brand new Master Model Railroader in our Midwest Region! It is my pleasure to announce that on October 21, 2021 National awarded Master Model Railroader #692 to Steve Miazga of Waukesha, WI. He earned his certificates in Cars, Author, Volunteer, Electrical, Dispatcher, Scenery, and Structure. If you know Steve or see him at a meet, be sure to congratulate him on this major achievement in the hobby. From everyone in the Midwest Region, congratulations, Steve on earning Master Model Railroader # 692.

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:

Steve Miazga	Waukesha, W	MMR
Steve Miazga	Waukesha, WI	Cars
Richard Hanke	Manitowoc, WI	Scenery
Jim Taturm	Lewistown, IL	Official
Dan Hinel	Westfield, IN	Official

Director-at-Large

Phillip Burnside, Central Indiana Division



My friends call me the mad scientist because if I see something, I like I design and build a model of it. I have been an avid model railroad since my father and I starting building mod-

els together some 45 years ago. My father and I were active members in the Baltimore Society of Model Engineers throughout the 1980's. I have lived in Avon, IN for sixteen years. I am modeling the present-day steel industry located in Pittsburgh PA. To build many of the unique scenes. I have been using my mechanical engineering knowledge to design and build most of his steel mill on my layout using 3D printing. In addition, I also serve on the Board of Directors for the NMRA Steel Mill Models Special Interest Group. I have received several awards for my 3D printed models include the Dean Freytag award for the most unique industrial building at the 2016 NMRA national convention. This was an animated model of the 1920's blowing engine house for the Edgar Thompson Steel Mill. I also retired from the US Navy August 1st, 2020 after 30 years of service that included a tour on the ground in Iraq.

Director-at-Large**Gary Children, WISE Division, incumbent**

I have always liked trains since 1947 when I received my first Lionel train set for Christmas. The first club I joined was the Indianhead Lines HO club and then joined the WISE Division in

1965 and became a Life Member. I became very active reaching out to members as the layout tour director for the division and the layout tours for the National Model Railroad Conventions held in Milwaukee in 1985 and 2010 and the Milwaukee tours for the 1997 Madison NMRA convention. I also was the Boy Scout Merit Badge Counselor and a member of the Board of Directors of the WISE division since 1989 through the present. I have continued to volunteer at Milwaukee's Trainfest as a presenter for Operation Lifesaver.

As a Board Member of the WISE Division, I started volunteering at the 1989 Quad Cities Midwest Region Convention Contests and I continue to this day being the Contest Chairman for Models of the region. Along the way, I have served in the following positions for the Region: Director at Large, Vice President and President.

With my experience, I hope to continue to contribute to the Midwest Region of the National Model Railroad Association and to share the exciting world of model trains by encouraging new membership in the hobby.

I request your vote for me as a Director at Large of the Midwest Region.

**Spring Midwest Region BoD meeting
The Marriott Indianapolis East
7202 E 21st St. Indianapolis, IN 46219
May 22, 10:30 am -1:00 pm ET
in conjunction with the region convention**

Director-at-Large**Dan Hinel, Central Indiana Division**

It has been a great honor to hold the position of CID (Central Indiana Division) Superintendent for the past three and a half years and Train Master two years before that and I am asking for your support as Director at Large of the Mid West Region of the NMRA. With support from CID members and board of directors, the CID has continued programs during these past difficult years plus multiple new programs have been undertaken. My major emphasis has been two fold, improved communications for everyone and giving you more opportunity to be involved in model railroading. Under the communication umbrella, we have CID name badges, outreach programs like Track Talk which holds events in different locations throughout the division and Ambassador programs plus more information via social media. Under the involvement area, I have encourage members to come to the CID Board of Directors meetings and become members of the CID BoD by being Train Masters. I have encouraged members to participate in demonstrations either at our train shows or modeler's meets plus encouraging model railroaders to host or attend various operating sessions. For those of you who do not know me, I have been an active NMRA member for over 29 years living in three different regions and participating in divisional, regional and national events such as three national and several regional conventions featuring my Rail Xpress Railroad, (RxRR 1.0 Grand Rapids, RxRR 2.0 Atlanta, RxRR 3.0 Indianapolis) The scope of which ranges from open houses, layout tours, operating sessions and clinics discussing "Car Orders" a car forwarding system. In summary, I am here to support the MWR in providing you with a fun and enjoyable experience in model railroading.

Director-at-Large**Dave Mashino, Central Indiana Division**

Greetings, my name is Dave Mashino. I have been a member of the NMRA since 2016, but I've been interested in the hobby since childhood. I can still remember the smell of our basement as a young boy. It was a

wonderful mixture of an old musty cellar and wood dust. There was my father the incessant tinkerer. There was a workbench, always filled with tools and projects. When dad suggested that we build a model railroad, I was in! I've been in ever since, though my model railroading "career" has had its ups and downs through the years. I am currently building my Wildcat Valley Railway (2nd addition) in the basement.

I am married with three children and eight grandchildren. I completed a tool and die apprenticeship at Delco Electronics in Kokomo and obtained an associate degree in mechanical Engineering Technology from Purdue. After fourteen years at Delco, I left and started a tool design company which after eight years was purchased by Lorentson Manufacturing, a mold builder in Kokomo, IN. I have recently retired as engineering manager/shop manager.

In recent years, I have enjoyed the time spent in NMRA activities. Since retiring, I am looking forward to having more time to give back to the hobby that has given me so much joy over the years. I would appreciate your vote for Director-at-Large.

Director-at-Large**Michael David Roderick, Central Indiana Division, incumbent**

I am running for the Director at Large for the Midwest Region. I am fifty-three (53) 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 was a member of the North Shore Model Railroad club in Boston and was chairman of operations for them. I am 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 enjoy organizing train shows and currently I am the Train Show Chairman for the Franklin Train Show in August 2022. I am the model railroader merit badge counselor for Boy Scouts of America for CID.

I am currently working toward my NMRA-MMR and have completed 2 of the 7 requirements and I almost have 2 more completed for the MMR. If I am elected as one of the Directors at Large I will do whatever I can to help in this position.

Season's Greetings

2022 Spring

Waybill

**Mid West Region NMRA –
Spring 2022**

President's Report

Bob McGeever President, MWR

I have a number of topics to touch on this month.

The spring election results are in. They will be covered in greater detail elsewhere. We will have three new Directors at Large on the MWR BOD. Dan Hinel, Phillip Burnside, and Dave Mashino will be joining the BOD. Mike Roderick will be returning for another term. I want to thank Eric Peterson, Jim Allen, and Gary Children for their past service on the BOD.

The Spring Meeting of the MWR Board of Directors and the annual Meeting of the Membership will be held in conjunction with the Indy Junction convention. We will meet on Sunday, May 22 in the Indianapolis Ballroom at the convention hotel. The MOM will be from 10 to 10:30 am. The BOD meeting will be from 10:30 am to 1 pm.

The MWR region needs to rebuild its contest staff, but we are holding off until the Indy Junction convention is complete. If you think you might be interested in joining our contest staff, volunteering at the Indy Junction would be a great way to get an introduction to what all is involved in running the contests. If you are attending the Indy Junction and would like to explore participating in the contest judging, Steve Szapowski needs some support staff to run the rooms and some judges for the Arts and Crafts section.

Most of you are aware that the National BOD is in the process of a plan to publish an online version of the NMRA Magazine later this year. There are still some details to work out, but one thing is certain, it will be distributed through the registered members section of the NMRA web site. If you have not registered at the website, you should do it soon. Go to

<https://www.nmra.org/user/register> to register. The key to registering is you must use the email address you have on file with the NMRA. It is the same address they use to send you other online documents like the NMRA Turntable or the eBulletin. The process for updating your email address or adding an email address to your membership are covered on the website.

Recruiting new members continues to be a high priority for the NMRA. A train show is a good place to recruit. My home division, the SCWD, just completed a successful weekend long train show. We setup our membership booth on the main aisle. We gave our membership chair a laptop computer linked to the NMRA website. He talked to many people over the weekend. Because he had the laptop, we were able to sign up six new members on the spot. In the old days, when we handed out the paper membership forms, we were lucky to get one new member. I know six new members doesn't sound like much, but this was just one train show on one weekend. Nationwide, we have multiple train shows on every weekend. Just signing up a few new members at each of these train shows would be a big boost for NMRA membership. If you are putting on a train show, give your membership booth a live link to the NMRA web site. And do the same thing at your meetings. A visitor to your meeting might be ready to sign up on the spot. If you hand them a piece of paper to fill out and let them walk away, you may never see them again.

The reboot of the WISE division is proceeding. The constitution and bylaws are under review. Regular monthly meetings with clinics, contests and layout tours have started. A new editor for the newsletter has signed on. Other committee chairs are signing on. Events like the annual operations festival are in the planning stage. The really exciting development is that they have found a way to keep Trainfest alive. The WISE has entered into a licensing agreement with Kalmbach Media and Great American Train Shows. Those two organizations will produce Trainfest for 2022. Details will be posted on the Trainfest web site. With the burden producing Trainfest off its shoulders, the WISE will be free to focus on division level activities and rebuilding the membership.

Bob McGeever

Region News

Midwest Region Achievement Program Report by Jim Landwehr- MWR AP Manager

Great news regarding the Achievement Program! We now have a brand-new Master Model Railroader in our Midwest Region! It is my pleasure to announce that on March 21, 2022 National awarded Master Model Railroader #700 to Dan Hinel of Westside, IN. He earned his certificates in Civil, Motive Power, Volunteer, Electrical, Dispatcher, Scenery, and Official. If you know Dan or see him at a meet, be sure to congratulate him on this major achievement in the hobby. From everyone in the Midwest Region, congratulations, Dan on earning Master Model Railroader #700.

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:

Dan Hinel	Westside, IN	MMR
Dan Hinel	Westside, IN	Locomotive
Phillip Burnside	Avon, IN	Electric
Roger Blocks	Three Lakes, WI	Civil
John Leow	Marquette, MI	Cars
Chuck Gevaert	Oconomowoc, WI	Golden Spike
Harry Evans	Oconomowoc, WI	Golden Spike
Robert Niedermann	New Berlin, WI	Golden Spike
Carl Priepke	Germantown, WI	Golden Spike

2022 Summer ALLEN BYRNE NMRA PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Congratulations to Allen Byrne, ITD's Chief Clerk and Paymaster, being awarded the NMRA President's Award for Service to the Division in the Midwest Region. Thanks for all your efforts in winning this richly deserved recognition.

The NMRA has a new SIG - Women in Model Railroading

We are excited to offer the opportunity to women around the world to become members of this new Special Interest Group - Women in Model Railroading! As a recognized SIG within the NMRA, we expect this group to be vibrant in the world of model railroading. The purpose of the Women in Model Railroading (WIMRR) SIG is to introduce, encourage and connect women in or interested in the hobby of model railroading. The SIG is designed for education, enrichment, social interactions, and all-around fun. This group is meant to be inclusive and supportive of all women in the hobby and railfan world. We plan to host a few social meetings per year including online and at train shows/conventions around the country. The SIG will provide women in their local NMRA regions the support needed to create activities or gatherings, in order to grow the hobby and remove perceived barriers for women modelers.

Join our Facebook Pages:

"Women in Model Railroading" is for women in the model railroad hobby to share their world.

"The Steam Sisters Group" is for women railfans to share their photos of steam AND diesel trains.

Visit the SIG page: <https://www.nmra.org/sigs/women-in-model-railroading>

Please use this link to join the SIG:

<https://forms.gle/aKPhcXU1sthKW1MQ8>

Contact: wimrr@nmra.org

Thank you!

Waybill

Mid West Region NMRA – Winter 2022

President's Report

Bob McGeever President, MWR

Several small topics to cover this time around.

Trainfest Returns

Trainfest was held in Milwaukee this November. For those of you who live in the southern half of the Midwest Region, this may not be big news. But for those of us who live "up north", it is a big deal. The show was cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to the Covid epidemic. This year the show was produced by Kalmbach Media and Great American Train Shows under license from the WISE division. The WISE and SCWD divisions had booths at the show. While the show was smaller than in the past, there was a nice mix of layouts, vendors, and manufacturers on the show floor. Final numbers are not in at the time I am writing this, but the attendance seems to have been pretty good. Sunday attendance was reported to be very strong. I saw a nice mix of hobbyists and families in attendance. At this time, the plan for the 2023 show is for it to be produced by Kalmbach Media and Great American Train Shows under license from the WISE division.

NMRA Interchange

The Regional Advisory Committee met by video conference using Zoom on November 5th. One of the topics discussed was the soon to be released NMRA Interchange. It is being built on technology from an outfit called Discord.com. If you are really curious, you can check it out on the Discord web site. The NMRA Interchange is supposed to start coming online around Thanksgiving. I have high hopes for the Interchange. If it works as described, it will be an integrated communication tool for divisional, regional, and national activities.

Other Types of Modelers

For the past several years, I have been noticing other types of modelers. Folks who are military modelers, airplane modelers, automobile modelers and ship modelers. I have met a guy who models large, multi-story construction cranes in N scale. He builds all the truss work by hand. Last month I met a ship modeler at a maker-fest who models WW2 era destroyers and destroyer escorts. His destroyer hull is about five feet long. It is not supposed to flex. I have seen some outstanding diorama work at plastic modeler's conventions. The military modelers have developed an incredible array of weathering techniques and supplies that we can use in model railroading. My favorite static grass applicator is made by an outfit called War World Scenics. Not a big name in the model railroad world.

I'm starting to think us model railroaders have become a bit in-grown when it comes to modeling techniques. We should be spending more time with other kinds of modelers and learning how they solve some of the same modeling challenges we face. And we might attract some of them to model railroading.

Regional Membership

In my last report, I mentioned we were going to look into the listing of Life Members in the MWR. I was concerned that we were carrying a large number of Life Members on the roster that were no longer with us. This had come up at some sessions at the Gateway 2022 convention. Neither the regions nor the mothership seem to have a formal procedure for maintaining the Life Members lists. Based on my initial pass through the numbers, I said either model railroading has a positive effect on life expectancy, or we have a lot of passed members on the list. To my great surprise, it appears that model railroading has a positive impact on life expectancy. The division supers found that most of the members on the roster are still with us and in many cases active in their division.

FYI, the average member of the MWR is 72 years old and has been a member of the NMRA for 23.2 years. In 2021 we had 171 regional members who had been NMRA members for less than four years. In 2022, that number had grown to 189. Food for thought.

Election Biographies for 2022 Candidates

Yes, once again it is election time. Up for election are three nominees for Vice President and two for Director-at-Large. The ballot is on page 3.

President Bob McGeever



I am a retired Manufacturing Engineer. I retired from Thermo Fisher Scientific about 7 years ago. Over my career I worked on Industrial Controls, Patient Monitors, Anesthesia Equipment, Scientific Instruments and Calibration Services. I specialized in new

Midwest Region NMRA

product introductions, test engineering, and moving products from one production facility to another facility.

I have been married 46 years. My wife is also retired. We live in Stoughton Wisconsin. Besides being an active member of the NMRA, she has earned her Master Gardner Certificate.

I grew up interested in model railroading but as an adult I never had the time or space for a layout for many years. I returned to the hobby about 15 years ago. After several years of meaning to, I joined the NMRA in 2010 and became active in the South Central Wisconsin Division of the Midwest Region. I am currently the Paymaster and Past Superintendent.

I am also the chair of the Mad City Model Railroad Show and Sale committee. I served as the Clerk of the Midwest Region for several years before becoming the region President.

It would be an honor to be the President of the Midwest Region for the next two years.

2022 Fall

ELECTION BIOS

Vice President Mike Hirvela, incumbent



I have been your MWR Vice-President for the last two years, and as such I have supported our Region President and the board in carrying out our duties for the benefit of our members. The last two years have seen some challenges from the impact of COVID health issues to reorganizing a division for their future, along

with the region participating in the successful Tri-Region Convention in early 2022 with our neighboring regions to the east. I have no doubt that the next two years will have their own challenges.

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

Vice President Robert Coy



Salutations!

I, John Robert Coy, am seeking the office of MWR Vice President. Thanks to all of you, I have been a Director at Large for closing in on 4 years. I was appointed to the Central Indiana Division Board in Nov. 2018; 3 months after joining. I have served the NMRA as a voting

Board Member continuously ever since. It has been my honor, pleasure and privilege to represent all of you as DAL and CID Assistant Superintendent. I am heavily involved and committed to serving the NMRA. I love the hobby which I've enjoyed for 50+ years!

I have been modeling railroading seemingly forever. I received my 1st train set when I was 4. These many years later I'm very close to earning my MMR. I hold 6 certificates, have four merit awards, and only need to scratch-build 4 cars to earn my MMR! Better than that is getting to know many of you who share a common passion for this hobby. My lone regret is not joining years ago; because I now understand how much I missed out on. I have a very strong desire to remain on the MWR Board and ask that you vote for me for MWR Vice President. Thank you.

Vice President

Michael David Roderick

I am running for the Vice President for the Midwest Region.

I am fifty-three (54) 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 sessions and once my layout gets done, I will have some at my house.



I was a member of the

North Shore Model Railroad club in Boston and was chairman of operations for them. I am 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 enjoy organizing train shows and currently I am the Train Show Chairman for the Franklin Train Show which is held in August of each year. I am currently working toward my NMRA-MMR and have completed 2 of the 7 requirements and I almost have 3 more completed for the MMR.

I am one of several the model railroader merit badge counselors for Boy Scouts of America for CID. I am currently one of the Directors at Large. I will do whatever I can to help in this position as Vice President of the Midwest Region.

**Director-at-Large
Dr. Robert J. Perry**

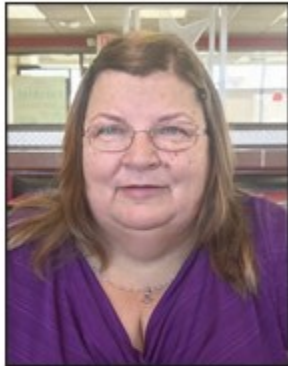


I am a lifelong model railroader in HO scale. Currently, I am an incumbent Director at Large for the MWR having been appointed after volunteering to fill a vacant post in the group. I have been a member of the NMRA in Massachusetts and Florida but was in very inactive divi-

sions. Since moving to Indiana four 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 have already achieved several certificates.

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.

**Director-at-Large
Precilla Ann Roderick**

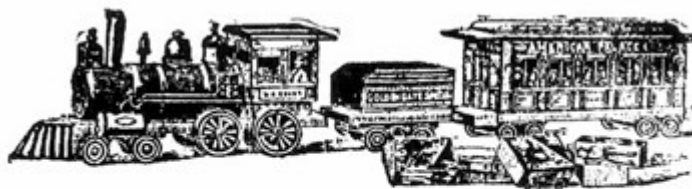


I am running for the Director at Large for the Midwest Region. I have enjoyed being the Chief Clerk for the past three years of the Central Indiana Division of NMRA. I am running for the Director at Large for the Midwest Region.

I am sixty-three (64) years old and have enjoyed trains since I have been with my husband for over 7 years now. I enjoyed all the train shows we go to, and I support my husband in all the train events that we do together. We have a layout that we are working on at home so we can have operation session at our house and enjoy running trains ourselves.

I am a member American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Post 1919 in Greenwood. I work as the HR Recruitment Coordinator for Indianapolis EMS and do take minutes for different meetings. I have been with Indianapolis EMS for 17 years and I am an EMT also.

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



Wood Passenger Train, thirty-six inches long. Price 75c.

From a Christmas ad in the *Chicago Tribune* in 1893.

2023 Spring

Editor's Column

Congratulations to Rich Mahaney, recently elected president of the North Central Region (NCR). He will take office April 1. There are over 660 model railroaders in the NCR. You may be familiar with Rich as he has given many clinics in the Midwest Region. He tells me that last year he gave 47 hours of clinics. His next clinic is in Rockford on Sunday, May 7.

Gary Children, long time MWR contest chairman, has decided to step down after 40 years of service. We owe a great deal of gratitude and special recognition for Gary's leadership, participation in and contributions to the region's contest process.

The region is looking for qualified candidates to fill this important committee position. The topic of filling this position will be on the agenda for the next MWR BOD meeting on May 20 in Peoria.



Before and After.

My old backdrop blocked my breaker box as seen above left. I had it moved outside. (legal in Florida).

I built the old area up with 1" styro-foam insulation to match the old breaker box. I used vinyl flashing instead of masonite glued to the foam board and used white and blue rattle cans to paint it. I think it turned out good.



The NMRA is pleased to announce the launch of the NMRA Interchange. The Interchange will provide an online space for our members to collaborate, learn, exchange ideas and information, and much more! Born from the wish of members of the NMRAX team to connect members from across the globe without the need for any formality, as well as Marketing's desire to move away from the website forums, and driven by the National Team's wish to unburden Regions and Divisions from the costs associated with hybrid/online meetings, we happily present the NMRA Interchange. It is estimated that if each NMRA Region and Division had to self-fund online meeting software it would cost the organization over \$25,000 per year. This is money that we would much prefer go towards growing the hobby in your local areas.

The NMRA Interchange will connect you with members from across the NMRA using voice and text chat. The Hangout rooms are available for video conversations anytime without the need to pre-schedule. Each Region and Division also has its own space where only local members can see what is posted. It is a great place to promote local events, meetings, train shows, and even op sessions. Each SIG (Special Interest Group, as listed on nmra.org) has its own place to announce events and answer questions from NMRA members. In addition, we have created a place where you can have your own channel for your layout or share your model railroading journey. Events will be promoted at the very top of the menu, and we will be running training sessions for Division members who organize meetings so that we can show you how to create and promote events. Go to:

<https://www.nmra.org/nmra-interchange> to log in as a member.

2023 Spring

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:

Robert Hanmer	Glenview, IL	Golden Spike
Robert Hanmer	Glenview, IL	Author
Robert Hanmer	Glenview, IL	Dispatcher
Thomas Cain	Indianapolis, IN	Scenery
Connie Coy	Avon, IN	Cars
John Coy	Avon, IN	Cars

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

2023 Summer **JOHN ROBERT COY BECOMES MMR #730**

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:

Robert Perry	Golden Spike	Avon, IN
Robert Perry	Cars	Avon, IN
Pedro Spicer	Golden Spike	Indianapolis, IN
John Coy	MMR	Avon, IN
Joseph Rodenberg	Volunteer	Indianapolis, IN
Greg Bueltmann	Electrical	Gary, IN

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

2023 Summer

Mid West Region NMRA – Summer 2023

President's Report

Bob McGeever President, MWR

As I was reviewing the listing of BOD members, Division leaders and MWR Committee chairs in preparation for the spring meeting of the Midwest Region Board of Directors, I noticed the MWR is set up for a lot of leadership changes in the next few years.

The Executive Committee:

The Executive Committee is the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Past President. The Executive Committee is responsible for the governance and administration of the region between the meetings of the BOD. The President also serves as the region's representative on the Regional Advisory Council. The RAC is the communication channel between the regional BODs and the national BOD.

The President and Vice President are term limited. They are both in their second and final term which will end at the Spring 2025 Regional BOD meeting. These are elected positions.

The current Secretary and Treasurer have told me they are planning to resign effective the 2025 Spring BOD meeting. These are appointed positions. I will be replacing the current Past President at the Spring 2025 BOD meeting.

A clean sweep of all five positions!

I don't want to sound cynical, but I am not too worried about the elected positions. We have not had a lot of trouble filling them. I am concerned about the appointed positions of Secretary and Treasurer. Both of them are "skilled" positions that require some ramp up time. It would be good to identify the replacements in time to provide real cross training. I know from personal experience we have not been able to do that for the Secretary position and suspect the last Treasurer transition did not have extensive training time.

Committee Chairs:

The Financial Review Chair is vacant. This committee is our internal audit function. I would like to

see it filled in coordination with the appointment of the new Treasurer. The Treasurer and the Financial Review committee must work as a team. Or, since we have not been using this committee for some time, we may want to eliminate it.

The Clinic Clearing House Chair is vacant.

This committee is supposed to be an interchange for clinics that can be made available to the divisions. Now that a clinician can "Zoom in" to a meeting, the pool of potential clinicians is huge. Divisions with a good source of clinics can share the wealth with the rest of the region by supporting this interchange.

The Education Coordinator position is vacant. Recently, this position has been held by the Clinic Clearing House Chair. This position is not listed in our bylaws. The Education Coordinator would develop or coordinate multi-session programs that would be made available to the divisions. Since it is intertwined with the Clinic Clearing House committee, it may be time to assign these duties to that committee.

The Youth Fund Chair is vacant. The MWR has a fund to support youth activities. A division can apply for funds to promote the interest and participation of youth in our hobby. Youth Groups, Rail Schools and "Make & Take" sessions could be supported by this fund. Covid shut down most of this activity. Some divisions are restarting their youth groups and rail schools, so it is time to fill this position.

The Membership Chair will be vacant by June 2025. We have time to train the new chair.

The Convention Chair, the region Photographer, the Photo Contest Chair and Model Contest Chair positions are all vacant. Based on our bylaws, these positions are all intertwined in the Regional Convention process. We need to get our convention process rebuilt. I suspect it will be different from the way we used to do things. For example, most of our divisions do not have the financial ability to pay all the up-front costs associated with a convention so the Region will have to be more involved in the finances. I did not find the Photographer listed in the bylaws. There is a team based in the Michiana Division working on the next convention. Every aspect of what a convention should be and how it will be run is on the table. I will not be looking to fill these positions until we have a working definition of what our convention process will be.

Bob McGeever

2023 Fall

CONGRATULATIONS JIM OSBORN

Editor's Column

Congratulations go to Jim Osborn MMR™ for winning the NMRA's Presidents Award for Service to the Division. This award was started in 2017 and is awarded by the NMRA President to an individual in each Division in a Region who has done outstanding "beyond-the-call-of-duty" work to make his or her local Division effective, engaging and welcoming to members. Individuals are recommended to the NMRA President by the NMRA national; Board of Directors, National Officers, or Region Presidents, as appropriate and preferably always with the guidance of the region Officials.

If anyone deserves this award, it is Jim. I have known him for many years and he is always willing to pitch-in. Congratulations.

2023 Winter



Gordy was born in Scotland and lived in Manchester. A photo of him and the editor at the convention.

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:

Timothy Jones	Galesburg, IL	Golden Spike
Arthur Dawson	Brooklyn, WI	Volunteer
John Dramm	Waunakee, WI	Dispatcher
Gary Baker	Perkin, IL	Scenery
Gary Baker	Perkin, IL	Civil
Robert Perry	Avon, IN	Author

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 four positions for Director-at-Large. This year we have seven candidates for those four positions, meaning your vote is of upmost importance if you want your candidate(s) to win. 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>

Director-At-Large

Ron Clendening

Central Indiana Division

I am asking for your consideration as a Director-at-Large candidate. I have loved model railroading ever since I received a Tyco trainset as a little kid. Between running the wheels off that Santa Fe F unit and growing up just blocks away from McDoel Yard in Bloomington, Indiana (shortly after the Monon

had merged into the L&N), I was all about trains. These days I'm still in HO scale, now modeling the L&N, and I'm passionate about building structures from both kits and scratch. I've been a proud member of the NMRA since 2016

when I joined during the Convention in Indianapolis. My motivations for serving as a director include supporting the mission of the Region, and helping current and prospective members discover the value of being part of the NMRA.

To pay for trains I work for Indiana University where I am the Executive Director of Marketing and Communications for the Kelley School of Business. I am privileged to lead a team of 35 talented individuals as we focus on growing awareness and enrollment for the school. I've spent most of my marketing career in consumer packaged goods working on global brands including Kleenex Facial Tissue and Valvoline Motor Oil. In 2015 I made the move to healthcare joining Indiana University Health where I helped launch the Urgent Care service line and supported Orthopedics and LifeLine before moving to IU in 2019. I have both a bachelors and an MBA from Indiana University but my best connection with IU is that my wife Robin and I met there as undergrads and have been married 28 years. We have two grown children now away in college, and we live in Avon, Indiana with two cats that frequently become apocalyptic creatures on an HO scale layout.

Director-At-Large

Dave Mashino

Central Indiana Division

My name is Dave Mashino. I am married with three children and eight grandchildren. I completed a



tool and die apprenticeship at Delco Electronics in Kokomo, Indiana and earned an associate degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology from Purdue University. After fourteen years



Continued from page 1

with GM, I started a tool design company which after eight years was purchased by Lorentson Manufacturing, a mold builder in Kokomo, IN. After 20 years with Lorentson Mfg. I retired as engineering manager/shop manager here in Kokomo.

I have been interested in Model Railroading for as long as I can remember and have been a member of the NMRA since 2016. Since retiring I have become much more involved in the NMRA. I have served on the Midwest Region Board as a Director-at-Large for the past two years. I am in my second year serving as a Trainmaster in the Central Indiana Division as well as managing the CID's Danville, Indiana train show for 2023. I am participating in the Achievement Program with the goal of someday qualifying as an MMR. I am a member of the Midwestern Model Railroad Club, a round robin club which meets monthly. I am also the superintendent of the Wildcat Valley Railway, my basement empire and part-time(?) job. I would appreciate your vote for Director at Large for the Midwest Region.

Director-At-Large
John Coy MMR#730
Central Indiana Division

Salutations!



Once again, I, John Coy, am asking for your vote for Director-at-Large. I thoroughly enjoy representing all of you on the MWR Board of which I just recently completed a four-year term that ended May 2023 due to term limits. Currently, I serve as the Assistant Superintendent in the Central Indiana Division (CID). I have served for several years for the CID Board. I have done my best to promote the hobby

and the NMRA since joining in August of 2018. I have assisted in putting on multiple events, written many articles and have done everything I could including encouraging others to participate in the Achievement Program and NMRA events. To say that I'm heavily involved would be the understatement of the year. My only regret is not joining the NMRA many years earlier.

I serve as the Clinics Manager for the Region. In the CID, I serve as the longest tenured Member of

the AP Committee, Co-manager for the Avon Train Show and Modeler's Meets. I have served on a Board continuously since joining the NMRA, less my first 90 days. I truly appreciate each and every one of you who has voted for me in previous elections. Please vote for me for Director at Large beginning May 2024! Thank you.

Director-At-Large
John Koehler
Central Indiana Division



Hi, I'm John Koehler, I appreciate the opportunity to run for the D.A.L.. I've been doing trains since I was 6 years old. My dad got me started when he showed me his Standard Trains that he had as a kid. (1939 era). My brother and I went on to build H.O. models which I still have and are being used on my current layout today. (Models are 61 years old now.)

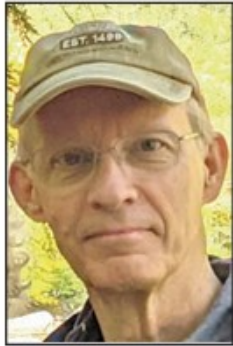
I joined the NMRA 6 years ago and have started getting more and more involved with the Lafayette group and the Indy group of train guys through op. sessions.

I am passionate about the hobby, especially the building of various models, cars, scenery, etc. I cannot tell you how much that I have picked up and learned while talking to other people in the hobby. There was one member who was referred to me to help me with programming DCC. I cannot tell you how much that helped me with what I was trying to do. (I knew nothing about DCC at the time) That's the part I like the most is getting to meet people who love doing this hobby and are willing to help others with ideas to make it more enjoyable.

My various experiences in leadership and positions held in the past include; many church boards, Rotary Board, Vice President and President of the Crawfordsville Rotary, and President of my Life Underwriters Association.

If you would consider and vote for me for the D.A.L. position it would be appreciated.

Thanks for reading,
John Koehler

Director-At-Large**John Poray****Central Indiana Division**

I live in the Plainfield, Indiana area and have been a member of the NMRA since 2008. I started in the hobby at 12 years old with my first, small HO layout. Other layouts came and went. I began my current layout in 2001, which is "proto-freelanced" based on the New York Central System in northern New York State.

I served four years on the board of the Central Indiana Division (CID) beginning in 2019. During that time, I managed the CID Danville Train Show in 2020 (cancelled due to the pandemic), 2021 and 2022. In 2019 I assisted with the Danville Show and oversaw judging of the 100x100 scale square feet model contest. Also that year, I served as a member of the division financial audit committee.

For the Indy Junction 2022, three-region convention, I was responsible for facilities, managing the train show and arranging portable operating layouts. I have hosted tours of my layout during the 2016 NMRA National Convention, Indy Junction 2022, and for two division-sponsored events. I began holding operating sessions in 2022.

Professionally, I served for 44 years in the management of non-profit, membership-based organizations, retiring on December 31, 2020. The last 28 of those years I was executive director of a national professional association of television and radio engineers. My career provided me with the opportunity to work with volunteers, manage events and budgets; experiences that will serve me well as a member of the Midwest Region Board.

The hobby has provided me with much enjoyment. Service to the Midwest Region will provide a way for me to help the hobby grow and advance.

Director-At-Large**Phillip Burnside****Central Indiana Division**

My friends call me the mad scientist because if I see something I like, I design and build a model of

it. I have been an avid model railroad since my father and I starting building models together some 45 years ago. My father and I were active members in the Baltimore Society of Model Engineers throughout the 1980's. I have lived in Avon, IN for eighteen years. I am modeling the present-day steel industry located in Pittsburgh PA.

To build many of the unique scenes I have been using my mechanical engineering knowledge to design and build most of his steel mills on my layout using 3D printing. In addition, I also serve on the Board of Directors for the Steel Mill Models Special Interest Group of the NMRA. I have received several awards for my 3D printed models include the Dean Freytag award for the most unique industrial building at the 2016 NMRA National Convention. This was an animated model of the 1920's blowing engine house for the Edgar Thompson Steel Mill. I also retired from the US Navy August 1st, 2020 after 30 years of service that included a tour on the ground in Iraq. This year I have completed eight certificates for my MMR.

**Director-At-Large****Ron Johnson****Rock River Valley Division**

I live in Rockford, IL and belong to the Rock River Valley Division. I've been a model railroader in my heart and imagination since childhood, but more active within my Division and in the creation of the Spokane Portland and Seattle Railroad in my home during the last twenty years. We didn't have enough room for a railroad in my childhood home, though I did build a tiny HO "layout" about 20" X 30" which sat on my desk. It had one circle with about a 14" curve at either end. But I had fun and it kept my interest for over 40 years even if only in my imagination. I retired from 26 years of HS teaching in 1997 and then waited another



Continued on page 9

Ron Johnson Continued

er 20 years or so before I joined the RRVD and began building the SP&S in my basement.

I've been active in the Rock River Valley Division for about twenty years serving on the board in one capacity or another. For many years, I organized what we called the Young Engineers where kids from ages seven to young teens could build a "blue box" box, flat, hopper, etc car with the help of one of our division members and a relative during our annual train show. I also have served as the clinician chairman in our division to the present. In 2016, I was the chairman of the RRVD committee which organized the Midwest Region Convention in Rockford.

A bunch of other men, the 13 year old grandson of an attendee and my adult daughter and I run trains once a month during my SP&S operation. I love my model railroading obsession. I am most interested in finding a way to interest model railroading to young people including children and young adults. I love my model railroading obsession.



Above: Mike Hirvela and Gordy Robinson MMR® at the NMRA booth at the show. Mike is vice president of the Midwest Region as well as superintendent of the Fox Valley Division.

Left and Right: A sampling of some of the models on display. There were two rooms devoted to models. The models do not have to be finished, many work-in-progress examples were shown.

2024 Spring



Sharing the hobby at senior communities.. Above L to R: Dr. Robert Perry, Sidney Eisgruber (not NMRA Member), Connie Coy and John Coy



Senior Community Merry Christmas! Connie Coy & Bob Perry.

2024 Summer

Hoping For History by John Robert Coy MMR®

This is a request for help. As some of you are aware, I'm working on a major project that is in harmony with the fact we are steadily moving closer to the NMRA's 90th milestone anniversary which occurs over Labor Day weekend 2025.

My target project was searching and linking the Bios of Master Model Railroaders to their respective names on the online list. That evolved into compiling interesting historical facts beginning in 1935 with the creation of the NMRA. Things such as: the first newsletter, who were the first leaders, what was the purpose, etc. In addition, learning things about where the Headquarters was and the building constructed in Chattanooga, TN.. When did the Achievement Program start? Who's idea was it? Who was the first AP Chair? These are just a few tidbits of firsts and beginnings.

I would be interested in learning from you any firsts or interesting trivia about NMRA history. If there anything you'd like to share with me, please write to: Indycop999@mail.com

I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

John Coy, MMR® #730

2024 Fall Connie Coy, 1st lady MMR in MWR & Jim Allen MMRS!

Editor's Column

.....Congratulations on the two newest MMR's from the region, Connie Coy MMR763 (see page 9 for more) and Jim Allen MMR 765. Jim is a member of the Fox Valley Division and a fantastic modeler, with a very distinct style of modeling. He has an eye for detail and his models have a lot of subtle nuances that add to the effect. Not to mention that he is an expert in weathering, using all sorts of medium. I can usually spot one of his models from across the room.

2024 Fall CONNIE COY FIRST MMR LADY in MWR and CID

1st Lady MMR in the MWR and CID! by Robert Coy MMR

There have been many Master Model Railroaders in the history of the Midwest Region,



Picture of Connie being presented her plaque by Bob McGeever.

Photo of Bob McGeever, Connie and John Coy while Connie holds her plaque.



All photos by Bob Perry Sr. and Bob Perry Jr..

which is an original Region of the NMRA. Today, Saturday, August 3, 2024, marked a historic moment in the history of the Midwest Region and its Central Indiana Division as a lady, Connie Coy, became the first lady in MWR / CID history to earn an MMR 763.

Connie Coy (12th overall lady MMR NMRA) of Avon was formally presented her MMR plaque by MWR President Bob McGeever at the Franklin, Indiana, train show which was held at the Johnson County Fairgrounds on Saturday, August 3, 2024.

In addition, Connie and John Coy became the 1st married couple (5th overall NMRA) in the MWR/CID to earn MMRs.

Lastly, here is a never seen before image as the three other MMRs in the CID witnessed Connie being formally recognized. All five MMRs of the CID are pictured in order that they earned their respective MMR's. The CID has several other people closing in their on MMR!



Picture of five MMR's
Dan Hinel #700, John Coy, #730, Phillip Burnside, #754,
Thomas Cain #755 and Connie Coy #763.

2024 Fall John Coy RECEIVED NMRA PRESIDENT'S AWARD



CID Member receives prestigious NMRA President's Award by Connie Coy MMR MWR Secretary

On August 17, 2024, at the CID Board's Annual Picnic and Meeting, Superintendent Dan Banks presented the prestigious President's award to John Coy, MMR#730, for his work on the history of all Master Model Railroaders from the beginning of the AP program to the present. NMRA President Gordy Robinson provided Dan with the award and Gordy's own words of congratulation which honored John's tireless work. This work included researching every MMR and included connecting biographical information and photographs of each MMR that can now be found online.

2024 Winter

ELECTION BIOS

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

Midwest Region NMRA



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



Waybill Winter 2024 page 4

2024 Winter

ELECTION BIOS

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.

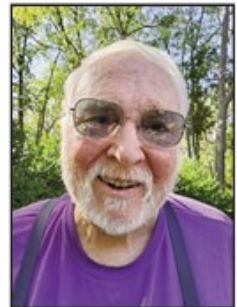
I am currently a past Directors at Large. I will do whatever I can to help in this position as Vice President of the Midwest Region.

**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.

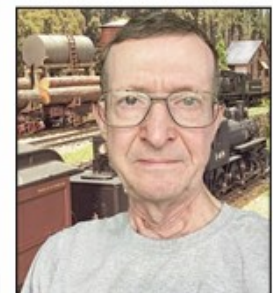
So, if you feel I have done an adequate job as MWR VP, I would appreciate your vote for Director-At-Large. But, if you feel otherwise, make your choice known when the ballot comes around.

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-

Mark Faust continued from previous page.



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.

Six MMR's® Sitting on a Bench

By David J. Leider MMR®

You would expect to see a half dozen MMR's at regional or national NMRA conventions. But to have six at a historical society convention has to be quite rare. But that is exactly what happened at the recent Soo Line Historical & Technical Society convention in Escanaba, Michigan. Even more remarkable is the fact that many of the attendees were not NMRA members or modelers. But the modelers we have are very talented. We do not have a traditional contest, but rather everyone brings their models to display and talk about them in the Modelers Show & Tell. The modeling expertise is very apparent. There are two more MMR's in the society who were not able to attend. They are Ralph Wehlitz, MMR# 191 and Bob Wundrock, MMR# 446.

All are members of the Midwest Region except David Leider who is in the Sunshine Region. We are posed in front of the Upper Michigan Central Model Railroad Club in Escanaba, Michigan.



Pictured from left to right are Emory Luebke MMR #669, SLH&TS archivist; Marv Preussler MMR #432, SLH&TS consultant; Mark Preussler MMR #442, SLH&TS magazine editor; Steve Miazga MMR #692 SLH&TS Convention chairperson; David Leider MMR # 413, SLH&TS president and Waybill editor and Dr. Gregg Condon MMR #537 former SLH&TS board member. Photo by Gerry Wojo (Woitalewicz).

NMRA Birthday Party

By John Coy MMR®

Ladies and Gentlemen: Happy 89th Birthday to the NMRA!

On Sunday, September 1st, 2024, Members of the Central Indiana Division gathered at the MCL Cafeteria in Carmel, Indiana to celebrate the 89th birthday of the NMRA. At the beginning of the event, Superintendent Dan Banks presented Dave Mashino with an AP Award for Structures. Member Newman Atkinson brought a 50 year anniversary train and Member Pedro Spicer brought a commemorative boxcar. Assistant Superintendent John Coy gave those present a paper which had the photo of the very first NMRA meeting / creation at the YMCA in Milwaukee, WI, and the other side had the image of the list of our 71 Charter Members.

John also gave the following speech:



Today, we are assembled to commemorate yet another remarkable milestone in our history! 89 years. It is with immense gratitude and thanks that I stand before you to congratulate those first 71 NMRA Members and all of you who have contributed to the NMRA's incredible journey of growth and success.

From our exceptionally humble beginnings in a Milwaukee, WI, YMCA, we have grown into a thriving, resilient and successful organization, thanks to the unwavering dedication, hard work, and innovative spirit of our Members. Each one of you has played an

2024 Winter

Happy 89th Birthday to the NMRA!



important role in shaping our success story.

Over the years, we have faced numerous challenges. We faced some exceptionally difficult times in the early 1940s. We were literally pushed to the brink of extinction.

However, our resilience and commitment got us through those challenging times.

We, from day 1, began developing and then setting standards in the model railroad industry. We have also developed and facilitated fellowship among our Members. Those were our two primary focuses and goals in our creation on Sept 1st, 1935.

OUR success is a testament to our collective efforts and the firm foundation established 89 long years ago.

As we look forward toward our milestone 90th year in 2025, let us continue to strive even harder for the betterment of the hobby. We will embrace innova



tion, uplift our energy and effort, and continue to create many more successes.

Congratulations and THANK YOU to each and every one of you for your dedication and hard work. FOR WITHOUT YOU, THERE IS NO NMRA. I look forward to many more years of success and growth! Thank you."

Lastly, Member Eric Peterson and his wife, Pat, were gracious enough to invite everyone to their home to tour Eric's wonderful 2-rail O scale layout. A good time was had by all!