



# Waybill

April 1999

Midwest Region NMRA

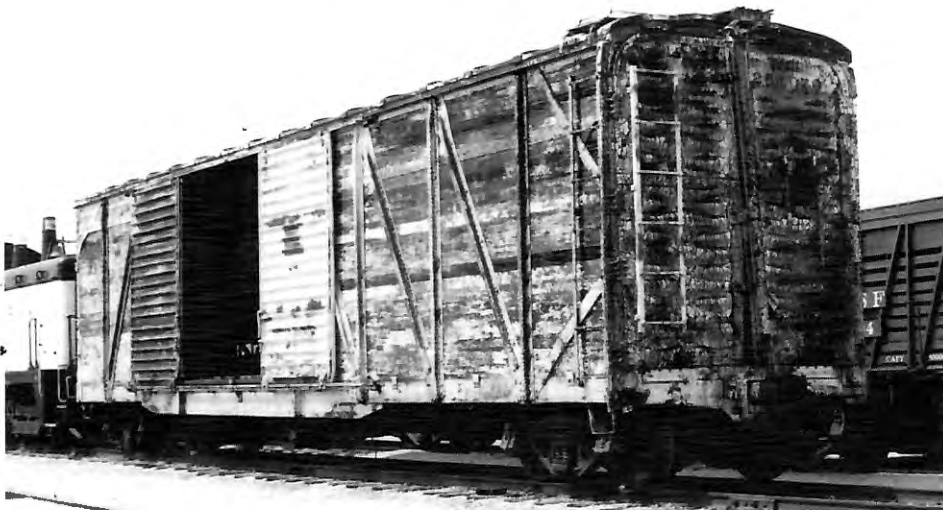


Shaking hands following the National Model Railroad Association donation towards acquisition and restoration of Rock Island 264070 are Bob Kutella, IRM Freight Car Superintendent (center) and Clarence Welte, Membership Chairman of NMRA's Rock River Valley Division while other division members look on—left to right: Charles Wickhorst (Division Superintendent), John Mann, MMR (Paymaster), Rick Freise, Bob Kutella, Lyle Fleener (deceased), Don Brindle (Chief Clerk), and Clarence Welte.

Illinois Railway Museum photo by Dale Nagel

## Rock River Valley Division Adopts a Freight Car

by Dale Nagel



In July of 1997, the Rock River Valley Division had their annual picnic at the Electric Park picnic grove at Illinois Railway Museum. During the afternoon the Division members took the opportunity to pass on to IRM a cash donation to be applied towards a project they as a group have undertaken.

Through the efforts of Clarence Welte, Division Membership Chairman, members donated \$500.00 to be  
*continued on page 3*



# Waybill

April 1999

Midwest Region NMRA

## Executive Board & Chairpersons of MWR Standing Committees

### OFFICERS

#### President *Jim O'Toole*

346 Colony Green Drive, Bloomingdale, IL, 60108; (630) 351-3314

#### Trustee *Jack Pettee*

417 N. Chestnut Street, Princeton, IL 61356; (815) 872-0375  
pettee@TheRamp.net

#### Vice President *Al Kamm, Jr.*

20207 S. Greenfield Lane, Frankfort, IL 60423; (815) 469-2917

#### Secretary *Andy Hauser*

416 Price Avenue, Calumet City, IL 60409; (708) 868-8749  
drewrail@juno.com

#### Treasurer *Dave Liesse*

23 Christian Court, Oswego, IL 60543; (630) 554-2755  
DLiesse@aol.com

### CHAIRPERSON OF STANDING COMMITTEES

#### Nominations *Ross Pollock*

3539 Mill Creek Road, Mineral Point, WI 53565; (608) 987-3396  
bando@mhtc.net

#### Clinics *Bill Birkenmeier*

2735 Tami Trail, Madison, WI 53711; (608) 271-4123

#### Estate *Calvin Krasonya*

414 E. Mill Street, Plymouth, WI 53073-1834

#### Model Contest *Gary Children*

2135 S. 95th Street, West Aliis, WI 53227; (414) 327-1666

#### Historic Car *Richard Cecil*

3131 N. Cramer Street, Milwaukee, WI 53211; (414) 332-3729

#### Boy Scouts *Bob Guinter*

4449 Charles Street #E, Rockford, IL 61108; (815) 399-6466

#### Photo Contest *Paul Wussow*

519 Western, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137; (630) 858-9613

#### Conventions *Mike Hurlburt*

7330 W. Balmoral, Chicago, IL 60656; (312) 792-0955  
tanager@ameritech.net

#### Membership *Ron Scharping*

5736 Hillcrest, Downers Grove, IL 60515; (630) 989-0157

#### Waybill Editor *Larry Kotula*

PO Box 222, Winfield, IL 60190; (630) 231-5866

#### Election *Linda Kloster*

148 S. Grand Avenue, Bradley, IL 60915; (815) 932-4321

#### A.P.-Program *John Mann, MMR*

7303 Farmhome Ln., Cherry Valley, IL 61016; (815) 332-2496

#### Auctions *Vacant*

#### Region Photographer *Paul Wussow*

519 Western, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137; (630) 858-9613

#### MWR Internet Communications Committee *Jack Pettee*

417 N. Chestnut Street, Princeton, IL 61356; (815) 872-0375  
pettee@TheRamp.net

### DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

#### *Richard Cecil*

3131 N. Cramer Street, Milwaukee, WI 53211; (414) 332-3729

#### *Bill Fulton*

RR 1, Box 3A, Saunemin, IL 61769; (815) 832-4942

#### *Michael Hajduk*

PO Box 2065, Glenview, IL 60025-2065; (847) 542-3464  
Hajduk4440@aol.com

#### *Ernest Rizzuto*

14526 Ridgeway, Midlothian, IL 60445; (708) 388-7254

#### *Hampton Rothwell*

5667 Concord Drive, Oregon, WI 53575; (608) 835-7072  
cvwrail@execp.com

#### *Jim Roberts*

830 Napa Street, Carol Stream, IL 60188; (630) 260-0240  
JJFR857@aol.com

### DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS

#### Calumet *Pat Mehegan*

17246 Bernadine, Lansing, IL 60438; (708) 895-0824

#### Central Indiana *Bill Likenhaus*

2509 Windwood Drive, Bedford, IN 47421, (812) 275-3634

#### DuPage *Jim O'Toole*

346 Colony Green Drive, Bloomingdale, IL 60108; (630) 351-3314

#### Fox Valley *Jim Otis*

1014 E. Jules Street, Arlington Heights, IL 60004; 847-255-5160

#### Illinois Valley *Bruce Brantner, Sr.*

238 Hennepin Street, LaSalle, IL 61301; (815) 223-4235  
brantner@theramp.net

#### North Shore & Western *Mike Hurlburt*

7330 W. Balmoral, Chicago, IL 60656; (773) 792-0955  
tanager@ameritech.net

#### Rock River Valley *Charlie Wickhorst*

4834 Danforth Dr., Rockford, IL 61114; (815) 877-7314

#### South Central Wisconsin *Hampton Rothwell*

5667 Concord Drive, Oregon, WI 53575; (608) 835-7072  
cvwrails@execpc.com

#### Southern Illinois *Joe Skamel*

511 E. Congress, Rantoul, IL 61866; (217) 992-9740

#### WinnebagoLand *Roger Wurtzel*

1617 Meadow Wood Court, Green Bay, WI 54313-7181; (920) 434-6772

#### WISE *Reid Kahrs*

7821 CN. 60th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53223; (414) 355-4706





Rock Island 264070 was "adopted" by the Rock River Valley Division. Its new home is the Illinois Railway Museum.

Greg Heier photos courtesy Illinois Railway Museum

applied to the acquisition and restoration of Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific 264070, a 50' composite automobile box car. The car had been used for storage in Rockford, Illinois, for many years and when it became surplus the Division members decided to help rescue the car. The Museum has nearly 50 freight cars, but there was no automobile box car in IRM's collection. The car is characterized by large end doors and offset double side doors.

BY DEFINITION, CRI&P 264070 is a 50', single-sheathed wood box car. The car was used in automobile service before the advent of high-capacity double and triple level auto carriers. The car is commonly referred to as an "outside braced" box car, but this is a misnomer as all wood box cars had the bracing on the outside of the inner sheathing. Double-sheathed box cars had an additional wood sheath

on the outside of the car for insulation. The pictures were taken shortly after its arrival at IRM. During the picnic, the members discussed the work to be done to prepare and move the car 25 miles to the Museum with Bob Kutella, Illinois Railway Museum Freight Car Curator.

A related problem was that it costs about \$75.00 a running foot for track space and Welte advised the Museum that they would donate toward the track space charges and then concentrate on materials expenses for renovation.

The automobile box car was moved to the Museum in the summer of 1998 aboard the Museum's flatbed truck. Thanks to the NMRA and other donors, this fine addition to IRM's Freight Car Collection was successfully acquired and moved to the Museum. 🚂

---

## Membership Lists

## Welcome Back

The National Office in Chattanooga provides the MWR with our mailing lists for the *Waybill*. We have found a lot of names and addresses are not correct for proper mailing. We get a lot of return for address problems from the Post Office.

If you have recently moved, plan on moving in the near future, or know of one of our members what has taken a ride on the *Zephyr in the Sky*, please let your Division Membership Chairperson know and send a note to Ron Scharping, Membership Chairperson for the Region. Ron's address is: Ron Scharping, 5736 Hillcrest St., Downers Grove, IL 60515 (630) 968-0157. 🚂

It seems that changes are always changing. A few years ago the Quad Cities group was changed to the Mid Continent Region but is now reassigned back to the Midwest Region. I don't know all of the particulars of the past but happily welcome everyone to the MWR. Hopefully the changes the MWR is going through will warrant the return of this active group. On behalf of the entire Region BOD, and everyone in the Region. Welcome Back!

It sounds like there is still life in the old Southern Illinois Division yet. Rumors are out that the old group is trying to activate again and has some strong interest with new members. They may yet reactivate the SID, and will be happily welcomed to participate in the MWR. Let's offer them all of the support they require. 🚂

The WISE Division will hold MANIFEST '99 on May 13-16, 1999 at the Midway Hotel Milwaukee Airport, This will be the Midwest Region's Spring Convention. Starting at 4:00 PM on Thursday, May 13th, Registrar David Poquette, will begin to hand out convention packets to the pre-registered and taking registrations. Registration forms were included in the past issue of the MWR *Waybill*.

Thursday evening, there will be operating sessions at various layouts. Six clinics will be held from 6:30 PM to 10:30 PM. After the clinics a "show and tell" time will be held, so bring some slides or videos (VHS) to share with fellow modelers.

Registration will continue on Friday from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM. The first of 27 clinics featuring some of the staff of Kalmbach Publishing plus clinicians from the WISE Division will start at 8:00 AM, and clinics will run until 10:30 PM. At 9:00 AM, the buses will leave the convention hotel and head to North Milwaukee for a tour of the *Northern Railcar*. We will then board the WSOR train and travel to Horicon and back, arriving around 5:00. A box lunch will be provided, Also, non-rail programs will start at 9:00 and run through the day with clinics and a bus tour. There will be operating sessions on Friday evening.

Saturday, registration will begin at 8:00 AM and end at 12:00 noon. The first of nine clinics will start at 8:00 AM and also end at 12:00 noon. At 9:00 AM, buses will depart the hotel for Wisconsin Central's shops in Fond du Lac and return at 12:30 PM. Layout tours will run from 12:00 noon until 5:00 PM with approximately 25 layouts to chose from.




(Not all layouts will be open on both days). The Non-Rail Program will begin at 9:00 AM and run until 5:00 PM, and again will include clinics and a bus trip. Saturday evening, we are offering dinner at the East Troy Railway Museum on their dinner train. Buses will be provided for the trip to East Troy. The Regional Auction will start at 9:00 PM and end when the last item is sold, hopefully not much after Midnight. An Awards Breakfast will be served at 9:30 AM on Sunday. Sunday layout tours will also be from 12:00 noon until 5:00 PM.

The WSOR Train Ride, the Wisconsin Central Bus Trip and the East Troy Dinner Train are at an extra cost. During the convention the WISE Division will provide a hospital-ity room for visiting and refreshments. We will also hold the usual NMRA Judged Contest for merit points. Everything entered in the judged contest will be entered in the WISE Division Popular Vote Contest. The WISE Division will raffle three custom-painted and detailed locomotives representing the three major Milwaukee area fallen flags.

This, hopefully, informs you of some of the happenings at MANIFEST '99. For registration information, contact the Registrar, David Poquette at (414) 906-0678. All times mentioned are approximate and subject to possible change. For updated information on MANIFEST '99 check our web site: [www.execpc.com/~jruss/mwrmanifest99.html](http://www.execpc.com/~jruss/mwrmanifest99.html) (no spaces between the words).

Looking forward to seeing you at MANIFEST '99.

Reid Kahrs, Superintendent 

## ***Twentieth Century Limited***

FALL MEET  
OCTOBER 8-10, 1999  
WESTMONT, ILLINOIS


The Dupage Division of the Mid West Region will host the MWR Fall Meet, October 8, 9, and 10, 1999. The activities will be held at the Inland Convention Center in Westmont, Illinois (Western Chicago Suburbs) near the intersection of Route 83 and Route 34 (Ogden Avenue), about 20 miles west of the Chicago Loop. Easy access from major expressways using either Route 34 from Route 294, or using Route 83, from I-55 or I-88.

This will be a full schedule Meet hut will not include a Banquet or Brunch. Past experience has too many excellent restaurants in the immediate area competing for your attention. Accommodations will be on your own and a selection of many nearby motels will be available. The range of motel costs provides for Brakeman, Engineer, or Superintendent expenditures.

The Twentieth Century (is) Limited, but not the program for this meet. Friday night will offer: Clinics; Operating Sessions, based on novice, moderate, and extensive experience; Open house layout tours; and the regular "meet old friends".

Saturday will be filled with clinics by a variety of known modelers from within and outside of the MWR, guests from the NMRA, and a few special guest speakers that will generate considerable interest. There will be a variety of clinics all day and open house layout tours with some new layouts featured. At least two prototype tours are scheduled with one centering on rail services to industry. This Meet will include a major program for non-rail activity; shopping at Oakbrook Center, craft clinics, non-craft clinics of general interest, and non-rail local tours. Saturday will also have the MWR Model Contests, and the usual Saturday Night Auction. Please enter a model in the contest, and any you don't think are good enough for the contest, put in the Auction.

Sunday morning will have the MWR Board of Directors Meeting, additional clinics, and we are trying for another prototype tour. Layout open houses will complete the day's activities.

This will be the last convention or meet of the Twentieth Century, let's make it a milestone. Registration is on the back of this page. See you there! 



# Youth in Model Railroading

The unexpected proceeds from the National Convention in Madison have left the MWR Region with a dilemma. The BOD has approved and placed the \$5,400.00 into a special account for supporting the youth we so desperately need. The average age of our current Region membership cost has risen higher than the national average and doesn't look like it is going to go down in the near future. Without an infusion of young people, there is a finite future for the hobby.

This money was a one-time gift. It should not be squandered away but put to the best use possible. Considering the financial shape the Region has been in for many years, it has been suggested that this money be put into the general fund for Region expenses. Under the current operating budget, providing the same lack of services as before, the money would last about 1 1/2 years and not change the financial status of the Region at all. This is why the Region dues program had to be adopted. The financial picture has to be a long term direction not based on "found" money.


The future and direction of the Youth in Model Railroading Fund must be established and properly clarified to promote this hobby to young people, maybe not be get active during their teen years, but to place an interest and have them become active as family and finances allow after the kids are grown and gone. National surveys have shown this to be the entry point of most of the active modelers. But the initial interest still goes back to their youth. Cars and the opposite sex are hard to compete with, especially with school

to fill your free time.

The Region is requesting assistance from our members to outline a program to be adopted, and establish a clarified, workable fund program. Some of the main areas that need "discussion" are:

1. How should the fund be used.
2. What conditions should be met to have access for funding.
3. How can additional money be added to the fund.
4. Many Divisions have a youth program already in place, especially Boy Scouting.
5. Should this program support the Division activity or be a separate for the Region program.
6. Are there any specific programs in addition to Boy Scouts that should be included.
7. To what extent should the support from the Region be direct or indirect to the Divisions.

Currently, some of the Divisions have a active Boy Scout Merit Badge program. These Divisions also have treasuries that can support this activity. This fund will consider all Divisions equal and offer the Region support the same. Divisions may elect to decline the Region support if they desire. That would be their choice.

We are asking for your ideas, comments, suggestions, and assistance with this program. Please direct any input to Jim O'Toole, 346 Colony Green Dr., Bloomingdale, IL 60108. 

## Dues

The Midwest Region has begun collecting Region dues as adopted by the Region BOD. National did not include the dues option on the January renewals but has incorporated this in the February renewals. Its too early to get an accurate pulse of the response but indications are very encouraging. Some Life members in the Region have been sending their Region-dues to the BOD officers and some have included sizable donations to the Region.


The one fact that is usually overlooked is the provision in the adoption of the dues program that will cause the dues collection program to be reviewed in five years to assure that the Region is changing its position and services

to be more responsive to the individual member. If it is the opinion of the then BOD that the Region has not improved services, the dues will be dropped. The Divisions have a service to the member at a very local level. The Region should be supporting the Divisions and coordinating Division activity within the entire Region. This will be something new for the MWR.

Your donation of the \$6.00 annual dues will assist the Region to improve and increase the contents of the *Waybill* and make it a usable newsletter. Membership will be highlighted to do a better service of addressing new members, and trying to retain existing members. We do a great job getting new members

signed up and then nothing to keep them interested after they join.

The Midwest Region is asking for your support by having you join the changed Region. The more members that stay active the stronger the programs Region can offer. The revitalized *Waybill* will be offered to all NMRA members for only 1999. After that it will be sent only to MWR Members. Participation for MWR members at conventions will offer discount registration and special programs.

The Midwest Region is looking forward to the future and would like to have each of you as a part of it. Please join us! 

# Notes from the President's Workbench

This is the first *Waybill* for 1999. This also is the first *Waybill* under the new structure for the Region. The initial feedback from National as to our dues collection and steps toward self sufficiency sound encouraging. We still have a long way to go, both in improved services and in gaining Region members. I ask that everyone help promote the Region membership program as the benefits will be to the individual members. Dues of \$6.00 per year is not much money to each of us, but means a tremendous help to the Region. In turn, the Region must provide more services and information to us.

This issue of the *Waybill* was prepared by Larry Kotula as the *Waybill* Editor. Larry has indicated that he may move out of the Region in the near future. I hope we can change his mind and stay to continue as the *Waybill* Editor. The *Waybill* is the flagship of the changes we are trying to establish for the MWR. A strong newsletter will provide the basis of improving almost everything the Region needs, specifically good information.

As identified in other articles in this issue, there is a lot of good news of activities with the Region. Early indications show acceptance of the Region membership to be quite good. We missed the January renewals because of a mix-up at National, but this has been corrected for the February renewals. It is also encouraging to have many of our Life members sending their Region Membership Funds to me, or Dave Liesse as Region Treasurer. Some of the Life Members have also included donations to the Region. The support seems to be greater than we originally expected.

This issue also provides information and biographies for the spring election. We ask that you review the biographies and fill out the ballot and *MAIL IT*. Unfortunately there is only one person for each of the four positions open, but that should not prevent you from voting. The ballot response means almost as much as the actual vote tally. Fortunately, the Region is more than just Chicago, so please vote *only* once, but vote early. Your vote needs to be counted prior to the BOD meeting on May 16th in Milwaukee at the Manifest '99 Convention. Please have your ballot in by May 1st.

The thought of the Spring Convention brings up another thought. The conventions are a great way to contact other modelers in the Region and a excellent means of attending clinics on a variety of topics. The prototype tours offer the ability to see real railroads and railroad activity that we cannot see on our own, legally. We are getting word that the railroads are tightening up access to their property and these opportunities may not be available in the future.

Once I learned about the Region conventions, I have found attendance to be worth much more than the actual cost. Meeting people, learning new ideas, learning how the other guy does it, and the general fun of "being there" have really been worth it. No two conventions are the same, even though they may have some of the same clinicians. I don't know of any clinician who presents the exact same clinic or that the same questions are asked each time he presents it. I have met some really good modelers at conventions and now consider them as close friends. We have discussed many items that have helped each other.

The Region is always looking for help in the form of volunteers. There is a lot of things that need to be done and much of it does not involve a lot of time or effort. We just need someone to get involved and do it. As we have always asked, if you would like to get involved, please contact one of the Regional Officers and let us know what you might be interested to help with.

DuPage Division is hosting the Fall Meet in Westmont, Illinois, October 8-10, 1999. The Meet will not be held in a hotel, but instead at a convention center. There are motels and hotels in the area with price ranges from low to high. There are also many restaurants in the immediate area. The convention center will be the base of all activities including clinics on Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday morning. Clinicians will include Regional members and some from out of the Region as special guests. Prototype rail activity is planned for Saturday and possibly also on Sunday. This should prove to be a most interesting convention and at a reasonable price. Hope to see you there! 🚂

## Midwest Region Election

The Midwest Region has elections every Spring, and its time for this years. The positions open are: *Region President*, *Region Vice President*, and (2) *Director at Large* positions. Unfortunately there are only four candidates for four positions.

**President** Jim O'Toole (Incumbent)  
**Vice President** Mike Hurlburt  
**Director at Large** Hampton Rothwell (Incumbent)  
**Director at Large** Annette Hauser

Elsewhere in this issue of the *Way-*

*bill* is the official Ballot form. Please fill it out and return it to: Linda Kloster, Election Chairperson, 148 S. Grand Ave., Bradley, IL 60915.

The Ballot is preaddressed. Just add a stamp and mail, but please do it. 🚂

# Candidates for Midwest Region

## CANDIDATES FOR DIRECTOR AT LARGE

### *Hampton Rothwell*

Hampton's love for trains began as a young boy in Chile, where his father's business sold locomotives and railway ears to the Chilean State railways. He has traveled by train whenever possible throughout Europe, North and South America.

Since moving to the Madison area, Hampton has been involved with the South Central Wisconsin Division, volunteering to work in whatever way possible to support the activities of the Division and increase public awareness for rail transportation.

Hampton currently serves as the SCWD Superintendent, was Assistant Superintendent and Model Contest Chair, participated in membership promotion, worked on preparation for the 1997 National Convention bid, served as the Inside Committee Co-Chair for the 1997 NMRA Convention, worked on various library projects, and volunteered as a worker at the SCWD Rail Show, SCWD Swap Meet, and the SCWD Rail School. He is currently a Delegate at Large for the Midwest Region.

Hampton and his wife, Barb, are presently building their free lance eastern layout, the CONCORD VALLEY & WESTERN (with help of their friends).

### *Annette Hauser*

My name is (Mary) Annette Hauser. I have been around model railroading for the past 20 years in one aspect or another. I started my active participation in the hobby by organizing and hosting various railroading events for a couple of clubs located around the Chicagoland area.

I became involved in the Calumet Division shortly after joining the NMRA in 1995. Over the past couple of years I have been the Assistant Editor and Circulating Manager of the Divi-

sion newsletter, the "JOINER BOX." Currently I have been active as an advisor to the Calumet Division and an elected member of a local model railroad club.

In the past I've organized the Calumet Division's last four annual dinners, the last three Christmas parties, and I was member of the Midwest Region Fall Convention Committee in 1997, hosted by the Calumet Division. My current modeling interest is centered around the construction and design of scenery. I have also recently gotten involved in model railroad prototype operations.

## CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT

### *Mike Hurlburt*

I have been a Life Member of the NMRA since 1978. The decision to join the NMRA was the right move for me because I realized model railroading would be a large part of my life. Over these past 20 years I have tried to experience first hand all aspects of this hobby so I could form my own opinions about model railroading and the NMRA. In addition to building a home layout and several portable layouts for train shows, I have done clinics at Regional and National Conventions, served as Paymaster and Superintendent of the North Shore & Western Division, and two terms as DAL for the MWR, and in the capacity of Convention Chairperson. I recently retired and plan on achieving MMR in the near future.

With the advent of Region dues, negativity from current and past NMRA members has been quite evident around the Region. Their concern is genuine and should be addressed. I will do my best to listen to all sides and can face the adversity. By using my past experience as a US Navy recruiter, I won't dwell on the negative but will sell only the positive virtues of the NMRA, something that has to be done if we ever going to keep the members we try so hard to bring aboard. Our current President Jim O'Toole stresses the

positive and that's why I chose to join him as your Vice President nominee.

## CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

### *Jim O'Toole*

I have been involved with model railroading since I can remember, joined the NMRA in 1983 and became a Life Member in 1988. I have enjoyed an increase in knowledge, friends, and scope to expand my enjoyment of this hobby.

I am serving as the current Region President and am responsible for the initiation of Region dues for the MWR. Unfortunately, there was no choice to reach this decision.

Past administrations had bypassed this topic and related financial conditions even though the topic was over 20 years old.

The condition of the Region had declined to the point of almost no Region services available. The *Waybill* newsletter had reached the point of almost not being worth issuing. There was very little usable information or content. This was due to the long time decline of the Region finances, because of declining profits from conventions. This was our only source of income. Region services all suffered from the same condition, no money available, so everything was cut back drastically to the point of no services.

The unexpected profit from the National Convention in Madison, Wisconsin, was a one time surprise, and the monies were set aside to create a special fund to support *Youth in Model Railroading*. The average age of model railroaders is constantly creeping up and we need to attract more youth to the hobby. A major project for the next year will be to define this fund, and organize the structure of the fund use and direction.

The MWR Region will return to its place among the other Regions as an active and stable organization. This means we have a lot of work to do. The MWR BOD has strongly supported this direction and I would like to continue to participate in achieving our goals.

# “New” Waybill

This issue of the *Waybill* is the beginning of the Midwest Region program to lift ourselves out of the doldrums of the last many years. The BOD has made a commitment to the Region membership to improve the services that they should expect from the Region. The *Waybill* is the first major item to be addressed.

This issue contains more information and general news than any previous issue in the last many years. This will increase with future issues. The *Waybill* will also incorporate articles submitted by Region members relating to prototype railroading,

model construction, concepts for modeling, and handy tips for construction. If you have anything of interest, please submit it to the *Waybill* and it will be included in future issues. If you have comment letters to or about the Region, they will be included also. The MWR is dependent on the directions from the BOD for policies but we definitely need feedback from the general member as to his concerns and ideas.

I understand that there are articles submitted to the *Waybill* previously that were never published. If anyone has articles prepared and not published,

please contact Jim O'Toole and forward these articles to him for future issues. These will earn points for MMR as Author Credits. I'm sure many of you discuss modeling tips or prototype information with your buddies, why not share them with the rest of us. This can also include questions about something you need, or questions about how to do something, or specific details. Coverage of the entire Region will provide some answers that are useful, and possibly some you didn't want. This entire hobby is made up of desired information to help each of us do a better modeling job, so why not ask. If it helps, it doesn't hurt. 🐾

## A Word from the Trustee

By: Jack Pettee, MWR Trustee

Before I get to far into this column, I would like you to know I'm writing it on March 18, 1999. This date may affect some of the things I will be writing about versus what is going on at National when you actually read it.

First a couple of words about the board meeting I attended in January. I was displeased about several things and pleased with others. The major displeasure was from the fact the financial reports given to the board were in error and had to be withdrawn. This was caused by the new Treasurer changing to a different computer program to keep the financial records on and not having enough time to work out all the details. The board was told that we would have up-to-date financial reports ASAP, and I now hear this will happen before the end of April. We trustees only get these reports at each meeting and, of course, this is after the fact, so financial reports to me are quite important.

One thing we did learn from the financial report was approximately \$147,000.00 of investments were sold off. These investments were all Life Account funds, which is a fund that is very short of money to begin with. An accounting for this money was immediately asked for and I'm sorry to say it could not be given. There was a lot of midnight oil burned and we did receive an accounting at the next days meeting. The funds were needed to cover a \$23K loss

from last year, to fund the new "Living Legends" commemorative car series and for a cash flow problem. This action drew great concern from the majority of the trustees, including yours truly, as it was felt the Association should have a line of credit available to cover these sort of needs, not self off investments. The trustees then called for a plan to pay back this money and requested a full report on this plan and on how much has been paid back by our next meeting in St. Paul. President Charles told us this report would be filed by that time. -

A couple of bright spots did come about because of the above. An investment policy was presented to the board by the treasurer and approved. This policy provides an outline of the needs of the Association in the future and will be used in conjunction with the use of a professional investment counselor so our investment needs are handled in a more professional fashion. Also, a motion was written and passed that basically states all future monies received for the Life Account will be invested in that account alone and cannot be used for any other purpose without the approval of the NMRA Board of Trustees.

Another bright spot from this meeting was when the Executive Director told us she needed a computer programmer to be hired so these on-going computer problems can be solved once and for all.

The board agreed and as of this writing this programmer is in the office working on this problem. I have been told the programmer understands the problems and figures the majority can be fixed within two or three days.

There are several other things I would like to tell you all about but time and space do not allow me to do this. I will be discussing many of these topics at my clinic at the Spring Convention, so please plan on attending.

**REGION DUES:** There was a letter mailed out from the NMRA office in January of 1999 explaining how region dues would be collected and that the NMRA members DO have a choice of joining the MWR or not. It has become quite apparent over the last few days that a great many of you may not have received this letter. I am one of those that did not. Also, when dues renewal notices are sent out I understand they are not clear in the fact that you DO NOT have to join MWR and appear that you must join both organizations. I have not seen this dues renewal notice as yet, although a copy is in the mail. Jim O'Toole and I will be working on clearing up this confusion over the next few days. Even though I would like to see all of you pay the \$6.00 and join MWR, please do not feel you must do this. If you do not want to join MWR just return the dues notice with a check for your NMRA dues only. 🐾



Fold on dotted lines and and seal with tape - do not staple

---

---

Return address - Membership number

---

---

---

Post Office  
will not  
deliver  
without  
proper  
postage

**Linda Kloster, Election Chairperson  
148 South Grand Avenue  
Bradley, IL 60915**

# BALLOT

## Midwest Region Election of Officers

### President: Vote for one

**Jim O'Toole (incumbent)**

---

### Vice President: Vote for one

**Mike Hurlburt**

---

### Director at Large: Vote for two

**Hampton Rothwell (incumbent)**

**Annette Hauser**

---