



**Northeastern Region NMRA
Annual Meeting of the Members
Sunday, September 18, 2016
The Desmond Hotel, Albany, NY**

1. President John Doehring called the meeting to order at 8:05 am

The attendance sheet is included in these minutes as Attachment (1). A total of 33 NMRA members were in attendance. A quorum being present, the meeting could proceed.

2. President Doehring recognized Pete Magoun (MMR), NMRA Central Director.
3. President Doehring stated that he wanted the meeting to be informal and offered a list of good things that had been happening at the NER level during the past year:
 - Regular (approximately every 2 months), virtual Board of Director meetings have been held via telephone and computer
 - The NER has moved from not having their own convention in 2015 to this great convention (Albany) in 2016, and firm plans for conventions in Newport, RI in 2017 and Mahwah, NJ in 2018. President Doehring introduced David Insley who was appointed as the Convention Committee Chair last year along with Gerry Covino, the Convention Registrar and Roger Oliver the Convention Treasurer. All of these people along with the organizing committees of these conventions are doing a great job !
 - NER NJ Area Director Bob Dennis was appointed as the Nominating Committee Chair. Bob has been asked to expand the scope of this role from just identifying NER Director candidates to identifying and developing volunteers to fill all of the various NER positions.
 - Director Dennis also volunteered to re-start the Division Superintendents Forum with the first one scheduled for September 25, 2016 via electronic media.
 - Joe Santoro was appointed as the Investment Committee Chair and is building a committee to invest and manage the NER's funds.

- A budget committee was established chaired by NER Treasurer Peter McKenney. This committee developed a budget plan for the NER, the first in many years.
- Work continued on the NER Strategic Plan, albeit at a slower pace than hoped. President Doehring is now leading this initiative with plans to have the plan in place in 2017.
- The NER website was hacked earlier in 2016 causing the NER and several Division websites to be unavailable for several weeks. Webmaster Bill Poor worked very hard to re-establish the sites and improve security. While the website is back up, maintenance is onerous with the current security arrangement. More work needs to be done in this area and the NER is seeking volunteers to help Bill maintain the site.
- Jeff Paston took over as editor of the NER newsletter, The Coupler. Mike is now assisted by Mike Tylick, MMR. Improvements have been made to the format and the document is now printed in full color. The hardcopy version annual subscription rate of The Coupler will be increasing to \$10, however.

4. President Doehring called for the standard reports.

- **Secretary's Report**
The meeting minutes for the 10/25/16 NER Annual Meeting of the Members were posted on the NER website shortly after the meeting last year. Tom Wortmann moved that we dispense with the reading of the minutes, and accept the minutes as written and posted on the NER website. The motion was seconded by Director Kevin Katta and was approved by hand vote. There were none opposed.
- **Treasurer's Report**
NER Treasurer McKenney was not present. NER Convention Treasurer Roger Oliver stated that the last NER Treasurer's report available was the "Treasurer's Preliminary Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016" posted on the NER website and dated July 15, 2016. Convention Treasurer Oliver further stated that the Albany convention returns were TBD. There was higher than expected attendance, and hence revenue was higher than projected, but this was offset by higher convention costs. The final convention report will be available in 90 days. Convention Treasurer Oliver also stated that he is developing financial forecasting tools to help the divisions in planning conventions. Also, he is developing tracking tools for convention attendance registration and demographics of the registrants. 20 years of attendance records are available with some holes.
- **Convention Committee Report**
Convention Committee Chair David Insley stated that the presentations given for the 2017 Newport, RI and 2018 Mahwah, NJ conventions at the banquet pretty much covered everything there is to say at the moment about those two events. The Convention Committee is actively seeking a location for the 2019 convention however. Potential locations would include the NYC area or western NY if the Lakes Division joins the NER.
- **Achievement Program Report**
AP Chair Bill Brown stated that the presentations made at the banquet would stand as his report.

- **The Coupler Editor's Report**

Editor Jeff Paston was not present at the meeting. President Doehring stated that since Editor Paston took over the editor reins from him (President Doehring), Jeff has taken it to another, higher level. Comparing The Coupler to other region newsletters, The Coupler is "top notch" and would rate in the top handful of region newsletters across the entire NMRA. Tom Wortmann stated that the NER needs to do a better job of notifying the members that the electronic version of The Coupler is available on the website. Several other unrelated issues were brought up during this discussion. Northern New England Area Director James Van Bokkelen cited the need for dedicated e-mail aliases for the NER BOD. Director Van Bokkelen further stated the need to fix the issues with the NER website, and that any e-mail from the NER should come from a NERNMRA.org source. These issues were noted for action by the NER BOD.

- **Northern New England Director's Report**

Northern New England Area Director James Van Bokkelen stated that the national Narrow Gauge Convention (NNGC) 2016 held in Augusta, ME Sept 7-10, 2016 had nearly 1400 attendees. Given the attendance at both events, worries about a conflict with the NER convention did not materialize. Seacoast Division NMRA President Erich Whitney provided a brief summary of Seacoast Division NMRA participation in the NNGC 2016 as a Co-Sponsor.

- **No other Area Directors Provided a Report**

- **Photo Contest Chair Report**

Attachment (2) provides The Pacemaker Photo and Art Contest Report. This report was generated by NER Convention Photo Contest Chair Bill Barry. This report was not presented at the meeting but reflects the awards presented at the banquet and is included here for the record.

5. President Doehring then opened a discussion as to "what is next up for the NER?"

Summarizing:

- Planning for future conventions
- Development of the NER Strategic Plan
- Improving the NER website. Suggestions for improvement include a regional list of clinics and clinicians and a photo contest archive.
- Move the Lakeshores Division from the Niagara Frontier region to the NER
- Re-activate the Maritime Division of the NER
- Double attendance at NER conventions
- Make a better effort to identify candidates deserving of the Spate Award
- Develop some sort of NER event to be held during the big train show in West Springfield. Suggestions included:
 - ✓ Improving the presence and manning of the booth. Ken May suggested having a signup sheet for 1 hour stints.
 - ✓ Several members stated the need to change the location of the booth. President Doehring took action to deal with that.
 - ✓ Bruce Robinson suggested assigning responsibility to man the booth to the Division Superintendents.
 - ✓ No one seemed to know who in the NER received the show invite. President Doehring took action to follow up.

- ✓ Vin Gallogly suggested hooking up any interested people to the correct Division point of contact
- ✓ Have some sort of meeting or other event on Friday night for NER and NMRA members only.
- President Doehring brought the discussion back to the point that there is a lot of things members could do as a region, but more volunteers are needed, President Doehring's so called "nifty-fifty" a group of identified volunteers from all of the divisions who are willing to help with some of these region initiatives. CNY Area Director Bill Brown stated that we need a job list with identified tasks and suggested skill set requirements. NYC/LI Area Director Kevin Katta suggested some sort of "call board" and creating a skill set survey to accompany a welcome letter to new members.

6. President Doehring opened the floor to any other comments:

- CT/RI Area Director Steve Erickson stated that the Newport Convention Committee is considering having each NER Division create one clinic about their Division.
- Bruce DeYoung stated that the MER has all clinics from their region on-line.
- Northern New England Area Director James Van Bokkelen noted that the New England RPM pays \$75 for clinicians.
- NYC/LI Director Kevin Katta volunteered to create some sort of calendar identifying major events in the NER to minimize scheduling conflicts.

7. President Doehring called for adjournment at 9:22 am.

Director James Van Bokkelen moved for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Director Katta. The motion carried with none opposed.



Northeastern Region NMRA

Annual Meeting of the Members

List of Attendees

Sunday, September 18, 2016

Albany, NY

1	CHIP FAULTER	26	Andy Reynolds
2	John Dolking	27	Kevin KATTA
3	Peter Watson	28	Tom Conrad
4	Steve Erickson	29	Roger Oliver
5	RICH BAGTON	30	FRED DOERING
6	Al Imilo	31	Bob Verduyn
7	Kenneth May	32	James Van Bakkelen
8	Bob Dennis	33	PAUL LESSARD
9	Tom Wathman	34	
10	David Insley	35	
11	ARTIE KRASS	36	
12	Gerald Bruno	37	
13	WILLIAM BARRY	38	
14	Bruce DeYoung	39	
15	DAVID METAL	40	
16	Bill Brown	41	
17	ERIC WATSON	42	
18	Bruce Robinson	43	
19	Glen Mitchell	44	
20	Bob Peterson	45	
21	Paul Hoffman	46	
22	BENJIT LECLEUC	47	
23	Peter Higgins	48	
24	Vincent Gallopy	49	
25	Michael Tyndall	50	



**2016 The Pacemaker
Photo and Art Contest Report
September 17, 2016
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**2016 Pacemaker Convention
Photo and Art Contest Report:**

Judges: Bill Brown, Bob Peters, Mike Tylick and Tom Wortman

The Photo Contest judged categories:

- Black and White print of a model,
- Color print of a model,
- Black and White print of the prototype,
- Color print of the prototype,
- Graphic Art category
- "Imagineered" Photography

One non-judged Exhibition Only category.

11 judged entries, no entries in the "Imagineered", graphic art or display only categories.

The 'Peoples' Choice' Awards were as follows:

- Favorite Model, Color Print: (#101) Richard Walz "Before the Run"
- Favorite Prototype, B&W Print: (#105) Kaylee Zheng "Happy Couple" Photo of Couplers
- Favorite Prototype, Color Print: (#110) Peter A. Watson "Blowin' Off Steam"

The Best in Show Peoples' Choice Award, based on the entry receiving the most votes, goes to: (#102) Kaylee Zheng for her Model, B&W Print of "Harbor Life"

For the judged entries, 11 certificates were given to five different entrants. At least two were first time entrants.

The Pacemaker Judged Photo Contest winners were:

Model, B&W Print

Hon. Mention (#102) Kaylee Zheng "Harbor Life"

Model, Color Print

Hon. Mention (#109) Michael J. Ryan "Mine Scene"

3rd place (#106) Kaylee Zheng "Family Portrait" 3 Steamers Parked at Roundhouse

2nd place (#107) Howard Dwyer "Island Central #815 44 Ton Hauling Scrap Metal"

1st place (#108) Michael J. Ryan "Bridge Scene"

Prototype, B&W Print

2nd place (#105) Kaylee Zheng "Happy Couple" Photo of Couplers

1st place (#104) Kaylee Zheng "New Hope" GP30 #2198

Prototype, Color Print

Hon. Mention (#111) Peter A. Watson "Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington #9 under steam again"

2nd place (#103) Kaylee Zheng "Sunset in Jersey" NJ Transit Cars bathed in Sunset Light

1st place (#110) Peter A. Watson "Blowin' Off Steam"

The award for Best in Show went to

(#101) Richard Walz for his Model Color Print "Before the Run"