



**Northeastern Region NMRA  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Sunday, July 17, 2016**

1. President John Doehring called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

This meeting was conducted using “GoToMeeting” software over the internet and telephone.

Present at the meeting were President John Doehring and Directors Kevin Katta, Bill Brown, Robert Dennis, Steve McMullin and James Van Bokkelen. Directors Steve Erickson and Barbara Hoblit were excused from the meeting. NER Treasurer Peter McKenney, NER Secretary Chip Faulter, NER Convention Chair David Insley and Photo Contest Chair Bill Barry were also in attendance. A quorum being present, the meeting could proceed.

2. President Doehring stated that the agenda would be as previously e-mailed to the BOD. President Doehring called for any proposed changes to the agenda. There were none. This agenda is included in these minutes as Attachment #1.

3. President Doehring called for the standard reports.

- **President’s Report**

President Doehring asked that the BOD perform one vote at the end of all of the reports to accept them as a block. The BOD agreed with this approach.

President Doehring reviewed the action items he took responsibility for at the 1/5/16 BOD meeting. These items are summarized below:

***NER Convention Chair Insley was assigned responsibility to update the NER Convention Handbook replacing names of former convention officers with just the titles.*** Convention

Chair Insley reported that no action had been taken to date. Secretary Faulter offered to assist in completing Convention Chair Insley with this action.

***President Doehring took responsibility to develop a proposal for procuring a “GoToMeeting” account and bring it to the NER BOD at the next meeting for approval.***

3/8/16 status - President Doehring recommended that the NER purchase this account for use at the Region (BOD and committees) level and in our Divisions. Treasurer McKenney suggested that this expenditure become a yearly budget item and took responsibility to include it in the annual budget process. The responsibility for procurement of the account and administration was not addressed however and should be revisited at the next BOD meeting. 5/15/16 status – After further discussion it was decided to test using freeware before purchasing the GoToMeeting license. 7/17/16 update – Treasurer McKenney to ask Area Director Hoblit if she would test the software. (Subsequent to the meeting this occurred and Director Hoblit agreed to sign the region up and perform the initial testing.)

And from the 5/15/16 BOD meeting:

***Investment Committee Chair Santoro to recruit two additional committee members and re-invest the NER money.*** Investment Committee Chair Santoro has named one additional member to the Investment Committee, has opened a new account for the NER and the funds are being transferred. **President Doehring asked that all BOD members consider who might be a good candidate to fill the remaining spot and provide that name to Chair Santoro.**

***President Doehring and Convention Chair Insley to travel to Long Island and meet with the Sunrise Trail Division leadership in regard to hosting the 2019 NER Convention.*** Area Director Katta stated that the Sunrise Trail Division (STD) President was a lawyer with a very busy practice, there is no Division Vice-President, the STD had one Director seat open at the moment and one other Director was a snow-bird. There just was not enough manpower to do the job. **President Doehring requested Convention Chair Insley to call the STD President and discuss the issue with him.**

***Director Erickson to determine if the document created by President Doehring can be used as a starting point for the Strategic planning Committee, and if so, convene the committee and move forward with the document.*** **President Doehring stated that little if anything had been accomplished since the last meeting and stated he would connect with Director off-line and determine the plan ahead.**

- **Secretary’s Report**

The meeting minutes for the 5/15/16 NER BOD meeting were sent to meeting participants shortly after the meeting for review and comment. Several comments were incorporated and a final draft posted on the NER website in late May. There were no further comments suggested at this meeting.

- **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer McKenney had previously provided the Treasurer's Preliminary Report for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2016 to the NER BOD and Officers via e-mail. Treasurer McKenney stated he had nothing further to add to the advance report. This report is included in these minutes as attachment #2.

- **Office Manager Report**

No report was provided.

- **NER Convention Chair Report**

NER Convention Chair Insley submitted his report to the BOD via e-mail in advance of the meeting and it is included in these minutes as Attachment (3). Chair Insley summarized that everything is on-track for the convention in Albany this fall. The NER has invoked their lower hotel room clause, however. This frees up rooms back to the hotel for its use. This action has no financial impact to the NER. There was considerable discussion in regard to the trade-off between higher hotel room costs versus higher public room costs and how that impacts the attending members and the NER. President Doehring asked that the BOD think about this issue as it will probably impact convention hotel decisions going forward.

It was noted that the NMRA has voted to have the 2022 National Convention in Birmingham, England !

- **Achievement Program Report**

AP Chair Brown submitted his report to the BOD via e-mail in advance of the meeting and it is included in these minutes as Attachment #4. AP Chair Brown stated that he will be stepping up to take over the NMRA National Model Contest Chair position but intends to retain his NER AP Chair position for the time being.

- **Webmaster's Report**

Webmaster Poor did not provide an advance report and he was not present at the meeting.

- **The Coupler Editor's Report**

Editor Paston did not provide a report and was not present at the meeting. There was considerable discussion in regard to posting a .pdf version of The Coupler. President Doehring stated he had already requested Editor Paston to do this going forward.

- **Strategic Planning Committee Report**

See comments on the action item on page 2 of these minutes.

- **Nominating Committee Report**

Area Director Dennis has volunteered to take over the Nominating Committee Chair. Chair Dennis is in the process of the re-starting the Division Superintendents' Meeting. The first meeting is currently scheduled for September 25, 2016.

- **Long Island/NYC Area Director's Report**

Director Katta had to leave the meeting early and as a result provided no report.

- **New York State Area Director's Report**

Director Brown had to leave the meeting for a few minutes and as a result provided no report.

- **New Jersey Area Director's Report**

Director Dennis submitted a report in advance of the meeting via e-mail to the NER BOD. That report is included below as provided:

"The New Jersey Division Board of Directors are scheduled to meet later in the Summer. The Convention Committee has selected the Hotel for the 2018 Convention in New Jersey, so we are now looking for specific venues for trips/activities for the convention.

Our joint meeting on May 14, 2016 with the New Jersey Division of the MER at Info Age Camp Evans in Wall Township was a great success. We now have two new Board members, Chuck Diljak, Fred Dellaiacono, and one new Board Position, that of Immediate Past President, Ciro Compagno."

- **CT/RI Area Director's Report**

Director Erickson was not present at the meeting and did not provide an advance report.

- **MA Area Director's Report**

Director Hoblit provided a report via e-mail to the BOD in advance of this meeting. The report is provided below as sent:

"The HUB division just returned from the NMRA national convention held last week. In addition to many members attending the event in Indianapolis, the modular group superintendent brought a trailer full of modules and they were joined together with the Mid-Continent Divisions 1 and 4 groups to run everything as a single display. Working signals, two diamonds, two tower operators, and the set up won 1<sup>st</sup> Place for modular layouts.

The HUB annual summer event is this Sunday, July 17 at the Waushakum Live Steamers club in Holliston, MA. Attendance is predicted to be close to 80 members and their families. This is a HUB funded event with train rides and a cookout lunch. It's also the only true HUB summer event.

The last HUB board meeting focused on the annual show, held in Marlborough MA every December. This is the primary source of income for the division and this year the show organizers from the HUB are asking for a one time large amount of money for advertising. An advertising committee has had several meetings and is due to present the plan to the board when it meets again in September."

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

Director Van Bokkelen stated he had attended the convention in St. John. He also stated that the planning for the National Narrow Gauge convention was proceeding and that the next Seacoast Division meeting will be on July 23, 2016 at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club in Auburn, ME. Director Van Bokkelen stated he had not been to a Green Mountain Division event yet due to travel time and difficulty in determining meeting times. President Doehring stated to the group that we all need to make an effort to cover those areas for which we are responsible.

- **Canada Area Director's Report**

Director McMullin thanked everyone who attended the convention. He also provided a report via e-mail to the BOD in advance of this meeting. The report is provided below as sent:

"The joint convention in Saint John, NB (May 19-22) with the MFMR was very successful, and members of the MFMR and of the NER in the Maritimes were VERY appreciative of the attendance and participation of the 31 NER members from the USA who registered. The HUB division modular layout was a highlight of the public show, and several NER members provided clinics and participated in other ways. My expectation is that the convention will result in the re-activation of the Maritime Division within the next several months. There were 118 registrants, and 141 attended the banquet.

Progress is being made with regard to the re-activation of the Maritime Division. In the latest issue of their publication, the MFMR executive made it known to the membership that they are currently considering the possibility of re-joining the NMRA as the Maritime Division. I have been in communication with the president and the ball is now in the MFMR executive's court. Should they decide not to re-join the NMRA, I believe that there is sufficient interest (probably about 50 people) to launch an entirely new Maritime Division.

John, Peter, Bob and I have met online and have discussed strategies for re-activating the division. We need (as the NER) to make sure that we offer value to those who would be part of the re-activated division. That includes the Achievement Program (how will we provide judges, etc.).

I also had a conversation in Indianapolis with a long-standing member from Quebec who is keen to help. He thinks it is unlikely that the Alouette Division will be re-activated anytime soon, but he is wondering how NMRA members in Quebec can participate more fully in NER activities (including the achievement program)."

**President Doehring stated that he and director McMullin need to re-convene off-line and determine the path ahead for re-activating the Maritimes Division.**

Director Brown moved that all of the reports be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Dennis. The motion carried with none opposed.

**4. Annual Meeting Planning Status**

The NER Annual Meeting will be held Sunday morning September 18 from 8:00 to 9:00 am during the NER Convention. President Doehring is thinking about the agenda so it doesn't end up being a long business meeting.

**5. Other New Business**

There was no new business put before the BOD.

**6. Schedule for the next meeting**

The next scheduled telecom meeting will be on Sunday, October 18, 2016 at 7:00 pm, and again will be conducted via Go-To-Meeting or a similar application.

Director Brown moved that this be the next meeting date of the NER BOD. The motion was seconded by Director Dennis. The motion carried with none opposed.

**8. President Doehring called for adjournment at 10:00 pm.**

Director Brown moved for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Director Dennis. The motion carried with none opposed.



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**Northeastern Region NMRA  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Sunday, July 17, 2016  
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm**

**This meeting will again be conducted using GoToMeeting via your computer or phone. Specific dial in instructions will be provided in advance of the meeting.**

**Proposed Agenda**

1. Call to order – President Doehring
2. Any additional agenda items? Approval of the agenda
3. Call for the standard reports: (note that reports may just be summarized if previously submitted, no need to re-hash)
  1. President’s Report, and status of action items:
    - i. From the 1/5/16 BOD meeting:
      1. Action to update the NER Convention handbook replacing names of former convention officials with the titles ... delegated to Convention Committee Chair Insley
      2. Action to develop a proposal to purchase a Go-To-Meeting account and bring to the next BOD meeting for approval... the next step here is to register and test the “freeware” to determine its’ adequacy for NER use. This action has not been assigned to anyone.
    - ii. From the 5/15/16 BOD Meeting
      1. Action to Investment Committee Chair Santoro to complete recruitment of two additional committee chair members and re-invest the money asap.
      2. Action to President Doehring and Convention Chair Insley to travel to Long island and meet with the Sunrise Trail Division leadership in regard to hosting the 2019 NER Convention.

3. Action to Director Erickson to determine if the document created by President Doebling can be used as a starting point for the Strategic Planning Committee, and if so, convene the committee and move forward with that document.
2. Secretary's Report, approval of 5/15/16 BOD meeting minutes
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Office Manager Report
5. Convention Committee Report
6. Achievement Program Report
7. Webmaster Report
8. The Coupler Editor's Report
9. Strategic Planning Committee Report
10. Nominating Committee Report
11. Investment Committee Report
12. Long Island/NYC Area Director Report
13. New York State Area Director Report
14. New Jersey Area Director Report
15. CT/RI Area Director Report
16. MA Area Director Report
17. Northern New England Area Director Report
18. Canadian Maritimes Area Director Report, including an update on reactivating the Maritime Division
4. Annual meeting planning status - Doebling
5. Other new business ?
6. Schedule Next Meeting – Proposed ???

To: Board of Directors, Northeastern Region of the NMRA  
From: Peter McKenney, NER Treasurer  
Date: Jul 15, 2016

**Treasurer's Preliminary Report for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016**

In a few weeks, a comprehensive financial report for FY 2016 will be issued to the Board, including for the first time a consolidated report which includes the financial transactions of the NER Convention Committee. This preliminary report is issued due to the Board meeting scheduled for July 17.

The attached Revenue and Expenditures Report for the 12 months ended June 30, 2016 contains a comparison with prior year amounts as well as with budgeted amounts. Some highlights:

- The Coupler's subscription revenue was higher than budgeted, despite lower number of subscribers, but its expenses were also higher than budget because the July 2016 issue was actually produced in late June and distributed to subscribers. Consequently, there were five issues charged in the fiscal year. Happily, the extra subscription revenue exceeded the increase in printing costs.
- Unexpected communications expenses created a major budgetary problem. Scooter Youst had been personally paying for Constant Contact and never sought reimbursement. The NER started making direct payments as soon as the situation became known. Also, there was a major expense to address the hacking incident.
- Investment Management Fees stopped when the NER withdrew from an investment advisory service, but the ensuing liquidation of the invested assets at a time that the investment market had declined created a large loss on sale. Instead of having investment gains for the fiscal year as planned, the NER had a major capital loss.
  - A new investment account has been established at Edward Jones by NER Investment Committee Chair Joe Santoro.

The attached Balance Sheet shows beginning and ending balances of the liquid assets of the NER, NOT including the assets controlled by the NER Convention Committee. The ending cash balance of \$3,021 should be adequate for the foreseeable future, given that the cost of the July issue of The Coupler was paid in June. If a material unforeseen expense arises, however, the Board may need to consider transferring some funds from the Investment Account to the Operating Account. The ending balances of the equity accounts have not been calculated yet.

Call or email if you have questions.  
207-776-2033  
mckenp@maine.rr.com

**Northeastern Region of the NMRA  
Revenue and Expenditures**

July 2015 through June 2016

	Jul '15 - Jun 16	Jul '14 - Jun 15	\$ Change	Budget FYE 2016	Variances
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>					
<b>Income</b>					
Coupler Advertising	-	225	(225)	200	(200)
NMRA Rebate income	2,986	2,980	(14)	2,900	66
Investment expense rebate	-	82	(82)		
Subscriptions for newsletter	6,179	5,441	738	5,500	679
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>9,145</b>	<b>8,728</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>8,600</b>	<b>545</b>
<b>Expense</b>					
<b>Business Expenses</b>					
AP expense	451	344	107	500	49
Business Registration Fees	53	-	53	50	(3)
Communications expense	1,208	-	1,208		(1,208)
Coupler expenses	5,849	6,392	(543)	5,200	(649)
Credit Card Expense	-	48	(48)	50	50
Office expense	20	64	(45)	100	80
<b>Total Business Expenses</b>	<b>7,580</b>	<b>6,848</b>	<b>732</b>		
<b>Other Types of Expenses</b>					
Investment Management Expense	432	912	(479)	1,000	568
<b>Total Other Types of Expenses</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>912</b>	<b>(479)</b>		
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>8,013</b>	<b>7,760</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>6,900</b>	<b>(1,113)</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>1,132</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>(568)</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>					
<b>Other Income</b>					
<b>Investments</b>					
Capital gain dividends	-	2,543	(2,543)		
Dividend income	-	498	(498)		
Gain on sale of investments	(5,524)	312	(5,837)		
Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	2	-	2		
Interest - checking account	5	5	(1)		
Unrealized net gains (losses)	-	(1,392)	1,392		
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>(5,518)</b>	<b>1,966</b>	<b>(7,484)</b>	<b>2,505</b>	<b>(8,023)</b>
Transfer from Convention Fund	-	905	(905)		
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>(5,518)</b>	<b>2,871</b>	<b>(8,389)</b>		
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>(5,518)</b>	<b>2,871</b>	<b>(8,389)</b>		
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(4,386)</b>	<b>3,839</b>	<b>(8,225)</b>	<b>4,205</b>	<b>(8,591)</b>
<b>DISTRIBUTIONS TO DIVISIONS</b>					
NMRA Dues Rebates	2966			2900	66
Half of Appreciation of Assets (2015)	420			420	-

Note: NMRA rebated an additional \$79.50 in May 2016 which will be allocated to divisions in FYE 2017.

8:49 AM  
07/15/16  
Accrual Basis

Northeastern Region of the NMRA  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of June 30, 2016

	<u>Jun 30, 16</u>	<u>Jun 30, 15</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings			
Androscoggin Bank	3,021.28	4,758.88	-1,737.60
Total Checking/Savings	<u>3,021.28</u>	<u>4,758.88</u>	<u>-1,737.60</u>
Total Current Assets	3,021.28	4,758.88	-1,737.60
Other Assets			
Marketable Securities			
RBC Fixed Income Investments	0.00	7,057.30	-7,057.30
RBC International Equities	0.00	18,629.85	-18,629.85
RBC Money Market Fund	46,312.73	143.83	46,168.90
RBC US Equities	0.00	26,436.39	-26,436.39
Total Marketable Securities	<u>46,312.73</u>	<u>52,267.37</u>	<u>-5,954.64</u>
Security Deposits Asset	400.00	400.00	0.00
Total Other Assets	<u>46,712.73</u>	<u>52,667.37</u>	<u>-5,954.64</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>49,734.01</u></u>	<u><u>57,426.25</u></u>	<u><u>-7,692.24</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>			
Equity			
Distributions to divisions	-11,907.27	-8,600.78	-3,306.49
General Operating Invested Fund	30,310.82	30,310.82	0.00
Life Member Equity Fund (B Dir)	19,513.34	19,513.34	0.00
Perm. Restricted Net Assets			
Spate Award Fund (Restricted)	1,360.05	1,360.05	0.00
Total Perm. Restricted Net Assets	<u>1,360.05</u>	<u>1,360.05</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Unrestricted Net Assets	14,842.82	11,003.49	3,839.33
Net Income	-4,385.75	3,839.33	-8,225.08
Total Equity	<u>49,734.01</u>	<u>57,426.25</u>	<u>-7,692.24</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><u>49,734.01</u></u>	<u><u>57,426.25</u></u>	<u><u>-7,692.24</u></u>

## NER Convention Committee Report

17 July–2016

**Current Highlights**

- Email blast sent out 22-June. 53% open rate, 29% click-through rate
- Albany team planning is on track with two months to go
- Finalizing the bid package with the Newport team.
- Hotel proposal received from New Jersey Division

**Albany Convention - Pacemaker 2016**

	Booked	Total/Target
Current Hotel Nights booked	129*	180
Current Registrations:	85	125
Spouse Registrations	12	—
Banquet Seats	68	130
Operating Slots Requested:		170
Saratoga and North Creek:	10	50
RallEx Tour	7	30
Port of Albany Tour	7	15
SMS Industrial Park Tour	1	15
Make n' Take Bunk House Clinic	9	20
Drybrushing Clinic	20	20
Wine Tasting	8	20
Paint and Sip	4	15

\* as of 7/12/2016

Planning is on track for the convention. A tour of the Amtrak facility in Renaissance was added to replace the Selkirk tour.

Kevin, Bill, and Jack along with Artie continue to do a great job pulling together what should be a fantastic convention.

**E-Mail Marketing Campaign for Pacemaker 2016**

- Two weeks left to save - sent on 8/1/2016 @5:00pm
- Final Reminder - sent on 8/5/2016 @12:00pm

**Little Rhody - Newport 2017**

Steve Erickson, Sue Osberg and Justin Maguire are working the convention details.

Tentative dates will be November 9-12 in Newport Rhode Island

Convention hotel will be the Newport Harbor Hotel.

- Rental costs for rooms will be \$2400
- Hotel Room rate is set at \$139, with no minimum
- Hotel has 80 rooms available.

### **GSD Convention 2018**

Bruce DeYoung and Tom Wortmann and the contacts for the 2018 Convention in New Jersey.

Tentative dates will be September 13-18, 2018

Convention hotel will be the Doubletree Hotel, Mahwah.

- Rental costs for rooms will be \$10,000
- Hotel Room rate is set at \$129, with no minimum

### **Convention 2019**

Need to plan a road trip to New York to have a discussion on the possibility of Sunrise Train hosting a convention in 2019.

AP Report for July 2016

82 total award winners will be invited to take part in AP awards ceremony at the Albany Convention including 4 Master Model Railroaders.

Receipts were recently turned in for reimbursement totaling \$681.13 for AP expenses from April 2016 to July 2016. This includes the normal expenses of mailings, printing, etc of awards, but is unusually high due to three unique factors:

1. Several AP packets were printed for handouts for AP program presentations to The Hudson-Berkshire and Central New York Divisions.
2. Shipping boxes for awards were ordered in bulk online after Staples and Office Max discontinued in stores the box size used.
3. Merit Award Ribbons for NER convention contests needed to be re-ordered with a bulk supply that should last several years.