

**MINUTES, NORTHEASTERN REGION NMRA
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, AUGUST 3, 2008
RICHMOND, VERMONT**

Call to Order:

President May called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM. In addition to President May and Secretary Shoneman, attendees were Vice President Allard, Directors Barry, Evans, King, Oliver, Gallogly, Past President Glasstetter, and Treasurer Cannon.

Announcements and Opening Statements:

President May welcomed all attendees and indicated that John Campbell could not attend because of personal concerns.

President May reported that in conversations with Charlie Bettinger he learned that the ballots received on the by-laws vote were substantial. Since the deadline was August 1, Charlie indicated he should be counting today and results should be available soon.

He also reported that Mark Harlow had volunteered to serve as Office Manager and he had indicated to Mark that he should send any expenses directly to Treasurer Cannon. Mr. King indicated he will e-mail Mark and indicate he should be added to Mark's distribution list for directors.

Secretary's Report:

The secretary's report was presented by Secretary Shoneman. He indicated that the minutes of the prior BOD meeting had been approved through e-mail in a very efficient process with several corrections made in response to director's inputs. After final copy was approved, the minutes were posted to the regional website. The minutes were also sent to all division superintendents; and, Secretary Shoneman had received several e-mails in response indicating this was well appreciated.

Mr. Oliver motioned that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. Mr. Gallogly seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Cannon reported that the net income for the year was \$5500 primarily as a result of the positive cash flow from the Albany convention. He also highlighted the fact that the current costs of the Coupler are not being covered by subscriptions. During a brief discussion, it was noted that this gap will continue to grow in the future as more members elect to obtain the Coupler from the website.

Mr. Gallogly motioned that the Treasurer's report be accepted. Mr. Glasstetter seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Additional discussion focused on the question of whether financials should be published in the Coupler. It was noted that the IRS only indicates that a financial summary must be made available to a member on request. There are no regulations requiring posting of a full report.

President May summarized the general agreements reached in the discussion.

1. Phil Monat may not wish to consume space in the Coupler for a financial summary
2. Recommendation that a summary report as suggested by Treasurer Cannon be distributed with the annual report.

Based on this summary, Mr. King motioned that the current year financials and budget summary proposed by Treasurer Cannon be presented and distributed at the annual meeting. Mr. Oliver seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Office Manager's Report:

President May presented the Office Manager's Report prepared by Mr. Harlow. He indicated to Mark that this was what the board wanted. However, he also asked for a historical profile in future reports.

Mr. King motioned that the Office Manager's report be accepted. Mr. Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

1. Model and Photographic Contests:

There have been no contest activities since the last meeting. Therefore, there were no new reports presented.

Mr. Oliver, the new photographic contest chairman, reported that he had contacted several individuals with experience in the photographic contest and had received very helpful information from Paul Vollker, the national photo contest chairman. He also indicated that he had talked with the Syracuse convention committee and had begun to assemble 2-4 judges to assist. He also was looking into display alternatives, but did indicate that prize winners would be displayed on easels.

Mr. King motioned that the Photographic Contest Chairman's report be accepted. Mr. Gallogly seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. NER Coupler:

President May presented the Coupler report from Phil Monat. He indicated that production costs were stable and that the new divisional spotlight was meeting with success. The production schedule is set for the 4 issues in 2009. Mr. Glasstetter asked Ken May to request that Phil Monat publish production schedule and deadlines on the web-site. President May indicated he would communicate this.

Mr. Gallogly motioned that the Coupler report be accepted. Mr. King seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. Conventions:

Mr. Gallogly took a brief moment to highlight some facts on the national convention in Anaheim. Preliminary attendance figures indicated approximately 1000 attendees at the Anaheim convention with 30% of those being companions. Therefore, there were approximately 700 active model railroaders in attendance.

Convention Chairman: President May reported no new activity in this area and he will continue to be the Acting Chairman.

Syracuse: President May reported that the hotel contracts are signed and preparations are going well. Currently, the pre-registration is approximately 100 which is typical at this time. Ken asked the directors to continue to stimulate discussion on the convention at the local division meetings. Ken also mentioned that room nights are going well supported by the popularity of the OPS SIG activities. Mr. Gallogly reminded the directors and others that there are many excellent layouts in the area.

Burlington: President May reported that the hotel contract for the 2010 convention in Burlington has been signed. Dates are September 9-12, 2010

St. John's: Treasurer Cannon reported he had met and discussed the St. John's convention several times with Steve McMullen. The "Tracks and Tides" convention is sponsored by the Maritime Federation of Model Railroaders and is scheduled for May 20-23, 2010. Mr. Cannon reported he had given the money set aside in the NER for those NMRA members in the Maritimes. He also indicated that the NER would offer Coupler Space and provide assistance in obtaining clinicians.

Facilities are reported to be two connected hotels in the downtown area and there are plans to have the downtown museum have a railroad oriented display during this time period. Included in registration data will be procedures concerning the filling out of custom forms. For those taking models and modules into Canada, it is important to understand and follow procedures to minimize issues on reentry to the USA.

Concord: Mr. King reported that the Seacoast Division continues to consider a convention in the Concord, NH area for 2011.

Mr. King motioned that the convention committee report be accepted. Mr. Oliver seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. AP Report:

Mr. Allard reported that activity in the AP program is at a good level and has covered all categories. He continues to see good activity even over the summer.

Mr. Allard noted that MMR Bill Brown lost all his awards in an unfortunate house fire earlier this year. Mr. Allard has worked diligently with national during the past several months and all of Bill's awards are being replaced and will be presented at Syracuse. This is unprecedented and is a surprise to Bill, so Mr. Allard asked all to refrain from discussion.

Mr. Gallogly motioned that the AP Report be accepted. Mr. Glasstetter seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

5. Executive Handbook Committee:

Mr. Barry presented a summary of activities showing those complete, in process, and future plans. One of the key items in progress is the updating of roles and responsibilities. Numerous ones, particularly the Office Manager's is significantly outdated.

Mr. Oliver motioned that the Committee's status report be accepted as presented. Mr. King seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Old Business:

1. Division Allocations:

Treasurer Cannon indicated that NER division monies for Allouette division have not been forwarded. President May indicated that this was appropriate action and that he will re-contact individuals in the area and ask if they could reactivate the two divisions in Canada.

2. By-Law Vote:

President May reported that over 100 votes have been received to date and that as soon as results are available from Charlie Bettinger, he will e-mail them to all BOD members.

3. Volunteers:

President May indicated the need for volunteers for the following positions. He requested that directors continue to work with divisions to actively seek individuals for these positions.

Convention Chairman: President May indicated he would be interested in taking on this role when his term as president expires. In the interim, he will continue to serve as acting chairman.

Regional Director: There is a need for an interim director for approximately 2 years to serve out the remainder of Mr. Gallogly's term.

Nominating Chairman: With elections in two years, it is important that this role be filled soon.

Membership Chair: Responsible for membership recruitment and education. Several key points were made during a discussion on the membership chairman's role.

Mr. Glasstetter: - This person needs to be someone who is willing to contact people
Mr. Gallogly – NER booth needs updating with a marketing approach
Mr. Cannon - The individual needs to be a spokesperson for the NMRA

There was also discussion on generation and maintenance of a regional e-mail list. After a short discussion, President May indicated he would ask the Office Manager, Mr. Harlow if this were something that he could undertake.

New Business:

1. Divisional Boundaries

Mr. Oliver indicated that there has been a "border dispute" in New Jersey between divisions in the Northeastern Region (NER) and the Mid-Eastern Region (MER) concerning several towns and zip codes. This issue was the result of a redistricting at the national level approximately 3 years ago. Based on Mr. Oliver's discussions with the divisional folks involved, a resolution to the issue was proposed and agreed upon by the NER and MER. This recommendation was sent to national, but all indications are that national has not responded.

After discussion on further background details and some of the specifics that needed to be resolved, President May requested that Mr. Oliver have his constituency send a summary of the issue and the proposed resolution to him. He will contact national and address this issue.

2. By-Law Changes:

Mr. Barry reported that in reviewing the new by-laws in more detail, several changes that needed to be made to further clarify the verbiage and intent of the by-laws. Bill made several recommendations that were discussed via e-mail over the past several weeks before the BOD meeting. It was agreed that typographical errors highlighted by Mr. Barry be made as recommended. Other specific recommendations discussed in some detail.

Registration Fee Payment: Wording to be changed to reflect the criteria that all convention committee members pay standard registration fees.

Convention Account: Wording changed to indicate treasurer responsible for all regional accounts with the exclusion of the convention account. The convention account is managed separately to maintain simplicity of the regional accounts. When all accounts payable and receivable have been executed for a specific convention, a profit and loss statement for each convention is presented to the region and appropriate transfers between convention account and regional accounts are approved by the BOD.

Compensation of Nationally Recognized Individuals: Often it is necessary to reimburse nationally recognized individuals for their attendance and participation in a regional convention. After discussion Mr. Oliver recommended that Mr. Gallogly rewrite this particular statement for Mr. Barry.

Mr. King motioned that the recommendations to the by-laws made by Mr. Barry be accepted with the addition of the recommendations noted in the discussion. This motion also included thanks to Mr. Barry for an exceptionally well done job in the rewriting of the by-laws. Mr. Gallogly seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. Hartford 2009:

Mr. Gallogly, chairman of the Hartford National Convention, 2009 gave a summary of on-going activities. Overall, there is good progress. A logo has been selected and a professional advertising and publicity campaign is underway. Several additional areas highlighted by Mr. Gallogly were:

1. "Give a Day" is a volunteer campaign in progress. He encouraged all to discuss the need to support the volunteer program at divisional meetings. The intent of the campaign is to focus a volunteer's efforts into one day so that they too can enjoy the other days of the convention.

2. Clinics: Clinic and layout tour schedules are planned to be in place by December 2008.
3. The Social Experience: The key focus is to make the convention a great social experience. Breakfast and lunch areas will be provided Monday through Thursday. There is a plan for a 15 minute presentation by a breakfast speaker each day; and, Lunch with a Clinician will be a featured activity. Al Oneto will be coordinating the operations program.
4. Ken May is responsible for space coordination.

Date of next BOD Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for **October 19, 2008 in Wethersfield, Connecticut at 10:30 am.**

Adjournment:

Mr. Glasstetter motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:09 PM.

Respectfully,



Keith F. Shoneman
Secretary