

Minutes, Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, April 15, 2018

The spring meeting of the Midwest Region was called to order by Steve Studley, President at 10:31 am on April 15th at the Radisson Hotel, Madison WI.

Steve Studley asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the last meeting.

Keith Thomsen asked for an amendment regarding naming the funding given to Divisions in advance for Conventions to be changed from “Regional advance” to “grant” as seen on page two, paragraph 1.

There was discussion about what should be the correct terminology. Original motion by Bob McGeever, seconded by Gary Children, amended to include another location in the minutes – page two, paragraph 7.

It was placed before the board to replace the word “advance” to “seed”. Seed money would be a better name.

A further clarification was suggested for page 2, paragraph 9, changing the wording to: If seed money is used and there is a \$2000 or more profit, \$1000 or more (half of whatever the profit is) would come back to the Region.

Paul Mangan made a motion to approve the motion as amended and Gary Children seconded it. Steve Studley called for a vote and it was approved.

Reports and comments:

Jim Osborn, Election Committee Chair reported

Eric Peterson; Central Indiana Division,
Fred Henize ; DuPage Division,
Bob Landwehr; Fox Valley Division,
Jim Allen; Fox Valley Division

were elected as Directors at Large. Their induction will be at the end of the meeting.

Walt Herrick the photo contest chair requested that 2 changes be made to the by-laws. Walt Herrick wanted the Photo contest to be consistent with the Model contest rules.

1. That the contest chair not be allowed to enter the contest. This would lead to more transparency.
2. That a maximum of 10 entries per entrant be allowed with a maximum of three entries in any category in the photo model and prototype contests.

Bob McGeever made a motion to approve item 2, above, Fred Henize seconded.
Steve Studley called for a vote. It was approved.

The question was raised about item 1, above. Suggested wording is: The photo contest chair is not eligible to enter the contest. It was discussed to have the photo contest wording the same as the model contest. That change of wording is to be researched and is tabled until next meeting. Note to Jim Osborn, Walt Herrick, and Gary Children to work on the wording for eligibility in the photo and model contests.

Directors at Large reports

Regional Advisory Council

Paul Mangan reported no activity.

The secretary of the board, Paul Wussow, is in ill health and has tendered his resignation. The executive board has accepted his resignation. Kathy Mangan will be the acting secretary for this meeting.

Treasurer's report 2016 – 2017

Keith Thomsen reported there was a difference in the reporting for 2016 as opposed to 2017 for the subscription revenue. Due to timing, there were 13 months reported for 2017. For 2018 we will be back to a normal twelve months being reported.

The Board has implemented programs to reduce cash and those programs have been successful.

The level of reduction is about \$3000/year. This can continue till such a time as the account balance nears \$24000.

Accept motion from the floor to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Minton Dings moved and Larry Tschopp seconded it.

Motion approved.

501(c)(3)

501(c)(3) status change has been officially turned over to Reid Kahrs. He will find out more at the national convention in Kansas. MWR is waiting for the IRS and the NMRA to agree on how to proceed.

Youth Fund assessment

Minton Digs indicated the fund could not continue indefinitely on the earnings from investment. Requests for funding would be paid out as approved by the Board and at such a time as the fund gets low, the Board can decide on what to do with the fund. There were no requests for the previous year.

To increase participation, he suggested that a form be used instead of an essay for approval for the donation. It would be on the website and in the Waybill. He will get back to the board with form design and more information at the Fall meeting.

Midwest Region convention for 2019

Reid Kahrs reported it will be a dual Region Convention with the Thousand Lakes Region and the tentative schedule is for May 16 – 19, 2019 at the Days Inn La Crosse (room rate of \$67/night) with the following events.

Thursday

Registration/Contest Room open

Clinics and layout tours

Friday

Morning clinics

Board buses 10 or 11 for the Pearl Street Brewery, the Dahl Auto Museum, and the Copeland Park Railroad display. Possible more places may be added.

Lunch is still in the planning stage.

Possible clinics in the evening, TLR board meeting, layout tours.

Saturday

Clinics

Non Rail Trolley tour of La Crosse, and tours of other sites.

Happy Hour 5:00 Banquet 6:00

Awards, Chinese Auction

Reduction of Bank Account Balance

Keith Thomsen reported we had reduced cash by a bit more than \$3000. The main contributions to the reduction are the \$2000 convention seed money and the pass-through of the revenue share from the NMRA. We currently have \$44000 cash. This procedure will continue and will be checked again at the next meeting.

Reid Kahrs indicated next year's dual convention will have no seed money from our Region. We will be participating as guests. We will split the profits.

We will not be having the Annual Meeting of Members meeting at the TLR/MWR convention. Steve Studley explained that La Crosse is outside of our Region and there had been research done about this issue by Bert Lattan, Gary Children and Reid Kahrs. It was determined that Article 7 of the by-laws indicated the annual meeting be held within the region. He requested if any division within the Rockford, Madison, or Milwaukee divisions could hold the meeting.

Rock River Valley Division volunteered to have it at their May meet next year at the VFW. The division meet will be a dual-meet with SCWD. It was decided to have the Board meeting and the Members Meeting before the Rock River Valley Division meeting. This will not require changing the bylaws. The Rock River Valley Division/South Central Wisconsin Division meet is the first Sunday of the month and next year would be May 5th, 2019.

Financial Review

Phil Berry will review and report at the fall meeting.

There has been a change of the Illinois Registered Agent for the region from Bert Lattan to Paul Wussow. Paul has indicated he would be able to continue as Registered Agent.

Future Website Expenditures

Jim Osborn shared that the current webhost has been sold to another company and the new company is not as customer friendly as the old one. He has reviewed a number of Internet Providers (IP) and has decided on Blue Host. The financial plan is for \$720 to be paid in advance for a three year contract and then \$1080 for the next 3 years. The cost would be split with the Fox Valley Division so the Region's share would be \$360.00 for the 3 years. Bob Blake, Michiana Division, asked if it is possible for another division to join in? Jim Osborn would need to check on the specifics of the provider but may be willing to support another division to share in the cost.

DuPage Division suggested they were interested and Jim Osborn okayed the share if it doesn't get to onerous. The DuPage's information is usually meeting times and locations.

Bob Blake reported Michiana uses GoDaddy for registrations for the educational seminar. Currently, the Division has the capability to use online registration for their conference. Dan Brewer will contact Jim Osborn to see about possibilities.

Jim Osborn reported ConstantContact email service contract is up in December. The cost is \$400/yr and is shared with Fox Valley. Also, the Midwest Region domain rental fee is up in December. The cost for that is \$100/5 yrs. The cost to the Region for these changes is \$360 (plus tax) for the webhost, \$200 for CC, and \$100 for domain name for five years.

There was additional discussion between Jim Osborne and Jim Tatum about technical support. Steve Studley suggested they get together to discuss options.

There was a proposal placed on the floor in support of the plan as presented by Jim Osborn: for the Blue Host Web Hosting to be \$360/yr for three years, Constant Contact contract for \$200/year, and the MWR domain name for \$100/5 years. Bob McGeever so moved and Mike Hirvela seconded. Motion was carried.

Steve Studley called for a motion to destroy the 2018 voting ballots. Fred Henize made a motion for this and Reid Kahrs seconded, then after discussion that the Election Results had not been accepted yet, Bob McGeever made a Friendly Amendment to accept the report of the voting. Paul Mangan seconded it. It was voted on and passed. Steve Studley directed Jim Osborne to either shred or burn the ballots.

Nomination for upcoming elections

Fred Robinson is leaving the board after this meeting and needs to be replaced as nomination committee chair. Steve Studley asked for someone to think about volunteering. Next year's election will be for President, Vice President and 3 Directors at Large for a term of 2 years, 2019 – 2021.

Midwest and later conventions

Reid Kahrs indicated Mike Shockley suggested possible IVD interest in the 2020 Regional and Mike would chair it. IVD is checking with ITD to see if they would be interested in co-hosting. There was some discussion on where a place could be centrally located for the event, and Minton Dings, suggested Peoria.

For 2022, as the National convention will be in the United Kingdom, there has been some discussion about having a Tri-Regional convention consisting of the North Central, Midwest and Mid Central regions.

There will be a report at next meeting for the Dual meet and single meet.

Bob Blake suggested South Bend might be a good choice for the Tri-Region meet, he would be willing to be of assistance.

Reid Kahrs asked for a Division to consider the 2021 Convention. Bruce mentioned that RRVD would consider the 2023 convention.

Steve Studley has been requested by the NMRA to report to them the superintendents of the Divisions and their Memberships chairs for:

SCWD – Paul Mangan & Steve Preston co-chairs,

Michiana does not have a membership chair, but Neal Thomas has been suggested.

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Buzz Swett is membership chair for ITD,
Minton Dings handles membership as Assistant Superintendent.

If there are any changes send to Steve Studley.

Jim Allen brought up for discussion about Kit Built models being in the same category as Scratch Built models. The problem is there are deductions associated with the Kit Built models. At this convention, there was a very nice model in the contest that had to have points taken off because it was kit built. Jim is suggesting, for our Region, the consideration of a popular vote contest for kit-built models.

Bob Blake suggested that this is an AP issue and should be presented to National.

Jim Allen indicated the popular vote was not an AP issue, it was to encourage more participation. It was not to get rid of AP and would be to separate itself from AP. Jim Allen said we are model railroaders, let's show off our models. Rich Mahaney, from North Central Region indicated they eliminated contests and if someone wanted to be evaluated for AP, they could be.

As there was some good discussion, Steve Studley asked Jim Allen to discuss with the others who had good ideas and get back to the board next fall.

Reid Kahrs asked Rich Mahaney to discuss where the NCR had a concept of a modeling challenge. The guidance ("Caboose being used in a Second Life") was set, but there is no list of rules. After much discussion as something similar has been used in other divisions, a motion was made for an Open Challenge (no theme) of modeling a square foot in any gauge. It is not scale, it is a square foot of area. Bob McGeever made a motion and Bob Blake seconded. No theme, no contest. It was called for a vote and passed.

Steve Studley announced the Open Model Challenge and indicated to "Have Fun on a square foot".

Bob Blake announced the dates for the Michiana Fall conference to be September 21st to 22nd and the conference would be downtown South Bend. More information to follow.

Steve Studley thanked the South Central Wisconsin Division for having this year's convention and making space for the Board meeting.

Steve Studley called for the installation of the new Directors at Large,

Eric Peterson, Central Indiana Division

Fred Henize, DuPage Division

Bob Landwehr, Fox Valley Division

Jim Allen, Fox Valley Division.

Welcome and thank you for standing for election.

The Fall Regional Board meeting will be Sunday, October 7th at 10:30 AM at the Rockford VFW 9759, 2018 Windsor Rd. Loves Park, IL. There will be a full breakfast at 10:00 and at 10:30 am the Board Meeting. The Rockford division will have a meet at 1:00 pm, location to be determined with layout tours and clinics.

Steve Studley called for a motion to adjourn, Paul Mangan so moved and Jim Allen seconded it. Meeting adjourned at 12:16pm.