Northeastern Region NMRA
Annual Meeting of the Members
Monday, October 11, 2021
Westford Regency Inn & Conference Center, Westford, MA

1. President Ed O'Rourke called the meeting to order at 10:02 am

The attendance sheet is included in these minutes as Attachment (1). A total of 42 NMRA members were in attendance. A quorum being present, the meeting could proceed.

2. President O'Rourke called for the standard reports.

- **Secretary's Report**

There was not an annual meeting conducted in 2020, and therefore no minutes could be reviewed.

- **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Gerry Covino submitted a report included with these minutes as Attachment (2). Treasurer Covino reported the Region is "financially in good shape." He said the Edward Jones account is funded at more than $66,000. He said the biggest expense is the Coupler magazine; second biggest expense is the Achievement Program (AP); and third is the communications budget.

He reported that the Region has received the first refund from National for cancelled conventions. He asked that Divisions and those expecting a refund should contact him ASAP so the money can be distributed.

Treasurer Covino said he can now be reached at <treasurer@nernmra.org>.

President O'Rourke noted that Treasurer Covino would incur a conflict of interest in his position as Eastern Director on the NER BOD as the Board oversees the treasurer. Therefore, Treasurer Covino stepped down as Eastern Director. President O'Rourke announced that Erich Whitney is assuming that position.

- **Convention Committee Report**

Convention Committee Chair David Insley reported NERx will be an ongoing program with the next one scheduled for March 21-24, 2022. Chair Insley said he is seeking content for NERx, including layout presentations (25 mins.) and clinics (45 mins.).

Chair Insley reported the contract is signed for the next NER convention sponsored by the Nutmeg Division in Windsor, CT, in 2022. He said Sunrise Trail Division is actively looking for sites for the 2023 convention. He said the 2024 convention location is still open; 2025 is scheduled for the Lakeshores Division, which he said is actively engaged in setting it up. He also reported that the NER and Eastern Canada Division will partner with

the Maritime Federation of Model Railroaders (MFMR) to participate in a spring 2023 convention during Memorial Day weekend.

• **Achievement Program Report**

The AP awards announced by AP Chair Bill Brown at the convention are included with these minutes as Attachment (3). Also in Attachment (3) are the Region awards.

• **Coupler Editor's Report**

President O'Rourke commented that Editor Chris Carfaro "can only print what he gets from people," who don't have to be 'Hemingway' because "Chris can edit it."

• **Webmaster's report**

President O'Rourke said Webmaster David Abrames has been ill and is trying to catch up. President O'Rourke said there is a need for an "associate webmaster."

Model Contest Chair Ken May said he would like to get information on past contest winners and subjects modeled on the Website.

• **No Area Directors Provided a Report**

• **NER Staff Reports**

Outgoing Southern Director Kevin Katta pointed out a need for coordination between neighboring divisions in case members want to attend meets in those other divisions. He noted that Garden State was having a meet October 30 at the Northlandz attraction in Flemington, New Jersey, on the same day as neighboring Metro North and Sunrise Trail had meets of their own.

• **Model Contest Chair Report**

Attachment (4) provides the Mill City21 Model Contest Report. This report from NER Convention Model Contest Chair Ken May was not presented at the meeting but reflects the awards presented at the banquet and is included here for the record.

• **Photo Contest Chair Report**

Attachment (5) provides the Mill City21 Photo Contest Report. This report from NER Convention Photo Contest Chair Kaylee Zheng was not presented at the meeting but reflects the awards presented at the banquet and is included here for the record. Chair Zheng announced that she was stepping down as Photo Contest Chair due to increased workload in her professional jobs. She announced that Mike Tylick would be taking over as chair.

3. **President's Report**

President O'Rourke commented on his participation in the NMRA. He said he had been a member years earlier, and later signed up again at a model train show thanks to Jim Heidt of the CNY Division. President O'Rourke cited Andy McVie of Western New York (NFR) for coining the phrase "I am the NMRA."

President O'Rourke appointed outgoing NER President Bob Dennis as "Special Assistant to the President" concentrating on membership.

President O'Rourke noted that it is not good that so few divisions are taking advantage of the NMRA Division Member Retention Fund. He said he can forward the Website information to those interested in these matching funds for keeping members through Websites, etc. He said the Membership Committee will be looking into encouraging programs for member retention. President O'Rourke cited Chuck Diljak for the great job he is doing in membership communication through Constant Contact. The president further stated that Division activities need to be publicized in the NER Coupler and that Divisions need to send material for publication. He also cited Jeff Hanke's

column in the Coupler. Editor Chris Carfaro said the NER Coupler is open to adding columns and accepting articles for publication.

President O'Rourke thanked Division directors for keeping NER programs active through the pandemic, and for "keeping the NMRA message out there."

He went on to say the reason he recently received his MMR designation was because of volunteers like Bill Brown and Dave Martini in the CNY Division who showed up to judge his work on a bitter cold day. President O'Rourke observed, "They *are* the NMRA!"

4. President O'Rourke opened the floor to any other comments or questions.

Outgoing President Bob Dennis noted he can be reached at his email <bob.dennis.nyc@gmail.com>.

Newly elected Western Director Ed Olszewski asked about differences in print and online editions of the NER Coupler. Editor Carfaro said the main difference amounted to corrections or clarifications in material from the print edition.

5. President O'Rourke called for adjournment at 10:27 am.

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

Respectfully submitted,

NER Secretary

NMRA NORTHEASTERN REGION

Northeastern Region NMRA

Annual Meeting of the Members

List of Attendees

Monday, October 11, 2021 **Westford, MA**

1	GERRY COVINO	26	~~JEFF PASTOR~~
2	MARK HARLOW	27	WILLIAM BARRY
3	MANUEL ESCOBAR	28	JOE LECATOZ Hud Val
4	BRUCE ROBINSON	29	JERRY McDONALD
5	ERICH WHITNEY	30	Mark Moritz
6	JOHN CIPAR	31	JIM WALSH
7	EDWARD GREASON	32	KEN MAY
8	David Ingsley	33	DAVE DURD
9	[illegible]	34	JEFF GERROW
10	RICH BRETON	35	Robert Demkowicz
11	Tom Oxnard	36	Edward Olszewski
12	TAGE ERICKSON	37	Bill Brown
13	Glenn Glassetter	38	ED OCONNELL
14	Ben Elmore	39	Drew James
15	CHRIS CARFARO	40	KEVIN KATTA
16	CHUCK DZIAK	41	Mykey Bowler
17	PAUL HARBORD	42	Cro Campagna
18	Kaylee Zheng	43	
19	Christina Zambri	44	
20	Bob Verlayl	45	
21	Roger Beiswenger	46	
22	Doug Dedrick VP HBD	47	
23	Irwin D Nathanson	48	
24	John Dedring Pres, HBD	49	
25	Bob Denair	50	

Northeastern Region - NMRA

BUDGET vs ACTUAL

Fiscal Year 2021-22

Balances as of 10/11/2021

REVENUES		Budget		Actual	%
Subscriptions - Coupler	$	7,500.00	$	1,194.25	15.9%
Sponsorship - Coupler		325.00		325.00	100.0%
NMRA Dues Rebate		2,300.00			
NMRA Dues Rebate AP 27%		900.00			
Convention		1,500.00			
Donations		1,000.00			
Prepaid expense (GoGeek)		593.40			
Interest Income		0.00			
Other - Spate Award		75.00			
Total Revenue	**$**	**14,193.40**	**$**	1,519.25	10.7%
EXPENSES					
Coupler	$	7,000.00		$3,529.18	50.4%
NMRA Dues Rebates		2,200.00			0.0%
Achievement Program		900.00			0.0%
Membership Dev. Program		2,000.00			0.0%
Spate Award		75.00			0.0%
President's Awards		50.00			0.0%
NJ Business Registration		35.00			0.0%
Contingency Fund		100.00			0.0%
Regional Banner		150.00			0.0%
Office Expenses		100.00			0.0%
Communication Expenses					
Constant Contact		400.00			0.0%
GoGeek Hosting		300.00			0.0%
Annual Domain Reg. Fee[1]		150.00			0.0%
Joomla Tools (annual)		200.00			0.0%
SG Site Scanner		19.80			0.0%
Dedicated IP address fee		54.00			0.0%
Other - Election Expenses		200.00			0.0%
Other - Credit Card Fees		0.00		9.04	0.0%
Total Expenses	**$**	**13,487.10**		$3,538.22	26.2%

Balances 9/26/2021

NER Investment Reserve Account (Edward Jones)			**$ 66,119.98**
Operations Reserve	$	65,251.06	
Life Equity Fund	$	74.00	
Spate Award	$	1,488.54	
NER Convention Account Balance			**$ 7,756.05**
PayPal Account Balance			**$386.94**
Regional Checking Account Balance			**$ 3,485.01**
Dues Rebate (Southern Tier)	$	20.44	
Coupler Ledger	$	1,128.80	
General Funds	$	2,335.77	

ATTACHMENT (3.1)

ANNUAL REGION AWARDS--2021

MASTER MODEL RAILROADERS

James DeMarco	Lakeshores
Chuck Diljak	Garden State
Joe Kavanaugh	Hudson Berk
Ken Nelson	Hudson Berk
Ed O'Rourke	CNY

AP CERTIFICATES *Presented by NER AP Chair Bill Brown*

Totals By Division: HUB-14, Lakeshores-13, Garden State-13, Hudson-Berkshire-12, Seacoast-7, Sunrise Trail-5, CNY-5, Ltttle Rhody-4, E. Canada-3, Nutmeg-2, and Metro North-1.

Totals By Category: Association Official-11, Volunteer-10, Master Bldr Cars-8, Golden Spike-7, Author-7, Civil Eng-7, Electrical Eng-6, Chief Disp-6, Mastr Build Scenery-5, Mastr Build Struct-4, Motive Power-2, Prototype Mod-1.

Stanley Ames	Scenery, Civil	HUB
Geoff Anthony	Volunteer	Seacoast
Steven Ascolese	Golden Spike	Garden State
Ralph Brown	Volunteer	Seacoast
Andrew Brusgard	Volunteer	Garden State
Andy Clermont	Volunteer	Hud Berk
Dennis DeAngelis	Official	Sunrise Trail
Douglas Dederick	Golden Spike, Scenery, Electrical	Hudson Berk
James DeMarco	Electrical, Cars, Civil Engineer, Volunteer, Motive Power	Lakeshores
Chuck Diljak	Golden Spike, Official, Cars,	Garden State
John Doehring	Author, Dispatcher	HUB
Dave Durr	Author	Lakeshores
Thomas Emmett	Structures, Civil Engineer	Little Rhody
Ron Engel	Scenery, Electrical, Civil Engineer	Sunrise Trail
Ernest Tage Erickson	Volunteer, Official	Seacoast
James Fairbanks	Structures, Volunteer	Lakeshores
Jeff Hanke	Motive Power	Nutmeg
Paul Harbord	Volunteer	Garden State
Bob Henry	Dispatcher	E. Canada
Jim Homoki	Dispatcher	Garden State
Ray Howard	Author	Lakeshores
David Insley	Author, Electrical	HUB
Drew James	Civil	CNY
James Joubert	Golden Spike	HUB
Joe Kavanaugh	Structures, Author	Hudson Berk
James Kerkam	Dispatcher	HUB
Ed Koehler	Volunteer	Sunrise Trail

ATTACHMENT (3.2)

Eric LaLonde	Golden Spike	Seacoast
Benjamin Maggi	Civil Engineer, Cars	Hudson Berk
James Mayo	Official	Nutmeg
John McHugh	Cars	Seacoast
Steve McMullin	Official	E. Canada
Mark Moritz	Cars	Garden State
Irwin Nathansen	Official	Hudson Berk
Alexis Nawotka	Civil Engineer, Electrical, Scenery	Garden State
Ken Nelson	Cars	Hudson Berk
Ed O'Connell	Author	Lakeshores
Ed O'Rourke	Official, Cars	CNY
Michael Pyszczek	Official, Volunteer	Lakeshores
Andy Reynolds	Author, Scenery, Proto Modeler , Structures	HUB
Richard Sisson	Electrical	Little Rhody
Rudolf Slovacek	Cars	HUB
Edward Stoltenberg	Golden Spike	Metro North
David Trimble	Dispatcher	HUB
Bob Verkuyl	Official	CNY
Brenna Whitney	Dispatcher	Seacoast
Wayne Woodland	Golden Spike	E. Canada
Tom Wortmann	Official	Garden State

PRESIDENT'S AWARDS

Roger Oliver
Chuck Diljak

SPATE AWARD *Presented by Outgoing President Bob Dennis*

Roger Beiswenger CNY

KEITH SHONEMAN AWARD *Presented by David Insley on behalf of HUB Division*

John Lutz Presented posthumously for 2020
Stan Ames 2021 recipient *for DCC innovations and standards*

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Coupler Editor Chris Carfaro presented a hand lettered certificate to NER Secretary and past editor Jeff Paston in appreciation for Jeff's 10 years of work on the Coupler.

ATTACHMENT (4.1)

MODEL CONTEST AWARDS

Presented by Model Contest Chair Ken May.

JUDGES: Rich Walz, Ned Spiller, Mark Moritz, Jim Gore, Howard Dwyer, Bob Verkuyl, Tom Oxnard, Andy Reynolds, John McHugh, Mal Houck, Mike O'Dorney, Paul Lessard, Chris Carfaro, Jim DeMarco, Glenn Glasstetter, Mike Evans, Bill Brown, and Jim Heidt.

TOTAL ENTRIES: 37, of which 21 were scratch built.

SCRATCH BUILT

CABOOSE	1st	Arthur Dutra
FREIGHT CAR	1st	Chuck Diljak
	2nd	Chuck Diljak
	3rd	Arthur Dutra
NON-REVENUE	1st	Chuck Diljak
	2nd	Arthur Dutra
PASSENGER CAR	1st	Mal Houck
STEAM LOCO	1st	Mal Houck
	2nd	Mal Houck
STRUCTURES	1st	Tom Oxnard
	2nd	Dick Hehir
	3rd	Dick Hehir

KIT BUILT

CABOOSE	1st	Bob Verkuyl
	2nd	Irwin Nathanson
FREIGHT CAR	1st	Chuck Diljak
	2nd	Bob Verkuyl
	3rd	Ed O'Rourke
NON-REVENUE	1st	Arthur Dutra
PASSENGER CAR	1st	Irwin Nathanson
STEAM LOCO	1st	Mal Houck
	2nd	Tom Oxnard
STRUCTURES	1st	Ed O'Rourke
	2nd	Irwin Nathanson
	3rd	Irwin Nathanson

ATTACHMENT (4.2)

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

Sunrise Trail New Modeler	Bob Verkuyl
Harold Russell Award (Harold, who will be 90, is MMR #14.)	Tom Oxnard

Presented by Dave Durr on behalf of Lakeshores Division. This award included a special gift of Harold's first published article in Model Railroader from Oct. 1966.

HUB Division Award (for 2nd highest score)	Mal Houck

Presented by Manny Escobar on behalf of HUB Division.

Baldwin Award (for best in show)	Tom Oxnard

ATTACHMENT (5)

PHOTO CONTEST AWARDS

Presented by Photo Contest Chair Kaylee Zheng.

JUDGES: Kaylee Zheng, chair; Mike Tylick, co-chair; Bill Brown, Bill Barry, Dudley Foster, and Jim Heidt.

BLACK & WHITE

MODEL	1st	Rich Walz
	2nd	Stan Ames
PROTOTYPE	1st	Mal Houck
	2nd	Mal Houck

COLOR

PROTOTYPE	1st	John Stevens
	2nd	Robert Welk Jr.
	3rd	Stan Ames
	HM	Robert Welk Jr.
	HM	John Stevens
MODEL (33 entries)		
	1st	Mal Houck
	2nd	Rich Breton
	3rd	Bill Brown
	HM	Stan Ames
	HM	Mal Houck
	HM	Bill Brown

BEST IN SHOW

Rich Walz

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

B&W PROTOTYPE	Mal Houck
B&W MODEL	Rich Walz
COLOR PROTOTYPE	John Stevens and Stan Ames (tie)