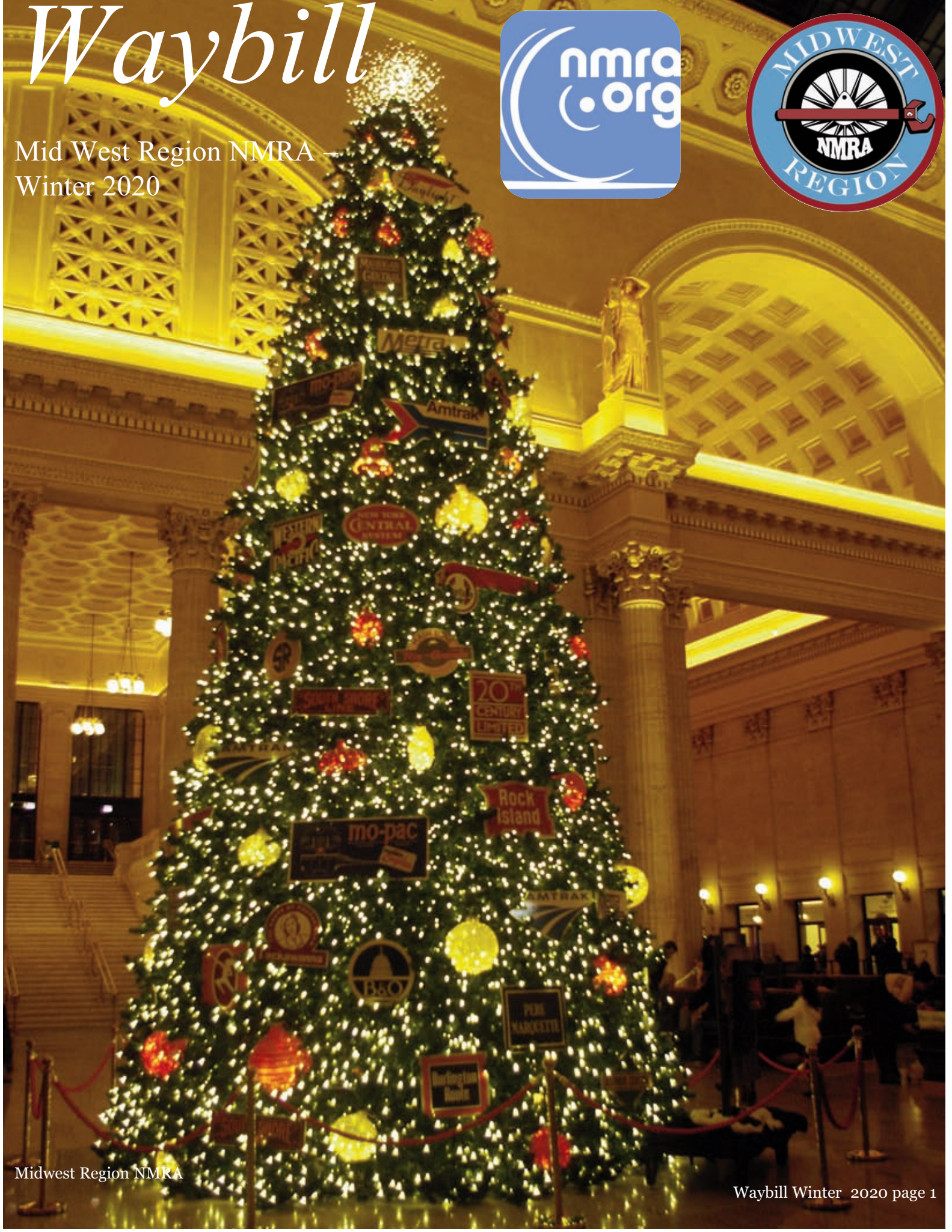


Waybill

Mid West Region NMRA —
Winter 2020



The *WAYBILL*

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CONTRIBUTIONS

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ADVERTISING

Deadlines for camera ready ads are the same as for the copy deadlines. Please submit by email to the editor as a TIF or .jpeg. We accept only railroad related ads.

Advertising rates are:

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Quarter page	50		20
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Editor's Column

This is the annual election issue. Please take a minute to vote and show your support. The ballot is on page 7.

Putting on a convention has been a problem lately. The Rockford Division is going ahead with plans for Rockford Rails 2021. I know how much time and effort goes into planning a convention. To have it cancelled because of an outside force is very disheartening. If it goes as planned, please attend to not only show your support for the effort that was put into it, but to celebrate finally getting together with other region members.

nice talk and I promised I would put in a plug about safety in the Waybill. We took photos, but unfortunately I did not get their card and forgot their names.

....Bob McGeever of the SCWD received the Presidents Award for Service to the Division for 2020. This award was established in 2017 to recognize one individual in a division who has done "beyond-the-call-of-duty" work to make his or her local Division effective, engaging and welcoming to members. Bob is the current region secretary and is running for MWR president. Congratulations!

Grade Crossing Safety Tips

- **Never** drive or walk around lowered grade crossing gates.
- **Never** attempt to outrun an approaching train.
- **Never** stop your vehicle on a grade crossing waiting for traffic to move.
- **Never** begin to drive across the tracks unless you can get all the way across.
- **Always** call the Emergency Notification System (ENS) number 24 hours a day to report problems or obstructions at the crossing. Look for the number on the blue sign near the crossing or on the crossbuck.
- **Always** remember a train can take a mile or more to stop.
- **Always** know that the average train is three feet wider than the track on each side.
- **Always** slow down and stop your vehicle prior to train tracks when lights begin to flash.



Railroad Trespassing

- **Never** walk, run, play or take pictures on the railroad right-of-way. If you are on or near the tracks, you are trespassing on private property and breaking the law.
- **Never** attempt to outrun an approaching train. It can take a train a mile or more to stop.
- **If** you're standing on the train tracks, you may not hear or feel an oncoming train in time to get away safely.
- **Only** cross the tracks at designated public crossings.
- **For** more safety tips, visit oli.org



Amtrak is a registered service mark of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation.



I was in Chicago land in September and spent a day at my favorite railfanning spots. One was at the east end on Bensenville Yard. The Metra stop is called Mannheim and I could watch action on the CP as well as Metra trains. Two Metra police officers were there handing out literature about crossing safety. We had a



Front Cover: This is a photo I took of the inside of Chicago Union Station two years ago. The large ornaments on the tree are Railroad Logos.

Waybill

Mid West Region NMRA –
Winter 2020

President's Report

Steve Studley President, MWR

Pandemic Persistence

We are currently experiencing typical Midwest weather; it's November and most all the leaves are off the trees, but the sun is out and we are expecting the temperature to reach 70 today. There is still some work to do outdoors in preparation for winter, but our outdoor work days surely must now be numbered. Winter will be here soon enough, marking the end of a lot of outdoor activities and the beginning of our season for indoor model railroading.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 is still in the news due to a recent surge in the number of new cases of the virus. As we have experienced since March, our model railroad activities for the fall have been canceled or moved to virtual meetings. I hope you all are well and are able to contend with the lack of in-person meetings. I'll pass along the mantra we hear in Indiana: Mask up, continue social distancing, and wash your hands often.

As mentioned in the fall President's Report, the availability of clinics presented at virtual meetings has allowed us to continue to add to our modeling ideas and skillset at a time when we are not able to hold in-person activities. Hopefully you have been able to attend your fair share of these learning opportunities.

As a result of viewing a clinic held during the SERx (Southeastern Region) Virtual Convention in July, the idea came to me that perhaps an item used in the clinic could be used differently on my railroad. The clinic was about producing control panels and the item that piqued my interest was a NeoPixel LED. If you are not familiar with these LEDs, each component contains Red, Green, Blue LED lights that are addressable and programmable by way of an includ-

ed integrated circuit driver.

So a good portion of my recent modeling time has been spent researching the LEDs, gathering electronics, and writing Arduino sketches to control the LEDs. This application has been integrated into a portion of my railroad where a non-operational section of one railroad crosses the operational main of the Midwest Central RR. Faux trains will "appear" (by signal indication only) according to a time schedule, knocking down the signals for the MCRR. This was a part of the original design of the railroad and electronics have advanced to the point where the simple(?) implementation of the control system is now at hand.

By having the SERx convention held virtually, I was able to attend the clinic from my home in South Central Indiana as if I were somewhere in the SER listening to a clinician from Auckland, NZ. I'll be the first to admit that I miss the camaraderie experienced at our in-person model railroad activities and conventions, but am very thankful that we are still able to pass along modeling information. I hope you are taking advantage of these opportunities, too. It's also important to note that I wasn't there specifically for the control panels, but by attending was able to glean information about a couple new ways to use the electronics for both control panels and also other applications. So when it comes to picking out which clinics to attend, don't be too rigid. Free up your constraints and attend clinics that are more in the fringe areas of your interests. I'm sure glad I did.

The 2021 MWR convention, The Rockford Railroad Convention, will be held in Rockford, IL Thursday, May 20th through Sunday, May 23rd, 2021. The RRVD convention committee has the major events set and they continue to plan for the convention. As information becomes available, it will be posted on the MWR website. Click on the Conventions tab at the top of the page. Mark your calendars - and cross your fingers that the virus leaves us alone next May.

Remember to cast your vote in the MWR election - use our new electronic ballot and save a stamp! Visit the MWR website at:
<http://www.mwr-nmra.org/mwr2016/mwr.elections.html>
to vote

In the meantime – back to the layout!

Steve

Region News

Midwest Region Achievement Program Report by Jim Landwehr- MWR AP Manager

I am happy to report that there has been a lot of activity from our members. They continue to take part in the Achievement Program all over the Midwest Region.

The following members received awards:

John Coy	Avon, IN	Scenery
Eric Smith	Fishers, IN	Volunteer
Emory Luebke	Greenville, WI	Structure

As always, work with your division Achievement Program Manager first, and if there is a problem, feel free to contact me.

Thanks,
Jim

NMRA MIDWEST REGION CONVENTION Rockford, Illinois, on May 20-23, 2021

The 2021 Convention Committee is optimistically proceeding with the assumption that our Covid-19 crisis will be resolved by next May. The dates for the convention will be Thursday, May 20th through Sunday, May 23rd. We are asking everyone in the division to save these dates so they can attend as we are planning a fun-filled and interesting four days.

The convention will be held at the Holiday Inn at State Street and I-90 which was the location of our last convention. The hotel will be totally renovated by the time of the convention so all of the rooms should be totally upgraded for our convention. We will also be having our banquet at the Hoffman House which is located adjacent to the hotel. We have not finalized all of the details but all of the major events have been decided.

- Thursday we will have a hobo lunch at Rochelle Railroad Park and operation sessions in the evening
- Friday we will be holding six clinics in the morning and nine in the afternoon with our banquet at the Hoffman House in the evening. Our featured speaker will be Simon Cordery who is a history professor and has studied and written extensively on Illinois Railroad history. He has published *The Iron Road in*

Annual Meeting of Members
Holiday Inn
7550 East State Street
Rockford, IL 61108
May 21, 2021

the Prairie State, The story of Illinois Railroading.
Dr Cordery will have both interesting and amusing stories about the development of railroading in Illinois.

- Saturday will be a day at the Illinois Railway Museum. We will provide transportation to and from the hotel to the museum. We had originally planned to be able to visit the new Pullman and Milwaukee Road Libraries but because of the Covid crisis, the construction of these facilities has been seriously delayed and their availability is doubtful. We will be able to visit all the back shops at IRM. Besides the usual diesel and electric operation it is possible we might persuade the IRM to operate steam on that day, but no promises. We had hoped to use the new library as a location for the awards presentation but we will have to settle on using the picnic pavilion.

- Sunday we will have ops sessions and layout tours.

The convention domain name is:

www.rockfordrails2021.com
At this time there is no content but we are planning to have it up and running in October. (As of November 8, the domain was registered awaiting content.)



In 2022 a three -division meet has been scheduled with the North Central and Mid Central divisions. The date is May 18-22, 2022 at the Marriott East Hotel Complex in Indianapolis. A facebook page with some information has been created.

Election Biographies for 2021 candidates

Yes, it is once again election time. Up for election are President, Vice President and three positions for Director-at-Large. The ballot is on page 4.

President

Bob McGeever, South Central Wisconsin Division

I am a retired Manufacturing Engineer. I retired from Thermo Fisher Scientific about 5 years ago. Over my career I worked on Industrial Controls, Patient Monitors, Anesthesia Equipment, Scientific Instruments and Calibration Services. I specialized in new product introductions, test engineering, and moving products from one production facility to another facility.



I have been married 44 years. My wife is also retired. We live in Stoughton Wisconsin. Besides being an active member of the NMRA, she has just earned her Master Gardener Certificate. Given our hobbies, she often spends the day outside working with 1 to 1 scale scenery while I am in the basement working on 1 to 160 scale scenery.

I grew up interested in model railroading but as an adult I never had the time or space for a layout for many years. I returned to the hobby about 15 years ago. After several years of meaning to, I joined the NMRA in 2010 and became active in the South Central Wisconsin Division of the Midwest Region. I am currently the Paymaster and Past Superintendent. I am also the chair of the Mad City Model Railroad Show and Sale committee. I currently serve as the Secretary of the Midwest Region. It would be an honor to serve as the Midwest Region President

Vice-President

Mike Hirvela, Fox Valley Division

With the support and encouragement of folks I respect, I have decided to run for MWR VP. I have been Superintendent of the Fox Valley Division for a few years and have represented the FVD on the

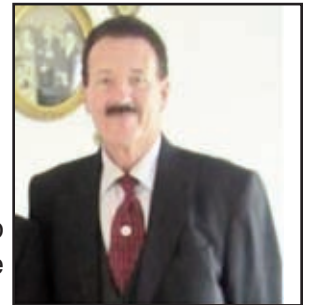
MWR Board during that time. I have previously held division positions as Membership Trainmaster and Member Promotion Trainmaster, promoting the advantages of membership in the NMRA to potential members at various shows and events. Prior to these positions, I was "just a member" enjoying the benefits of membership and camaraderie of a lot of fellow model railroaders I now consider close friends. I have been interested in trains, railroading and model railroading for longer than I care to admit, and I hope to continue this life-time hobby for a long time to come. Your consideration is most heartily appreciated.



Director-at-Large

John Coy, Central Indiana Division, incumbent

Thanks to all of you! These past few years have absolutely been my most enjoyable of 50 years in this hobby. I am proud to be a NMRA Member and honored to represent you as D.A.L. I have represented you to the best of my abilities. I have participated in more events / meetings than I can recall.



I am actively involved in many things including: representing you, future events and the AP. I just had my first article published (June 2020) in the NMRA Magazine! I am participating currently in many on-line events.

I am passionate about the hobby and appreciate modeling in all scales. There are so many different approaches to the hobby. Everyone has something to share from the Novice to the Master. We can all learn from one another.

The best thing about the NMRA is meeting, getting to know and interacting with people you encounter along the way. Our trains are great, but the relationships we develop are even greater!

Today, I ask for your vote. Please vote for me so that I may continue to represent you while promoting the hobby.

Director-at-Large

James Landwehr, Fox Valley Division, incumbent

Hi. My name is James Landwehr and I'm running for Midwest Region Director-at-Large. As a previously elected DAL officer (2014-2018 and 2019-2020), I attended every Board of Directors meeting. In the fall of 2014 I also accepted the position as Midwest Regional Achievement Program Manager, which I still hold, to help assist members on their journey through the achievement program.

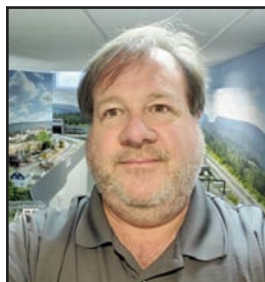


I've been a member with the NMRA since 2006. Over the years of membership, I've had the opportunity to be increasingly involved in the NMRA and have been a board member of the Fox Valley Division since 2007 as the Achievement Program & Contest Trainmaster. My responsibilities afforded me the opportunity to assist members of our division on their way through the Achievement Program, and promote the monthly contest participation. I would be honored to serve the Midwest Region as a Director-at-Large.

Director-at-Large

Philip Burnside, Central Indiana Division

My friends call me the mad scientist because if I see something, I like I design and build a model of it. I have been an avid model railroad since my father and I starting building models together some 45 years ago. My father and I were active members in the Baltimore Society of Model Engineers throughout the 1980's. I have lived in Avon, IN for sixteen years. I am modeling the present-day steel industry located in Pittsburgh PA. To build many of the unique scenes I have been using my mechanical engineering knowledge to design and build most of the steel mill on my layout using 3D printing. In addition, I also serve on the Board of Directors for the NMRA Steel Mill Models Special Interest Group. I have received several awards for my 3D printed models include the Dean



Freytag award for the most unique industrial building at the 2016 NMRA national convention. This was an animated model was of the 1920's blowing engine house for the Edgar Thompson Steel Mill. I also retired from the US Navy August 1st, 2020 after 30 years of service that included a tour on the ground in Iraq.

Director-at-Large

Jerry Peterson, Michiana Division, incumbent

Personal: My name is Jerry Peterson, and I live in Stevensville, Michigan. I am married with three children and five grandchildren.



Professional Background: I retired in 2017 after 32 years working at the Cook Nuclear Plant in Bridgman, Michigan. During my time there, I was a Plant Operator, a Senior Administrative Compliance Coordinator, a Senior Project Engineer and finished my career as the Procedure Program Owner. Prior to working at Cook, I spent fourteen years in the Nuclear Navy serving on various submarines and support ships.

Hobby Experience & Interests: I started with my 1948 American Flyer train set, which still runs around our Christmas tree. In the mid 1970's my eldest son and I constructed an 8ft by 8ft HO layout capable of running 3 trains simultaneously. We moved this layout from Groton, Connecticut to Virginia Beach, Virginia to Berrien Springs, Michigan. The layout currently resides in Bellevue, Nebraska with my son. Currently, I am currently moving my N scale layout from my office to our basement and doubling its size. My grandchildren continue to help with the move and the expansion. I am working with our local MMR to expand my knowledge, understand and experience with operations side of model railroading.

NMRA Experience: I have been an NMRA member since March of 2013 and currently the Michiana Division Achievement Program Manager. I have served the last two years as a Director at Large and I am interested in continuing to serve as a Midwest Region At-Large Board member. In this position, I can continue to serve the NMRA to increase my awareness of issues and opportunities facing the organization and our region, and to learn more about our organization and the hobby in general.

Midwest Region 2021 Mail-In Waybill Ballot

(This ballot is for use only by resident members of the Midwest Region)

Click here to vote on-line at the MWR website <http://www.mwr-nmra.org/> and save a stamp!

President *(Vote for/Check One)*

Bob McGeever, South Central Wisconsin Division

Write-In _____

Vice President *(Vote for/Check One)*

Michael Hirvela, Fox Valley Division

Write-In _____

Director-At-Large *(Vote for/Check Three)*

John Coy, Central Indiana Division *(Incumbent)*

Jim Landwehr, Fox Valley Division *(Incumbent)*

Phillip Burnside, Central Indiana Division

Jerry Peterson, Michiana Division *(Incumbent)*

Write-In _____

Write-In _____

Write-In _____

To validate your ballot, please print your:

Name _____

NMRA No.* _____

Division _____ **or Division Code* 28 /** _____

** From your membership card. Also, you can go to <http://www.mwr-nmra.org/mwr2016/mwr.divisionmap.html> to look up your Division assignment based on your Zip code. "Midwest" is not your Division!!! It is your Region.*

If you do not provide the above information, your ballot will not be counted.

*Return to Midwest Region Election Committee,
c/o Jim Osborn, 2202 Bay Oaks Dr. McHenry, IL 60051-3710. Your ballot must be received no later than Sunday, January 31, 2021.*

NO MORE: "I HAVE NO SPACE" EXCUSES. BUILD A LAYOUT!

by John Robert Coy, August 2020

The most common excuse for going on 50 years is: I don't have space to build a layout. At one time, I may have accepted that as a legitimate reason. No more!

In these days and times, the use of foam board has skyrocketed! A one-half inch thick sheet of 8' by 4' plywood weighs around 40 lbs. That same size sheet of foam board weighs less than 10 pounds! Plywood is heavy and awkward to carry. The foam board is easy to carry, and if you need some exercise along the way you can do some foamboard overhead presses to impress others.

A side story: I built my 1st foam board layout in O scale. It is a replicate of John Allen's Timesaver. My Timesaver is 88 inches long and 16 inches wide. After placing my O scale on my foam board, including cork and track, (this foam does sit on a pine board frame of 1 by 3's) it weighs a whopping, staggering, 17 pounds.

The very first show I took this layout to a group of modular people were bringing in their heavy plywood layout. Three men were carrying one corner module. I felt their pain. I've been there, done that, have the T-shirt. They saw me rolling in my Timesaver on a small tool cart. (This is the layout base). The looks I got were interesting to say the least.

When the show was over, I struggled mightily (being sarcastic) using two of my strongest fingers, to pull my layout and cart out of the facility. One of the heavy corner module lifters from the above paragraph held the door open for me and said: "I hate you." I responded: "I understand."

Here is the point to my rambling: You can have a layout anywhere you want, because of foam board. You can EASILY move the layout anywhere, at any time, ALONE, without trouble. You can install a couple of wall brackets, about 6.5 feet up off a floor and place the layout on these brackets. It would be completely out of the way! You could put these brackets anywhere including over your bed! Take the layout down when you want to run it and then put it back. Easy.

Contrary to popular belief, you don't have to have a basement to have a model railroad. You can have an interesting, challenging, operating railroad on a shelf 4, 5, 6 feet long or even longer.

You may even use O scale—the same scale that people say that: "You need twice as much room for O scale as HO." NOT true. My O Timesaver is 16 inches longer, and 5 inches wider than John Allen's HO version. His original is on a piece of plywood 72 inches long and 11 inches wide. Mine is nowhere close to being twice as big. Mine, even though it is larger in overall size, is lighter! Foam board is awesome stuff!

Another major advantage of a small foam board layout is that you will have time to put a lot of detail into it. If you have a basement layout, it would take you years on end to have a high degree of detail. You may never finish. On the other hand, a shelf layout would be a very manageable project.

The best part is when you finish a foam, lightweight layout, you can take it anywhere to display it! People who have basement layouts will lose years of hard labor if and when they eventually move. I'm one of them. The "average" American reportedly moves every 3 to 5 years. Given that fact, the idea of constructing a highly portable layout seems entirely logical.

Long ago, the thought crossed my mind to build my basement railroad into transportable sections. Unfortunately, I didn't do that and when the day comes, all of the hard work will be cut into pieces and discarded. I can't even think about it.

So there are several major advantages of using foam board enabling a layout to be easily portable. No more excuses! Everyone, everyone may have a layout! Our Division could use more portable layouts to display at shows! And, operating a layout at an officially sponsored NMRA event earns you points toward your MMR. Those are the most fun and easy points to get.

Lastly, even though I have a basement with a big layout—The Glacier Line—I have several other layouts all of which are on foam board! My foam board based O scale Timesaver is stored either under the Glacier Line or on top of my pool table.

My foam board based, museum quality N scale layout is 6 feet long and about 2.5 feet wide, and is stored on a high shelf in my garage. My foam board based O scale Christmas Layout (Toy trains) is stored in my garage. My FUTURE yet-to-be constructed 5th layout will be a foam based O scale 2 rail Ingelnook Sidings Layout which will be stored on brackets in my Garage, just below the N scale layout. ANY one of my layouts, less the Glacier Line, may easily be transported anywhere.

One could spend hours and hours, switching on either the Timesaver or my future Ingelnook Sidings layouts. Lots of fun! The bottom line is: “no space” is not an excuse. I wish that foam board would have been popular back when I started in the 1970s. Anyone may have a layout if they really want one. Just expect to receive “hate” (envy in disguise) from people carrying heavy large modular pieces.

**Spring Board of Directors Meeting
Holiday Inn
7550 East State Street
Rockford, IL 61108
May 23, 2021, 10:am**



Here are several more photos of the Christmas display in the Great Hall at Chicago Union Station. The Great Hall is one of the United States' most historic and memorable public spaces with its 219-foot long vaulted skylight connecting lobbies and stairwell. It recently underwent a 42-month long rehabilitation that was completed in 2019. The station was named a Chicago landmark in 2002. It originally opened in 1925. photos by the editor.

YOUR NMRA

By John Robert Coy August 2020

It is that time of the year once again in our organization, when it is time to vote for who will be your Representative in your: Division, Region and Nationally.

Why should that matter to you:?

So that you may voice your concerns with integrity. If you don't vote for your own interests, who will? Because the rest of us are ABSOLUTELY depending on you.

Last but not least, truly your vote matters greatly! Yes, REALLY!

Apathy runs rampant in our nation's democracy and unfortunately is mirrored here in the NMRA. I have discovered that to be true first-hand by carefully scrutinizing election results and learning that a small fraction of our Membership actually voted. There are numerous cases in the recent past where the person elected had less than 40 total votes out of an entire Region. Regions have more than 1,000 Members.

The people who "throw their hats into the ring" do so knowing the important commitment of which they are willing to make for the good of YOU and the organization. All people running for office will not receive perks or benefit financially. However, they are going to make sacrifices on your behalf to represent YOU.

Since they are making that sacrifice on your behalf, it would be the decent and right thing to do by taking a few moments of your time and complete a ballot. As the title of this article reads this is YOUR NMRA. I would say to you since you have voluntarily

paid your hard earned money to support the NMRA which has served us model railroaders so very well for so long; you should want to benefit yourself and protect your own interests by electing those to serve who you feel best represent you.

Please read the candidates' Bios. Make an informed decision on your selection. Because, truly, honestly, really, your 1 vote can make the difference between winning and losing.

I wish there was something more I could write to impress on you the great value and importance of your vote. Don't let the negativity sway you from doing the right thing and casting a ballot. It is important for you and the candidates. If you don't vote, please don't complain. I have had more discussions than I can recall with Members all over the place; including Australia. I'm quick to inquire about whether or not the person complaining voted. I'll let you guess what the answer was.

I hope that perhaps in light of this message, you vote. I wouldn't miss the chance.

Rails By The Bay – NMRA 2021 National Convention

July 4-11, 2021

www.nmra2021.com

- Educational focus on prototype modeling, operations and technology
- Over 100 terrific clinics
- World-class Bay Area layouts on tour
- Extensive operating sessions
- Host hotel – Santa Clara Marriott. Ample meeting room and SIG space. Discounted room block opens soon.
- Niles Canyon Railway, Roaring Camp & Big Trees narrow gauge, & SP narrow gauge to ride
- Great local attractions and tours like Santa Cruz mountain wineries, Filoli estate, Levi's Stadium and more



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Join us in Santa Clara, California for NMRA's national convention featuring clinics, layout tours, contests, and a renowned keynote speaker.

Enjoy beautiful weather, world-famous local attractions, and fellowship with your friends!

www.nmra2021.com



Happy Holidays to you and yours