Northeastern Region NMRA
Annual Meeting of the Members
Sunday, September 18, 2022
Hartford/Windsor Marriott Hotel; Windsor CT

1. President Ed O'Rourke called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM.
The attendance sheet is included in these minutes as Attachment (1). A total of 35 NMRA members were in attendance. A quorum being present, the meeting could proceed.

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

A. **Secretary's Report**

Minutes from Oct. 11, 2021, annual meeting approved. Bill Brown moved, Mark Moritz seconded.

B. **Treasurer's Report**

i. Treasurer Gerry Covino submitted a report included with these minutes as Attachment (2).

ii. Treasurer Covino said the Region is in good financial condition despite a hit in the stock market.

iii. *Audit Committee* met, chaired by John Doehring, with Tom Oxnard and Bill Barry. Chair John Doehring reported the committee was satisfied with financial information provided and all things appeared in order.

C. **Convention Committee Report**

i. Convention Committee Chair David Insley reported next event is participation in Fundy Rail Fest 2023 May 26-28 in St. John NB.

ii. Insley noted that there is still no site for NER convention in 2024.

a. He suggested soliciting Green Mountain Division, or moving Lakeshores from 2025 to 2024. He also said there is the possibility of Lakeshores working with the NFR Western NY Division much like with CNY Div. to increase participation.

iii. AP Chair Bill Brown noted NER convention provides the best "bang for the buck."

iv. Reaction to Sunrise Trail Div. presentation during Saturday night banquet. Kevin Katta of Sunrise Trail said its tone left a negative impression.

a. Kevin Katta apologized for the downbeat tone and said it was not the intention to "scare off" potential participants. He said the Division is enthusiastic about hosting the convention next year and will present a more upbeat image on the Web and in publications going forward.

b. Coupler Editor Chris Carfaro offered to help Sunrise Trail Div. in Coupler

publicity. He said he will meet with the convention's PR committee to ensure plenty of pictures and articles. He noted there are many people working behind the scenes to ensure a successful convention.

c. Treasurer Gerry Covino said everyone in the room "is the NMRA." He said "we all are in this together" and we should "make it known that we are there to help the Division be successful."

D. **Achievement Program Report**

The AP awards announced by AP Chair Bill Brown at the convention are included with these minutes as Attachment (4). Also in Attachment (4) are the Region awards.

E. **Coupler Editor's Report**

i. Editor Chris Carfaro thanked everyone for "amazing comments" at Mill City and at Connecticut Yankee conventions.

ii. He noted he is running low on articles and would like more submissions.

iii. Cover photo contest idea "didn't fly" as there were no submissions.

F. **Webmaster's report**

i. Ken May commented that he has been please with Webmaster Jim Seroskie's quick response for posting contest winners' lists.

ii. President O'Rourke mentioned need for photo submissions for the Website.

iii. Coupler Editor Chris Carfaro noted access to release forms at bottom of Coupler issues page on Website

G. **Model Contest Chair Report**

Attachment (5) provides the Connecticut Yankee 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.

H. **Photo Contest Chair Report**

Attachment (6) provides the Connecticut Yankee Photo Contest Report. This report from NER Convention Photo Contest Chair Mike Tylick was not presented at the meeting but reflects the awards presented at the banquet and is included here for the record.

3. **NMRA Eastern Representative Report**

John Doehring said there are a "ton of things" going on at the National level.

i. Doehring said the leadership is concerned that there are not enough volunteers. He said President Gordy Robinson is on a big push to "build out the team." "The NMRA is not limited by resources as it is by people."

ii. Doehring cited accomplishments such as making the NMRA magazine digital and available to all members on line.

a. He cited online interchange announced at National convention called "Discourse," which like Zoom and Facebook, will lead to free video-conferencing; a next level of education.

iii. The National BOD will hold its winter meeting at Springfield. (It was previously held in Atlanta.)

a. Coupler Editor Chris Carfaro asked that provisions be made for a meet-and-greet with National leaders.

b. John Doehring noted "the hobby is not dying." He said it is younger, and changing for the better.

4. **NER Vice President Report**

VP Dave Insley offered free admission to next year's Springfield show for NER members who agree to volunteer at the NER booth.

5. **President's Report**

A. President O'Rourke thanked the Connecticut Yankee convention organizers and Chair Ken May for the job they did, as well as the Nutmeg Division for hosting. He said this is an all volunteer organization whose members give their time for the betterment of the hobby. Ed said if we want to keep conventions viable, we need to get more people to volunteer.

B. President O'Rourke announced the National President's Award for Division Service for 2022. It is awarded by the NMRA President to one individual in a Division in each Region per year, who has done outstanding "beyond-the-call-of-duty" work to make his or her local Division effective, engaging, and welcoming to members. Individuals are recommended to the NMRA President by the NMRA National Board of Directors, National Officers, or Region Presidents, as appropriate, and preferably always with the guidance of the Region Officials. Past NER awardees are **Peter Watson, Jim Heidt, Ray Howard, Rich Breton,** and **Tom Wortman.** This year we were very happy to nominate **Tage Erickson** from the Seacoast Division.

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

A. President O'Rourke said that Bob Dennis is again coordinating a special dinner at next year's Springfield show.

B. Eastern Director Erich Whitney inquired about differentiating the role of area directors from that of division directors now that the BOD includes directors at the division level.

i. John Doehring noted that NMRA President Gordy Robinson working on a concept called "10X" considering what the NMRA will look like with 10 times the number of members in the future. John said the only way to get there is attracting ideas that "aren't incremental." He said rethinking roles is a big part of that.

ii. Secretary Jeff Paston commented on divisions working together in shaping roles.

C. Coupler Editor Chris Carfaro spoke about the Green Mountain Division approaching schools and libraries and placing various publicity such as displays, brochures, photos and other outreach to spread the NMRA message. He suggested creating "libraries of inspiration."

7. President O'Rourke called for adjournment at 10:55 AM.

Motion was made by Bill Brown, and seconded by Gerry Covino to adjourn. The motion carried with none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

NER Secretary

ATTACHMENT (1)

NMRA NORTHEASTERN REGION

Northeastern Region NMRA

Annual Meeting of the Members

List of Attendees

Sunday, September 18, 2022 **Windsor, CT**

1	President: Earl	26	Coupler editor: Chris Carfaro
2	Vice President: Insley	27	Webmaster:
3	Secretary: Preston	28	
4	Treasurer: Covino	29	WILLIAM BARRY
5	Past President: Bob Pomus	30	Bill Brown
6	~~Asst. to President: NMRA EASTERN DIR.~~	31	~~John Boehring~~
7	Northern Dir: Thorry Osvaldsen	32	Edward Greeson
8	Eastern Dir:	33	Bob Verlinde
9	Western Dir: Ed Opyrchal	34	Rick Mniece
10	Southern Dir: Tom Pagano	35	Peter McKenney
11	Central NY: Wm Lynn	36	STEVEN MEYER
12	Eastern Canada:	37	Donald Weigt
13	Garden State: mark moritz	38	Roger Oliver
14	Green Mt.: ERICH GOESCHNEIDER	39	
15	HUB: Pete Higgins Gary Covino	40	BRUCE ROBINSON Mark Halecky
16	Hudson Valley:	41	JIM WALSH
17	Hudson-Berkshire:	42	
18	Lakeshores:	43	[illegible]
19	Little Rhody:	44	Peter Watson
20	Metro-North:	45	JERRY MCDONALD
21	Nutmeg: Ronald J Pelletier	46	
22	Seacoast: Glenn Mitchell	47	
23	Southern Tier:	48	
24	Sunrise Trail: [illegible]	49	KEVIN KATTA
25	Communications:	50	

ATTACHMENT (2)

Northeastern Region - NMRA

BUDGET vs ACTUAL (Cash Basis)

Fiscal Year 2022-23

Balances as of 9/17/2022

REVENUES	Budget	Actual	%
Subscriptions - Coupler	$ 6,800.00	$ 2,145.00	31.5%
Investment Fund Transfer	2,000.00		
Sponsorship - Coupler	325.00	0.00	
NMRA Dues Rebate	2,000.00	936.59	46.8%
NMRA Dues Rebate AP 27%	540.00	346.41	64.2%
Convention	1,500.00		
Donations	1,000.00	0.00	
Interest Income	0.00		
Other - Spate Award	75.00	59.77	79.7%
Total Revenue	**$ 14,240.00**	**$ 3,487.77**	24.5%
EXPENSES			
Coupler	$ 8,000.00	$1,685.27	21.1%
NMRA Dues Rebates Distribution	2,000.00	0.00	
Achievement Program	500.00		
Membership Development Program	2,000.00		
Spate Award	75.00	59.77	79.7%
President's Awards	50.00		
Legal - NJ Business Registration	35.00	0.00	
Contingency Fund	100.00		
Regional Banner	0.00		
Office Expenses	150.00	88.86	59.2%
Other - Election Expenses	0.00		
Other - Credit Card/PayPal Fees	0.00	22.45	0.0%
Communication Expenses			
Constant Contact	400.00	0.00	
Site Ground Hosting Expense	0.00	0.00	
Region Annual Domain Fees	190.00	0.00	
Website Tools	368.00	0.00	
SG Site Scanner	40.00	0.00	
Division Domain Registry Fees	54.00	0.00	
Total Expenses	**$ 13,962.00**	**$ 1,856.35**	13.3%
Net Operating Revenue/Expense	**$ 278.00**	**$ 1,631.42**	586.8%

Saturday, September 17, 2022

NER Investment Reserve Account (Edward Jones)			**$ 57,056.00**
Operations Reserve	$	55,770.62	
Life Equity Fund	$	74.00	
Spate Award	$	1,211.38	
NER Convention Account Balance			**$ 7,223.77**
PayPal Account Balance			**$ 2,838.55**
Regional Checking Account Balance			**$ 4,646.89**
Dues Rebate (Southern Tier)	$	59.86	
Coupler Ledger	$	3,422.00	
General Funds	$	1,165.03	
Total NER FUNDS All Accounts			**$ 71,765.21**

Budget Approved and Authorized By NER Board April 10, 2022

Printed: 9/17/2022. 11:44 AM

ATTACHMENT (3)

Presidents Report

NER Annual Meeting September 18, 2022

Welcome to the annual meeting. This is the once-a-year opportunity for members to interact in person with the officers and board.

First of all, I'd like to thank Ken May and his local committee for working so diligently to make this event a reality. I'd also like to thank Jeff Hanke and the Nutmeg Division for stepping up to host us, as well as the NER Convention Committee led by NER VP Dave Insley for their work on this event as well.

This an all-volunteer organization. Division Superintendents and officers, Region Board members, Area Directors and Region staff members all give their time to make a better experience for members, time that they don't get to spend in the train room. Those who are here would you please stand.

If this is your first Convention, thank you for attending. I hope you enjoyed it, and I hope you had a chance to talk to people, ask questions at the clinics, and get to know other people who share your interest in the hobby. And I hope you'll join us next year on Long Island, Columbus Day weekend 2023.

I also want to thank those of us who are returning Convention goers, thank you for being here as well, and hope that you enjoyed this chance to meet up with your NER friends and renew old acquaintances. I hope you also met some new members, people you didn't know before. Remember the slogan "I Am The NMRA." To keep the in-person Conventions viable we need to increase attendance. We need all of you to go back to your Divisions and encourage those who aren't here to come next year.

I'll make one other push for volunteers – we are in need of an Assistant Treasurer to work with Gerry, learn our system and take over the role of Convention Treasurer, and also be able to step into the Treasurer job at some time in the future. It's not a billion-dollar high-pressure job, doesn't require an accounting degree, but it is very much needed. I wish Gerry good health and encourage him to look both ways before crossing busy streets, but it is essential that we have more than one person in this position. If you are interested, or know someone in your Division who would be good at this, put them in touch with me or Gerry

ATTACHMENT (4)

ANNUAL REGION AWARDS--2022

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER

Malcolm Houck	HUB
Tom Emmett	Little Rhody

AP CERTIFICATES *Presented by NER AP Chair Bill Brown*

Totals By Division: 28 awards--- E. Canada-9, Little Rhody-5, HUB-4, Lakeshores-3, Nujtmeg-3

Totals By Category: Volunteer-5, Association Official-4, Author-4, Chief Disp-3, Civil Eng-3, Electrical Eng-2, Master Bldr Cars-1, Golden Spike-1, Mastr Build Struct-1, Prototype Mod-1.

Chris Carfaro	Author	Green Mt.
Andrew Castle	Author	E. Canada
Jerry Grochow	Author	HUB
Dave Durr	Official	Lakeshores
Thomas Emmett	Volunteer, Cars, Proto Models	Little Rhody
Ron Engel	Dispatcher	Sunrise Trail
James Fairbanks	Electrical, Civil	Lakeshores
Jeff Hanke	Official, Structures, Scenery	Nutmeg
Bob Henry	Volunteer	E. Canada
Malcolm Houck	Civil Eng	HUB
Tom Lynch	Dispatcher	CNY
Doug Margison	Golden Spike, Dispatcher, Electrical, Civil Eng	E. Canada
Louis McIntyre	Volunteer	E. Canada
Steve McMullin	Volunteer	E. Canada
Glen Mitchell	Volunteer	Seacoast
Mark Moritz	Volunteer	Garden State
Sue Osberg	Official	Little Rhody
Bruce Robinson	Author	HUB
Greg Williams	Official	E. Canada

PRESIDENT'S AWARDS

Harold Russell	Lakeshores
Joe Lecaroz *(posthumous)*	Hudson Valley
Larry Cannon *(posthumous)*	Seacoast

SPATE AWARD *Presented by VP Dave Insley*

Ken May	Nutmeg

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

Bill Brown	CNY

ATTACHMENT (5.1)

MODEL CONTEST AWARDS

Presented by Model Contest Chair Ken May.

JUDGES: Jim Gore, Bob Dennis, Mike Bowler, Bob Hamm, Ed O'Rourke, Mike Evans, Glenn Glasstetter, Mark Moritz, Paul Lessard, Tage Erickson, John McHugh, Bob Verkuyl, James Van Bokkelin, Peter McKinney.

TOTAL ENTRIES: 18, of which 10 were scratch built.

SCRATCH BUILT

DISPLAY	1st	Fred Hutchins	HO	Weeksmarine Crane Barge	95
FREIGHT CAR	1st	Tom Emmett	HO	NKP 50' Double Door Boxcar	88
	2nd	Mike Bowles	HO	1900's Water Car	67
	3rd	Ken Harstine	N	Western Pacific Stock Car	62
NON-REVENUE	1st	Tom Emmett	HO	CN MOW Utility / Generator Car	83
	2nd	Michael Wheeler	HO	Weed Sprayer	80
PASSENGER CAR	1st	Malcolm Houck	HO	NYO&W Parlor Car #98	90
STEAM LOCO	1st	Malcolm Houck	HO	NYO&W Class S Double Cab #157	111
STRUCTURE	1st	Thomas Oxnard	HO	Nikolas Chemical Co	110
	2nd	Edward O'Rourke	HO	New Haven Tower SC #75	90

KIT BUILT

CABOOSE	1st	Bruce Robinson	HO	VJ Transfer Caboose	71
FREIGHT CAR	1st	Bruce Robinson	HO	VJ Boxcar	68
NON-REVENUE CAR	1st	Michael Wheeler	HO	Snow Plow	53
PASSENGER CAR	1st	Bruce Robinson	HO	D&RGW Parlor Car "Chama"	89
	2nd	Bruce Robinson	HO	VJ Combine #1046	78
	3rd	Malcolm Houck	HO	NYO&W Baggage #520	63
STEAM LOCO	1st	Malcolm Houck	HO	NYO&W Class U 2-6-0 Double Cab #247	98
TRACTION	1st	Ken Harstine	N	Baldwin Westinghouse Motor 661	56

ATTACHMENT (5.2)

SPECIAL AWARDS

Sunrise Trail New Modeler	Tom Emmett
Harold Russell Award (Harold, who will be 91, is MMR #14.)	Tom Oxnard
Presented by Lakeshores Division.	
HUB Division Award (for 2nd highest score)	Tom Oxnard
Baldwin Award (for best in show)	Mal Houck

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS *Presented by Ken May*

Locomotives	Mal Houck
Rolling Stock	Tom Emmett
Structure	Ed O'Rourke
Display	Art Dutra

ATTACHMENT (6)

PHOTO CONTEST AWARDS

Presented by Photo Contest Chair Mike Tylick

JUDGES: Kaylee Zheng, Jeff Paston, Chris Carfaro, Max Brisben, Andy Reynolds, Mal Houck

BLACK & WHITE

MODEL	HM	Mal Houck
PROTOTYPE	1st	Dee Matyas
	2nd	Dee Matyas
	HM	Mal Houck

COLOR

PROTOTYPE	1st	Dee Matyas
	2nd	Dee Matyas
	3rd	Richard Waltz
	HM	Bill Brown
MODEL	1st	Richard Waltz
	2nd	Blaise Vece
	3rd	Mal Houck
	HM	Ken Harstine

BEST IN SHOW

Dee Matyas

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

B&W PROTOTYPE	Dee Matyas
B&W MODEL	Mal Houck
COLOR PROTOTYPE	Richard Waltz