



NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

The NMRA advances the worldwide scale model railroading community through education and standards as well as advocacy and fellowship.

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About that ballot

You have probably learned by now that the 2009 NMRA ballot that was sent out in the March *SCALE RAILS* was declared invalid because it could not be validated. Validation is an important part of the voting process, since it is how we make sure that each NMRA election is fair and proper.

After we determined that a printer's error was responsible for the lack of a peel-off mailing label, we immediately began making arrangements to have a new ballot distributed by mail to NMRA members around the world. We are very grateful for the efforts of the HQ staff in making this happen, as well as the membership staffs of the Australian, British, and Canadian NMRA offices.

The new ballots must be postmarked by May 1, 2009, and in the hands of the independent ballot-counting committee by May 15. The results will be a little late, but we can all have confidence that the integrity of the membership's vote has been maintained.

Convention survey

I had hoped to have some results to you this month from the web-based convention survey we conducted a few months ago, but my deadline has arrived too soon for me to use the information this month. I will get it to you in the May issue, along with the names of the winners of the drawing that was conducted in conjunction with the survey.

Tom Draper stepping down

At the recently completed Board of Directors' meeting in Orlando, Tom Draper, NMRA Treasurer for 27 years, announced that he will be retiring from that position at the end of his current term in Hartford in July 2009. Tom will still continue in his position as chair of the National Train Show.

Recognizing that the treasurer function has grown over the years into a job that is really too much to expect any one individual



NMRA President Mike Brestel

(other than Superman) to perform in the future, the Board intends to break the job into several smaller, more manageable parts. I will keep you informed as this all develops over the next few months.

In the meantime, allow me to mention what a tremendous debt of gratitude we all owe Tom for nearly three decades of service in a tough job that has grown ever more demanding as the government's standards for non-profit financial reporting have become more exacting. Tom has been very vocal about the need for the NMRA to maintain a high standard in its accounting over the years, and the organization has passed every independent annual audit that has been performed during the years of his service.

In addition, Tom undertook and completed the Herculean task of reconstructing the NMRA's books and accounting system when he came back for his second round as treasurer during Allen Pollock's presidential term.

I have been a treasurer and I have worked with many treasurers over the four decades of my service to the NMRA and to other non-profit organizations, and I can say that I have never worked with another treasurer who was more prepared or more knowledgeable, or who had the interest of the organization more at heart than has Tom.

Tom, of behalf of all those who know what you've done for and meant to the NMRA over all the years of your dedicated service, thank you.

Membership: NMRA membership dues are \$55 (U.S. currency) per year, of which \$19 covers subscription to the official publication, *SCALE RAILS* and *NMRA BULLETIN*®. Address all membership applications, renewals, notices of non-receipt (issues that have been lost or delayed in the mail), or other business matters to the headquarters office. Back issues of *SCALE RAILS* are available while supplies last from the Kalmbach Memorial Library at Chattanooga — contact the library regarding availability and pricing.