

National Model Railroad Association
BOD Meeting
2008 Annual Meeting
11 – 13 July 2008
Marriott Hotel, Anaheim, CA
Minutes

- 1) President Brestel called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM, July 11, 2008
- 2) The roll was called, all were present.
- 3) The meeting recessed at 7:15 PM for an Executive session of the Directors and a meeting of the Operations Committee.
- 4) The meeting reconvened at 8:54 AM 12 July 2008
- 5) ALNAD Charlie Getz responded to Department Manager's concerns by expressing the Director's appreciation and thanks for all their efforts and support of the organization. He referenced the fact that the Board often looks at conceptual matters, not necessarily involving the Department Managers, but will make greater efforts to see that the Department Managers have input wherever possible. The Board endorsed action to feature each Department in an issue of *Scale Rails* in the future.
- 6) President Brestel introduced guests in attendance: Ed Slintak, Doug Auberg, Paul Hobbes, PCR President Ron Plies, MMR, John Brennan and Ray deBlieck. Also introduced was Don Hillman, substituting for NMRA Canada President Ron Einarson.
- 7) MBOD 071101 ALWWD Koester moved approval of the January 17, 2008 Minutes. Motion approved on voice vote.
- 8) MBOD 071102 at request of Secretary, ALNAD Getz moved approval of 2008 election results and destruction of ballots. Motion approved on voice vote.
- 9) MBOD 071103 at request of Secretary, ALNAD Getz moved approval of the appointment of John Stevens as Assistant to Secretary. Motion approved on voice vote.
- 10) MBOD 071104 ALNAD Getz moved approval of consent agenda adopting written reports received with agenda. Motion approved on voice vote.
- 11) Department and Committee reports:
 - John Roberts reported on insurance program regarding need to have a waiver signed by non-members who are on layout tour. Mr. Roberts also indicated an error in the online insurance form – should be dated June 20, 2008 not June 2007 as indicated.
 - John Roberts, as Nominating Committee Chair indicated that the Committee members will be contacting incumbents and candidates for the 2009 election, which will be for the positions of ALNAD, EDD, PDD, President and Vice President.

- ALNAD Charlie Getz reported on Howell Day Museum and California State Railroad Museum (CSRM); CSRM and the developer are still finalizing setup for the gallery exhibit. The initial term for the contract is ten (10) years. John Roberts indicated that they have another version of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOV) with the CSRM that will get the space at no cost to us.
- RACD Ferguson reported on responses to query to Regions regarding Region officer's membership status – responses have been slow in some instances and some Regions have to resolve problems.
- SCDM Voss reported that the DCC Working Group planned meeting in France in September had been cancelled; the manufacturers didn't see a need to get involved for an update. PDD Jensen took this opportunity to thank Di Voss for providing material for article used in Australasian Region publication; Mr. Jensen had forgotten to mention this in his report. SCDM Voss also indicated that we need to ensure that our collectible cars are meeting conformance standards.
- MSPDM Wescott reported that the Rail Pass membership program has a 30 – 35% success rate in terms of Rail Pass members taking out a Regular Membership. Most of the Rail Pass memberships are coming from Regions. CAND Kooning estimated that the conversion rate in Canada is 49%. Don Hillman mentioned that the Pacific Northwest Region picked up a large number of Rail Pass members at their convention held in British Columbia, Canada. CAND Kooning also asked that NMRA advertisements include information on ABC membership and that the ads for Rail Pass indicate that a similar program is available to NMRA Canada members.
- ALNAD Getz reported on the convention car project for Hartford 2009 – they want cars in all scales. The NMRA can do HO cars, but doing others will not be cost effective. If the host group wants this they will have to handle the purchase and sale of such cars themselves. With regard to collectibles, Mr. Getz reported that we will be doing a car for “Bull Lines” the name used by the partnership of John Allen and Whit Towers.

12) Meeting recessed at 9:47 AM and resumed at 10:00 AM.

Department and Committee reports continued:

- MSTDM Jordan referring to his report circulated a form showing a re-design of the NMRA Convention Booth; the current booth needs to be replaced and updated. EDD Feeney offered to put up \$500 towards the booth replacement; the Board with the Treasurer will review special projects that could be cancelled to provide funding.
- PDM deYoung reports problems with cost creep in the production of Scale Rails. The cost is now \$18.53 per issue for US members. Recommends increasing subscription rate of \$19 for all US subscribers, \$17.50 for Canada members (with no polybagging) and \$53 for Australia and United Kingdom members. Board members agreed to increase effective October 1, 2008 for US members. ADD says their renewal is April 1st. This prospective increase will be

included in an article in *Scale Rails* as well as in a report to the RAC and included in these Minutes.

- 13) President Brestel reported that the Budget Meeting will be held in the second week of October, 2008 in Phoenix, AZ.
- 14) Budget & Finance: Treasurer Draper reported one area where the cash flow statement was misstated; there was also one reference to “member plus subscription” that was included in error. CDD Thornton raised question regarding decline in market shares, Administrative Department (Headquarters building) utilities costs needing better projections, Region rebates estimate appearing to be off and the MAP budget. These questions will be synthesized on Financial Reports.
Treasurer Draper also reported that he had appointed an assistant treasurer for the NTS named David Irick and asked Board approval of the appointment. Board approval given by consensus though no formal motion provided.
- 15) MBOD 071105 ALNAD Getz moved to approve the Financial Reports as corrected. Motion approved on voice vote.
- 16) CDD Thornton as Audit Committee Chair reported that there is no audit report as yet, but a review is underway to get the report. Per Regulations, we have to change Auditors periodically. The new audit will also include an audit of Headquarters processes – this will require an additional \$2,500 for the audit.
- 17) Old Business:
 - President Brestel indicated that the Large Scale Committee report will be carried forward to the next meeting.
 - Vice President Pollack reported on the status of the CIO search; one candidate was reviewed but was not deemed suitable. PDD Jensen and VP Pollack will review the job description.
 - RACD Ferguson presented delayed motions from 2008 Mid-Year meeting: (these are indicated by their agenda package numbering)
 - MBOD F has already been resolved.
 - MBOD G regarding subscriptions for Student member failed for lack of second.
 - MBOD H regarding Patron and Corporate member definition withdrawn. ALNAD Getz will review language of both classifications to resolve conflicts and report back to Board.
 - MBOT I regarding issue of stated dues in EHB and Regional allocation was withdrawn. The Secretary will clear up the EHB language.
- 18) Board members discussed progress on Milwaukee 2010 Convention – the NMRA’s 75th Anniversary. The Milwaukee Committee has not included the celebration in their plans – this really should come from the NMRA national organization. ALWWD Koester will head up a committee for National involvement with CDD Thornton.

- 19) Members discussed changing design of NMRA logo – Gerry Leone, MMR has indicated that the cost of \$1,800 for the proposal for design and roll-out.
- 20) The meeting recessed for lunch at Noon.
- 21) The meeting reconvened at 1:10 PM.
- 22) The meeting recessed for an Executive Session with NMRA Counsel and reconvened at 1:40 PM.

New Business:

- 23) Members discussed relations with SIGs: CAND Clark Kooning, MMR will chair SIG committee with ALWWD Tony Koester and VP Allen Pollack to help develop policy. An article will be appearing soon in *Scale Rails* concerning LDSIG and OPSIG activities and relations with NMRA.
- 24) The Board heard presentations for the 2013 convention by Atlanta, GA for July 14, 2013, and by Pittsburg, PA for August 4 – 10, 2013. The Board then heard a review of the cost/benefits of the proposals by MSTDM Jordan and Treasurer Draper.
- 25) MBOD 071106 ALNAD Getz moved approval of Atlanta bid for 2013 National Convention and Train Show. Motion approved on voice vote.
- 26) The Board recessed at 4:10 PM and reconvened at 4:22 PM.
- 27) The Board heard a presentation by Vincent Gallogly, Chair of the 2009 Convention with issues regarding changes to the convention hall and requested Board decision to support additional risk. No action taken.
- 28) The Board members discussed a possible TAMR (Teen Association of Model Railroaders) contact and support for that organization. Nothing has been done yet and CAND Kooning may be in talks with them about the MWTM program. He will follow up with consideration of them as a possible SIG.
- 29) MBOD 071107 ADD Clarke moved agenda item MBOD A, re-defining the British Region to include areas previously excluded. Motion passed on voice vote. [Text of motion included as Appendix B]
- 30) MBOD 071108 ALNAD Getz moved agenda item MBOD B, a motion to redefine the boundaries of Mid-East Region and Southeast Region per agreement of those two Region's Boards. Motion passed on voice vote. [Text of motion included as Appendix C]
- 31) Agenda items MBOD C and D withdrawn.
- 32) MBOD 071109 EDD Feeney moved an amended agenda item MBOD E; that the Board declares a moratorium on award of future conventions until the Board directs otherwise. Motion passed on voice vote.

In light of a pending full discussion of the BOD Convention Committee report and its recommendations, the Board took the following items out of order:

- 33) RBOD 071101 ALNAD Getz introduced a Resolution, seconded by PDD Jensen, "Resolved, that the NMRA Board acknowledges and gives special

thanks the commercial vendors and to the members, clubs and non-commercial entities for their continuing support of the NMRA patent challenge to DCC sound. Without their cooperation and active participation the NMRA will have been in a less advantageous position to challenge the patent.” Resolution approved on voice vote.

- 34) RBOD 071102 CDD Thornton proposed a Resolution, “Be it resolved that the NMRA will not sell its magazine to non-members.” On a roll call vote, ALWWD Koester, EDD Feeney and WDD Hale abstained, ADD, ALNAD, CAND, CDD, PDD and RACD voted in favor and the Resolution was approved.
- 35) RBOD 071103 ALNAD Getz proposed a Resolution “Resolved, that the NMRA Board of Directors expresses its deep appreciation and thanks for the many contributions made by retiring Fund Raising Department Manager Roger Cason, MMR, for his untiring efforts at fund raising on behalf of the National Model Railroad Association.” Resolution passed by unanimous voice vote.
- 36) Board members discussed and directed that the EHB be made available on the NMRA website. The Secretary was directed to implement this, ensuring that the online version cannot be modified except by him or his designee.
- 37) Board members discussed inclusion of Rail Pass member classification definition in the EHB. ALNAD Getz will write up the language for presentation at the 2009 Mid-Year Board meeting.
- 38) PDD Peter Jensen, as BOD Convention Chair, presented a BOD Convention Committee Report and proposed actions to the Board.
- 39) MBOD 071110 ALNAD Getz moved to accept the BOD Convention Committee Report of July 2008. Motion passed on voice vote.

[Secretary’s note: the following motions were originally submitted by the BOD Convention Committee Chair, Peter Jensen. Since Regulations call for motions to only be made by Directors, except as noted, all are listed as coming from PDD Jensen.]

- 40) MBOD 071111 PDD Jensen moves, that the Board of Directors formally adopt the following Mission Statement, Convention Goals and Target Audience:

The mission statement for each National Convention will be:

“Our national convention will educate scale model railroaders by providing a social setting for modelers to meet and share their modeling experiences.”

The goals for the National Convention will/should provide the following outcomes:

- A. Provide a social gathering for modelers of all scales and exposure levels.
- B. Provide an environment where modelers of all skill levels and all scales can learn and expand their knowledge.
- C. Promote and grow the hobby.
- D. Challenge the skill level of attendees.
- E. Make an operating surplus for the organization.

F. Provide an experience that exceeds customer expectations.

The target audience of our National Convention is:

Model railroaders of all scales.

The EHB and Convention Handbook will be updated to reflect this mission.
Motion seconded by EDD Feeney and passed on voice vote.

- 41) MBOD 071112 PDD Jensen moves that the BOD authorizes the BOD Convention Committee to conduct a survey of the National Convention, as outlined in the Convention Report. This survey will use a professional web-survey group (such as Survey Monkey) to conduct the survey. All survey results and raw data shall be analyzed by the BOD Convention Committee. ALNAD Getz seconded motion and motion passed on voice vote.
- 42) MBOD 071113 PDD Jensen moves that the BOD require that an exit survey be conducted at each and every National Convention by the Meetings & Trade Show Department. This survey is to be conducted in a similar fashion to the Hartford survey conducted after the Detroit Convention. It must ask what was done “right” and what was done “wrong.” The results of this survey must be presented to the BOD when the survey closes. RACD Ferguson seconded the motion and motion passed on voice vote.
- 43) Board recessed for evening at 7:32 PM.
- 44) Board reconvened at 8:45 AM, July 13, 2008.
- 45) MBOD 071114 PDD Jensen moves that non-NMRA members should be allowed to attend the National Convention to the extent permitted by regulations and under such conditions as may be reasonable. Their registration fee will attract a \$25 surcharge (to cover insurance liabilities, etc.). If they join at the convention, they will be offered a discount at least to the value of the surcharge from this point forward.
ALNAD seconds, motion passed on voice vote.
- 46) MBOD 071115 PDD Jensen moves that the BOD formally adopt the approach that the total cost to attend a National Convention must be such that it is value for money for an average scale modeler to attend. This requires that M & TS Department consider the following features:
 - A. Include lower cost accommodation **Options**.
 - B. Considers non-downtown venues.
 - C. Considers unlinking the convention and the NTS.
 - D. Be measured against a **Rule of Thumb** for an “average” attendee attending the convention. The proposed Rule of Thumb total cost is \$1,000.00ALNAD seconded, motion passed on voice vote.
- 47) MBOD 071116 ALNAD moves that the BOD formally requests that the Meeting & Trade Show Department, with input from all other applicable Departments, report back at the Mid-Year 2009 meeting possible changes/impacts for discussion purposes only, for future conventions {a list of

specific elements for consideration has been retained by the Secretary, but is not publicized due to confidentiality concerns for future convention discussions. RVG}.

RACD seconded the motion. Motion passed on voice vote.

- 48) MBOD 071117 PDD Jensen moves that the Meetings & Trade Show Department implement a real-time online registration process at the earliest reasonable time. This process must validate and debit all credit cards real-time (i.e. the registration fails if the credit card validation fails or there are insufficient funds). It must also link with the HQ database to validate a member's name and address (i.e. real-time interface with NMRA member database) and must provide real-time schedule conflict resolution such that registrants avoid scheduling two or more events at the same time.

ALNAD seconded the motion. Motion passed on voice vote.

- 49) MBOD 071118 EDD moves to release funds in two encumbered accounts, Gene Colburn Book Publication Fund {unused for some time} and Gift Annuity Fund, and create a new booth fund account for development and construction of new booths for future shows. ADD seconded motion and motion passed on voice vote.

- 50) RBOD 071104 ALNAD proposed, 2d by PDD a resolution recognizing Hal Carstens 50th National Convention attendance and declaring Saturday, July 19, 2008 as Hal Carstens Day. Resolution approved on unanimous voice vote.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Harold H. Carstens has been an active NMRA member since 1952; and

WHEREAS, Hal has published *Railroad Model Craftsman*, a vital service to the model railroading community, since 1961; and

WHEREAS, Hal has served on the NMRA's Howell Day Museum Committee since its inception; and

WHEREAS, Hal has recognized, fostered, and honored craftsmanship in model building by presenting the Craftsman Trophy at NMRA national conventions since 1960; and

WHEREAS, the Anaheim Special 2008 NMRA national convention is the fiftieth NMRA national convention that Hal has attended;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the National Model Railroad Association:

That Saturday, July 19, 2008 is designated

HAL CARSTENS DAY

At the seventy-third NMRA National Convention in Anaheim, California.

Passed unanimously by the Board of Directors of the National Model Railroad Association this thirteenth day of July, 2008.

- 51) President Brestel announced that the 2009 Mid-Year meeting will be held mid-February in Orlando, Florida. Details will be announced in the future.
- 52) PDD Jensen moved to adjourn in honor of Fred Gill, MMR, founding member of Australasian Region. Motion approved, meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert V. Gangwish,
Secretary

- Appendix A Abbreviations used in these Minutes
- Appendix B Text of MBOD 071107
- Appendix C Text of MBOD 071108

**APPENDIX A
ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THESE MINUTES**

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

APPENDIX B

Agenda Motion # MBOD A

Meeting Minutes Motion # MBOD 071107

Motion for Regulations Article VIII paragraph 7. A.

The Atlantic District Director moves the following:

Current version:

7. A. British Region: including England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Revised Version:

7. A. British Region: including England, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Island, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and the Crown dependencies of the Isle of Man and, by tradition, the Channel Islands that make up the geographical elements of the islands.

Rationale: All residents of the BI share a common language and interest. There is free passage of residents within this area and the distances are such that the modelers frequently join together at meetings and conventions and public shows. For example, many Irish modelers and prospective NMRA members attend the BR convention and meets in both Northern Ireland and Erie. They attend these advents as visitors as they are currently not part of the Region which excludes them from the full benefits of the NMRA membership and BR services.

Further, if prospective Irish NMRA members came under the British regions boundaries they would benefit from all the services the region and NMRA has to offer: Roundhouse magazine, library, members aid, modeling days the web chat group and of course they would have full access to the Achievement program and contests which they currently do not benefit from. I feel that by allowing this boundary change would not only benefit the Irish members but would enrich the whole BR membership.

Nobby Clarke, Atlantic District Director, NMRA.

APPENDIX C

Agenda Motion # MBOD B

Meeting Minutes Motion # MBOD 071108

Motion by the Board of Directors of the Mid-Eastern Region and the Southeastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association.

A valid petition for changing the boundary between the Southeastern Region (SER) and the Mid-Eastern Region (MER) having been presented and reviewed.

The changes requested moving zip codes 28757, 28779, 28783, 28782, 28791 and 28805 from the MER to the SER are approved.

In addition the BOD desires the following zip codes without NMRA members to be moved as follows: zip code 28618 from SER to MER; zip codes 28740, 28755, 28765 and 28777 from MER to SER.

With the above actions approved, the boundary between the SER and MER will conform to county lines. Therefore we request that the regions definitions in the NMRA Regulations be changed as follows.

ARTICLE VIII - REGIONAL/DIVISIONAL ORGANIZATION

7. The Regional boundaries shall be as follows:

Proposed changes for MER

E. Mid Eastern Region: Including Delaware; District of Columbia; Maryland; all counties in New Jersey not included in Northeastern Region; all counties in ~~of~~ North Carolina not included in Southeastern Region; all counties in Pennsylvania not listed in Niagara Frontier or Mid Central Regions; Virginia; and Berkeley, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, Morgan, and Pendleton Counties in West Virginia.

Proposed changes for SER

M. Southeastern Region: Including Alabama; Florida Zip Codes 324 and 325; Georgia; Mississippi; North Carolina counties of Avery, Buncombe, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania and Yancy, ~~Postal Zip Codes 28018, -24, -40, -43, -76, 28139, 28604, -14, -16, -18, -22, -46, -52, -53, -57, -62, -64, 28701, -04, -05, 28707 through 34, 28736 through 39, 28741, -42, -45, -46, -48, -49, 28751 through 54, 28756, -58, 28760 through 62, -66, -68, 28770 through 72, 28774, -84, 28786 through 90, 28792, -93, 28801 through 06, 28901, -02, -04, -06, and -09~~ South Carolina and Tennessee.

Approved by MER BOD Approved by SER BOD