

Minutes of the Annual Meeting  
September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
Palmer, MA

President Youst convened the annual meeting at 8 AM, Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at the Steaming Tender Restaurant, Palmer, MA. In attendance, in addition to the Board of Directors of the Region, less Peter McKenney, were National Board members Joe Gelmini and Jerry Leone.

The Treasurer's Report, which had been previously circulated to officers and directors, was reviewed by the membership. As part of the discussion, James van Bokkelen, in his capacity as a new Division representative asked if the Region has an email roster, when he would be added to it and if he could receive a copy of the financial statements. The response to all of the questions was in the affirmative by President Youst. President Youst went on to explain the fiscal distribution policy as adopted by the Board of Directors for the payment of membership distributions from National and the Region. A letter explaining the policy has been sent to the Division presidents for distribution to the members and for the record. A check for each division in the amount of \$3.47 per member (\$0.93 from National and \$2.54 from the Region) will be handed out after this meeting. A *motion to accept the Treasurer's report* was made by Bill Brown with a second from Bob Dennis. The vote in favor was unanimous.

The Office Manager's Report was presented by President Youst. It is noted that the Region membership continues to decline. 1657 members are presently registered in the Region. There are 973 subscriptions to The Coupler. Two courtesy copies are also mailed. Ken May *moved to accept the Office Manager's report* with a second from Bill Brown. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Committee Reports

Bill Brown reported that a strong year was had by the AP Program due primarily to the efforts of the Division AP representatives. Bill went on to say that 49 members had received certificates, either Golden Spike awards or certificates toward Master Model Railroader. In addition, the Region has 4 new Master Model Railroaders since the 2013 meeting. Specifics will be given during the awards ceremony at the breakfast meeting following this session.

Bill Barry reported that there were 40 participants in the Photo Contest held as part of the convention. Three participants were new to the program.

Ken May reported that a total of 26 models were entered in the model evaluation process at the convention.

Al Oneto, Operations, reported that this was one of the largest operating sessions available at a convention with 7 different periods set aside for 25 different operating sessions on 11 layouts. Special thanks were given to John Lutz and Jim Mayo for their efforts in arranging the Operating sessions.

Convention report. Ken May reported that the Palmer convention had more than 190 attendees. Possible future convention locations for 2015 and 2016 were mentioned briefly but no specifics were given.

Coupler Report by John Doehring. The next Coupler issue #255 will be delayed slightly to include coverage of this convention. Steve Russo has become the new Associate Editor of The Coupler. A motion *to accept the Coupler report* was made by Ken May with a second by Gerald Abegg. The motion to accept passed unanimously.

Under Old Business, the topic of membership participation was discussed. A preponderance of nominees for Region office came from Garden State Division due to encouragement among its members. A Nominating Chairman is under consideration, but no formal announcement of the position being filled was made.

New Business. The Secretary asked new office holders to please communicate their names, positions and email addresses for email circulation purposes.

A motion *to adjourn* was offered by Bill Brown, seconded by an unidentified second member, and passed unanimously at 8:35 AM.

Charles J. Stevens, Jr.  
Secretary

