

**National Model Railroad Association**  
**BOD Meeting**  
**2008 Mid-Year Meeting**  
17 – 19 January 2008  
Holiday Inn North, Atlanta, GA  
Minutes

- 1) Vice-President Pollock acting for the recuperating President Brestel called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM, July 20, 2007
- 2) The roll was called. With the exception of the EDD Feeney, whose plane was running late, all were present.
- 3) CDD Thornton corrected the Minutes of the July 2007 meeting at Item (6) to reflect that the Host Committee, not himself, reported on GLE 2007. MBOD 011701 was then moved by ALWD Koester to approve of the Minutes of the previous meeting as corrected. Motion approved on voice vote.
- 4) At 7:44 PM, the meeting was recessed until 8:00 AM 18 January 2008 to allow for Director's executive caucus and Operations Committee meeting. EDD Feeney arrived during the executive caucus and was present thereafter.
- 5) The meeting reconvened at 8:06 AM 18 January 2008.
- 6) CDD Thornton, as Audit Committee Chair, passed out Disclosure forms for attendees to complete and return to him.
- 7) Department and Committee reports:
  - EDUCDM Lowrance reports that Bob Hamm, MMR, has taken over the Contest Committee Chair for the late Ray Bilodeau, and Mike Evans will serve as Assistant Contest Chair.
  - FRDM Cason reported that since his report, the Contribution letter had been sent out by ADM Hendricks. The February 2008 issue of *Scale Rails* will carry an article in the Bulletin section on the subject of members considering the NMRA in their wills.
  - HDMCC Roberts deferred to Charlie Getz who reported on Howell Day Museum and California State Railroad Museum (CSRM); CSRM and the developer are finalizing setup. The gallery exhibits are ready to go forward with plans and design. Mr. Getz reviewed the space possibility considerations. Sacramento may still be five years off for museum, but the Gallery will probably be sooner. He also indicated that CSRM may want to rebuild the roundhouse on the property.
  - KMLM Lambert reported that Thomas Mossbeck has resigned and that he is interviewing candidates for the position.
  - MSPDM Wescott noted some staff changes: Paul Myers, MMR, will be taking over the 100% Club Program Manager position while Chuck Diljak, former manager will continue as the Departments Database Program Manager and Rodney Fredericks will take over the Pike Registry.

- MSTDM Jordan reported that Syracuse, a possible third location for 2013 has withdrawn. Atlanta and Pittsburg are now the candidates for 2013 and will make presentations at the annual meeting in Anaheim. The Board meeting will start Friday before the convention. The convention committee is moving to consider more non-bus tours. Mr. Jordan may ask the BOD to consider change of venue for meetings and clinics to reduce expenses.

- Nominating Committee Chair Roberts reported that Bob Beaty, MMR, has resigned from the Committee. The ballot has gone forward and will be in the February 2008 issue of *Scale Rails*.

- PDM deYoung reports he has reached terms with White River on advertising solicitation for *Scale Rails*.

- PDD Jensen reported that the Australasian group sends its best wishes for quick recovery to Mike Brestel. He also expressed the Region's thanks to Jenny Hendricks and Brent Lambert for HQ's service to Australasian Region.

- CAND Kooning reported on the success of the bulk mail drop of *Scale Rails* to Canada; now members are getting their copies within or on the first week of the month – big success. There are still problems with bulk mail shipping costs.

- SCDM Voss briefly discussed the arguments among large scale groups on the socket for DCC. He also provided an update on his exchange with the editor of *Model Railroad News* regarding Standards.

8) MBOD 011702 ALNAD Getz moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Motion approved on voice vote.

9) Budget & Finance: The Board held a long discussion regarding the future of NTS with particular concern about the size, location and whether to hold it with or without the convention.

- After discussion about the inventory of Heritage and Living Legend cars and older books the consensus of the Board was to sell off cars that are more than two (2) years old and books that are more than three (3) years old. After discussion of declining car sales it was agreed to put Heritage and Living Legend cars on hiatus after the current run. This will not cancel the project, but would suspend activity for a few years. It was suggested that MSPDM Wescott and Secretary Gangwish work out a way to send out an email to members to remind them to check with the Company Store on available cars.

- Concern was raised by EDD Feeny on the practice of “escheating” whereby checks issued to members and others that may not have been cashed for over a year are supposed to be handed over to the respective State where the recipient lives. Many States are now going after this possible source of revenue. ALNAD Getz suggested putting a stop order on any check that is not cashed within a year and renewing the stop order as needed.

10) MBOD 011703 EDD Feeny moved to approve the Financial Reports with thanks to Tom Draper, HLM, DSA, Jenny Hendricks and the other folks that worked on the Reports. Motion approved on voice vote.

- 11) MSTDM Jordan asked for Board confirmation of his proposed policy on Commercial Clinics. This is a modification of the NMRA Convention Handbook which defines a Commercial Clinic as one put on by a company or persons sponsoring a product to introduce a product and/or help individuals in the use of a specific brand product. The commercial clinic discussion also addressed clinic sales of merchandise at the convention which was outlined in the convention handbook. It was agreed that if clinic sales at the convention were permitted, a fee would be charged. The specific change was the addition of a section under the topic of Clinic limitations, disclosure and fees to wit, the addition of a paragraph to #8 “A fee may be charged for commercial clinics to cover support services, meeting space, and audio/visual equipment rental or usage. The fee will be pro-rated for the period of use of support services, meeting space and equipment use.” There were no other changes to the language of the Handbook, which is available from the Secretary on request. After discussion, the policy was approved by the Board.
- 12) The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:45 AM.
- 13) The meeting reconvened at 12:30 PM.
- 14) The Board members discussed an update to the New Member Info Pack. The Board needs to decide whether contents should include Regulations; the pack currently contains the out-of-date Constitution and Bylaws. It was decided that a new CD should be done after working up department revisions like those for Standards & Conformance Department.
- 15) ALNAD Getz reported on work with Large Scale group. They are still trying to work with some of the large scale groups – the Committee is still running into resistance. A report will be made to the Board at Anaheim on progress. Di Voss will have information at Anaheim regarding on-board power and radio control for large scale.
- 16) President’s Convention Committee Report. There was no official report as Mr. Brestel could not be present. Mr. Pollock discussed some of the work for an administrative review in keeping with MBOD 010711.
- 17) PDD Jensen presented the Report from the BOD Convention Committee. Board members discussed some of the contents of the report. PDD Jensen asked that the Board members review the report and give him feedback electronically by February 29, 2008. One of the recommendations in the Report was to conduct a formal survey of members, both those who attend and non-attendees.
- 18) MBOD 011704 ALNAD Getz moved, with EDD Feeney, that an appropriation of up to \$1,000 to conduct a convention survey as set forth at page 19, “Key Recommendations” of the Report of the BOD Convention Committee to the January 2008 Board meeting, said funds to be charged to the Meeting & Trade Show budget, for the purposes set forth in the Report. Motion passed by voice vote.
- 19) The Board discussed several other aspects of the BOD Convention Committee Report including possible changes in the Company Store, problems with Clinic

Books (specifically whether we could put the book on CD rather than paper format, thus allowing for inclusion of clinic material closer to the convention than the months in advance needed for a print publication).

- 20) MBOD 011705 ALNAD Getz moved to accept the Board of Directors Convention Committee Report. Motion passed by voice vote.
- 21) Acting President Pollock reported on the efforts of the Webmaster to update the NMRA website appearance and content. Those present with wireless connection were able to bring up the test site for viewing (<http://test.nmra.org/>). The Board approved of the changes and Mr. Pollock will advise Tim Klevar, Webmaster, to proceed with the changeover at the earliest feasible date. Mr. Pollock also reported that the alias list now allows attachments; the concerns for virus and spam attacks are being minimized.
- 22) The Board recessed at 3:00 PM and reconvened at 3:15 PM
- 23) Acting President Pollock reported that the search for a CIO (head of Information Technology Department) is still in process and some possible candidates are being considered, but nothing is ready for action at this time.
- 24) The Board requested information on Succession Plans for key positions in the organization.
  - Treasurer: Tom Draper reported that short-term, Frank Koch is fully aware of the accounting system and can access information if necessary. The data is being backed up routinely with copy at NMRA Headquarters as well as at Mr. Draper's home on a separate drive. Long term there is no successor at this time. Mr. Draper reported that for the NTS, Henry Jordan is the backup in a managerial position.
  - National Train Show Chairman: Henry Jordan reported that for the Convention, Tom Draper is the backup in a managerial position. He also indicated that James Lupfer could assume the duties for the detail operations of the NTS.
  - National Convention: Henry Jordan indicated that Jim Thompson could handle Legal and Ed Slintak could handle the detail operations of the Convention. The registration program is in MS Access form at Headquarters and is backed up daily, but is in need of off-site storage. It is also backed up in Washington, DC at Mr. Jordan's home.
  - Education Department Manager John Lowrance, MMR, reported that Fred Bock, MMR, was appointed as his assistant and backup.
  - Standards & Conformance has Ed McCamey who can take over if necessary.
  - Publications has Doug Watts of LSR who could step in.
  - Development can be handled by Allen Pollock.
  - Membership Services & Promotion Department can be handled by Gerry Leone, MMR, Assistant Department Manager.
  - MAP: Jim Zinser could assume duties if needed.

- Howell Day Museum: Charlie Getz can handle if John Roberts, MMR, HLM is unavailable.

- Nominating Committee: Jim Zinser, MMR, can handle if Mr. Roberts is unavailable.

- Headquarters, "Modeling With The Masters" and the Secretary do not have anyone in line for succession at the moment.

- 25) With regard to the Board question of "what next?" It was discussed that an immediate action would be the development of a membership promotion plan to pass 20,000 members. One possible approach would be to place ads in AARP *Modern Maturity* magazine. Another suggestion, which the Secretary was asked to work with the Webmaster on possibility, was getting our website prominently placed with some of the search engines such as Google, Ask.com and similar.
- 26) MBOD 011706 [MBOD A] RACD Ferguson moved to amend Regulations, Article VIII, Section 4, paragraph 2 concerning region and division officers. Text of the motion is included as Appendix B. Motion passed on voice vote.
- 27) MBOD B by ADD Clarke in the agenda package was discussed, but no vote was deemed necessary. The Board gave approval of the proposed changes within the British Region.
- 28) MBOD 011707 [MBOD C] CAND Kooning moved to endorse the decision for a new working group in the S&C Department to be called the NMRA Net Working Group. The text of this motion is Appendix C to these minutes. Motion approved on voice vote.
- 29) MBOD 011708 CAND Kooning moved to accept the adoption of the DCC 21 pin connector and to include its definitions in RP-9.1.1. Motion passed on voice vote.
- 30) MBOD 011709 CAND Kooning moved to accept the adoption of the DCC PluX pin connector and to include its definition in RP-9.1.1. Motion passed on voice vote.
- 31) MBOD 011710 EDD Feeney moved approval of the 2007 NMRA election results and the destruction of ballots from that election. Motion passed on voice vote.
- 32) MBOD 011711 CDD Thornton moved that a complete audit (as defined by EDD Kevin Feeney) including a legal analysis, analysis of fund distribution and fund handling procedures be conducted on the books of the NMRA, NTS and NMRC for the fiscal years September 1, 2006 – August 31, 2007 and September 1, 2007 – December 31, 2007 by a new auditor approved by the Audit Committee.. Motion passed on voice vote with abstentions by ADD Clarke and WDD Hale.
- 33) MBOD 011712 RACD Ferguson moved that the following be added to the Executive Handbook, D.1.1 – President: "9. The NMRA President shall prepare and transmit a monthly report detailing the business of the Association which has transpired during the previous month. This report shall be prepared by the

15<sup>th</sup> of each month and shall be emailed to every member of the Board of Directors.” Motion approved on voice vote.

- 34) MBOD 011713 RACD Ferguson moved that the Board of Directors formally direct the Administration Department and the NMRA Treasurer to cease and desist the use of the term “Member with NMRA Scale Rails” and “Member w/Subscription Dues” on all printed matter. Motion passed on voice vote.
- 35) Motions referred to in the Agenda package as I, J, K, L and M, were withdrawn, to be re-introduced at the Annual Board meeting in July under old or unfinished business..
- 36) Meeting recessed at 5:40 PM to reconvene at Chattanooga Headquarters on January 19, 2008, should there be additional business.
- 37) The meeting reconvened at 2:50 PM, January 19, 2008 at NMRA Headquarters.
- 38) Allen Pollock reported that the Pacesetters had \$18,000 in their account and wished to transfer this to the Howell Day Museum account and close out the Pacesetter account.
- 39) MBOD 011714 ALNAD Getz moved approval of the transfer of funds from Pacesetter account to Howell Day Museum account. Motion passed on voice vote.
- 40) PDD Jensen reported that a review of the registration package indicated that the process is looking better. As long as it can be quantified in financial records the process should be workable.
- 41) Board members discussed a possible look at the Narrow Gauge approach to conventions; mix of tours using personal vehicles as well as busses. Look at convention models that provide options for a fixed rate and for “Cadillac” tours that might have all sorts of amenities.
- 42) Meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM in honor of Ray Bilodeau.
- 43) Special thanks were given to the home office staff for hosting the Board, Officers and Department Managers during their visit to Headquarters.
- 44) On return from Chattanooga the Board of Directors went into executive session.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert V. Gangwish,  
Secretary

- Appendix A Abbreviations used in these Minutes
- Appendix B MBOD 011706 Region and Division officers
- Appendix C MBOD 011707 NMRA Net Working Group

**APPENDIX A  
ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THESE MINUTES**

<b>ADD</b>	<b>Atlantic District Director</b>
<b>ADM</b>	<b>Administration Department Manager</b>
<b>ALNAD</b>	<b>At-Large North America Director</b>
<b>ALWWD</b>	<b>At-Large Worldwide Director</b>
<b>CAND</b>	<b>Canada Director</b>
<b>CDD</b>	<b>Central District Director</b>
<b>EDD</b>	<b>Eastern District Director</b>
<b>EDUCDM</b>	<b>Education Department Manager</b>
<b>FRDM</b>	<b>Fund Raising Department Manager</b>
<b>HCC</b>	<b>Honors Committee Chair</b>
<b>HDMCC</b>	<b>Howell Day Museum Committee Chair</b>
<b>HLM</b>	<b>Honorary Life Member</b>
<b>KMLM</b>	<b>Kalmbach Memorial Library Manager</b>
<b>MAPDM</b>	<b>Marketing, Advertising &amp; Promotions Department Manager</b>
<b>MSPDM</b>	<b>Membership Services &amp; Promotion Department Manager</b>
<b>MSTD</b>	<b>Meetings &amp; Trade Shows Department Manager</b>
<b>PDD</b>	<b>Pacific District Director</b>
<b>PDM</b>	<b>Publications Department Manager</b>
<b>RACD</b>	<b>Regional Advisory Council Director</b>
<b>SCDM</b>	<b>Standards &amp; Conformance Department Director</b>
<b>WDD</b>	<b>Western District Director</b>

## APPENDIX B

Agenda Motion # MBOD A

Meeting Minutes Motion #MBOD 011706

Motion for Regulations Article VIII Section 4 Paragraph 2

The Region Advisory Council Director moves to amend Article VIII, section 4, paragraph 2 as follows:

Current version:

“A Region or Division shall consist of all NMRA members within the geographic area established by the NMRA or Region as provided in these Regulations. The Region or Division shall have no fewer than three (3) officers (or more if required by law) and the Region or Division shall hold no fewer than one business meeting in a year. Said officer of the Region or Division shall be elected by the membership within the Region or Division.”

Revised version:

“A Region or Division shall consist of all NMRA members within the geographic area established by the NMRA (for Regions) or Region (for Divisions) as provided in these Regulations. The Region shall have no less than three (3) officers (or more if required by law) and the Region shall hold no less than one business meeting per fiscal year. Said officers of the Region shall be elected by the NMRA membership within the Region. No person shall hold concurrent elected positions within Region leadership. A person may hold a Region elected position and a Division elected position concurrently.

Each Division within a Region shall have no less than two (2) officers (or more if required by law) and the Division shall hold no less than one business meeting per fiscal year. It is preferred that said officers of the Division be elected by the NMRA membership within the Division. In the event that a Division cannot determine a slate of candidates for a ballot election, the Region President shall be permitted to appoint a Division Leader (Superintendent, President, etc.) and a Secretary/Treasurer (Chief Clerk/Paymaster, etc.) to serve for a period of no more than two years at which time the Division shall again attempt to determine a slate of candidates for a formal ballot election. The same person may not hold both offices simultaneously. Division requirements shall not apply to Divisions in the British and Australasian Regions.”

Motion approved by voice vote January 2008.

## APPENDIX C

Agenda Motion # MBOD C

Meeting Minutes Motion #MBOD 011707

The Canadian District Director moves to endorse the decision of the Manager, S&C Department and the concurrence of the President of NMRA to establish a new working group called the NMRA Net Working Group. The purpose of this group is to define a bus that will control all accessories and locomotives on the layout. The Goals and Mandate of this group are as follows.

1. Develop standards to define a communications bus that will manage and control devices that are independent of train control on a model railroad layout.
2. Develop a bus capable of working independently from other train control busses.
3. Develop a bus capable of bridging commands from other train control busses such as a DCC bus.
4. Develop a communications shell that is capable of managing and controlling devices that affect train control. Developing a set of instructions for track control is outside the scope of this working group.
5. Develop a bus that is of minimal complexity to the user such that management and configuration of devices as well as fault finding of the system of individual devices shall require little to no technical knowledge of the bus by the user.
6. Select bus definitions that use existing globally standardized communication technologies that allows multiple forms of communication transport. Generic implementations to enable all forms of communication shall not be required if it greatly impacts the size/cost/complexity of the solution. Defining communication technologies is beyond the scope of this WG.
7. Control the definitions of this bus such that it is owned by the NMRA and all future changes to this bus are controlled by NMRA.
8. Develop a bus that minimizes the amount of certification testing required by NMRA. Certification of this bus shall not require special testing equipment beyond a computer, appropriate connections and software.
9. Develop a set of NMRA Standards and Recommended Practices that fully define the characteristics of the bus.

10. Continue to inform other NMRA Working Groups on the development of this bus and allow them to offer suggestions and comments on the Standards and Recommended Practices being written.
11. Develop NMRA education and marketing material to inform the users on the benefit, concepts and usage of the bus.
12. Ultimately name this bus NMRAnet.

Motion approved by voice vote January 2008.