



**Northeastern Region NMRA  
Annual Meeting of the Members  
Sunday, September 16, 2018  
Double Tree Hotel, Mahwah, NJ**

1. President John Doehring called the meeting to order at 8:04 am

The attendance sheet is included in these minutes as Attachment (1). A total of 38 NER members were in attendance. A quorum being present, the meeting could proceed. President Doehring asked Peter McKenney to act as secretary pro tempore in the absence of NER Secretary Chip Faulter.

President Doehring welcomed everyone to the meeting. He recognized that Secretary Faulter had a health issue that prevented him from attending the meeting and associated convention, but Chip was still working on behalf of the Region by aiding him in preparing for this meeting.

Bob Dennis reported that NER Membership Chair Jim Rizzolo was suffering from a serious illness, too, and asked for a moment of silence.

2. President Doehring called for the standard reports.

- **Secretary's Report**

A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the prior Annual Meeting (November 12, 2017) and to accept the minutes as written and posted on the NER website. The motion was approved by acclamation. There were none opposed.

- **Treasurer's Report**

NER Treasurer Roger Oliver stated that the NER checking account contained \$6,875 which represented its Coupler Fund (\$2,676), General Fund (\$2,745) and a recent receipt of NMRA Dues Rebate (\$1,45) which will be soon distributed to NER active divisions. The Erie Limited Convention will be profitable, but a final accounting of it will await submission of final expenditures. The NER Board has adopted a budget for the current fiscal year beginning July 1 which anticipates a deficit of \$2,184 before accounting for any donations and financial results of the annual convention, which he

knows will be profitable but not to what extent. Members need to be aware that the NER depends every year on donations and profitable conventions to achieve a balanced budget or surplus.

Treasurer Oliver will seek corporate donations this fiscal year and urged future local convention committees to be mindful of the need for profitable conventions. He mentioned that \$3,000 was removed from the Investment Fund last fiscal year due to the loss sustained by the prior NER convention and that that fund now had a value of approximately \$52,000. He also suggested that the NER Board revisit its policy of distributing to NER divisions the NMRA Dues Rebates.

Members present then made suggestions on how the NER could improve its financial position or effectiveness including: 1) aiding members liquidate their model railroad assets for a commission and 2) providing capital on a temporary basis to divisions for implementation of projects that generate a return. President Doehring felt that the primary focus should be on running profitable conventions by setting registration prices accordingly. NMRA Marketing Consultant Christina Ganzer Zambri reminded everyone that the NMRA has offered each division a rebate of a membership retention program cost up to \$50.

Upon motion made and seconded, the members voted by acclamation to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. There were none opposed.

- **Convention Committee Report**

Convention Committee Chair David Insley reported that there were 185 registered participants for this convention, 8 of whom paid for one-day passes, a new option for attendance. The 2019 convention will be in Syracuse, NY, and is well-along in planning. The HUB Division will host the 2020 convention, possibly in the Worcester, MA, area. Unfortunately, there are no divisions identified to sponsor conventions in 2021 and thereafter. He is working to build the NER Convention Committee to be an even greater resource for future local convention committees. He noted that there has been some history of tension arising between the region and local convention committees, but he hopes in the future that all planners can work together to put on a great NER event. President Doehring commented that the Region has a good convention program overall. Members should strive to attract more participants to future conventions, e.g., helping find carpool participants and roommates.

- **Achievement Program Report**

AP Chair Bill Brown stated that the presentations made at the banquet the prior evening would stand as his report. (Attachment (2), although not presented at the meeting, reflects the awards presented at the banquet and is included here for the record.) He added that the lapse of time to receive an AP certificate in the future should be shorter, no more than 2 months. He will consider another division competition for the AP like the one this past year which resulted in a major increase in Golden Spike Awards.

- **The Coupler Editor's Report**

Editor Jeff Paston stated that the next issue of The Coupler is being delayed slightly so that he can include results of this convention's contests. The following issue will have other details of this convention as well as articles of the convention in Syracuse.

- **Webmaster's report**

Webmaster Dave Abrames addressed issues with the recent electronic voting experience. A few members had challenges in casting votes electronically, but all were accommodated promptly. Another problem was that electronic write-ins created changed ballots for subsequent electronic voters by adding the names of the write-ins to the ballot. Upon examination, however, this unexpected feature did not change election results. He suggested that in a future election that there be a distinct nomination process and period so that this does not occur again.

Dave will work with the software developer to resolve issues for future balloting. 100 paper ballots had to be distributed due to lack of a working email address. He noted that every NER member needs his or her own unique address for each voting member. There are a few members who are married couples who currently use the same email address for NMRA purposes and this needs to be rectified. He will also clean up and improve the website with help from a committee.

President Doehring pointed out that the total voters this election was about 150 which was much improved over the prior election in which only about 50 members voted. Still, he feels election processes should start earlier and there needs to be more publicity.

- **Membership Committee Report**

Although there was no formal report, there was substantial discussion on this topic. President Doehring summarized the comments by saying that a Membership Committee is of high value to the NER. It has been a consistent and significant representative of the NER at the train show in W. Springfield each year and has great potential in sharing best practices and recruitment ideas among the divisions. HUB Membership Chair Peter Higgins emphasized that membership retention is critical. "Recruitment is easy!" All members should reach out to new members and make them feel welcome. All divisions should have a "mentor" program. NMRA Marketing Consultant Zambri urged that all division recruiters present at the same train show should be making the same offers of enticement to prospective members to avoid confusing the recruits.

- **No Area Directors Provided a Report**

- **Photo Contest Chair Report**

Attachment (3) provides The Erie Limited 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.

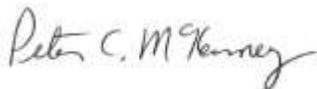
3. President Doehring gave his report

- In the absence of Ballot Committee Chair Tom Wortman, President Doehring reported the election results:
  - i. John Doehring, President
  - ii. Bob Dennis, Vice President
  - iii. Larry Cannon, North Area Director

- iv. Barbara Hoblit, East Area Director
  - v. Kevin Katta, South Area Director
  - vi. Ed O'Rourke, West Area Director
  - Tom Wortman will publish the vote counts later.
  - The term for all regional elected officials is 3 years (until recent amendment, the bylaws provided for four-year terms)
  - The NER updated strategic plan is now being followed. The NER website will be a "secret weapon" for action items under the plan.
    - i. An NER model railroad layout directory will be available on the website so NER members can share the hobby better.
    - ii. Also, a regional clinic database will aid divisions in creating better division events and regional conventions.
  - President Doehring asked all the division leaders who will also now serve as Division Directors on the NER Board to participate in all future Board meetings. If they are not able to participate in person in any meeting, they are urged to give a written proxy to the NER Secretary prior to the meeting identifying another person from their division who will take their place.
  - He also asked for more volunteers to serve at the regional level.
4. President Doehring opened the floor to any other comments or questions and none were forthcoming.
5. President Doehring called for adjournment at 9:38 am.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The motion carried with none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter McKenney



**Northeastern Region**  
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION  
Annual Meeting of the Members  
Sunday, October 25, 2015  
Mt. Laurel, NJ

1	Pete McKenna
2	James Van Bocklin
3	Bill Bern
4	Richard Watz
5	Tom Oswald
6	Vin Gallopy
7	David Insley
8	Samuel Metcal
9	Sydney Metcal
10	Stan Pflug
11	Kevin Katta
12	Edward H. Ryebaker
13	John Doehring
14	WILLIAM BARRETT
15	Kurt May
16	Al Oplet
17	Mary Rogers
18	MIKE EVANS
19	Glenn Glasstetter
20	Jim WALSH

21	Bob Henny
22	Seo An Voest
23	Vin Gallogly
24	John Lutz
25	Bill Barry
26	Gerry Covino
27	Tam Oswald
28	JAMES VAN BOKKELLEN
29	DAVID ABRAHAM
30	Irvin D Nathanon HBD
31	Bob Verkuyl CNY
32	Stephen Vaughan
33	Gret Selge
34	Kevin Korta
35	Christina Zambri
36	Bob Peterson
37	Ed O'Connell
38	Daved Collison
39	
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### **Achievement Program Concludes Successful Year**

Kudos to the Northeastern Region for the 63 Achievement Program certificates that were awarded during the year since the 2017 convention. "A typical year generally produces 40 or so awards, so everyone really has something to be proud of" claimed NER AP Chair Bill Brown at this year's celebratory dinner at the recent Mahwah convention. Leading the charge this year was the very active HUB Division of coordinator Peter Watson, HUB accumulated 19 total Awards. They were closely followed by Central New York of Dave Martini and Seacoast of Larry Cannon and Tom Oxnard...each achieving 13 total certificates.

Clearly this record was generated by 40 Golden Spike Awards that resulted from a "Golden Spike Challenge" program. Scenery, Electrical Engineer, Chief Dispatcher and Volunteer were the most popular categories with 4 awards for each. See the attached list for all award winners.

### **Central New York Division Honored For "Golden Spike Challenge"**

"It was a banner year for the NMRA Achievement Program" exclaimed NER coordinator Bill Brown as he addressed the banquet gathering at the 2018 NER convention. Partial responsibility for that can go to the divisions that took up the year-long "Golden Spike Challenge" that was initiated by Brown and President John Doehring during the 2017 convention. The 2018 campaign officially closed with the winning declaration for The Central New York Division members and their AP Chairman Dave Martini. CNY accumulated 10 Golden Spike Awards during the year since the last convention, or 12.5% of its 80 members. Although The HUB Division of Chair Peter Watson actually accumulated more total GS Awards, the contest was based on a percentage of the total division membership. The HUB's 5.6% placed second of the 14 NER divisions, above Seacoast (3.8%) and Lakeshores (3.6%) who finished third and fourth.

CNY Superintendent Bob Verkuyl was presented a box of prizes that will be distributed among those that earned Golden Spikes during the challenge. The prizes were donated by several NER and National business that helped provide incentive to the program. Many thanks go out to Art Fahie of Bar Mills ([www.barmills.com](http://www.barmills.com)), Dave Myers of Gatorfoam ([www.gatorfoam.net](http://www.gatorfoam.net)), Martin Collard of Bordino Scale Line ([www.bordinoscaleline.com](http://www.bordinoscaleline.com)), and also from LARC Products line of backdrop materials ([www.larcproducts.com](http://www.larcproducts.com)).

Those earning Golden Spikes in the challenge were:

Charles Romanick  
Tom Lynch  
Tom Kohoskie  
William McVicker  
Nick McGinnis  
Ed Olszewski  
Dave Martini  
Terry Ludwig  
Richard Hehir  
Charles Albee

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Name	Category	Division
Glenn Mitchell	Dispatcher	Seacoast
Boyd Misstear	Golden Spike	Metro North
Louis McIntyre	Scenery	Seacoast
James Van Bokkelen	Golden Spike	HUB
George Youst	Author	CNY
George Youst	Volunteer	CNY
David Coon	Golden Spike	Lakeshores
Mike Bowler	Structures	Sunrise Trail
Malcolm Houck	Author	HUB
James DeMarco	Golden Spike	Lakeshores
Ron Stacey	Golden Spike	Lakeshores
Ken Belovarac	Golden Spike	HUB
James Kerkam	Golden Spike	HUB
Arthur Ellis	Golden Spike	HUB
George Jarvis	Scenery	E Canada
Ed Olszewski	Golden Spike	CNY
Dave Martini	Golden Spike	CNY
Terry Ludwig	Golden Spike	CNY
Richard Hehir	Golden Spike	CNY
Charles Albee	Golden Spike	CNY
Mark Herrick	Golden Spike	Nutmeg
John McHugh	Electrical	Seacoast
William McVicker	Golden Spike	CNY
Nick McGinnis	Golden Spike	CNY
Bruce Campbell	Golden Spike	Seacoast
Mike Dolan	Golden Spike	HUB
David Trimble	Golden Spike	HUB
Peter McKenney	Dispatcher	Seacoast
Nelson LeMay	Golden Spike	Seacoast
James Ehlen	Golden Spike	Seacoast
Ernest Tage Erickson	Golden Spike	Seacoast
John McHugh	Volunteer	Seacoast
Rich Teer	Golden Spike	Seacoast
Malcolm Houck	Scenery	HUB
Charles Romanick	Golden Spike	CNY
Tom Lynch	Golden Spike	CNY
Tom Kohoskie	Golden Spike	CNY
Robert Pletl Jr	Chief Dispatcher	CNY
James Walsh	Volunteer	Garden State
Fred Dellaiacono	Volunteer	Garden State
Malcolm Houck	Golden Spike	HUB
Robert Noyes	Golden Spike	HUB
Paul Dexter	Golden Spike	HUB
Andrew Reynolds	Golden Spike	HUB
Robert Buick	Golden Spike	HUB
Doug Scott	Golden Spike	HUB
Robert McLaughlin	Golden Spike	HUB
Michael Pedersen	Golden Spike	Seacoast
Chuck Diljak	Civil Engineer	Garden State
Randolf Childs	Golden Spike	HUB
John Barrington	Golden Spike	HUB
Jay Stradal	Golden Spike	HUB
Jim Homoki	Scenery	Garden State
Jim Homoki	Electrical	Garden State
Thomas Emmett	Electrical	Little Rhody
Charles Bettinger	Official	Nutmeg
George Jarvis	Official	E Canada
Kenneth Faulter	Official	Seacoast
David Insley	Golden Spike	HUB
Brenna Whitney	Golden Spike	Seacoast
Irwin Nathanson	Golden Spike	Hud Berk
Benjamin Maggi	Electrical	Hud Berk



**2018 The Erie Limited  
Photo and Art Contest Report**  
September 15, 2018  
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2018 The Erie Limited Convention  
Photo and Art Contest Report:

Judges: Tom Oxnard, Kaylee Zheng, Rudy Slovacek, Scooter Youst,

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.

14 judged entries, in the two Color Print categories on, so unfortunately, we didn't receive entries in other categories.

The 'Peoples' Choice' Awards were as follows:

- Favorite Model, Color Print: (#154) Malcolm Houck "NYO&W Class U-1 Double Cab Northbound"
- Favorite Prototype, Color Print: (#141) Bob Duffield "Winding Upgrade"

The Best in Show Peoples' Choice Award, based on the entry receiving the most votes, goes to: (#144) Bill Brown, Model, Color Print of "482 on the Highline"

For the judged entries, 8 certificates were given to 4 different entrants, and one was a first time entrant.

Rails to the Gilded Age Judged Photo Contest winners were:

Model, Color Print

- Honorable Mention, Model, Color Print: (#143) Bill Brown "Coasting out of Ophir"
- Third Place, Model, Color Print: (#154) Malcolm Houck "NYO&W Class U-1 Double Cab Northbound"
- Second Place, Model, Color Print: (#151) Rich Walz "Over Mahican Bay"
- First Place, Model, Color Print: (#153) Malcolm Houck "NYO&W Class Y-2 between Scranton, PA and Maybrook, NY"

Prototype, Color Print

- Honorable Mention, Prototype, Color Print: (#141) Bob Duffield "Winding Upgrade"
- Third Place, Prototype, Color Print: (#150) Rich Walz "Wild White Ride"
- Second Place, Prototype, Color Print: (#144) Bill Brown "Crossing 10<sup>th</sup> Street in Silverton"
- First Place, Prototype, Color Print: (#144) Bill Brown "482 on the Highline"

The award for Best in Show went to (#52) Malcolm Houck, Model Print of "NYO&W Ry. Class X "Bullmoose" in pusher service"

All submissions were picked up after the conclusion of Saturday's festivities.

This report prepared by the NER Photo/Craft Contest Chairman William H. Barry on September 15, 2018.