

# President's Car December, 2007

## New leadership for the Education Department

You may have heard that Dick Flock found it necessary to resign as Education Department Manager at the conclusion of the Detroit National Convention. Dick is an NMRA super-volunteer, an extremely hard worker, and has been a friend for over 30 years, and I am sorry to lose him from our team.

We immediately began a search for new leadership for this vital and active department, and I am pleased to be able to introduce to you the new Education Department Manager, John M. Lowrance, MMR, and his new Assistant Manager, Fred M. Bock, MMR.

## John Lowrance, MMR

John, a resident of San Antonio, Texas, has been an NMRA member since 1971 and has served as Lone Star Region President and National Trustee. He also served as the Southern Area Vice President under the old system, and was a member of the NMRA Audit Committee. He was awarded Master Model Railroader certificate #150 in May, 1989.

John is a past President of the San Antonio Model Railroad Association (SAMRA), and is currently chair of the association's Layout Management Committee. That committee's mission is to supervise the design and building of SAMRA's new 3000-square-foot HO model railroad in the Bob Clarke Rail Heritage Museum. The layout will represent and interpret the rail-related industries of Texas.

A 1968 graduate of Oklahoma State University with degrees in Psychology and Business, John recently retired from a 40-year career with the U.S. Air Force Civil Service. He worked over the years as social worker and a drug and alcohol counselor, and was in later years responsible to the Secretary and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force for all things related to fundraising, US Savings Bonds, and voting in the Air Force. He managed hundreds of volunteer voting and campaign officers scattered through the Air Force around the world.

John is well known for his accomplishments in the model railroading world. He is the author of numerous articles, and his modeling and photography has been featured on the covers of the *Bulletin*, *Model Railroader*, and *Railroad Model Craftsman*, along with other publications. His former HO scale layout, the New York & New London Western RR, was the subject of several articles, and was also featured in the world's first nationally distributed model railroad CD-ROM interactive program, "West of Union Station."

John has been a featured guest host on the nationally televised series, *Workin' on the Railroad*, that aired in 2005 and 2006 on the national cable TV Do It Yourself Network. He has been an instructor with the Model Railroad University, and has done countless workshop clinic presentations at many major train events, including the NMRA National Convention, NMRA regional conventions, the Milwaukee Train Fest, and the National Narrow Gauge and National O Scale conventions.

Many of you are probably familiar with John's New London Industries, which produces and markets stencils and instructional DVDs for backdrop painting.

## **Fred Bock, MMR**

Frederick M. Bock IV is also a resident of San Antonio. Fred first joined the NMRA in 1961, and has been a member continuously since 1994. He has served the NMRA Lone Star Region as past and current Director of LSR Division 6 (South Texas). He was awarded Master Model Railroader certificate #361 in December, 2005.

Fred is currently VP-Engineering and Chief Dispatcher of Tom Crosthwait's Mogollon & Southwestern RR. He is a former Board Member, Secretary, newsletter editor and website developer for SAMRA. It was his proposal in October 1995 that SAMRA dissolve as a social association and re-form as a 501(c)3 educational and historical tax-exempt corporation, and Fred successfully guided SAMRA, Inc. to its current tax-exempt status in February 1997.

Fred is currently a member of the Alamo Model Railroad Engineers, San Antonio N-Trak Association (SANTRAK), Gulf & Western Modular Model Railroad Society, and Club Amigos de Ferrocarril de San Luis Potosi, SLP, Mexico.

Fred has a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of California (Berkeley), 1969; a Master's in Electrical Engineering from the University of New Hampshire, 1972; and a PhD in information systems from the Graduate School of Business of the University of Texas (Austin), 1987.

In June, 1993, Fred retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army (Medical Department) after 22 years of service in biomedical R&D and medical information systems development. He served as Chief Information Officer (CIO) for two biomedical R&D laboratories, and is an Honor Graduate of the U.S. Army Command & General Staff College. A disabled veteran, Fred was awarded the Legion of Merit.

Fred retired for the second time in August, 2005, as an Associate Professor (Information Systems), HEB School of Business, The University of the Incarnate Word (UIW), San Antonio, Texas after eight years of full-time teaching at the undergraduate (BBA) and graduate (MBA) levels.

Fred is a Railroading Merit Badge Counselor with the Boy Scouts of America, and is a Life Member of the National Eagle Scouts Association. He is co-developer, with M&SW President Tom Crosthwait, of a multimedia/hands-on “Operations 101” course for novice model railroad operators; the “Letter from America” columnist for the *Model Railway Enthusiast* magazine (Great Britain); and has established a liaison/exchange program between the LSR and model railroading and railfan clubs in Monterrey, San Luis Potosi, Aguascalientes, and Guadalajara, Mexico.

I’m sure you’ll want to join me in welcoming these two gentlemen to the team. We are certainly pleased to be the recipients of their volunteer efforts. I’m sure you’ll be hearing more from them later!

### **Thank you, Jan Wescott**

After Dick’s resignation, I was under the gun to find his successor. Fortunately, Jan Wescott, former Manager of the Education Department, agreed to serve as Acting Education Manager while continuing in her current role as Member Services Manager. She has been doing double duty since the end of the Detroit convention, and in her spare time led the successful search for the new Education leadership team.

I can’t begin to tell you how thankful I am to Jan for her willingness to jump in and do what needed to be done. I don’t think she could help herself – she’s just that kind of person. Jan, the entire NMRA owes you one, maybe more, for your cheerful competence, your generosity, and your cooperative attitude.

**Mike**