



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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Thank you, Allen!

You have probably heard by now that Vice President Allen Pollock is resigning at the Milwaukee Convention. I don't think anyone, not even Allen himself, realizes the full extent of his commitment to and involvement with the NMRA over the past three to four decades. He has gotten very vague when I have pressed him for details of his service, and I think that's due partly to his innate modesty and partly to the fact that he just can't remember everything he's done for the NMRA over all those years.

After serving for ten years as VP, then another four as President, Allen could have been excused for retiring to his estate in Jefferson City, Missouri. But in 2007, the Board had to find someone to serve as VP, and for some reason Allen decided to come back to fill that role again. He has not been a figurehead, but has been an active and dynamic officer and member of the NMRA Administrative team. And when I had to undergo surprise open-heart surgery early in 2008, Allen stepped right in and fulfilled the role of President while I was out of the picture.

All of us who have had the pleasure of working with him are grateful to Allen for his industry, his counsel, his honesty, his experience, and, above all, his friendship. Rather than my going on any longer, I asked him if he would like to take one last opportunity to address the membership, as he has done so many times in the past. Here's what he has to say:

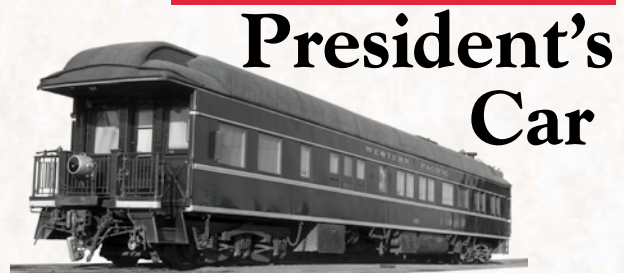
Dear members and friends,

I would like to thank Mike for allowing me the opportunity to have this last chance to address the membership in an official capacity as an officer of NMRA. I am resigning my position as the NMRA Vice President concurrent with the Milwaukee convention. I have enjoyed serving the membership as your President, as well as Vice President for Presidents Eric Lundberg, Bob Charles, and now Mike Brestel. I have to say that most of the time it has been a real honor and pleasure to hold these offices and serve the membership of the NMRA. There were times when I wished I could have been pretty much anywhere else, but thankfully time tends to erase the unpleasant incidents that naturally occur occasionally during the tenure of such positions.

The decision to resign has not been an easy one, but there is an overriding and compelling reason for my taking this action at this time. Mike has told everyone who would listen that he has no plans to run for another term as President, and I have no desire to run again for that office. I do not believe that it would be beneficial for the membership and the business of the NMRA to have both the President and the Vice President vacate their offices at the same time. Therefore, it is time to allow the Board of Directors to deliberate and choose a replacement, one who I hope will have the desire to run for President at some point in the future. My replacement will have the next two years to work with the Administrative team and the membership to prepare him- or herself for the assumption to the office of President, and to allow a smooth transition in the operations of the association. Because I know from my own experience that this time for preparation is vital to our success, I am more than willing to help the new Vice President in any capacity that he or she might desire.

There are certainly other factors that have weighed in my decision, not the least of which are the medical situations and health issues in my family. My decision was actually made prior to the loss of our son, Willie, but this too was a major factor. I have also desired more time to devote to the running of the model businesses in which I am involved. In addition, the grandkids are asking Poppa A when he is going to have the layout in operation. It is also time for new

(text continues on page 6)



NMRA President Mike Brestel

Membership: NMRA membership dues are \$58 (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.

(continued from page 3)

volunteers to get involved in handling the workings of the NMRA, and to supply a new and fresh look at solving the issues that need to be addressed. While stepping down from this position, I plan to stay involved with the Honors Committee and the Museum Committee as long as the administration allows. It is hard to determine if the day-to-day grind will be missed, but I suspect not!

Looking back on all these years of involvement, I can tell you that the number one benefit of my time in office has been having the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people, getting to know fellow model railroaders and their families from all over the world, visiting their railroad world and discussing our favorite topics, railroading and otherwise. I will carry these friendships for the rest of my life.

I am struggling to find the words of wisdom to leave behind. My best advice is that the NMRA is a constantly evolving body, both in terms of its members, and its desire to fulfill its mission. Whatever is set in motion today will undoubtedly be revised and improved in the future. One of the best and most constant assets of the NMRA is the dedicated and highly competent office staff. They fulfill their mission and duty with great dedication to the membership. However, most of the work of the NMRA is done by our many volunteers, who spend countless hours and untold effort in service to the membership.

If you see a problem area, the best way

to get some attention and resolution to the situation is to step up and volunteer to work in that specific area. You might get involved by starting with the local area, because someone in the Division knows someone at the Region, who knows someone at the National level. So an introduction isn't that hard to accomplish. By starting at the Division level, you not only work your way to the National, but you also contribute to the activities and actions of the Division. I have the long-standing belief, and it has proven itself time after time during my time in office, that the basic delivery of services to our members is at the Division level. These are the faces and names that you first encounter, and this is where the greatest rewards of NMRA membership are to be gained. This is not to downplay the rewards obtained at the Regional and National level, but it is here that the "rubber meets the road" for the vast majority of the membership.

Here's a bit of advice for the old hands at the Division level: At the next meeting, seek out the new and unfamiliar faces in attendance. Make them feel welcome so that they will join, participate, and make return visits to your functions. I have seen too many letters from members and prospective members stating that they sat alone, unnoticed, at a Division meeting or event. Making visitors feel welcome and appreciated is one of the greatest actions that we as members can take. Get your members who are the most outgoing to form a welcoming committee to seek out the new folks, make them welcome, and get them involved. Folks tend not to volunteer, especially in a group of

strangers, but personally asking them to join with you to do some of the needed tasks most certainly gets a more positive response.

Again, I want to thank the membership not only for the opportunity to serve you in the various positions that I have held, but also for the support that you have given to me. It has been most appreciated and welcomed. I will always be reminded of that when visiting those I have been fortunate to share a friendship with here in the United States as well as in the many other countries I have visited while representing the NMRA. While this message is a farewell to office holding, it is not a farewell to the activities of either the NMRA or other railroad functions. I hope to see you, and meet new friends, at the next activity.

I encourage you to consider attending the 75th Anniversary NMRA convention in Milwaukee, as I am aware of many new and different activities in the works, along with the standard fare items. We not only have 75 years of our past to celebrate, we have an entire future to build. I hope you'll be there with me as we advance into our next 75 years!

Allen

Thanks for everything, Allen. Your "retirement" is well deserved. I'm sure we'll all look forward to your continued counsel and involvement, as well as to seeing you at many NMRA and modeling events in the years to come.



NMRANET

The table on page 41 of the June issue was somewhat garbled. Below is the

correct presentation of the table as it should have appeared in the article by Didrik Voss.

Our apologies for any confusion we may have caused by the previous chart. - SMP

Feature	Computer Based	NMRANET
Action by Pushbutton, block detector	The connected Node sends one message to computer through the bus or the Computer queries each device or Node. The computer then sends a command to each output device (turnout, signal, panel light) affected. This results in one to hundreds of commands being sent across the bus.	The connected Node sends one Event Number across the bus. All affected devices (turnouts, signals, panel lights) change as desired.
Logic of Device operations	Stored in Computer(s) connected to the layout	Stored in lookup tables in each Node.
Store existing states and actions based on these states	Virtually unlimited	Limited. A computer can be used to extend this capability
Device Relationships	Centralized Control	Peer to Peer, Decentralized Control
Signal Access on Bus	Uses CSMA/CD or Polling with reduced Bandwidth Working @ 56kb or less	Priority within packet With no loss of Bandwidth. A Control Area Network Working @ 125kb (1000 to 2000 pkts/sec)