

Meeting Agenda Midwest Region, NMRA BOD Nov. 18, 2023			
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	Call to order	Bob McGeever	
	Roll Call	Connie Coy	
	<u>Meeting Minutes</u>		
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	<u>Reports</u>		
	<u>Committees:</u>		
Item 3	Achievement Program	Jim Landwehr	No Rpt
Item 4	Financial Review	Phillip Burnside	No Rpt
Item 5	Clinic Clearing House	John Coy	8
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Item 7	Education Coordinator	vacant	No Rpt
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Item 14	Promotions and Special Projects	Mike Hirvela	No Rpt
Item 15	Publications	David Leider	No Rpt
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	<u>Old Business</u>		
Item 40			
Item 41	Other	Bob McGeever	

Meeting Agenda Midwest Region, NMRA BOD Nov. 18, 2023			
	<u>New Business</u>		
Item 42	Set Date, time and place for May 2024 BOD and MOM meetings	Bob McGeever	
Item 43	Request BOD approve MWR Treasurer send check of \$45.00 for the annual JotForm Subscription. JotForm is a webform application for election balloting, email address updates and BOD contact information.	Jim Osborn	
Item 44	Other	Bob McGeever	

Meeting Agenda Midwest Region, NMRA BOD Nov. 18, 2023			
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	Other	Bob McGeever	
	<u>Announcements</u>		
	Other	Bob McGeever	
	<u>Adjourn</u>	Bob McGeever	

Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order by President Bob McGeever

Roll call taken by Secretary Connie Coy

Members present:

Bob McGeever, Connie Coy, Steve Studley, Phillip Burnside, Jim Landwehr, Jim Osborn, Ron Scharping, John Coy, Robert Perry, Dave Mashino, Dan Hinel, Michael Roderick, Alex Schneider, Precilla Roderick, Art Dawson, Phil Herman, Jim Tatum, Patrick Golden, Greg Bueltmann, Mike Hirvela, Dan Banks, Marty Hendrickx

Members Absent:

Keith Thomsen, David Leider, Burnell Breaker, Mike Lehman,

Guests:

Rod Thompson, Denis Zamarowski, Minton Dings, Thomas Ose

Minutes from MWR BOD Meeting of 10/16/2022 were presented. Greg Bueltmann moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Jim Tatum. Motion carried.

Packet of Reports were presented.

Ron Scharping noted that the Membership report will be affected by the new database coming from National. There was discussion of how it will be formatted and used by Divisions.

Michael Roderick highlighted a CID August 2023 Train Show from his report.

Old Business:

Item 1: WISE Division update: Bob McGeever stated that WISE Division is working on its constitution and bylaws. Under Burnell Breaker's leadership, WISE is working on rebuilding membership.

New Business:

Item 1:

A. Approve Election Committee report. John Coy moved to accept report. Phillip Burnside seconded. Motion carried.

B. Approved destruction and removal of printed and electronic ballots from last election. Michael Roderick moved to approve, seconded by Denis Zamarovski. Motion carried.

Item 2:

NMRA Midwest Region Meeting of the Board of Directors, May 20, 2023

Jim Osborn requested expenditure of approximately \$600 for annual pre-paid Constant Contact email usage fee due June, 2023. John Coy moved in favor of expenditure; Michael Roderick seconded. Motion carried.

Item 3:

Jim Osborn discussed with membership regarding how to set up NMRA interchange for remote and in-person learning. It was noted that training for use of this system is complicated and the consensus of those present was that use of ZOOM at \$160 a year is preferred over Interchange at this time.

Item 4:

Discussion of 2024 Midwest Region Convention was led by Steve Studley. The Michiana and Central Indiana Divisions will work together to put on this convention. The Venue will be the Century Center in South Bend, IN. It will be a smaller convention than before and the planners will need to be released from some of the requirements for larger conventions. There is a need to centralize how funding happens, bills are paid and registration is done. The hope is to include ways to interest more people in model railroading and increase membership in the NMRA. Some brainstorming occurred, including having historical societies as sponsors (NY Central and DuPage were suggested).

Action needed at this time was to have the MWR suspend the rule about NMRA membership only to attend their conventions. Alex Schneider moved that this rule be suspended to allow non-NMRA member attend this convention; seconded by Phil Herman. Motion carried.

Action was also needed to allow the executive committee suspend rules as needed to allow the convention to move ahead with planning. John Coy made a motion to this effect. Seconded by Phillip Burnside. Motion carried.

Item 5:

Discussion of Conflict of Interest Policy was led by Connie Coy. Members of BOD were encouraged to mail their signed agreement to this policy to her asap.

Item 6:

Connie Coy requested the MWR pay for annual subscription to Microsoft Office in the amount of \$69.95 plus applicable tax. John Coy moved to approve this expenditure; Phillip Burnside seconded. Motion carried.

Item 7:

Bob McGeever led a discussion of transition plan for MWR Officers as their terms come to an end, or they voluntarily leave their positions. The need for the Secretary and Treasurer to cross train any successor was suggested for smooth transition.

Action: It was moved by John Coy, seconded by Jim Tatum that Marty Hendrickx be the IL State Agent for the region. Motion carried.

NMRA Midwest Region Meeting of the Board of Directors, May 20, 2023

Bob McGeever listed openings for committees: Youth Position, Thomas Ose of Illinois Valley Division volunteered. Education Committee, vacant. Clinic Clearing House, John Coy volunteered.

Item 8: Other

Action: John Coy moved to accept the newly elected DAL's: Robert Perry, Precilla Roderick and Alex Schneider into the BOD. Seconded by Michael Roderick. Motion carried.

Announcements:

The next BOD meeting will be held on November 18, 2023 at the Danville IN Train Show. Details will be announced at a later time.

There being no other business to discuss, Michael Roderick moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Phil Herman. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie J. Coy, MWR Secretary

Midwest Region of the National Model Railroad Association

Annual Meeting of the Members

May 20, 2023

Holiday Inn and Suites, East Peoria IL

This meeting was held in conjunction with a regular meeting of the Illinois Valley Division.

Meeting called to order at 1 PM by MWR President Bob McGeever.

Motion by Minton Dings, second by Tom Ose to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2022, Meeting of the Members.

Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

None

New Business

MWR Election results were reported.

The election results were:

For President: Bob McGeever (SCWD)

For Vice President: Michael Hirvela (FVD)

For Director-at-Large: Dr. Robert Perry (CID)

Precilla Roderick (CID)

Alex Schneider (DuPage)

Motion by Tom Ose, second by Larry Nelson to adjourn.

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 1:10 PM.

Minutes by R. McGeever

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 2023

To: Board of Directors

From: John Robert Coy, Clinic Clearing House

Date: October 19, 2023

Subject: Clinic Clearing House (my first report in this position)

I am actively in the process of learning who has what clinics and compiling a Master List.

This is a slow process. However, I will continue to pursue others in an effort to gather more clinic information.

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 2023

To: Board of Directors

From: Steve Studley

Date: October 20, 2023

Subject: Convention

Activities since Last Board Meeting

Michiana Division, working with the Central Indiana Division, has volunteered to host the 2024 MWR Convention. The convention will be held in May of 2024 in South Bend, IN.

Weekly Zoom meetings are being held to work out the details of the convention. The convention venue has been chosen and the contract for that facility will be signed next week.

On June 5, I stopped being the “temporary, ad-hoc, pseudo-chair of the convention committee. Daniel Banks, CID, has become the official Chair of this committee.

Planned Activities

I continue to attend the weekly Zoom meetings.

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, October 2022

To: Board of Directors
From: Jim Osborn, Election Committee Chairman
Date: October 9, 2023
Subject: Election Committee Report

Activities since Last Board Meeting

- 1) Destruction of the ballots from the last election per BoD approval.
- 2) Updated the Election Webpage

Planned Activities

- 1) Create the election ballot after the BoD approves the candidate slate at the November 2023 BoD meeting per the Election Committee Policy and Procedure. The ballot will be in both “paper” form for the *Waybill* and as an e-ballot as specified in the Election Policy & Procedure.
- 2) Forward the “paper” ballot and voting instruction for on-line voting to the *Waybill* editor for inclusion in the winter *Waybill* and launch the on-line e-ballot form.
- 3) Receive and count the ballots after the forthcoming election and prepare the Election committee report for the next BoD meeting.

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 2023

To: Board of Directors
From: Jim Osborn, Internet Committee Chm.
Date: October 9, 2023
Subject: Internet Committee Report

Activities since Last Board Meeting

- 1) Made updates to the MWR web site per requests from National, the Region & the membership.
- 2) Assisted with the Waybill electronic publishing.
- 3) Posted current PDF versions of the Waybill on the web site.
- 4) Assisted with several miscellaneous Division web site issues and updates.
- 5) Assisted the DuPage division with the population of their mobile friendly web site.
- 6) Assisted the President & Secretary with various web related documents and associated emails.
- 7) Added a MWR Calendar web page to the website
- 8) Assisted the WISE email distribution team with the use of the Constant Contact email application. Currently the Constant Contact Account is shared among the FVD, SCWD, WISE, CID & RRVD as well as the MWR.
- 9) Tended to monthly updates of the MWR email account.
- 10) Revised the web BoD contact page to eliminate publicly available email addresses.

Planned Activities

- 1) Continue with the general management and maintenance of the MWR web site and internet activities as appropriate.
- 2) Continue to assist with publishing electronic Waybill notices.
- 3) Support any division web requirements as requested.
- 4) Future expense for the Constant Contact email account is estimated at \$600 due June of 2023.
- 5) Assist the Secretary and President with the use of the Constant Contact application for the region.
- 6) Continue to manage monthly updates to the email data base per inputs from the Membership Chairman.
- 7) Support the upcoming election process.

MWR Historical Website activity

Metric	Oct-March 2020	April-Sept 2020	Oct-March 2021	April-Sept 2021 *	Oct-March 2022	Apr-Sept 2022	Sept-March 2023	Sept-March 2023
Sessions	3100	2043	2072	1916	3184	1576	3163	1915
Users	2138	1527	1487	1408	2303	1128	2425	1356
Page Views	5596	3719	4010	3345	5653	3215	5197	3090
Content Viewed								
Home Page	1685	1293	1143	977	1287	763	1266	857
Waybill	1126	877	1162	960	1051	721	1091	1000
Division Map	281	152	161	128	219	111	203	176
Conventions	279	93	213	263	235	112	110	117
DuPage Div.	1048	480	440	305	1741	264	1458	362
Contest Photos	115	74	17	16	30	251	22	15
Minutes	19	85	31	92	162	97	108	55
About us	18	28	12	17	26	10	19	11
Clinic Resources	21	17	13	12	9	5	13	40
Elections	9	10	201	8	93	16	72	11
Contact us	18	14	13	8	17	18	13	8
Model Photos	41	36	44	29	59	46	41	22
Notices	93	72	69	75	111	77	61	95
Prototype Photos	19	10	12	9	17	1214	16	6
Policies	20	15	27	40	30	14	22	16
Reg Officers	323	179	188	186	149	180	110	100
Address Change	New	28	49	58	47	30	64	45
Calendar					New	76	54	38
Referrals From:								
Direct Entry	1420	1023	1031	1011	1443	880	1690	1094
Organic Search		New	340	239	646	186	550	185
Referrals		New	134	169	233	66	143	76
Social	23	20	9	12	52	6	83	14
User Devices:								
Desktop	67%	70%	68%	68%	58%	67%	55%	68%
Mobile	27%	25 %	27%	28%	38%	30%	41%	29%
Tablet	6%	5 %	5%	4%	4%	3%	4%	3%

* Recent 2022 activity is down 20% for this period cycle. The impact of Apple IOS14 security on our reporting statistics is currently unknown. Google estimates it might be 70% of Apple mobile devices. Slightly over 1/3 of mobile devices that access our site are Apple devices – or about 8-9% of our traffic. Currently Apple devices represent about 57% of the mobile devices.

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 2023

To: Board of Directors
From: Steve Studley
Date: October 20, 2023
Subject: Long Range Planning

Activities since Last Board Meeting

No activities since last meeting regarding the retention and growth of the membership in the MWR. President McGeever has stated that the upcoming 2024 MWR Convention will be an excellent place to have non-members attend and see what the NMRA/MWR provides in the way of increasing their modeling skillset.

Planned Activities

Continue with determining ways to get the word out to non-members regarding the 2024 convention.

Another item for consideration is the increase in the MWR's help to the region's divisions during the planning and hosting of yearly conventions. The plan is to make it easier for divisions – regardless of the division's size – to host a convention.

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, May 20, 2023

To: Board of Directors
From: Ron Scharping
Date: October 16, 2023
Subject: Membership Coordinator's Report

Activities since Last Board Meeting

Continued to provide membership information to Division membership coordinators on a monthly basis. The monthly report includes a roster, and the following reports as appropriate: 30 days past due on renewal, 60 days past due on renewal, new members, renewed members, rerailed members, members subscribing to the *Crossbuck* in the current month, deceased members, and change of address.

Provided an interface to National in the updating of membership records; address, phone, zip code, and email address changes.

Worked with National as they convert the membership database and develop reports.

Maintained a table of Region members who have "opted-out" of a printed *Waybill*.

Maintained a table of Division zip codes.

Continued working with the Region Constant Contact Coordinator to synchronize the Region Constant Contact list and the National database email addresses.

Provided the *Waybill* editor with mailing addresses for those NMRA members receiving a printed copy of the *Waybill*. Managed a "postage due" account with the Post Office to facilitate handling of undeliverable *Waybills*.

Planned Activities

Continue the above. As an early warning, I intend to resign from this position, after over 20 years of service, in June of 2025.

Region Membership Data



Date		Division										Out of Region	Grand Total
		1	2	3	5	6	7	9	10	11	15		
9/28/19	Region	58	46	32	28	84	10	55	23	74	28	164	601
9/28/19	NMRA	157	146	118	91	229	22	191	94	205	75	164	1502
4/30/20	Region	51	40	40	29	87	11	57	18	70	34	219	656
4/30/20	NMRA	152	145	115	95	225	20	188	83	188	74	219	1515
8/31/20	Region	46	40	40	31	80	9	59	16	66	32	224	643
4/30/21	NMRA	150	131	104	92	217	21	177	76	179	65	182	1394
4/30/21	Region	59	49	42	32	91	11	67	21	67	33	182	654
9/30/21	Region	58	51	42	34	93	11	66	21	71	37	149	633
9/30/21	NMRA	141	137	106	90	219	20	173	76	179	68	149	1358
12.31/22	Region	46	42	38	29	76	11	62	19	62	25	141	551
12.31/22	NMRA	139	134	111	88	218	20	173	77	183	68	141	1352
3/31/22	Region	60	66	47	33	96	11	74	26	76	38	143	668
3/31/22	NMRA	137	140	114	87	217	20	171	77	181	69	143	1356
8/31/22	Region	61	53	45	32	102	11	77	23	85	40	181	710
8/31/22	NMRA	139	137	108	88	213	23	170	66	179	70	181	1374
3/31/23	Region	65	51	49	32	103	11	86	24	79	34	192	726
3/31/23	NMRA	139	134	112	89	213	20	167	64	163	59	192	1352
9/30/23	Region	64	50	49	35	108	12	87	24	77	35	191	732
9/30/23	NMRA	134	126	114	88	208	21	165	65	156	61	191	1329

(Region members are those members with a Waybill subscription)

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 2023

To: Board of Directors
From: Steve Studley
Date: October 20, 2023
Subject: Nominating

Activities since Last Board Meeting

The MWR 2024 election of Board members will be for the positions of four Directors-at-Large. In July 2023, the committee began checking the list of current Board members to determine who is term-limited and who is eligible to run for re-election. After that determination, those who are not term-limited were asked if they wish to run for a second term. Requests for other nominees will be published in the fall issue of the *Waybill* and a Constant Contact email was sent to the entire membership.

The slate of candidates will be filled in late October for the 2024 election. The names of the nominees will be presented to the Board for review. The bios and photos for the nominees will be sent to the *Waybill* editor prior to the November 10 deadline for the next issue.

Planned Activities

Ensure the records for the nominees are updated in the Nominating Committee list of members of the MWR Board of Directors.

For Minutes, Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 18, 2023

To: Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA
From: Michael L. Hirvela, MWR Promotions and Special Projects
Date: October 16, 2023
Subject: Promotion and Special Projects Report for Fall 2023 MWR BoD Meeting

Activities since Last Board Meeting:

- Special Projects: none assigned.
- Have had discussions with MWR President regarding MWR activities.
- Represented the FVD, MWR and the NMRA at the RPM Chicagoland meet in Naperville, IL, October 27 and 28. Attendees included several big names in railroad modeling and NMRA President Gordy Robinson from the UK.

Planned Activities:

- Attend some division meetings as schedule permits.

Submitted:

Michael Hirvela
Promotions and Special Projects

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 2023

To: Board of Directors

From: Thomas Ose

Date: 10/16/2023

Subject: Youth Fund Committee Report

Activities since Last Board Meeting

Reviewed and updated youth committee documents that have been available.

Creating drafts for Youth Fund policy and reimbursement form.

Planned Activities

Complete all documents

Get documents and forms approved

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, Nov 2023

To: Board of Directors
From: Michael D. Roderick
Date: 10/16/2023
Subject: Director At Large Report

Activities since Last Board Meeting:

I enjoy helping the Central Indiana Division show managers put on some of the greatest train shows. The Franklin Train Show is over and starting. As well as other work within the Division. My roll as Membership Manager, Franklin Train Show Manager, Great Train Show Manager, and Director at Large for the Region means I get asked by my Superintendent some questions of how you would do things, but I also ask him the same thing because that's what good friends do.

AP Cert.:

I have received my third certificate, and I am working on my 4-5 certificates as I am typing this report now.

Franklin Train Show Report:

What a great train show we had just last month. First of all, I want to thank everyone that help with the show because without you I could have not done it. We had over 1.400 people including attendees, vendors, volunteers.

We are looking forward to a great show again next year which will be held on August 3rd and 4th.

We did a lot of marketing for this show all over the Midwest Region Area along with the surrounding Regions. We add new vendors and 4 new manufacturers. Everyone express what a good time they had and was looking forward to next year. I had vendors asking me to sign up for next year before the 2023 train show was over.

We advertise in the following magazines for the Franklin Train Show 2023 which some of them are new to the Central Indiana Division but are familiar to the Midwest Region especially in the St. Louis area. Other ways we continue to get the word out about the show. We are using all forms of social media to promote this show to maximum ability within our budget that we have, and where I can get free advertising, I take full advantage of it at the local level and regional and national level. We also have newspapers information about the show to publish in their local newspaper on local events happening in the area we canvas the whole state of Indiana parts of Ohio, Kentucky.

Model Railroader
Classic Trains
Trains
Cowcatcher

NMRA
SRHA
Rail Model Craftsman
Model Railroad News
Model Railroad Hobbyist
Rusty Spike
Owl Car (WISE Div.)
Illinois Terminal Division
DuPage Division
Micianahia Division
Waybill
Facebook
State Newspapers in IN, KY, OH
Will be on WFMS in August
Festival Country Indiana will promote our show on the radio in Franklin closer to the show.

We sold a total of 261 tables to vendors. The American Legion, VFW Post and Ladies Auxiliary was a great help with looking for arm bands at the doors. We let them have tables to promote their organizations in return. The Beech Grove Moose Lodge provided the lunch for a reasonable cost to the attendees and vendors, without the support of these two groups this show would have a higher cost overhead. Between all of them we had 18 come out and help us.

We had one of our NMRA member Randy Bowman's wife and two sons who help set up and tear down table this year and that was a great help. We appreciate them very much. The boy scout troop double booked themselves and was unable to help but we will get them for next year.

With the increase in table cost this year we still had vendors on the waiting list. We grew the manufacturing side of the vendors and that has been paying off for this year alone. We continue to make this show to have the best mix of manufacturers and mom and pop vendors which are the Divisions main source of vendors.

With a developed base of manufacturers that will draw attendance we will build a strong and loyal attendance base for years to come that will draw from not just the local area but the surrounding states as the best 2-day division show in the Indianapolis Area we are starting to see the fruits of the groundwork that I laid out five years ago when I took over the show in 2019.

We had the following layouts at the Franklin Train Show 2023, Trevor Jones, Cintrak, Pacific & Eastern, Indiana Large Scale Railroaders, Indiana Live Steam, Middlefork Railroad Club, Johnson County Live Steamers, Ella Shelton and Dave Little, these are just a few of the layouts that was at the Franklin Train Show.

Clubs are an integral part of the train show and I have been working with the following clubs to get them back at the show again next year. The following clubs were Middlefork, Cintrak, Pacific & Eastern Club and Naptown. Yes, these are just a few of the clubs that were at the show.

We had an American Rail Passenger Representative to present information on Amtrak rail safety free to the public. We will continue to bring them back as Passenger service is a very integral part of our history and our future.

We are going to use Facebook again to help with marketing. There was a change in the Franklin Train Show flyer, one is designed for Facebook, Reedit, and other social media platforms. I have a Vendor Show Flyer that is produced in house and a Train Show Flyer that is now sent to the printer that shows attendees will pick up more often because it is geared for them and not the vendors.

We will be having door prizes like we do every year. We always have plenty of door prizes for Saturday and Sunday. You do not have to be present to win these but you must fill out an attendee registration form with complete readable information so we can contact you. The attendee registration form will be used for the door prizes so please fill one out if you would like a chance to win. There will also be some door prizes during each day that you must be present to win. We have some door prizes already for the train show.

I will be sending out vendor registration before long because I have had vendors call me asking for them. They want to get their tables paid for all ready for next year. Looking to have a great train show again in 2024.

MWR Convention Planning Group:

I continue to help with this group first I start with a Train Show Proposal, but we decide to table that for this year and use it for future conventions. I am working with the Volunteers and other groups within the committee. We have a very good convention that is coming together for the MWR with more information that will be coming out in the next few weeks.

Planned Activities:

I plan to continue to outreach with vendors to get flyers into new markets to bring in attendees to the train show. Work with local vendors to grow this show and add more vendors. We are having new layouts added to this show. So please, if you want tables, make your reservation now. I plan to continue to serve in the position as Director At Large in the MWR for the next 1 year and what other tasks that get assigned to me by the Region President.

I will continue my work with the MWR Convention Planning Group and working with Ron Sharping to better understand the membership data information that comes from National as I have said that I will take his place when he retires from doing this one job for the Region. I have been doing it for a while for the Division.

Great Train Show Manager:

I am currently serving as the Great Train Show Manager for the CID. We are working on getting new people to help with this show even though it is run by a third party. This past January we brought 18 people to show some were very brand new to learning about how the CID runs a show booth at the Indiana State Fair Grounds. and the Franklin Train Show. Speaking of trains shows since January of this year My wife and I have covered multiple trains shows for the CID with some of them back-to-back shows. This were I have the opportunity to work with new CID board members or non-members that are interested in leadership to show them about a how working at Train Show is all about so that they are not afraid when we ask for help at the 3 Division Train Shows we put on.

AP Cert.:

I am continuing to work towards my MMR.

Sincerely

Michael Roderick
Franklin Train Show Manger
Central Indiana Division
Director At Large
Midwest Region
NMRA

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, October 2023

To: Board of Directors

From: Dan Hinel MMR

Date: October 17, 2023

Subject: Director at Large

Activities since Last Board Meeting

Attended CID Franklin train show August 5, 2023.

Attended several CID Track Talk Zoom meetings.

Attended several CID Board Zoom meetings.

Planned Activities

Attend NCR regional meeting Fort Wayne

CID Danville Train Show November 18, 2023

Attend CID Track Talk meetings.

Attend CID Board meetings.

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 2023

To: Board of Directors
From: Dave Mashino
Date: 10/8/2023
Subject: Midwest Region Director At Large

Activities since Last Board Meeting

I served as an appointed trainmaster for the Central Indiana Division last year. This year I was elected CID trainmaster for a two-year term. I have attended all board meetings in person and via zoom and volunteered at the CID's Franklin Train Show.

As manager for the CID's November Danville show this year, I have been busy for the last several months. All the tables have been sold and we are preparing for another great show this year. This has been quite the learning process for me.

Planned Activities

I continue to work on the AP Structures certificate. I am attending the NCR Fort Wayne Rails conference in October and plan to take two of my structures to display and be evaluated there.

I will be hosting a meeting of the Midwestern Modelers Club in December which will include a tour of my layout.

I plan to run for a second term on the MWR board next year.

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, Nov 2023

To: Board of Directors
From: Dr. Robert Perry
Date: Nov. 18, 2023
Subject: Director at Large Report

Activities since Last Board Meeting

As the Co-Manager of the Fall Modeler's Meet, I worked with John Coy on organizing the Fall 2023 Modeler's Meet that was held in Ellettsville, IN from 10am-3pm at the First Methodist Church on Saturday, September 23rd. Trevor Jones was the guest speaker for the event. As an eye doctor, I had given a brief discussion about the use of various magnification aids in Model Railroading such as the MicroMark Brush Cam and demonstrated a small Z-Scale layout. The event was well attended and was deemed successful by the participants and attendees.

John and Connie Coy and I have been in contact with multiple model railroaders and are working on promoting the NMRA for possible membership.

Have written several articles on various model railroading topics and have had every article either published or accepted for publication in various Divisional, Regional and National publications.

Volunteered on multiple occasions to help display and operate the Glacier Line and the portable layouts owned by John Coy at various shows and tours.

Planned Activities

Future layout tours will be arranged in the northern and eastern Indiana counties pending interest.

Working on various AP certificates. Have received the Golden Spike as well as the Electrical, Scenery, Cars, and Chief Dispatcher AP awards in the past year. I have submitted application for the author AP and will hopefully receive that soon. I currently serve on both the MWR and CID and will have the Official and Volunteer certificates when my service requirements are completed, thus completing the MMR. May also pursue the civil engineering award and will either give the turnouts that I make to a fellow modeler that may be rebuilding his layout or create a photographic foreground with the trackwork to put in front of a layout to add depth.

Continue working on my remaining AP certificates and encouraging others in their pursuit of this as well.

Continue to try to improve on my own home layout by designing and 3D printing many commercially unavailable railroad cars, structures, and details.

Assisting John Coy in arranging future Modeler's Meets in various locations to help support modelers in areas not currently able to attend the meets due to distance from their homes.

Constantly trying to learn more about this great hobby of ours and assist and encourage others to do the same, especially through the benefits of membership in the NMRA.

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, Nov 2023

To: Board of Directors
From: Precilla D. Roderick
Date: 10/16/2023
Subject: Director At Large Report

Activities since Last Board Meeting:

I enjoy helping the Central Indiana Division show managers put on some of the greatest train shows. The Franklin Train Show is over and starting. As well as other work within the Division. My roll as Chief Clerk and supporting Michael Roderick with his duties as the Franklin Train Show Manager and Great Train Manager. I am working on my AP as well.

Planned Activities:

I will be running again as Chief Clerk for the Division and supporting the multiply train shows that the Division sponsors or goes to with in the Division.

Sincerely

Precilla Roderick
Chief Clerk
Central Indiana Division
Director At Large
Midwest Region
NMRA

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 2023

To: Board of Directors

From: Burnell Breaker

Date: 10/17/2023

Subject: WISE Report

Activities since Last Board Meeting

Train School to introduce people to model railroading

Monthly Membership Meets with clinics, contests and layout tours

Began collecting model railroad donations as a way to help families dispose of a deceased family member's collection and a source of income for the Division.

Membership has held steady.

Planned Activities

Monthly Membership Meets with clinics, contests and layout tours

Train School, January 2024

Charter trip at East Troy Electric Railroad for members.
Box lunch and visits to car barn and maintenance building.

Continuing to collect model railroad donations as a source of income for the Division.

Item 24 b

To: MWR Secretary

From: Burnell Breaker

Date: 10/17/2023

Subject: Current Roster of Division Officers Report for November 2023

Division: Wisconsin Southeastern (WISE)

President/Superintendent

Name: Burnell Breaker

NMRA Membership Number: L03762

Vice President/Asst Superintendent.

Name: Robert Niedermann

NMRA Membership Number: 134315

Secretary/Clerk

Name: David Rohr

NMRA Membership Number: L03422

Treasurer/Paymaster

Name: Dennis Janssen

NMRA Membership Number: 148855

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 2023

To: Board of Directors

From: Paul Hillmer

Date: 10/19/2023

Subject: Winnebagoland Division Activities

Activities since Last Board Meeting

Fall WLD Division Meet at St Peters Lutheran School in Appleton WI 10/6 & 7/23. Friday night session was a successful and modelers round table attended by 25 or so. Meet on Saturday had 52 attended. Had 5 clinics Saturday am, busy photo contest with 20 plus entries, 6 models in contest but many more were displayed. Awards at lunch and food was prepared by church youth group. 5 home layouts and Paper Valley Model RR Club open for layout tours. Can report a very successful meet. The Friday night modelers round table was a new idea for us and went well. I had two newer division members, Luke Lemens and Mike Ostertag put this together based on what they do at the Proto Modelers retreat.

Also had the division Facebook Meta page bi monthly event via zoom, Workshop Wednesday on 9/20/23

Planned Activities

Annual Operating Weekend Saturday 11/4/23 in Manitowoc on three home layouts.

Next Workshop Wednesday 11/15/23. See WLD page event calendar on our page for details. We will also have this in January and March and May 2024.

Spring Meet is set for Stevens Point WI 4/5/24 & 4/6/24. Waiting for confirmation from Roger Wuertzel and Mary and Mike Eiden with the church that will be used. They are going to helping with the event.

Fall meet 2024 is still open

Spring 2025 will be in Sheboygan WI and Fall 2025 In Marinette WI .

The division will be providing liability insurance and helping out once again with a booth and some man power for Title Town Train Show. It will be at the KI Center Green Bay 5/4/24 and 5/5/24

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 2023

To: Board of Directors

From: Jimmie Tatum

Date: 24OCT23

Subject: IVD Report

Activities since Last Board Meeting

Held Division picnic
Hosted MWR Spring Board meeting
Toured portable hands-on layout to train shows and events

Planned Activities

Division potluck – Feb
Trainshows – Nov, Feb and March

Item 27 b

To: MWR Secretary

From: Jimmie Tatum

Date: 23/10/23

Subject: Current Roster of Division Officers Report for November 2023

Division: Illinois Valley Division (IVD)

President/Superintendent

Name: Jimmie Tatum

NMRA Membership Number: 149137 00

Vice President/Asst Superintendent.

Name: Minton Dings

NMRA Membership Number: 126114 0A

Secretary/Clerk

Name: Randy Sommer

NMRA Membership Number: 168830 00

Treasurer/Paymaster

Name: Jeff Deasy

NMRA Membership Number: 169890 00

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 2023

To: Board of Directors

From: Daniel Banks

Date: 10-18-2023

Subject: Central Indiana Division Superintendent's Report

Activities since Last Board Meeting

The CID has completed the following divisional activities:

- hosted a two day train show Aug 5-6
- held a Modeler's Meet, a show and tell with roughly 10 minute clinics on projects that CID members have been working on. A formal clinic on scenery was conducted by Trevor Jones
- Promoted the NMRA at three local division non NMRA shows
- I was invited to visit the Winnebago Division and provide some training for AP judging. On Oct 20 I traveled to Madison and toured 4 layouts. On Saturday I worked with 10 other region members on the judging process. It was great to meet everyone and I greatly appreciated their hospitality!

Planned Activities

The CID is in the planning stages for the following:

- Engaging local libraries to provide model railroad programming. The division is looking at a range of options including building T-trak models, pizza box style layouts, make and takes. We are looking to fund these through profits from our three train shows per year.
- Starting a division Free-mo layout patterned largely from the Division 7 (Cincy) group HAVOC. The primary purpose of the modular layout will be to provide not only an excellent example of modeling, but to serve as an outreach to attendees as train shows/events. The goal will be to run a relaxed operating session during the show and put a throttle in the hand of anyone getting to close to the layout so that we can guide them in operating the railroad.
- We will host the Danville Trains Show in Danville Indiana. We will also be hosting the regional board meeting during this show.

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 2023

To: Board of Directors

From: Mike Lehman, Superintendent, Illinois Terminal Division

Date: October 20, 2023

Subject: Report to MWR, October 2023

Activities since Last Board Meeting: ITD continues to meet monthly via Zoom, for the most part, on the second Wednesday of the month at 6pm. This post-train show part of the year coincides with the summer months, but then starts picking up. ITD assisted the Midwest Live Steamers as they operated at the Monticello Railway Museum' Railroad Days on Sept. 23-24. We help safely supervise the crowd around the hot live steam, which provides an opportunity to get the NMRA in front of visitors while at the same time promoting next year's train show.

The Lincoln Square Train Show for 2024 is March 23 & 24 and will be the 40th edition of this show which ITD has operated since 2018. We are still rebuilding our vendor list post-pandemic, so encourage anyone who is or may know a vendor to get in contact with Show Chair and ITD Super and we'd be glad to add them. The 2023 show finally put this project in firm financial ground with some judicious cost cutting. Save-the-date cards for the 2024 show went out this week.

An unplanned, but very fortuitous result of the 2023 show was that it brought in a very active new member, Zach James, who has continued to engage enthusiastically with division activities, helping at the aforementioned RR Days event and with dismantling of late member Buzz Swett's layout. The last three shows have now brought in a new member, which sounds like rather limited results, but each one means a great deal when you're as small an organization as ITD (<24 members). Combined with an good effort for retention of existing members we're happy to continue working toward even better future results in regard to membership.

Planned Activities

Planning for the 2024 40th anniversary train show continues, with submissions to the national press of the event announcement beginning after Thanksgiving, followed by the vendor, display layout, and historical society app forms right after New Year 2024. One feature will be the 2nd Annual Urbana Freemo Open (UFO) which will build a layout on Saturday, then operate it for the rest of the weekend. We encourage anyone with Freemo modules to join in helping us build this event held in conjunction with the train show. Several ITD members have expressed an interest in building there own Freemo modules, which can only add to the fun, as well as providing a means to fly the ITD/NMRA flag at relatively local events like the Cornfield Freemo meets held in McLean, IL (next up is Cornfield X April 19-21, 2024.) Freemo has lots of potential for recruiting and retaining members, as well as providing a great venue to do clinics and otherwise educate about model railroading in an easily digestible form.

Importantly, we are still seeking the right member to replace Allen Byrne, our longstanding, award-winning chief clerk and paymaster, who will be stepping down in May 2024. Super Lehman will continue seeking out that person.

To: MWR Secretary
From: Mike Lehman, ITD Superintendent
Date: October 20, 2023
Subject: Current Roster of Division Officers Report for November 2023

Division: Illinois Terminal Division

President/Superintendent

Name: Mike Lehman
NMRA Membership Number: 097944 00

Vice President/Asst Superintendent.

Name: Alan Chesnut
NMRA Membership Number: 164242 00

Secretary/Clerk

Name: Allen Byrne
NMRA Membership Number: 131431 00

Treasurer/Paymaster

Name: Allen Byrne
NMRA Membership Number: 131431 00

Director

Name: Mark Schleeter
NMRA Membership Number: 145870 00

Director

Name: Ernie Noa
NMRA Membership Number: 132383 00

Director

Name: Robert Buxton
NMRA Membership Number: 172076 00

For Minutes, Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 18, 2023

To: Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA

From: Michael L. Hirvela, Director, Superintendent, Fox Valley Division (FVD), Div #2809

Date: October 16, 2023

Subject: FVD Report for Fall 2023 MWR BoD Meeting

Activities since Last Board Meeting:

- The FVD concluded our 2022-2023 season with the monthly meeting in May 2023 at the Gary Morava Recreation Center in Prospect Heights, IL. Overall, the Division has averaged 30 attendees per meeting with about an even 50/50 split of members attending in person and over the Zoom computer system, including members and clinicians/presenters and former members chiming in from Wisconsin, Florida and Tennessee and elsewhere.
- The FVD commenced our 2023-2024 season with a member meeting at the Glenview Public Library in September, with another member meeting scheduled at the same location in December. At the September meeting, the membership congratulated our own Jim Osborn, MMR, who received an NMRA Presidents Award for Service to the organization.
- The October and November meetings will be at the Morava Recreation Center in Prospect Heights, IL, where the FVD has held meetings for the last several years. Our Board of Directors made the meeting location decisions based on member input. We received good feedback on this location. In view of an increase in the room rental and a reduction of available time, we are searching other venues. A decision is forthcoming on meeting location for the remainder of the 2023-2024 season.
- The FVD was asked and agreed to co-sponsor the Railroad Prototype Modelers (RPM) Chicagoland meet on October 27 and 28, at Northern Illinois University campus in Naperville, IL. As of the date of this report, NMRA President Gordy Robinson will be attendance.
- We have also continued with a member solicitation table at the DuPage Fairgrounds in Wheaton, IL, during alternating months of the Great MidWest Train Show, aka: The Wheaton swap. We are reviewing the results of this endeavor, as volunteerism for the event has tapered off.

Planned Activities

- To continue to host Hybrid In-Person and Virtual presence meetings for the remainder of the 2023-2024 season in different locations in the division's area.

- FVD also plans to host a member solicitation table at the Great Midwest Train Show, aka: The Wheaton Swap, in December, February, April and June if we decide to continue with this effort.
- We also plan on installing a display at the Mount Prospect Public Library in early 2024. We have had displays in the library display cases the last several years. We have to make application and the library folks run a lottery for the available display cases.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael L. Hirvela
Superintendent

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 2023

To: Board of Directors
From: Marty Hendrickx Superintendent RRVD
Date: 10/17/2023
Subject: MWR report

Activities since Last Board Meeting

We had our June Junket which was a day at the Illinois Railway Museum. We had 18 attendees and we were given a tour of the entire facility. It was RPO Day so we received a great demonstration of RPO operation and had several former RPO officers giving their personal stories about working in the RPO. August was our potluck annual picnic. RRVD provided the burgers, brats and beverages. RRVD is now having their monthly meets at the Paulson Agricultural Museum in Argyle, IL. Conveniently, located a short distance off of exit 9 of I-90/39, it is a nice facility with lots of parking and seems to be more convenient for our membership. Represented the NMRA at the Monroe Train Show with a membership booth. We did get interest from several potential new members but they were all outside of our division.

Planned Activities

We plan to hold a monthly meet at Paulson's every month through April with each meet having several clinics followed by a layout tour. In December we will be representing the NMRA at the Capron Lion's Train Show. In January we will have our annual holiday dinner. All members are invited along with an invited guest. March 16 & 17 we will be having our annual Rock River Valley Train Show. This will be held at Harlem High School in Machesney Park, IL. They have a great field house with over 42,000 sq. ft. We have been getting a great response from vendors, club layouts and attendees. In May we will be having our joint meet with the South Central Wisconsin Division in Madison, WI

Item 32

To: MWR Secretary

From: Alex Schneider, DuPage Division Superintendent

Date: October 25, 2023

Subject: Current Roster of Division Officers Report for November 2023

Division: DuPage

President/Superintendent

Name: Alex Schneider

NMRA Membership Number: 028355

Vice President/Asst Superintendent.

Name: Perry Sugerman

NMRA Membership Number: L03564

Secretary/Clerk

Name: Jim Marciniak

NMRA Membership Number: 098532

Treasurer/Paymaster

Name: Ron Scharping

NMRA Membership Number: 029908

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 2023

To: Board of Directors
From: Greg Bueltmann, Michiana Division
Date: 16 October 2023
Subject: MWR 2024 Convention Planning

Activities since Last Board Meeting

Weekly and Bi-Weekly Meetings: 4/6/23, 4/13/23, 4/27/23, 5/4/23, 5/11/23, 5/18/23, 5/25/23, 6/1/23, 6/8/23, 6/15/23, 6/22/23, 6/29/23, 7/13/23, 8/3/23, 8/10/23, 8/24/23, 9/7/23, 9/14/23, 9/21/23, 9/28/23, 10/5/23, 10/19/23, 10/26/23

Century Center secured as venue.

All planning details available online to interested parties, contact Greg Bueltmann for details.

<http://www.aroundthebend.com>

SAVE THE DATE

AROUND THE BEND
MIDWEST REGIONAL CONVENTION
MAY 2TH-4TH, 2024
The Century Center, South Bend, Indiana

Regional Train Show • Clinics • SIG Activities • Layout Tours
Operating Sessions • Display Room • NMRA AP Program Judging
Railroad and General Interest Tours • *And much more!*

2024AROUNDTHEBEND.COM

To: MWR Secretary

From: Greg Bueltmann, Michiana Division

Date: October 16, 2023

Subject: Current Roster of Division Officers Report for November 2023

Division:

President/Superintendent

Name: Greg Bueltmann

NMRA Membership Number: 164834 00

Secretary/Clerk

Name: John Banicki

NMRA Membership Number: 159566 00

Treasurer/Paymaster

Name: Jim Temple

NMRA Membership Number: 131269 00

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 2023

To: Board of Directors
From: Bob McGeever
Date: October 20, 2023
Subject: Regional Advisory Committee Activity

The RAC holds zoom meetings three to four times a year.

The last meeting was held on August 5th. I missed it as I was somewhere on Interstate 80 in the middle of Ohio at the time of the session. The main topics of discussion were the need for an NMRA email system and NMRA member retention programs.

The next session is planned for Nov 4th. Frank Kock, Chief Financial Officer of the NMRA will present an overview of the NMRA finances. The CFO reports, budgets, tax returns and audit reports will be covered. Also planned is a discussion of NMRA Leadership Principles.

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 2023

To: Board of Directors
From: Steve Studley
Date: October 20, 2023
Subject: Immediate Past President

Activities since Last Board Meeting

Under the title "other duties as assigned by the President" I have been acting on a temporary basis as Convention Committee Chair. Please see my Convention Committee report for information regarding turning that job over to Daniel Banks (CID).

Planned Activities

Will continue to attend weekly Zoom meetings for the planning of the 2024 Convention.

To: Board of Directors

From: Connie J. Coy

Date: November 18, 2023

Subject: Secretary's Report

Dear Midwest Region Board of Directors:

This past year I have prepared the minutes and reports for our BOD and MOM Meetings in November and May. Special thanks to Bob McGeever, who assisted with the May MOM meeting minutes.

I want to thank you all for how prompt you were in getting your reports to me this year. I am honored to serve as the MWR secretary.

Respectfully,

Connie J. Coy

NMRA Membership Number: 168406

October 18, 2023

Treasurer's Report

Year-to-date Income statement and balance sheet information for September 2023 are attached for your information. A comparison to prior year is included.

Year-to-date September 2023 revenues totaled \$4,718.04, \$7,021.62 less than prior year. Recall, however, that last year included \$6,933 of Indy Junction convention related revenue. NMRA revenue share was down more than 5% while subscription revenue increased a bit over 1%. Net loss of \$2,482.85 was \$8,285.19 less than prior year principally due to lower revenue, higher BOD expenses (primarily related to the spring meeting) and increased Waybill related costs.

September 2023 cash balance was \$42,326.14, a decrease of \$2,913.73 from prior year. NMRA revenue sharing checks cut in October further reduced cash on hand by \$1,050.00.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Keith A. Thomsen
Treasurer

Midwest Region NMRA					
Balance Sheet as of September 30					
		Sep 30, 23	Sep 30, 22	\$ Change	% Change
ASSETS					
Current Assets					
Checking/Savings					
Checking					
	BMO Harris Checking	42,326.14	45,239.87	-2,913.73	-6.44%
	Total Checking	42,326.14	45,239.87	-2,913.73	-6.44%
	Total Checking/Savings	42,326.14	45,239.87	-2,913.73	-6.44%
Accounts Receivable					
Accounts receivable					
	NMRA Receivables	231.81	255.74	-23.93	-9.36%
	Total Accounts receivable	231.81	255.74	-23.93	-9.36%
	Total Accounts Receivable	231.81	255.74	-23.93	-9.36%
	Total Current Assets	42,557.95	45,495.61	-2,937.66	-6.46%
	TOTAL ASSETS	42,557.95	45,495.61	-2,937.66	-6.46%
LIABILITIES & EQUITY					
Liabilities					
Current Liabilities					
Accounts Payable					
	Accounts payable	1,050.00	0.00	1,050.00	100.0%
	Total Accounts Payable	1,050.00	0.00	1,050.00	100.0%
	Total Current Liabilities	1,050.00	0.00	1,050.00	100.0%
	Total Liabilities	1,050.00	0.00	1,050.00	100.0%
Equity					
	Opening Bal Equity	17,393.30	17,393.30	0.00	0.0%
Permanently Restricted Funds					
	Moskal Award Funds	165.20	165.20	0.00	0.0%
	Youth Program Funds	6,560.74	6,560.74	0.00	0.0%
	Total Permanently Restricted Funds	6,725.94	6,725.94	0.00	0.0%
	Unrestrict (retained earnings)	19,871.56	15,574.03	4,297.53	27.59%
	Net Income	-2,482.85	5,802.34	-8,285.19	-142.79%
	Total Equity	41,507.95	45,495.61	-3,987.66	-8.77%
	TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	42,557.95	45,495.61	-2,937.66	-6.46%



For Minutes, Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 18, 2023 Item 38

To: Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA

From: Michael L. Hirvela, Vice-President, MWR

Date: October 16, 2023

Subject: MWR Vice-President Report for Fall 2023 MWR BoD Meeting

Activities since Last Board Meeting:

- Continued to be supportive of the Region.
- Continued to be supportive of the reorganization efforts in the WISE Division.
- Consulted with MWR President regarding MWR activities.

Planned Activities:

- Continue to support WISE Division's reorganization efforts.
- Provide support to the MWR President and Board.

Submitted:

Michael L. Hirvela
VP, MWR

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 2023

To: Board of Directors
From: Bob McGeever
Date: October 20, 2023
Subject: Presidents Report 2023 Fall BOD Meet

Activities since Last Board Meeting

MWR Region Convention Planning:

- The committee is holding weekly zoom sessions to plan the spring MWR convention. It will be held the first weekend of May at the Century Center in South Bend Indian. Details will be distributed using the MWR Constant Contact email account.
- We are trying to create a new model for how to put on a convention by creating reusable processes for the activities that have to happen for every convention. Things like ticket sales, Audio/Video equipment, and credit card processing should be a service provided by the region in support of the division that has volunteered to host the convention.

Mad City Train Show:

- I am the committee chair for The Mad City Train Show which is hosted every February by the South Central Wisconsin Division in Madison Wisconsin.
- There is a 12-person team that coordinates all activities using Zoom sessions.
- It is a two day show that covers 100,000 square feet of expo space featuring 250 vendor tables, 50 exhibitor tables and 30 layouts. We are hoping to add clinics in the next few years.
- My direct operational responsibilities are invitations to show participants and floor planning. Invitations are sent out in July and August. Each potential participant is sent a personal invitation to the show. The responses are processed until early January. Floor planning starts in September and is finalized in the first week of February.
- I am the main contact and coordinator with the online ticket vendor. The show uses an online ticketing service called Etix. It is one of the few services willing to work with smaller events. Online ticket sales have to be functional by late October. This will be our fourth show with online ticket sales. It has significantly reduced the need for staff to sell tickets the days of the show.
- I am also the treasurer for the show. Which means I am responsible for the tools needed to process credit cards at our ticket booths and company store.

South Central Wisconsin Division:

I am no longer on the Board of Directors for the SCWD but I will continue as the Treasurer.

Planned Activities

Continued participation on the MWR Convention planning committee.

Continued work on the Mad City Train Show.

In order to better understand the issues related to contest judges and judging at events, I will be going through a judging training session.

Such other duties as assigned?