

Meeting Agenda Midwest Region, NMRA BOD May 5, 2024			
Item #	Agenda Item	Responsibility	Page #
	Call to order	Bob McGeever	
	Roll Call	Connie Coy	
	<u>MeetingMinutes</u>		
Item 1	Midwest Region BOD Minutes Nov 18, 2023	Bob McGeever	
	<u>Reports</u>		
	<u>Committees:</u>		
Item 2	Convention	Steve Studley	
Item 3	Achievement Program	Jim Landwehr	No Rpt
Item 4	Financial Review	Phillip Burnside	No Rpt
Item 5	Clinic Clearing House	John Coy	
Item 6	South Bend Convention	Dan Banks	
Item 7	Education Coordinator	Vacant	No Rpt
Item 8	Election	Jim Osborn	
Item 9	Internet	Jim Osborn	
Item 10	Long Range Planning	Steven Studley	
Item 11	Membership	Ron Scharping	No Rpt
Item 12	Nominating	Steve Studley	
Item 13	Photographer	Open	No Rpt
Item 14	Promotions and Special Projects	Mike Hirvela	No Rpt
Item 15	Publications	David Leider	No Rpt
Item 16	Youth Fund	Thomas Ose	No Rpt
Item 17	Model Contest	Open	No Rpt
	<u>Directors-at-Large:</u>		
Item 18	Director at Large 2024	Michael Roderick	
Item 19	Director at Large 2026	John Poray	No Rpt

Mee ng Agenda Midwest Region, NMRA BOD Nov. 18, 2023			
Item #	Agenda Item	Responsibility	Page #
Item 20	Director at Large 2026	Phillip Burnside	No Rpt
Item 21	Director at Large 2026	David Mashino	
Item 22	Director at Large 2025	Robert Perry	
Item 23	Director at Large 2025	Prescilla Roderick	
Item 24	Director at Large 2025	Alex Schneider	
	<u>DivisionDirectors:</u>		
Item 25	Division Director WISE 2801	Burnell Breaker	
Item 26	Division Director SCWD 2802	Art Dawson, Jr.	
Item 27	Division Director WLD 2803	Paul Hillmer	
Item 28	Division Director IVD 2805	Gary Baker	
Item 29	Division Director CID 2806	Dan Banks	
Item 30	Division Director ITD 2807	Mike Lehman	
Item 31	Division Director FVD 2809	Michael Hirvela	No Rpt
Item 32	Division Director RRVD 2810	Ron Johnson	No Rpt
Item 33	Division Director DPD 2811	Alex Schneider	
Item 34	Division Director MID 2815	Greg Bueltmann	
	<u>BODOfficerReports:</u>		
Item 35	Regional Advisory Council Representative	Bob McGeever	
Item 36	Immediate Past President	Steve Studley	
Item 37	Secretary	Connie Coy	
Item 38	Treasurer	Keith Thomsen	
Item 39	Vice President	Michael Hirvela	No Rpt
Item 40	President	Bob McGeever	
	<u>OldBusiness</u>		
Item 41	Illinois Business Agent	Bob McGeever	
Item 42	MWR D&O Insurance	Bob McGeever	

Meeting Agenda Midwest Region, NMRA BOD May 5, 2024			
Item 43	Other	Bob McGeever	
	Motion to accept the election results.		
	Motion to destroy the election ballots		
	<u>New Business</u>		
Item 44	MWR Pay \$700 for expense for Constant Contact due June, 2024	Jim Osborn	
Item 45	Looking at changing web hosting from Bluehost to Hostinger at \$700 for 4 years, then \$1600 after first 4 years. Worsecase max cost is \$1200 to stay with Bluehost. Fox Valley Division will split the cost.	Jim Osborn	
Item 46	Trainfest 2025	Bob McGeever	
Item 47	Set Date, Time for MWR BoD meeting November, 2024	Bob McGeever	
	<u>Announcements</u> <u>Other</u>	Bob McGeever	
	<u>Adjourn</u>	Bob McGeever	

NMRA Midwest Region Meeting of the Board of Directors, November 18, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order by President Bob McGeever

Roll Call was taken by Secretary/Clerk Connie Coy

Members Present

Bob McGeever, Connie Coy, Steve Studley, Dan Banks, Dan Hinel, Jim Osborn, Bob Perry, John Coy, Michael Roderick, Prescilla Roderick, Dave Mashino, Dan Hinel, ZOOM: Alex Schneider, Art Dawson, Jim Landwehr, Mike Lehman, Dennis Zamirowski, Greg Buelmann, Mike Hirvela, Mary Hendrickx

Members Absent

Phillip Burnside (Proxy John Coy), Burnell Breaker, Jim Tatum, Mike Lehman, Keith Thomsen, Phil Herman

Guests

Rod Thompson via ZOOM

Minutes from MWR BOD Meeting of May 10, 2023, were presented. Dan Banks moved to accept the Minutes as written, Dan Hinel seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes for the MOM Meeting of May 10, 2023, were presented. Jim Osborn noted that the MOM minutes needed a correction that Alex Schneider be listed as being in the DuPage Division. Secretary noted and made correction. Dan Banks moved to accept the corrected minutes. Dan Hinel seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports were presented for discussion and approval. Steve Studley noted that we have a slate of 7 nominees for Directors at Large and officers whose names and bios will appear in the next Waybill.

Jim Osborn noted that Internet issues regarding email have been addressed to prevent spammers. There was discussion with various members of how their divisions try to keep their members' Emails private. Jim is continuing to work with Pres. McGeever to "fix the spam issue" (TMNRA).

Dan Hinel moved that committee reports be approved and placed on file. Dan Banks seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

BOD Officer Reports were presented. Pres. McGeever noted that the Regional Advisory committee met to consider ways to encourage the Membership to register and pay for membership online. There were concerns raised regarding security of the platform regarding credit cards. Jim Osborn noted that the browser NMRA uses is secure and how folks could check for themselves to see if a browser is secure.

Dan Banks moved that the Officer reports be approved and placed on file. Dan Hinel seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business Marty Hendrickx, as the Illinois business agent, is arranging for the region officers and the MWR Board to be covered for liability (Director and Officer insurance) while serving on the board. This was discussed and the Insurance is being arranged.

New Business 1. Jim Osborn requested that the BOD approve the MWR Treasurer send a check for the annual JotForm subscription. JotForm is the webform application for election balloting, email address updates and BOD contact information. Michael Roderick moved the expenditure be approved. Denis Zamirowski seconded. Moon carried unanimously.

2. John Coy raised the need to provide plaques for members who provide exceptional service to the MWR. Those present BOD thought this was a good idea and approved this be done when deemed appropriate.

3. Bob McGeever requested that we set a date, time and place for May 2024 MWR BOD and MOM meetings. Place will be at the May Convention in South Bend. Time and Place were suggested for Sunday May 5 at 9 or 10 a.m. at a place to be determined by the Planners of the Convention: Dan Banks and Greg Bueltmann. Discussion followed regarding the cost of travel, time commitment and how scattered the Board members are around the region. It was also discussed whether meeting in person, ZOOM or hybrid meetings should be done in the future. MOM meetings might be included in the Board meetings due to ongoing low attendance at this constitutionally mandated meeting. Although Sunday May 5 will be the date of the next meeting, several members stated that Sundays are generally never a day they can attend any morning meetings as they have prior commitments. Many hoped that if the meetings were not held during a Convention or NMRA train event, that they all be via ZOOM. It was an expressed desire that most future meetings be at least a hybrid meeting, if not completely by ZOOM. President McGeever and Jim Osborn will look into this to be decided at our May meeting.

Denis Zamirowski suggested that Division Superintendents place their calendars of Division events on the calendar of the Waybill for all the MWR members to see. All present thought this was a good idea. Jim Osborn explained how to add events online.

Bob McGeever gave an update of the WISE Division.

There being no other business, Bob McGeever called for a moon to adjourn. Moved by Mike Roderick and seconded by Steve Studley. Moon passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Connie J. Coy

MWR Secretary

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, May 2024

To: Board of Directors

From: Steve Studley

Date: April 10, 2024

Subject: Convention

Activities since Last Board Meeting

As noted in the November 2023 report, on June 5, 2023, I stopped being the “temporary, ad-hoc, pseudo-chair of the convention committee. Daniel Banks, CID, has become the official Chair of this committee.

Michiana Division, working with the Central Indiana Division, is the host of 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. Great progress has been made to ensure the convention will be a success.

Planned Activities

I continue to attend the weekly Zoom meetings and plan to be involved in the exit report for the convention.

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, April 2024

To: Board of Directors

From: John Robert Coy, MMR #730, Clinic Clearing House Manager

Date: April 2024

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

I am still in the process of gathering clinic information.

This is an on-going process.

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, May 2024

To: Board of Directors
From: Daniel Banks
Date: 4/20/2024
Subject: Convention Chair's Report

Activities since Last Board Meeting

The 2024 MWR Convention planning has been led by the Michiana Division. This team planned and performed the convention in 14 months. The shorter ramp was made more difficult by purposely doing the planning in a way that increases documentation, ideas, and region resources to make future convention planning less difficult. We used many of the ideas from Indy Junction in keeping the price lower, providing great activities in a shorter time frame.

While providing some overall guidelines of what we were trying to accomplish this group took the concepts and ran with them. Empowering the committee to approach the area they were in charge of led to some great accomplishments. Some decisions were more difficult such as not holding a contest but that freed that sub committee up to set up demonstrations in the display room and make demo blocks, shaped like the convention logo, that we were able to give away to convention attendees.

One aspect that really impacted the cost of the convention was reaching out to the visitors bureau which provided a sizable grant - \$3500 for the convention This grant allowed us to rent the buses for the tours with only a very minor fee to attendees, cover advertising and other convention costs.

Planned Activities

In the next couple of months, after a breather from all the planning, I will be compiling the data and documents we created. Hindsight from after the convention has been completed will let me take attendance numbers and work with some other facilities in the area to see what we might also have been able to use in order to bring the cost even lower while listing the drawbacks of such sites. This will make it easier to future conventions to pursue facilities that may be more in line with cost and size. The goal is to make this information not only usable on a regional convention but as a division convention as well.

With the decision to bring TrainFest back to a regional event, it may be wise to consider if we want to continue with regional conventions, if they can be incorporated into Train Fest, or if divisional conventions may be a better way to go. It may be more beneficial to have a convention manager located in the norther/western part of the region.

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, May 2024

To: Board of Directors
From: Jim Osborn, Election Committee Chairman
Date: April 5, 2024
Subject: Election Committee Report

Activities since Last Board Meeting

- 1) Created the election ballot after the BoD approval of the candidate slate at the Fall 2023 BoD meeting per the Election Committee Policy and Procedure. The ballot was in both “paper” form for the *Waybill* and as an e-ballot as specified in the revised Election Policy & Procedure.
- 2) Forwarded 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) Received and counted the ballots after the forthcoming election.
- 4) Prepared and distributed the Election Results report. The report is reprinted on pages 2 and 3 of this report.

Planned Activities

- 1) Destroy and delete the past election ballots per the election policy after approval of the BoD.
- 2) Prepare future election ballots per the Election Committee Policy and Procedure.
- 2) Continue to explore additional electronic voting applications.

To: Midwest Region NMRA Executive Committee

From: Jim Osborn & Steve Miazga

Date: February 16, 2024

Subject: Election Results

The ballots of the recent election were counted and audited on February 15, 2024 by Election Committee members Jim Osborn and Steve Miazga. Ron Scharping, MWR Membership Chairman, verified that all voters were valid members of the Midwest Region effective January 31, 2023.

The results of the voting are:

For Director-at-Large:

Ron Johnson, Rock River Valley Division	125
Dave Mashino, Central Indiana Division (Incumbent)	102
Phillip Burnside, Central Indiana Division (Incumbent)	88
John Poray, Central Indiana Division	77
Rob Clendening, Central Indiana Division	65
John Coy, Central Indiana Division	65
John Koehler, Central Indiana Division	57
Gary Children (WISE)	1 write-in vote
Tim Schubert (DuPage)	1 write-in vote

The winners of the election For Director-at-Large are:

Ron Johnson, Rock River Valley Division
Dave Mashino, Central Indiana Division (Incumbent)
Phillip Burnside, Central Indiana Division (Incumbent)
John Poray, Central Indiana Division

Balloting Summary:

Total E-Ballots Received	149	
Total Paper Ballots Received	28	
Total Ballots Received	177	
Valid Ballots	167	
Invalid Ballots	2	No Credentials Listed.
Canceled Ballots	8	Members that voted twice.
Votes not cast (under voted)	83	

Ballots Cast By Division:

Central Indiana (2806)	44
South Central Wisconsin (2802)	25
Rock River Valley (2810)	22
Fox Valley (2809)	21
DuPage (2811)	16
Wisconsin Southeastern (2801)	13
WinnebagoLand (2803)	12
Illinois Valley (2805)	11
Michiana (2815)	9
Illinois Terminal (2807)	2
Unknown	2

Respectively submitted,

Jim Osborn, Committee Chairman
Steve Miazga, Committee Member

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, May 2024

To: Board of Directors
From: Jim Osborn, Internet Committee Chm.
Date: April 10, 2024
Subject: Internet Committee Report

Activities since Last Board Meeting

- 1) Developed, managed and maintained the Around the Bend Convention Committee website.
- 2) Exploring alternate hosting companies for lower cost and additional assets.
- 3) Made updates to the MWR web site per requests from National, the Region & the membership.
- 4) Assisted with the Waybill electronic publishing.
- 5) Posted current PDF versions of the Waybill on the web site.
- 6) Assisted with several miscellaneous Division web site issues and updates.
- 7) Assisted the DuPage division with the population of their mobile friendly web site.
- 8) Assisted the President & Secretary with various web related documents and associated emails.
- 9) Added a MWR Calendar web page to the website.
- 10) 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.
- 11) Tended to monthly updates of the MWR email account.
- 12) 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 approximately \$700 due June of 2024.
- 5) Complete another 3-4 year web-hosting contract. Estimated cost \$1200 for 3 years if continuing with Bluehost. Looking at several companies. Eg. Hostinger web hosting alternative at \$700 for 4 years, then \$1600 after 1st 4 years. This web-hosting expense is split with the FVD.
- 6) Assist the Secretary and President with the use of the Constant Contact application for the region.
- 7) Continue to manage monthly updates to the email data base per inputs from the Membership Chairman.
- 8) Support the upcoming election process.

MWR Historical Website activity

Metric	April-Sept 2020	Oct-March 2021	April-Sept 2021 *	Oct-March 2022	Apr-Sept 2022	Sept-March 2023	Sept-March 2023	March 2023-March 2024
Sessions	2043	2072	1916	3184	1576	3163	1915	No
Users	1527	1487	1408	2303	1128	2425	1356	data
Page Views	3719	4010	3345	5653	3215	5197	3090	collected
Content Viewed								
Home Page	1293	1143	977	1287	763	1266	857	
Waybill	877	1162	960	1051	721	1091	1000	
Division Map	152	161	128	219	111	203	176	
Conventions	93	213	263	235	112	110	117	
DuPage Div.	480	440	305	1741	264	1458	362	
Contest Photos	74	17	16	30	251	22	15	
Minutes	85	31	92	162	97	108	55	
About us	28	12	17	26	10	19	11	
Clinic Resources	17	13	12	9	5	13	40	
Elections	10	201	8	93	16	72	11	
Contact us	14	13	8	17	18	13	8	
Model Photos	36	44	29	59	46	41	22	
Notices	72	69	75	111	77	61	95	
Prototype Photos	10	12	9	17	1214	16	6	
Policies	15	27	40	30	14	22	16	
Reg Officers	179	188	186	149	180	110	100	
Address Change	28	49	58	47	30	64	45	
Calendar				New	76	54	38	
Referrals From:								
Direct Entry	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	20	9	12	52	6	83	14	
User Devices:								
Desktop	70%	68%	68%	58%	67%	55%	68%	
Mobile	25 %	27%	28%	38%	30%	41%	29%	
Tablet	5 %	5%	4%	4%	3%	4%	3%	
	April-Sept 2020	Oct-March 2021	April-Sept 2021 *	Oct-March 2022	Apr-Sept 2022	Sept-March 2023	Sept-March 2023	

* 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, May 2024

To: Board of Directors
From: Steve Studley
Date: April 12, 2024
Subject: Long Range Planning

Activities since Last Board Meeting

To show the public at large the opportunities that go with an NMRA membership, the upcoming 2024 MWR Convention will be open to non-members as well as NMRA members. It is hoped the non-members who attend will see what the NMRA/MWR provides in the way of increasing their modeling skillset.

Planned Activities

Continue to increase MWR's assistance 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 2024

To: Board of Directors
From: Steve Studley
Date: April 10, 2024
Subject: Nominations

Activities since Last Board Meeting

The slate of candidates for the 2024 election was filled in late October. The nominees were okayed by the Board at the November BoD meeting. The bios and photos for the nominees were sent to the *Waybill* editor prior to the November 10 deadline for publication in the Winter 2023 issue.

Planned Activities

The next election, in January 2025, will be for the positions of President, Vice President and three (3) Directors-at-Large. In July 2024, the committee will begin 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 will be 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 will be sent to the entire membership.

The slate of candidates will be filled in late October for the 2025 election. The names of the nominees will be presented to the Board for review at the fall Board meeting. After the Board okayes the slate of nominees, the bios and photos for the nominees will be sent to the *Waybill* editor prior to the November 10 deadline for the winter 2024 issue.

The 2025 election will be my last as chair of the Nominations committee. I am resigning from that position after the fall 2024 Board meeting.

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, May 2024

To: Board of Directors
From: Michael D. Roderick
Date: 04/11/2024
Subject: Director At Large Report

This my last official report as Director At Large for the Midwest Region. I am currently working with Ron Sharping, the Membership Manager for the Midwest Region to hopefully take over his role as Membership Manager. I also currently sit on the Midwest Region Convention Planning Committee and have the opportunity to work with a great group of members for this Regional Convention.

Activities since Last Board Meeting:**Great Train Show Manger:**

The World's Greatest Hoby Tour for the CID for us was great success. We had a huge turnout of volunteers for the CID Booth. Having two micro layouts at either end of the booth and getting people engaged was a huge success. I could not have done this with everyone's help on Saturday. On Sunday we added a third layout from Ellen Shelton. And we had more questions about the Scale Display than I have ever seen at this show. So, thank you all who helped us out. Certificates will be finished up this weekend.

Planned Activities: I have had discussions to expand the footprint of tables and do some more things at this show and will do these things. I will bring this to the board after the Franklin Train Show is over, but what we started this year is what I want to continue with.

Franklin Train Show Manger:

Activities since Last Board Meeting; Well, The books have been open, and the tables are filling up more now. We currently have 202 paid tables on the books. The Indy South and Louisville Division 8 Train Show gave me some more people that are wanting to commit to the Franklin Train Show. I have been busy with new opportunities for the growth of this show. I am presenting a proposal for this growth. We have been able to have the ability use PayPal which will greatly increase my flexibility in taking payments. I have been promoting the Franklin Train Show heavily since getting back from Amherst and Worlds Greatest Hobbies on Tour back in February. We have secured come major help with the Franklin Train Show and would not be with the help of Randy Bowman. More to come about that. We will have a Major announcement about this soon.

Planned Activities: With the upcoming summer holidays around the corner and the Franklin Train less than 4 months away I will be working with Precilla Roderick, Dan Banks, Rick Ralston, and Randy Bowman to get the Franklin Train Show across the Finish Line now. There is a plenty of opportunities for members to help out with the show in volunteering. We will be sending out a call for volunteers in May so the signup will start in June. I am developing a project that will involve several other divisions this in the early planning stages and I will have more to come in May.

Midwest Region Convention Planning Board:

Activities since Last Board Meeting: I am currently one of many Board members that are planning the Midwest Region Convention 2024 in South Bend. I have had many roles since the last meeting in October. To include getting information that Greg needed. I am currently working with Dan Banks as the Co-Coordinator for the Volunteers for the Convention.

Planned Activities: Continue working with the Board to finalize the list of Volunteers positions and where people will need to be at. Work with my co-manager as he may have so ideas as well to fill in the gaps.

Personal Goals for me I have finished my third certificate and will only need 4 more to complete my MMR. I am listed as one of the Clinicians for the Midwest Convention and I will be turning in my paperwork for my 4th certificate when this Convention is done for my Authorship Certificate.

I am continuing to work towards my MMR.

Sincerely

Michael Roderick
Franklin Train Show Manager
Great Train Show Manager
Midwest Region Convention
Volunteer Coordinator 2024
Central Indiana Division
Director At Large
Midwest Region
NMRA

NMRA Midwest Region Meeting of the Board of Directors, November 18, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order by President Bob McGeever

Roll Call was taken by Secretary/Clerk Connie Coy

Members Present

Bob McGeever, Connie Coy, Steve Studley, Dan Banks, Dan Hinel, Jim Osborn, Bob Perry, John Coy, Michael Roderick, Prescilla Roderick, Dave Mashino, Dan Hinel, ZOOM: Alex Schneider, Art Dawson, Jim Landwehr, Mike Lehman, Dennis Zamirowski, Greg Bueltmann, Mike Hirvela, Mary Hendrickx

Members Absent

Phillip Burnside (Proxy John Coy), Burnell Breaker, Jim Tatum, Mike Lehman, Keith Thomsen, Phil Herman

Guests

Rod Thompson via ZOOM

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Old Business Marty Hendrickx, as the Illinois business agent, is arranging for the region officers and the MWR Board to be covered for liability (Director And Officer insurance) while serving on the board. This was discussed and the Insurance is being arranged.

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Denis Zamirowski suggested that, Division Superintendents place their calendars of Division events on the calendar of the Waybill for all the MWR members to see. All present thought this was a good idea. Jim Osborn explained how to add events online.

Bob McGeever gave an update of the WISE Division.

There being no other business, Bob McGeever called for a motion to adjourn. Moved by Mike Roderick and seconded by Steve Studley. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Connie J. Coy

MWR Secretary

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, May 2024

To: Board of Directors
From: Dave Mashino
Date: 4/9/2024
Subject: Midwest Region Director At Large

Activities since Last Board Meeting

I managed the Danville Indiana train show that took place last November. Thanks to all the board members that attended the November board meeting at Danville last year. I hope you all had a good time at the show.

The Mid-western Model Railroad Club Christmas party was held last December at my home and my layout was open to the members.

I have attended most of the CID planned activities, virtual Zoom meetings and Modeler's Meets.

I am on the CID election committee for this years' elections.

I have also attended a couple of operating sessions at members layouts.

Planned Activities

By the time we have this meeting, I hope to have completed the requirements for my AP certificate for Master Builder - Structures. I had three structures successfully evaluated at last year's Fort Wayne Rails convention and I have several scratch-built structures ready to be evaluated by the CID AP team.

I plan to attend the Midwest Region Convention and have volunteered to help out.

My work has begun in the planning process for the next Danville Indiana train show on November 23, 2024.

I continue to work on my home layout whenever I have time.

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, April 2024

To: Board of Directors
From: Dr. Robert Perry
Date: April 9, 2024
Subject: Director at Large Report

Activities since Last Board Meeting

Gave a Zoom TrackTalk for the CID entitled “To See or Not to See” which was related to various ways to aid in magnification, lighting etc. in model railroading as we age from the perspective of an eye doctor.

Have written many articles on various model railroading topics and have had every article thus far accepted for publication in various Divisional, Regional and National publications.

Working on various AP certificates and encouraging others in their pursuit of this as well. Have submitted for my sixth certificate as an AP Volunteer.

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

Continued to try to improve on my own home layout by 3D printing many commercially unavailable railroad cars, structures and details. I am also in the process of creating an HO diorama of the Marieville, P.Q., Canada train station and surrounding buildings as this is the community that I model since my family originally settled in this area.

Continued in my position of Layout Tour Manager, Avon Train Show Manager and Co-Manager of Modeler's Meets for the CID. Have worked on presenting portable layouts for the Avon Train Show and am working on arranging a home layout tour in Lafayette, IN as well as the area north of Indianapolis. Two Modeler's Meets were done in the early part of this year.

Planned Activities

Further layout tours will be arranged in the Greater Indianapolis Area.

Libraries in our area have been interested in hosting portable model railroad displays so other displays will be arranged in Avon and Mooresville, IN.

Modeler's Meets are being planned for roughly three times per year in various areas.

The CID has proposed doing a follow up to the library displays with an introductory instructional program at the libraries on model railroading. I will be working with John Coy on getting this going.

I plan on continuing my positions in both the MWR and the CID. Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend the upcoming meeting at the Midwest Regional Convention as my wife will be undergoing surgery a few days prior to the show and I will not be able to be out of town at that time. Proxies can be arranged if needed.

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, May 2024

To: Board of Directors

From: Burnell Breaker

Date: 4/5/2024

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

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

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

Model Railroad Retreat (RPM Meet), September 2024

Train School, January 2025

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

To: MWR Secretary
From: Burnell Breaker
Date: 4/5/2024
Subject: Current Roster of Division Officers Report for May 2024

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, May 2024

To: Board of Directors

From: Arthur Dawson Jr., Superintendent, SCWD

Date: 04/17/2024

Subject: Activity report for the South Central Wisconsin Division.

Activities since Last Board Meeting:

- The season has gone well, good attendance at all meetings.
- The January Rail School went well and had well over 100 attendees.
- The Mad City Model Railroad Show and Sale was very successful. The division will have more than sufficient funds to put this show on again next year. The show occupies 100,000 square feet, has multiple operational layouts and 275 vendor tables.
- The division's Youth Group is doing well and having regular meetings.

Planned Activities:

- The Spring Banquet will be held on May 10th, 2024.
- The Summer Picnic is scheduled for mid-July at Little Amerricka in Marshal Wisconsin.
- Season begins again in September of 2024.

To: MWR Secretary
From: Arthur Dawson
Date: 04/17/2024
Subject: Current Roster of Division Officers Report for November 2023

Division: South Central Wisconsin Division

Superintendent
Name: Arthur Dawson
NMRA Membership Number: 097311

Asst Superintendent.
Name: David Down
NMRA Membership Number: 161999

Clerk
Name: William Mitchell
NMRA Membership Number: L04693

Paymaster
Name: Bob McGeever
NMRA Membership Number: 143948

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, May 2024

To: Board of Directors

From: Paul Hillmer

Date: 4/9/24

Subject: Winnebagoland Division report

Activities since Last Board Meeting

-Quarterly Board meeting at SOO Historical Society & Zoom January 20th & March 23

-Workshop Wednesday Zoom Call 2/2/24

-Spring Meet and Annual meeting held Saturday April 6th, Stevens Point WI. Attendance was 38. Clinics and model and photo contest in morning. Lunch prepared by Boy Scouts as fund raiser. 6 amazing home layouts on tour along with Bancroft Depot and GBW Caboose, and CN Point yard for viewing. Beautiful spring day and awesome small meet. See META Facebook page for photos.

Annual meeting was held at lunch. New board was elected.

Also reported at meeting is our WLD checking at BMO Harris has been hacked. Around \$1200 was taken. Treasurer Paul Malisar is working with the Shawano Police Department and BMO to resolve. We believe the account was hacked via a debit card linked to account. Was only used once to renew our web site.

Paul M has notified that company of possible breach and we have shut down the debit card. We will no longer use a debit card with our checking account per board.

Planned Activities

-Workshop Wednesday Zoom Call 5/8/24

-Board Meeting June 8th SOO Historical Society Appleton and ZOOM

-Fall Meet Fond Du Lac WI tentative date 10/5/24

-26th Annual Operating Day will be Saturday November 2, 2024 in Green Bay WI

-Spring Meet 2025 Sheboygan WI date TBD

-Fall Meet 2025 Marinette WI date TBD

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, May 2024

To: Board of Directors
From: Gary Baker – Supt IVD
Date: 4/12/24
Subject: Regular report

Activities since Last Board Meeting

On March 10th the Division operated its portable layout at the Springfield Train Show

On March 16th there was a potluck dinner and election of officers at the regularly scheduled Spring meet. Gary Baker was elected as new Superintendent of the Division replacing Jim Tatum. Gary's email is afpgary@mac.com. Cell number 309-264-6797

Planned Activities

May 18, 2024 IVD Meet, Peoria Public Library Downtown noon-4PM

Galesburg RR Days June 27 – June 30. Membership Drive & Operate Portable Layout

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, May 2024

To: Board of Directors
From: Daniel Banks
Date: 4/20/2024
Subject: CID Superintendent's Report

Activities since Last Board Meeting

The division has added two more display shows with public libraries. These were very successful at engaging the library patrons.

We held a very successful second train show of the year in January.

We continue to have monthly events, mostly online but as the weather turns nicer we expect more in person activities.

We had a proto 48 layout visit attended by about 30.

We have had two Modelers Meets with 25 on average participating.

Planned Activities

We have one more train show for the year, Franklin Indiana.

Continued monthly activities.

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, May 2024

To: Board of Directors

From: Mike Lehman, ITD Superintendent

Date: April 12, 2024

Subject: Illinois Terminal Division Report

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. Membership is down a little, with the loss of one relatively short term member(health issues, IIRC) and the departure of two longstanding members who have relocated elsewhere in the state. We did gain a new member. About 25% if members are now using Interchange.

The 40th Lincoln Square Train Show was a great success, as we finally broke even after struggling a bit coming out of the pandemic. Vendor count was up, but we had a bit more trouble attracting display layouts. This was offset be the success of the growing Freemo part of the show, with the 2nd Annual Urbana Freemo Open (UFO) attracting about 2 dozen modules from the Illini Railroad Club and Tom Ludlam, organizer of the Cornfield Meet in McLean, IL. Fo the second year, we worked on building a train show email list by giving away a switching layout complete with loco, carfs, and power pack along with several other door prizes.

Meeting a last minute request from the Tolono Public Library when their longstanding Christmas train exhibiter was unable to make it, ITD was able to fill in with a running 4x8 Hon3 layout to great reviews. We've been invited to do this again in December, which provides a well-timed opportunity to promote the train show the following March.

Kyle Beck and Zach James have joined the new N scale club in Farmer City organized by Bloomington-Normal area N-scalers. Thom from the same group purchased the 10'x10' portable layout framework we'd long had on offer, helping to clear out space in the ITD super's garage and bringing in \$100 in income.

Planned Activities

The annual ITD business meeting is coming up in May. Our long-serving Chief Clerk and Paymaster, Allen Byrne, is stepping down. Kyle Beck is the nominee to replace him. Ernie Noa will host the meeting and plans to have live steam running in the garage. There will also be a swap meet for everyone to either thin or add to their collection.

We will again be at the Monticello Railway Museum's Railroad Days in late Seoptember, supporting safety around the Midwest Live Steamers layout and promoting the 2025 Lincoln Square Train Show , set for March 29-& 30, 2025.. We will also display at the Tolono Library in December, but just on Saturday given that was when the bulk of the traffic into the library occurred.

To: MWR Secretary
From: Mike Lehman, Illinois Terminal Division Superintendent
Date: April 12, 2024
Subject: Current Roster of Division Officers Report for May 2024

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

- Note that Allen Byrne service in these positions will come to an end at the May 2024 business meeting. We anticipate his replacement will be Kyle Beck, NMRA Membership Number 172250 00.

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, May 2024

To: Board of Directors

From: Alex Schneider, Supt., DuPage Division

Date: April 5, 2024

Subject: Division Report

Activities since Last Board Meeting

The DuPage Division meets on the first Sundays of September through May, unless this conflicts with Easter in which case the meeting date is adjusted accordingly. The April meeting is a tour of layouts within the Division, both individual and clubs. The December meeting is a holiday party. Other meetings include a presentation, model contest, door prizes and fellowship. Members are requested to sign in but there is no charge for attendance. Officers are elected at the March meeting.

The Division holds a train show at the Lyons Township High School gymnasium in March, on a Saturday coordinated with the school's athletic schedule. Clubs, railroad history societies, and modular groups show off their activities. Selling is not permitted, although groups are welcome to publicize membership in their organizations. The show this month drew an attendance of almost 2000 people.

Planned Activities

A summer outing to Illinois Railway Museum is planned for June.

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, May 2024

To: Board of Directors

From: Greg Bueltmann, Michiana Division

Date: May 5, 2024

Subject: Michiana Activity Report

Activities since Last Board Meeting

Michiana BoD Meetings (12/10/2023, 3/17/2024)

MWR 2024 Around the Bend Convention Planning Meetings (Weekly since April 2023)

Michiana Division Monthly Membership Meetings and Clinics

Date	Topic
December 10, 2023	Monthly Meeting and Clinic Achievement Program (AP) Electrical with Ron Christensen MMR and Greg Bueltmann
January 20, 2024	Monthly Meeting and Clinic Working with Thin Brass and Photo Etched Parts for Modelers with George Toman
February 17, 2024	Monthly Meeting and Clinic How to Find Documents on the NMRA Website with Chuck Hart
March 9, 2024	Special Presentation: Grain Elevators
March 16, 2024	Elkhart Model Railroad Club Train Show
April 20, 2024	Monthly Meeting and Clinic: Grain Elevators with Madison Plumer
May 2-4, 2024	Around the Bend Midwest Region Convention

Weekly Thursday Evening Zoom Calls

Date	Topic	Presenter
12/14/23	The South Bend Terminal Railroad	Dave Fodness
1/4/24	Randolph Turned: To Create Space Between Towns	Lester Breuer
1/11/24	Upgrading a Toy Caboose and Repurposed Freight Cars	Clark Propst, Dave Nelson
1/18/24	Christmas on the Railraod	Doug Harding

1/20/24	Division Meeting - Brass and Photo Etched Parts	George Toman
1/25/24	The Alma Branch: Moving Toward Completion	Jared Harper
2/1/24	Virtual Layout Tour	Jason Klocke
2/8/24	Ertl Boxcars	Clark Propst
2/15/24	Kick Up Your Switching	Bob Blake
2/17/24	Using the NMRA Website	Chuck Hart
2/22/24	Pennsy X23 Box Cars	Ken Hough
2/29/24	Rochester, Minnesota's "Oil City"	Jason Klocke
3/7/24	Ice Bunker Reefers and Panel Side Hoppers	Clark Propst
3/14/24	Favorite photos	Rich Hanke
3/21/24	Scenery Remakes	Ron Christensen
4/4/24	What Makes a Good Operating Session?	Bob Blake
4/11/24	Kitbashing Structures and Industry Commodities	Dave Nelson & Ron Christensen
4/18/24	Short Row Crops	Clark Propst

Planned Activities

Quarterly BoD Meetings, Monthly Clinics, and weekly Thursday sessions will continue.

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, May 2024

To: Board of Directors
From: Steve Studley
Date: April 12, 2024
Subject: Immediate Past President

Activities since Last Board Meeting

Under the title “other duties as assigned by the President” I had previously 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. There will also be a report written after the convention to note those things that worked and those that might need further adjustment for future conventions.

To: Board of Directors

From: Connie J. Coy

Date: April 23, 2024

Subject: Secretary's Report

This year I have been heavily involved with the CID's events: volunteering at Modelers' Meets and Train shows for the public in public libraries. I have worked with the Executive committee in making decisions for Regional Business, preparing minutes and reports for our biannual Meeting of Members and Board of Directors meetings. As of this time I will have served as Secretary for 3 years. I thank Bob McGeever for appointing me to serve in this position. Further, I am happy to announce that at this meeting I will have completed my requirements for the Official Certificate, my 7th in the AP program.

I want to thank you all for your support in getting your reports to me.

Honored to serve,

Connie J. Coy

NMRA Membership number: 168406

April 10, 2024

Treasurer's Report

Attached for your information are income statement and balance sheet information for full year 2023 and March 2024 year-to-date periods. A comparison to prior year performance is included.

Total 2023 revenues were \$5,193 with a loss of \$3,644 reflecting 2023 convention revenues (\$6,933). Waybill subscription revenues were 3.2% below prior year while printing costs increased 7.6%. Direct payment was made to the venue for the 2024 "Around the Bend" regional convention. That payment is reflected on the balance sheet as Prepaid Convention Expense to allow matching of revenues and expenses related to the convention in 2024. This reflects the direct financial responsibility of the Region, unlike previous conventions. December 31, 2023 year-end cash balance was \$38,240, \$5,509 or 12.6% less than prior year.

March 2024 year-to-date revenues of \$1,573 were 26.0% lower than prior year, primarily a result of subscription revenues being down 68.4%. Net loss of \$390 was \$305 unfavorable versus last year. Net Waybill print impact was \$507 worse than prior year (subscriptions down \$713 but related costs down only \$206). This was partially offset by \$202 of interest income (see below).

March 31, 2024 cash balance of \$33,621 was \$11,071, or 24.8% lower than last year. Two significant items found on the asset side of the balance sheet contributed to this reduction in cash: \$6,000 in prepaid expenses related to the 2024 MWR convention and \$1,106 of received but not deposited funds (deposited on April 1st). Also note that three new accounts were opened on January 2nd to provide some interest income on available funds and a mechanism to prevent fraud on deposits that will be forthcoming from convention and other on-line payments.

Divisional revenue share pass through checks were processed on April 10th and should be in your hands well prior to the Board meeting.

Keith A. Thomsen
Treasurer

Midwest Region NMRA

Balance Sheet as of December 31

	<u>Dec 31, 23</u>	<u>Dec 31, 22</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
Bank Accounts				
BMO Harris Checking	38,240.05	43,748.89	-5,508.84	-12.59%
Total Bank Accounts	<u>38,240.05</u>	<u>43,748.89</u>	<u>-5,508.84</u>	<u>-12.59%</u>
Total Checking/Savings	38,240.05	43,748.89	-5,508.84	-12.59%
Accounts Receivable				
Accounts receivable				
NMRA Receivables	106.45	241.91	-135.46	-56.0%
Total Accounts receivable	<u>106.45</u>	<u>241.91</u>	<u>-135.46</u>	<u>-56.0%</u>
Total Accounts Receivable	106.45	241.91	-135.46	-56.0%
Other Current Assets				
Prepaid Expense				
Prepaid Convention Expenses	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	100.0%
Total Prepaid Expense	<u>2,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,000.00</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Total Other Current Assets	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	100.0%
Total Current Assets	<u>40,346.50</u>	<u>43,990.80</u>	<u>-3,644.30</u>	<u>-8.28%</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>40,346.50</u>	<u>43,990.80</u>	<u>-3,644.30</u>	<u>-8.28%</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
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	<u>6,725.94</u>	<u>6,725.94</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Unrestrict (retained earnings)	19,871.56	15,574.03	4,297.53	27.59%
Net Income	-3,644.30	4,297.53	-7,941.83	-184.8%
Total Equity	<u>40,346.50</u>	<u>43,990.80</u>	<u>-3,644.30</u>	<u>-8.28%</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>40,346.50</u>	<u>43,990.80</u>	<u>-3,644.30</u>	<u>-8.28%</u>

Midwest Region NMRA					
2023 Final Income Statement					
		Jan - Dec 23	Jan - Dec 22	\$ Change	% Change
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
	Convention Income	0.00	6,933.00	-6,933.00	-100.0%
NMRA					
	Revenue Sharing	2,133.00	2,248.00	-115.00	-5.12%
	Subscriptions	3,059.62	3,161.44	-101.82	-3.22%
	Total NMRA	5,192.62	5,409.44	-216.82	-4.01%
	Total Income	5,192.62	12,342.44	-7,149.82	-57.93%
Expense					
Convention Expenses					
	Venue Facility Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
	Total Convention Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
NMRA Rebate					
	Rebate to Divisions	2,133.00	2,248.00	-115.00	-5.12%
	Total NMRA Rebate	2,133.00	2,248.00	-115.00	-5.12%
Overhead Expenses					
	Achievement Program	0.00	124.91	-124.91	-100.0%
	Board of Directors	1,169.46	412.53	756.93	183.49%
Secretary					
	Organizational Expense	0.00	10.00	-10.00	-100.0%
	Secretary - Other	74.89	74.89	0.00	0.0%
	Total Secretary	74.89	84.89	-10.00	-11.78%
	Treasurer	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
	Web	633.00	689.97	-56.97	-8.26%
	Total Overhead Expenses	1,877.35	1,312.30	565.05	43.06%
Waybill					
	Postage	790.16	738.47	51.69	7.0%
	Printing	4,036.41	3,746.14	290.27	7.75%
	Total Waybill	4,826.57	4,484.61	341.96	7.63%
	Total Expense	8,836.92	8,044.91	792.01	9.85%
	Net Ordinary Income	-3,644.30	4,297.53	-7,941.83	-184.8%
	Net Income	-3,644.30	4,297.53	-7,941.83	-184.8%

Midwest Region NMRA					
Balance Sheet as of March 31					
		Mar 31, 24	Mar 31, 23	\$ Change	% Change
ASSETS					
Current Assets					
Checking/Savings					
Bank Accounts					
	BMO 13 Month CD	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00	100.0%
	BMO Deposit	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.0%
	BMO Elite Money Market	5,012.25	0.00	5,012.25	100.0%
	BMO Harris Checking	13,509.06	44,691.89	-31,182.83	-69.77%
	Total Bank Accounts	33,621.31	44,691.89	-11,070.58	-24.77%
	Total Checking/Savings	33,621.31	44,691.89	-11,070.58	-24.77%
Accounts Receivable					
Accounts receivable					
	NMRA Receivables	81.66	296.77	-215.11	-72.48%
	Total Accounts receivable	81.66	296.77	-215.11	-72.48%
	Total Accounts Receivable	81.66	296.77	-215.11	-72.48%
Other Current Assets					
	Accrued Interest Earned	189.92	0.00	189.92	100.0%
Prepaid Expense					
	Prepaid Convention Expenses	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00	100.0%
	Total Prepaid Expense	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00	100.0%
	Undeposited Funds	1,105.57	0.00	1,105.57	100.0%
	Total Other Current Assets	7,295.49	0.00	7,295.49	100.0%
	Total Current Assets	40,998.46	44,988.66	-3,990.20	-8.87%
TOTAL ASSETS					
		40,998.46	44,988.66	-3,990.20	-8.87%
LIABILITIES & EQUITY					
Liabilities					
Current Liabilities					
Accounts Payable					
	Accounts payable	1,042.00	1,083.00	-41.00	-3.79%
	Total Accounts Payable	1,042.00	1,083.00	-41.00	-3.79%
	Total Current Liabilities	1,042.00	1,083.00	-41.00	-3.79%
	Total Liabilities	1,042.00	1,083.00	-41.00	-3.79%
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)	16,227.26	19,871.56	-3,644.30	-18.34%
	Net Income	-390.04	-85.14	-304.90	-358.12%
	Total Equity	39,956.46	43,905.66	-3,949.20	-9.0%
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY					
		40,998.46	44,988.66	-3,990.20	-8.87%

Midwest Region NMRA					
2024 Q1 Income Statement					
		Jan - Mar 24	Jan - Mar 23	\$ Change	% Change
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
Investment Income					
	Interest Income	202.17	0.00	202.17	100.0%
	Total Investment Income	202.17	0.00	202.17	100.0%
NMRA					
	Revenue Sharing	1,042.00	1,083.00	-41.00	-3.79%
	Subscriptions	329.26	1,042.37	-713.11	-68.41%
	Total NMRA	1,371.26	2,125.37	-754.11	-35.48%
	Total Income	1,573.43	2,125.37	-551.94	-25.97%
Expense					
NMRA Rebate					
	Rebate to Divisions	1,042.00	1,083.00	-41.00	-3.79%
	Total NMRA Rebate	1,042.00	1,083.00	-41.00	-3.79%
Waybill					
	Postage	174.39	198.22	-23.83	-12.02%
	Printing	747.08	929.29	-182.21	-19.61%
	Total Waybill	921.47	1,127.51	-206.04	-18.27%
	Total Expense	1,963.47	2,210.51	-247.04	-11.18%
	Net Ordinary Income	-390.04	-85.14	-304.90	-358.12%
	Net Income	-390.04	-85.14	-304.90	-358.12%

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, May 2024

To: Board of Directors

From: Bob McGeever

Date: April 13, 2024

Subject: Presidents Report

Activities since Last Board MeetingMad City Train Show:

Between November and March, almost all of my time for non-layout model railroading activity goes into the Mad City Train. Train shows were hit hard by Covid. The first post-Covid show, Madison lost layouts, vendors, and attendance. The 2024 show was the third post-Covid show and things have returned to pre-Covid levels. How the show bounced back is interesting.

The show lost layouts because Covid became the “last straw” for some of the layout groups that were on the edge of “aging out”. They just never came back online after the shutdown. We were short layouts for the 2022 show. This year, we had to turn some down. We put about 60% of our floor 100,000 sq ft space into layouts and we were full this year. New layouts have come online to take over from the retired layouts. Many of the new layouts found out about the Madison show through word of mouth at other shows. They found us.

The show lost vendors because of Covid for two reasons. Like the layouts, Covid was the last straw for many vendors who were close to hanging it up. Second, some of the really big vendors learned how to do their thing on the internet so they didn’t have to haul their stuff to shows all over the Midwest. So, 2022 was a little light on vendors. For 2024 we sold out our vendor space. A bunch of new medium sized vendors have filled the gaps. We are selling the same amount of vendor space as we did pre-Covid but it is just taking more vendors to do it. Interestingly, for the 2022, 2023, and 2024 shows, the vendors have reported extremely strong sales. Better than pre-Covid sales levels for many of the longtime vendors. Many of the new vendors found out about the Madison show through word of mouth at other shows. They found us.

Between the vendors and the layouts, seems pretty clear to me that we are not involved in a dying hobby. The hobby seems to have a lot of life left in it.

The show lost attendance post-Covid because the families stayed away in 2022. The vendor sales results showed that the shoppers were out in force, but we were way down on family attendance. That was not an issue for the 2024 show. The families are back and spending lots of time at the show. The food service vendors are reporting very strong sales. We make it easy for the families to hang around at the show with wide aisles and a big food court with lots of seating. We think this rebound in families is because of the advertising we do. The families make the show financially viable. They are the reason we can dedicate so much space to the layouts.

MWR Convention:

Since the last MWR Board meeting I have been a ticketing guy and an A/V guy for the MWR 2024 Convention.

The old way of putting on a convention did not survive Covid. The number of divisions who had the financial strength to put on a convention had shrunk. Finally, several divisions that had put on a regional convention in the last decade had sworn they would never do it again. It was too much work for the volunteer pool they could tap into and financially overwhelming.

With the 2024 convention we are trying to develop a process that involves the MWR and the host division working together to put on a convention while reducing the workload on the volunteers. There are activities like the mail-in registration forms and fee collections that are not fun to do and require a lot of time. We reinvent the wheel for each convention by forcing a new team to figure out how to do it.

For the 2024 convention, we hired an internet-based ticketing service called Etix to handle the registration. We pay them a service fee per ticket, and they do all the work. For the first time round, it is working pretty well. We can make it work better next time. Because we set this up as a regional account, any division putting on a convention will be able to use it.

The MWR now has a Square account. We can process credit and debit cards at our conventions. Again, because we set it up as a regional account, any division putting on a convention will be able to use it.

We have also saved a fair chunk of change by being able to supply our own projectors and laptops for the clinic rooms. Several of the projectors are owned by the region and the rest are pulled from the divisions of the convention team members.

Trainfest:

If you read Gordy's Presidents Car in the April 2025 NMRA Magazine, you might have noticed a small announcement that the National, the WISE division and the MWR are working together to bring back Trainfest as an NMRA sponsored event as part of the 2025 90th anniversary celebration of the NMRA. Gordy took this to the National BOD and got approval for the project at the winter NMRA BOD meeting. We had to keep things on the quite side until BOD approved the idea.

I think this is a great idea. There are a lot of details to be worked out. The devil is always in the details. I would like to see the revived Trainfest be a blended show. It should be a train show, a train sale, and a model railroad trade show all under one roof. This is sort of what it was before Covid knocked it offline.

A revived Trainfest will be too big for the WISE division to handle all by themselves so it will probably be more of a regional team with National support running the show.

The only definite action we have taken so far is that the WISE division has reserved the usual venue on the usual November weekend for 2025, 2026, and 2027.

The reasons for Trainfest not coming back online post-Covid as an NMRA event would fill many pages. While the show had some financial challenges, it was not the finances that ultimately kept it from coming back. It was a range operational and management issues that have kept it offline. I expect the still forming team of divisional, regional, and national folks will have the talent needed to run the show.