



Northeastern Region, NMRA
BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
01/17/21

Meeting conducted over Internet via Zoom.

Attending: Bob Dennis, NER Vice President; Jeff Paston, Secretary; Roger Oliver, NER Treasurer; Larry Cannon, Northern Director; Kevin Katta, Southern Director; Ed O'Rourke, Western Director; Greg Williams, Eastern Canada; Chris Carfaro, Green Mountain and Coupler editor; Tage Erickson, Seacoast; Scott Russell, Metro-North; Chuck Diljak, Garden State; Dennis DeAngelis, Sunrise Trail; Jeff Hanke, Nutmeg; Bob Verkuyl, Central New York; Irwin Nathanson, Hudson-Berkshire; Joe Lecaroz, Hudson Valley; David Durr, Lakeshores; Robert Peterson, Southern Tier; Al Oneto, Op Sig Coordinator.

Not present: John Doehring, President; Gerry Covino, Eastern Director; Sue Osberg, Little Rhody; James Van Bokkelen, Hub; Mike Bowler, Membership Chair; David Insley, Convention Chair; Gerry Covino, Convention Registrar & Treasurer; David Abrames, NER Webmaster.

Meeting called to order at 7:35pm EST by Vice President Bob Dennis.

APPROVAL of PREVIOUS MINUTES: 1. 8/16/20 minutes corrected to include Dennis DeAngelis as making motion for Treasurer to be authorized to open Facebook account. Ed O'Rourke moved (as amended), Dennis DeAngelis seconded. Minutes approved.

2. 11/8/20 minutes. Kevin Katta moved, Jeff Hanke seconded.
Minutes approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Roger Oliver reported:

Things have been relatively quiet down here over the last few months. The last flurry of action came when two Division Treasurers reached out to the NMRA Treasurer alleging that the NER was withholding part of their NMRA Rebate Check to "feather" the Region's accounts. The NMRA Treasurer acknowledged that the National doesn't get involved with division disputes within the regions and so long as the Region is abiding by the NMRA Guidelines for the NMRA Rebate there is no issue. I sent him copies of the letter that I sent out with all the rebate checks to the Division Treasurers that explains the NMRA guidelines as well as the 27% reduction in the last rebate check as approved by the NER BOD to provide funding for Regional Initiatives supporting NMRA programs per the NMRA Rebate guidelines. I also pointed out that as the NER

Board is made up of the Superintendents of all the Divisions within the Region and that this resolution was approved by the BOD, there was no reason for these treasurers to not know about it or challenge it through the NMRA. He agreed and I have heard nothing further.

While on this subject, when the BOD approved the 27% reduction in the NMRA Rebate check, it was done to provide funding for Regional programs at the Region and Division level that promote Membership Outreach, Achievement Programs, and the so forth. The funds generated by the 27% withheld from the first NMRA Rebate check this fiscal year totals \$364.50.

1. I recommend that the Board establish a **Membership Program** to provide Region staff and resources to work hand-in-hand with the divisions (particularly the smaller ones) to evaluate opportunities for membership outreach, achievement programs, workshops, community projects, youth engagement programs, etc. I would suggest that the Region Vice President initially be put in charge of this program and that a committee be formed including regional staff such as the AP Chair as well as local staff or personnel from the divisions.

Chuck Diljak mentioned he agrees with Roger's ideas for a Membership Program, however he feels it should fall under the domain of the *Membership Chairman*, not the vice president.

Financially, the Region is doing well. The Donation button on the NER-X page has resulted in donations totaling \$934.55 as of January 1, 2021. The NER Board Designated Reserve is now at \$62369.36 as of January 16, 2021. Both of these have exceeded my expectations.

2. I recommend that the NER Board Designated Reserve be left to grow and the Region's policies regarding it be reevaluated the Finance and Investment Committee before the next Annual Meeting.

3. I also recommend that the "Membership" line under Expenses in our Budget be renamed "**Membership Program**" and that the \$364.50 from the 27% withheld from the first NMRA Rebate check be added to the \$200.00 that the BOD budgeted for these programs, totaling \$564.50. I also recommend that the BOD authorize the Treasurer to transfer of up to \$500.00 from "Donations – General Fund" to the "Membership Programs" at the direction of the President.

4. At the last BOD Meeting I was reminded that I was to recommend a new name for the **Investment Committee**. Below are several recommendations to achieve this and a few other things.

RESOLUTION 1: The NER Board of Directors authorizes the Treasurer with the advice of the Finance and Investment Committee to investigate donation programs such as those available through **Ebay** and **Amazon Smile**. The financial exposure to the corporation, any maintenance of the program, and potential financial benefit to the corporation must be evaluated and reported to the committee before a recommendation is made by the committee to the President for his/her consideration. If the President approves the recommendation of the committee the proposal shall be presented to the Board of Directors for final action. **Ed O'Rourke moved as written, Larry Cannon seconded. Carried.**

RESOLUTION 2: Change name of Investment Committee to "**Finance and Investment Committee**" in Executive Handbook. **Larry Cannon moved; Ed O'Rourke seconded. Carried.**

RESOLUTION 3: Revision of Article V Section 9 (Investment Committee) in Executive Handbook. Section 9: Investment Committee [**Finance and Investment Committee**] **Red indicates new language.**

A. The **Finance and Investment** committee shall consist of the Chairperson [**NER Treasurer**], appointed by the President, the NER Treasurer, the **NER Convention/Assistant Treasurer**, and at least two (2) other members as the Chairperson **NER Treasurer** shall appoint **with the approval of the President**. This is an advisory committee. It would currently comprise of Roger Oliver, Peter McKenney, Gerry Covino, and Larry Cannon.

B. This committee shall review the investment performance of the NER's invested funds annually and determine whether 1) the funds are invested according to the NER Investment Policy as then in effect and 2) the investments are performing satisfactorily in comparison to appropriate benchmarks and with consideration of the then current investment environment.

C. The committee shall submit a report of its findings **at the Annual Meeting.**

D. The committee shall review the BOD-adopted Investment Policy periodically and provide to the Board recommendations with respect to any changes in the investment policy that may be required due to the changing markets or market conditions.

E. The Finance and Investment Committee will review the Region's revenue sources and expenditures and make recommendations to the Board.

Bob Dennis suggested letting BOD members review Roger's recommendations and act upon this at next BOD meeting. There was also discussion on the "membership money" allocations.

Joe Lacaroz moved Ed O'Rourke seconded. Treasurer's Report accepted.

Northeastern Region Treasurer's Report

Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021 Budget - Current Status of Accounts

16-Jan-21

REVENUES	Budgeted	Actual	% ±	YTD
Coupler Subscriptions	7500.00	3155.31	42%	Coupler Fund 1,695.97
Coupler Sponsorship	325.00	0.00	0%	
NMRA Dues Rebates	2190.00	987.50	45%	\$30.00 held for Allouettes
NMRA Dues Rebate AP 27%	810.00	364.50	45%	
NER Board Designated Reserve	1247.00	1247.00	100%	
Convention Distribution Share	0.00	0.00	0%	
Donations	0.00	934.55 *	0%	Held in PayPal Account
Prepaid expense (GoGeek)	296.70	296.70	100%	3 year subscription - prorated
Interest Income	0.00	0.00	0%	
Other - Spate Award funds	75.00	0.00	0%	
Total Revenue	12443.70	6985.56	56%	

EXPENSES	Budgeted	Actual	% ±	YTD
Coupler	7000.00	3186.20	46%	
NMRA Dues Rebates	2190.00	987.50	45%	
Achievement Program	750.00	140.85	19%	
Membership	200.00	0.00	0%	
Spate Award	75.00	0.00	0%	
President's Awards	50.00	0.00	0%	
NJ Business Registration	35.00	30.00	28%	
Contingency Fund	100.00	0.00	0%	
Region Banner	100.00	0.00	0%	
Office Expenses	100.00	0.00	0%	
Communication Expenses				
Constant Contact	400.00	0.00	0%	
GoGeek Hosting	276.70	296.70	107%	3 year subscription - prorated
Annual IP Reg. Fee ¹	121.65	33.90	28%	
Joomla Tools (annual)	200.00	199.00	100%	
SG Site Scanner [included below]	19.80	0.00	0%	
Dedicated IP address fee	54.00	0.00	0%	
Other -	0.00	0.00	0%	
Total Expenses	11692.15	4874.15	42%	

TD Bank Checkbook Balance*	\$ 4568.16	*checks written, not cleared
TD Convention Account Balance	\$ 3821.78	
NER Board Designated Reserve Fund	\$ 62369.36	
PayPal Account	\$ 5899.43	includes \$934.55 donations as of 1/1/21

Operating Fund Balances

General Fund	2842.19
Coupler Fund	1695.97
NMRA Rebate Fund	30.00
Total	4568.16

[§]30.00 held for Allouette Division

NER Board Designated Reserve Fund		
	1/16/2021	~ %
Invested Gen'l Operating Fund	60839.80	97.7%
Life Member Equity Fund	74.00	0.0%
Spate Award	1455.56	2.3%
Total	62369.36	100.0%

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Good day to you all and cheers. I hope this report finds you both well and safe. I am on the road (believe or not) for client work this weekend, and will miss my first (I think) NER BoD meeting of my tenure in office. (This is my first business trip since mid-March of last year.)

Here are a few of the things on my mind – and perhaps pertinent– at this time:

- The NERx convention was I believe very well accomplished – with (as usual) lots work by a core team of volunteers. I enjoyed playing a small role in parts of it, and I'm really pleased how well the NER looked on the 'world stage.' We received some very nice feedback from the NMRx team on the professionalism, ease of work, and preparation of the NERx group. Well done!
- This year (2021) is an election year! Up for election are all of our electable (at Region) BoD positions: President, Vice President, and four At large Area Directors. At least one candidate (and preferably more) is to be identified for each position by March 1. Nominating Committee is responsible for this work – the current chair is Kevin Katta.
- The actual election happens during the month of June. Based on the issues (minor but real) of our last experience, I would recommend we again look into purchasing access to a platform like Election Buddy, rather than using our own site. Notice and candidate statements in the appropriate Coupler must be coordinated as well – I don't believe we need to send a paper ballot out to any but those who ask for one.
- Our website project is woefully behind schedule, and I have not been able to raise David in the last couple of attempts. Anyone else spoken to David? I sent him a message yesterday – waiting on a reply from him with his thoughts on how to move forward. I think we need a Plan B to get this done and completed. A recent thread among other Region Presidents suggested that hiring outside resources for web development might very well be the best idea. I am in favor of this! Though it might cost the Region (\$1000-2000) this would in my view be money well worth spending at this point. (If not for investments like this – what is out account fund for?)
- We should I believe embark on an update of our strategic plan, which was last done in 2015-2016. Kaylee Zheng has I think expressed some interest in leading – or playing a part – in this.
- We might start a planning update with a new member survey. The last one of these was 2015. We have a survey all done and made here – we'd just need to update it a little for the times (ex: NERx). I would be willing to do that work on behalf of the Region, we could get a link to the survey out ASAP via the Coupler.
- I failed to follow through for scheduling and hosting an annual meeting sometime last Fall. I would be willing to do that now – perhaps in the next month. Is the BoD in agreement with this?
- There is some talk now of a second, spring session of NERx. I am strongly in favor of doing that! We should I believe work in any new session to ask (and answer) the question "how do we explicitly recruit new members through this sort of effort? What would we need to do to capture a step-change number of new signups? 100? 200?"
- I'd like to think about another Golden Spike Challenge this year (I haven't brought this up yet with Bill Brown). We received about 40 last time. How about another 50? Another contest?

- I am doing some work now with several manufacturers of T-TRAK (N Scale) kits – to see what group discounts we might obtain for a large NER order. Could be rather significant, and lead to a module building program across the Region this year. ???
- I have been (personally) looking into, planning, and preparing for launching a model railroading podcast this year. If I do it, I'd like to focus a bunch of it on highlighting modeling and modelers in the NER. Stay tuned!
- Finally, if you haven't yet heard, I have expressed interest in standing for the Eastern District Director position at NMRA National, and I believe I have been accepted (nominated). I don't have any more information on that – I believe that this election will happen fairly soon – with ballots to be distributed right away. I am not aware of who else might be running for this, or other positions, with the exception that Gordy Robinson from the UK is standing for NMRA President.

Thank you to all of you – for all you do.

Larry Cannon noted this is a very ambitious program in a time when the U.S. is not in a stable position, and maybe we should wait a few months to tackle these ideas. Roger Oliver noted that John may be elected to a new position, leaving Bob Dennis in charge for a few months.

It was reported that it costs \$299 for using Election Buddy to do electronic balloting.

Roger noted that there are a few items like the Web site development and various meetings that could be delayed to see how the Coronavirus pandemic and national economy are doing. Larry Cannon noted that some items are optional. He suggested creating a list of critical needs and defer less important issues.

Regarding the NER Web site, Scott Russell said his son is a professional Web developer and Scott volunteered to approach his son about this. Kevin Katta offered to coordinate the site; Jeff Paston said he also could help. Kevin noted there should be backup so the Region doesn't have Web problems in the future.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORT: Dave Insley was unable to attend, but submitted this report:

Current Highlights

NERx was a huge success

- 2021 Convention – Mill City 21 Meetings restarting in the next couple weeks
- 2022 Convention – Nutmeg – Contract updates for dates. Need to send a deposit
- 2023 Convention – Sunrise Trail is onboard. Looking at the '110 Corridor'.

Meetings

Last meeting was January 11.

NERx Was a Success!

Thanks to all clinicians and layout owners that supplied content to the convention. We had 16 clinics and 9 layout tours. We also ran a virtual model contest with 25 entries in four categories and a photo contest with 28 entries in four categories.

Thanks to our 4 hosts: John, Chuck, Gerry, and Pete. Thanks also to our contest chairs Ken and Kaylee and all of the judges. Thanks also to the entire organizing team and especially the NMRAX team that helped make it all happen: Gordy, Speed, Brad, and Martyn.

2021 – Mill City 2021, Westford MA

Dates will be October 8-11, 2021

Hotel Contract is in place and the Booking code has been received from the hotel and the room block is open.
Refund costs to the convention are projected to be around \$320.

2022 – Nutmeg – Farmington CT

Need to get an executed contract with a \$500 deposit to the hotel.

2023 – Long Island

Team is focused on the '110 Corridor' for a hotel location. They have made initial contact, but things are progressing slowly due to the pandemic.

2024 – Maybe Seacoast, no confirmation yet. Dave has offered to meet with the BOD to discuss as a potential next step.

2025 Lakeshores

Lakeshores is still planning for the 2025 convention in the Rochester area.

Ed O'Rourke suggested having a NERx type event to get people interested in the Region's upcoming convention. Peter Watson will again chair Mill City 21, and had said he expects most of the leadership team is still on board. It was noted that the convention is pretty well planned, but just needs some updating.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM: Ed O'Rourke has earned his MMR. Congratulations Ed.

NER COUPLER REPORT: Chris Carfaro noted he is still "getting his feet wet." He thanked Jeff Paston and Jeff Hanke for their help. The Coupler 280 was uploaded to Web.

WEBMASTER REPORT: Still no Web site upgrade as promised for October. David Abrames hasn't been reached yet as noted in President's Report.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT: Bob Dennis reviewed goals for the Nominating Committee and how to solicit candidates. Bob noted all positions are up for election this year.

OLD BUSINESS:

President Doehring was to check with Mark Harlow on Coupler subscriptions to see if there were any multi-year subscribers (which affect overall annual income reports) **Tabled.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Bob Dennis presented a proposal for Divisions and the Region to get Directors and Officers (D&O) Liability Insurance. This information packet was emailed to the BOD. Dennis DeAngeles said Sunrise Trail was very enthusiastic about the policy and pricing. Bob said this should be presented to all Regions and Divisions in the NMRA, which could drive pricing down. Dave Durr noted that Lakeshores has a policy from Dryden Mutual for \$187 premium. Roger Oliver said we should run this by someone in insurance industry or a lawyer. Larry Cannon suggested running this by NMRA counsel Bob Annsler. Dennis DeAngelis noted he can also help as he is an attorney. Bob said he can send out **a non-binding D&O application** to any Division interested.

Kevin Katta asked whether Region members can be notified of virtual meetings/clinics/tours so that members in other Divisions can participate. Chuck Diljak noted

that all division virtual meetings are being announced through the NER Constant Contact emails. Chuck also noted that he would like to produce an NER News email every six weeks.

Bob Verkuyl announced that CNY Division is having an online meeting Sunday 1/24 from 2-4 with a clinic from Model Train Technology on Animation and Lighting. If interested, Bob said he can send the link to it.

AREA DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Ed O'Rourke said he and Chuck Diljak had conferred with Bob Peterson of Southern Tier Division to help Division in moving forward. Ed said he also made contact with Western and St. Lawrence Divisions of NFR.

Chuck Diljak inquired about any Divisions dealing with "at risk" attendees policy of NMRA. Chuck said he wanted to know how to implement it. Chuck was concerned with how young attendees can participate without parental supervision. Dave Durr said he had spoken with legal counsel regarding sessions with a 4H club; he said Lakeshores was advised to get permission forms signed by parents. He questioned whether NMRA form is legally binding. It was noted that NMRA has sample form on Web site. Chris Carfaro commented on his experience on Ski Patrol regarding having underage participation. Roger Oliver noted situations he encountered in the school system where he worked, and questions did come up about legal custody.

Irwin Nathanson said Hudson-Berkshire's GTE show sometimes has 5,000 visitors. Division policy is to require that minors be accompanied by parents. There are no plans for checking papers at the ticket booths. He said the Division was going to renew its BSA Merit Badge efforts, but decided not to go forward. After COVID, he said individual members can work with the BSA on their own.

DIVISION DIRECTOR REPORTS:

EASTERN CANADA:

The division's executive committee met via Zoom on January 15th 2021. Present were: Greg Williams – President, George Jarvis – Vice President, Bob Henry – Secretary Treasurer, Lou McIntyre – Newsletter Editor, Dave Gunn, MMR – AP Chair, Fergus Francey – Director, Bill Turczyn – Director, Steve McMullin – Guest and Special Advisor. Regrets received from Calvin Monaghan – Membership Coordinator.

Lou McIntyre reported that the latest issue of the Hotbox Newsletter went out end of November. Greg said statistics show that it has been downloaded 98 times from the ECD website. We are striving to make the newsletter relevant to all modelers in the Atlantic Provinces. The executive committee feels it is our best outreach and tool for recruitment. Lou is commended for his excellent work.

Newsletter is available at: <https://easterncanadadivision.wordpress.com/home/hotbox-newsletter/>

The division held its first virtual event which was a tour of Dave Gunn's layout in Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia. It was well received and the Q&A after the presentation

lead to a robust conversation. A YouTube video of the tour is available upon request, Dave does not want it publicly available, only to interested model railroaders.

We discussed future virtual presentations. The Maritime Federation of Model Railroaders has hosted a number of virtual events in past months that have been successful. There is a lot of crossover in membership between the MFMR and the NMRA. The feeling of the division board is to not compete with but compliment the MFMR. As such we will support their virtual events and extend an invitation to any future events the division hosts.

There was discussion around an Atlantic event. The division is aiming for a spring 2023 event somewhere in Atlantic Canada and hopes to partner with the NER and the MFMR. Our goal is to promote the hobby, the NMRA and fellowship.

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2021

GARDEN STATE:

January 17, 2021 Report

1. GSD Board meeting
 - a. One GSD board meeting held since the last NER board meeting on Jan 9
 - b. Focus of the meeting:
 - i. Future GSD meets and activities
 - ii. GSD Election
 1. Chuck Diljak will not be running for President.
 2. The current slate to be voted on will feature a reshuffling of the board
 3. To be voted on at the May Annual Meeting/Spring Meet
 - iii. NMRA At-Risk Policy
 - iv. NMRA 3-Strike Policy
 - v. Estate donation
 - vi. Whistle Post Newsletter style change
2. Achievement Program
 - a. No new certificates awarded
 - b. List of known members working on certificates.
 - i. Tom Wortmann – Cars; ii. Jim Homoki – Civil; iii. Mark Moritz – Cars;
 - iv. Chuck Diljak – Cars; v. Bob Dennis – Scenery
3. Membership Events
 - a. Winter meet
 - i. Feb 27
 - ii. This will be a virtual event using FreeConferenceCall.com
 - iii. Clinics:
 1. Timetables by Jim Homoki
 2. Modeling a freight house in Orange, NJ by Joe Valentine
 - iv. Layout Tour
 1. Mohawk, Kensington, and Salem by Tom Wortmann
 - b. Spring Meet
 - i. May 1
 - ii. Virtual meet using FreeConferenceCall.com or Zoom. TBD
 - iii. Joint meet with the New Jersey Division of the Mid-Eastern Region
 - iv. Annual Business meeting
 - v. Clinics and Layout Tours to be determined

HUDSON-BERKSHIRE:

HBD has held no in-person events since February, 2020.

Upcoming virtual meetings:

- 22 January: Layout Tour of Bob Hamm's HOn3 Scale Iron Gorge Subdivision
- 19 February: Update on John Valachovic's N Scale Raquette Lake Railway
- 19 March: Guest speaker Jim Lewis from Model Train Technology on "Lighting and Animation"

All these events will include short business meetings. Kudos to our VP Doug Dederick for organizing these events.

Our Form 19 newsletter is now being published monthly to better keep in touch with our members. (Previous schedule was 10 issues/year.) Many thanks to our new Editor, Mark Sklar, for doing such a great job.

We have been keeping our Web Site and Facebook pages up to date, focusing on what members have been doing while sheltering at home. And we have been communicating with members via Constant Contact. Many thanks to Artie Krass and James Lauser, much appreciated!

LAKESHORES: 2020 Annual Report:

Elected Division Officers:

Superintendent David P. Durr Penfield, NY 08704600

Asst. Superintendent Raymond A. Howard Geneva, NY 12867900

Chief Clerk Open

Treasurer John E. Becker Victor, NY 08713700

In October 2020, the current slate of Officers were each re-elected to two year terms in their respective positions.

Appointed Positions :

Membership Chair James H. Fairbanks Canandaigua, NY L0271110

Member Aid, AP Chair Edward Spiller, MMR Hammondsport, NY 07248000

Webmaster Ed O'Connell Rochester, NY 15974600

Editor Raymond A. Howard Geneva, NY 12867900

Company Photographer James C. DeMarco Kendall, NY 11454200

Recording Secretary Jeanne Spalty* Rochester, NY 1696580A

T-TRAK Chair Jeff Faust Rochester, NY 16503400

RPM Committee Chair Mike Pyszczyk LeRoy, NY 07310100

At-large Officer Gordon Spalty Rochester, NY L0418900

*Non-voting Member

Membership:

As of November 2020, the Division had 82 members with dues up-to-date and 4 members past due. All those who are past-due are contacted by the Member-Aid Chair. There are also two members who are registered at National and live within our division boundaries but are not listed on the Lakeshores roster.

Executive Committee:

The current Executive Committee consists of all elected officers and all those in appointed positions. Three members are required to conduct business. There was one face-to-face meeting in 2020 and six conducted via Zoom. Minutes are available upon request.

Finance:

As of December 31, 2020 the Division's Key Bank account balance was \$3,061.49. There was \$35.00 in petty cash. Total Division funds were \$3,096.49.

AP Report:

In 2020 the following AP awards were given:

Golden Spikes: None

Merit Awards: Jim Fairbanks (Structures x 3)

Jim DeMarco (Cars x 4, Locomotives x 1)

Dave Durr (Cars x 2)

AP Certificates: Ed O'Connell (Author)

Jim DeMarco (Cars, Electrical, Civil)

Jim Fairbanks (Structures, Volunteer)

Mike Pyszczek (Official, Volunteer)

To assist members in documenting activities that may be applied for Volunteer and Author credits, the Division keeps a log of member activities for each calendar year. The 2020 log will be distributed in January 2021.

Communication:

The Lake Shores Limited (LSL) is the Division's newsletter. Fifteen issues were published in 2020--six regular issues published in the odd months and nine EXTRA editions published to keep contact with members during the pandemic. There was significant content input from the Lakeshores general membership for these issues. The 2021 production schedule for EXTRA editions will be determined by continuation or discontinuation of gathering restrictions due to the coronavirus. The LSL is emailed to all Division members, prospective members, NER officers and superintendents, Christina Zambri (NMRA Marketing Consultant), and Jim Zinzer, MMR (Editor of Division Business Car, NMRA Magazine); less than 10 Lakeshores members receive a print edition.

Late in 2020 we also started a monthly Member Marketplace for members to post railroading items to sell or acquire. It is distributed in the same manner as our LSL newsletter either as a stand-alone publication or as part of our newsletter.

Our Webmaster continues to develop our website (<lakeshoresnmra.org>) and Facebook presence. The website currently archives our LSL newsletters back to 2011. There is also an up-to-date Officers' Directory, Timetable with a calendar of upcoming NMRA and non-NMRA model railroading events, Division Constitution and By-Laws, MMR information and links to other model railroading organizations. Still to be developed is a password-required members only section listing contact information (for consenting members), layout information, members' marketplace, etc. Pandemic related restrictions have slowed much of the progress in these areas.

Member Publications:

Ed O'Connell published "Building a Portable Power Cab and Decoder Programming Station" in the March 2020 *NMRA Magazine*. Jeanne Spalty wrote a "Women in Model Railroading" article for the May 2020 *NMRA Magazine*.

NERx Convention:

Four presenters were from the Lakeshores Division: Jim Fairbanks and Jeff Faust gave clinics; Ned Spiller and Gordon Spalty showed their layouts. Division members claimed seven contest awards: Bruce Shepard had four in the Photo Contests including a clean sweep of all three prizes in the Model Color Print category; John Becker scored in the Model Contests for Motive Power and Display categories; and Dave Durr also got a Motive Power award.

General Membership Meets:

Most activities planned for the 2020 calendar were cancelled due to coronavirus concerns and restrictions. Four in-person Division Meets were held. The first, on February 8 before pandemic restrictions were in place, was held at Jim DeMarco's home in Kendall, NY; developing operating schemes for a home layout was the emphasis. The other meets were held outdoors with social distancing and masking requirements--July 25 at the Mud Creek Central Railroad, Lockport, NY held jointly with the WNY Division, NFR; August 29 picnic and member swap meet at the Durr home in Penfield, NY with the Genesee and Ontario Model-N-Gineers members and T-TRAK modular layout; and October 17 at the Widener Park Picnic Pavilion in Chili, NY (Clinics and elections were held.). Minutes of all business meetings are available upon request.

A schedule for 2021 has not yet been developed. We may have some Zoom meets early in the year, but will probably switch to outdoor, socially-distanced events as soon as the winter weather is behind us. Hopefully, the pandemic will recede with vaccinations by Fall and more more traditional meets can again be scheduled.

Other Activities:

Our Division actively promotes the NMRA at local train shows. Unfortunately in 2020 only the Edgerton Model Railroad Club Train Show on February 29 took place before the coronavirus pandemic. Our usual spring and fall Batavia shows with the Genesee Society of Model Engineers and the December Tiger Tracks show with the Rochester Institute of Technology Model Railroad Club were all cancelled. Typically we bring LSD-NER-NMRA promotional material to shows along with Jeff Faust's small, very kid-friendly Inglenook Layout for switching fun. There is no word yet on these shows for 2021.

Our T-TRAK modules were used with the Genesee-N-Ontario Model N-Gineers club display at the Edgerton train show as well as at our August division picnic and at an Open House at the Avon Veterans' Hall on December 5 and 6. The latter event was held with limited attendance, social distancing, and masking requirements.

Ed O'Connell has worked with an NMRA sponsored vendor, Daylight Sales, to supply Lakeshores Division apparel for interested members. There were over thirty orders placed in 2020.

Respectfully submitted, David P. Durr, Superintendent

Dave spoke about how Lakeshores Division created a log of what each member has done in programs, presentations, etc so there is a record when members need information for AP awards.

Chuck Diljak moved, Ed O'Rourke seconded that meeting be adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 9:22 pm EST.

Next meeting scheduled via Zoom at 7:30 pm Eastern/8:30 pm Atlantic on **March 21**.