Northeastern Region NMRA
Annual Meeting of the Members
Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024
RIT Inn & Conference Center; Henrietta, NY

1. President Ed O'Rourke called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM.
   The attendance sheet is included in these minutes as Attachment (1). A total of 32 NMRA members were in attendance. A quorum being present, the meeting proceeded.

2. President O'Rourke called for the **standard reports**.
   A. **Secretary's Report**
      Minutes from Oct. 8, 2023, annual meeting approved. Carried.

   B. **Treasurer's Report**
      i. Treasurer Gerry Covino submitted a report included with these minutes as Attachment (2).
      ii. Treasurer Covino said the Region Investment Fund grew "nicely" last year and is stable. He said report shows NER spent $3,000 over the previous year due to the convention cost, but the Investment Fund was not used for this. Treasurer Covino cautioned Region to watch the Investment Fund and keep the NER solvent and fluid. Moved for acceptance. Carried.
      iii. Treasurer Covino is stepping down from his position as Treasurer and Convention Registrar effective Sept. 30, 2024. President O'Rourke announced that Bill Rutherford of the Green Mt. Division has agreed to become NER Treasurer, and Cheryle Insley has volunteered to serve as Convention Registrar.

   C. **Convention Committee Report**
      i. Convention Committee Chair Dave Insley reported the next convention is in Concord, NH, in Seacoast Division and plans are well underway. He said there are no hosts yet for 2026 or 2027 conventions. He asked for divisions that haven't had a convention recently to consider hosting.

   D. **Achievement Program Report**
      i. The AP awards announced by AP Chair Bill Brown at the convention are included with these minutes as Attachment (3). Also in Attachment (4) are the Region awards.

   E. **Coupler Editor's Report**
      i. Editor Chris Carfaro noted overall feedback on The Coupler has been good. He said that except for corrections to the print edition, the online edition is generally the same.

ii. Editor Carfaro said there were comments on font size being hard to read from some readers, so he has increased the size from 9 point to 10 point.

iii. Editor Carfaro said he is asking division leaders to encourage members to submit articles to The Coupler. He also asked those who submitted material and hadn't seen it published to contact him in case he has misplaced a submission.

iv. President O'Rourke noted that NMRA National office will no longer handle region publication subscriptions. He said that Coupler print subscribers will soon be able to subscribe on the NER Website. He said Webmaster Jim Seroski is expecting to have the service available around November 1.

E. Membership

i. Coupler Editor Chris Carfaro reported he is considering taking the position of Membership Chair. He said that the "Young" Modelers pizza luncheon/meeting at the convention went well, noting that those attending weren't necessarily "young" modelers by age, but rather by participation in the hobby. Chris noted that it is more about "member retention" as suggested by VP Dave Insley.

F**. Area Directors Reports**

i. **Western Director** Ed Olszewski referenced a talk he had with Hudson Valley Division Superintendant Henry Kramer regarding members who are homebound. Ed said he and Henry are working on setting up access to streaming meetings and other division activities to members.

ii. **Southern Director** Mark Moritz said he will be working with past Southern Director Ciro Compagno on transitioning to the position.

iii. **Northern Director** Tom Oxnard said he has been seeking volunteers from Green Mountain and other divisions surrounding the Seacoast Division to assist on next year's NER convention.

G. Model Contest Chair Report

i. Attachment (5) provides the Lakeshores '24 Contest Report with awards presented at the Awards Breakfast, included here for the record.

ii. Since Contest Chair Ken May had stepped down and was unavailable, Ned Spiller MMR of Lakeshores Division coordinated the contest.

iii. President O'Rourke said the Region is still seeking someone to take over this job who is well organized and has good computer skills.

H. **Photo Contest Chair Report**

Attachment (6) provides the Lakeshores '24 Photo Contest Report. This report from Photo Contest Chair Mike Tylick was presented at the Awards Breakfast and is included here for the record.

3**. President's Report**

A. President O'Rourke thanked Dave Durr and his committee and VP Dave Insley for putting together an excellent convention.

B. President O'Rourke emphasized that the NMRA is a volunteer organization, of which he commented in his Coupler column. He noted that this is time spent for volunteers *not*

laying track or building scenery. He said there is a need to energize people so the rest of members can lay track and build scenery.

C. He said this is his second term as president, and that he and the area directors were "annointed" this year since there was not a contested election.
   i. He said since this is also his last term as president, that there are members "out here" who could serve as a new president, vice president, or director.
   ii. President O'Rourke announced that with Treasurer Gerry Convino's retirement, Cheryle Insley has agreed to take over as Convention Registrar. He noted that an assistant would be needed.
   iii. He announced that Bill Rutherford is assuming the Treasurer responsibilities, and there is also a need for an assistant treasurer.
   iv. There is also a need for a new model contest chair since Ken May has retired.

D. President O'Rourke noted the NMRA National office will no longer process newsletter subscriptions as part of a new data system that should be ready by March 2025, and which should improve NMRA registration and replace current daily updating required to the database.

E. President O'Rourke said preparations are continuing for hosting a national NMRA convention in WNY (NFR), Lakeshores, and CNY divisions in 2028. The proposal will be formally presented to the National board at Springfield in January.

F. There is movement to expand MMR activity to offer more training programs to members.

G. Labor Day 2024 was 89th anniversary of the founding of the NMRA.
   i. President O'Rourke said that the 90th year observation will start at the Springfield show in January and continue to the NMRA National convention in Novi, MI. He said the NMRA is looking at Labor Day 2025 for a formal observance of the anniversary.
   ii. VP Dave Insley said he is looking for volunteers to help at the NMRA booth at Springfield.

4. President O'Rourke called for adjournment at 10:02 AM.
   Motion to adjourn carried.

Respectfully submitted,

NER Secretary

ATTACHMENT (1)

NER NMRA NORTHEASTERN REGION

Northeastern Region NMRA

Annual Meeting of the Members

List of Attendees

Sunday, September 22, 2023

1	President:	26	Webmaster:
2	Vice President:	27	WILLIAM BARRY HUB
3	Secretary:	28	
4	Treasurer:	29	
5	Past President:	30	
6	Northern Dir: Tom Oxnard	31	
7	Eastern Dir:	32	
8	Western Dir:	33	JIM WALSH GSD
9	Southern Dir:	34	mark moritz
10	Central NY:	35	
11	Eastern Canada:	36	DAVID START
12	Garden State:	37	William R. Starr II
13	Green Mt.:	38	
14	HUB:	39	
15	Hudson Valley:	40	
16	Hudson-Berkshire:	41	JEFFREY O'NEIL
17	Lakeshores:	42	
18	Little Rhody:	43	
19	Metro-North:	44	
20	Nutmeg:	45	
21	Seacoast:	46	
22	Southern Tier:	47	
23	Sunrise Trail:	48	
24	Communications:	49	
25	Coupler editor:	50	

ATTACHMENT (1A)

TEXT of President Ed O'Rourke's Annual Meeting Introduction

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 Dave Durr and his local committee from the Lakeshores Division for working so diligently to make this event a reality. I'd also like to thank the NER Convention Committee led by NER VP Dave Insley for their work on this event as well.

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 in Concord, NH.

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.

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.

Vice President Insley, the four Area Directors and I were all "re-elected" unopposed this Spring. I appreciate your confidence in our leadership, but more of you need to consider getting involved with the running of the Region. I will state here and now that this second term is also going to be my last term as President.

I'll make one other push for volunteers – We need a Convention Registrar. Gerry Covino is retiring as of this Convention, and we need a person (or maybe persons/) to take over this important job. We are also in need of an Assistant Treasurer to work with Bill Rutherford, our new Treasurer as of October 1, learn our system and take over the role of Convention Treasurer. It's not a billion-dollar high-pressure job, doesn't require an accounting degree, but it is very much needed. 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. We have need of a Contest Committee Chair. You don't have to be an MMR to lead the committee. Again, let me know if you are interested.

A few news items:

1. The NMRA National Office has ceased taking payments for the print version of the coupler. This was a bit of a surprise – we didn't find out until last May or so. Our Webmaster Jim Seroskie along with Bill Rutherford and Office Manager Erich Whitney are working out a solution that will let you subscribe on the website. Watch for an announcement soon.
2. NMRA is also rolling out a new data management system that will revamp the membership process with an eye to making it more flexible and simpler. You may be able to set up an automatic renewal and/or pay monthly, along with some other enhancements. When will this happen? Possibly in March.
3. 3. You may have heard that we are planning to host a National convention here in Rochester, in July 2028. CNY Division Superintendent Drew James is leading a committee that will make a formal proposal to the NMRA BOD at the West Springfield show in January. It will be the first Convention in the East since Hartford in 2009.
4. Modeling With The Masters is piloting a new approach at the 2025 NER Convention. Jim Gore will be leading the group of MMRs, but will be bringing in Region MMRs with the goal to certify local MMRs to teach at the conventions.and make the program more accessible and affordable. More on this will be forthcoming. National will pay a part of the cost, hosting entity will pay part. Chuck Diljak will be part of the team for Concord team.
5. John Stevens, NMRA Museum chairperson, is in charge of NMNRA honors. Looking for more Region input for Distiguished Service, Honorary Life Member, and Fellow of the NMRA awards.

ATTACHMENT (2)

Northeastern Region - NMRA
BUDGET vs ACTUAL (Cash Basis)
Fiscal Year 7/1/2023 to 6/30/2024

Annual Meeting Report

REVENUE	Budget	Actual	%
Subscriptions - Coupler	$ 7,800.00	$ 6,480.65	83.1%
Investment Fund Transfer	1,000.00	0.00	
Sponsorship - Coupler	0.00	0.00	
NMRA Dues Rebate	1,900.00	1,840.33	96.9%
NMRA Dues Rebate AP 27%	700.00	680.67	97.2%
Donations	500.00	164.41	32.9%
Other - Spate Award	60.00	64.25	107.1%
Convention Revenue	1,372.00	(2,649.35)	-193.1%
Planned Revenue	1,000.00	(2,845.62)	
Website Reimbursement	372.00	196.27	
Total Revenue	**$ 13,332.00**	**$ 6,580.96**	49.4%

EXPENSES

Program Expenses	**$ 10,760.00**	**$ 11,464.17**	106.5%
Coupler	$ 7,400.00	$ 9,210.70	
NMRA Dues Rebates Distribution	1,900.00	1,840.33	
Achievement Program	400.00	246.34	
Membership Development Program	1,000.00	0.00	
Coupler Cost for Springfield Promotional Material	0.00	102.55	
Spate Award	60.00	64.25	
Business Expenses	**835.00**	**149.36**	17.9%
President's Awards	50.00	33.20	
Legal - NJ Business Registration	35.00	33.00	
Regional Banner	0.00	0.00	
Business Expenses	350.00	0.00	
Other - Election Expenses	300.00	0.00	
Other - Credit Card/PayPal Fees	100.00	83.16	
Contingency Fund	**100.00**	**75.00**	**75.0%**
Miscellaneous		75.00	
Communication Expenses	**1,401.00**	**1,081.44**	77.2%
Constant Contact	400.00	434.70	
Web Hosting Expense	0.00	0.00	
Region & NERx Domain Fees	34.00	35.57	
Region - WordPress Tools	377.00	148.00	
SG Site Scanner	0.00	0.00	
Division Domain Fees	218.00	217.90	
NER Conventions - Website Expense	372.00	245.27	
Domain Fees	22.00	21.99	
WordPress Tools	350.00	223.28	
Total Expenses	**$ 13,096.00**	**$12,769.97**	97.5%
Net Operating Revenue/Expense	**$ 236.00**	**$ (6,189.01)**	-2622.5%

NER Investment Reserve Account (Edward Jones)		**$ 67,876.45**
Operations Reserve	$ 66,439.61	
Life Equity Fund	74.00	
Spate Award	1,362.85	
NER Convention Checking Account Balance		**5,428.20**
PayPal Account Balance		**9,876.62**
Region Checking Account Balance		**1,164.78**
Dues Rebate (Southern Tier)	$ 146.73	
Coupler Ledger	1,056.52	
General Funds	(38.47)	
Total NER FUNDS All Accounts		**$ 84,346.05**

Approved and Authorized By NER Board 7/10/2023

ATTACHMENT (3)

ANNUAL REGION AWARDS--2024

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER

Peter Eaton	Green Mt.
Drew James	CNY
Victor Hand	Seacoast
Phil Monat	Sunrise Trail (*presented in 2023*)

AP CERTIFICATES *Presented by NER AP Chair Bill Brown*

Totals By Division: 38 certificates--- Seacoast-10, Garden State-8, Lakeshores-4, HUB-4, CNY-3, Sunrise Trail-3, Green Mt.-2, Little Rhody-2, Hudson-Berkshire-1, Hudson Valley-1.

Totals By Category: MMR-3, Golden Spike-6, Master Bldr Cars-3, Master Bldr Struct-2, Master Bldr Scenery-3, Prototype Mod-1, Civil Eng-1, Electrical Eng-3, Chief Disp-5, Association Official-7, Volunteer-4, Author-2.

William Arm	Golden Spike	Hudson Valley
Gary Backus	Dispatcher	Seacoast
John Becker	Volunteer	Lakeshores
Ken Belovarac	Structures	HUB
Chris Carfaro	Official	Green Mt
Doug Chadwick	Dispatcher	Garden State
Ciro Compagno	Official	Garden State
Bob Dennis	Scenery	Garden State
John Doehring	Golden Spike	HUB
Peter Eaton	Cars	Green Mt
James Fairbanks	Author	Lakeshores
John Feraca	Volunteer	Sunrise Trail
Victor Hand	Civil Engineer	Seacoast
Victor Hand	Electrical Engineer	Seacoast
Victor Hand	Scenery	Seacoast
Victor Hand	Cars	Seacoast
Victor Hand	Proto Modeler	Seacoast
Victor Hand	Structures	Seacoast
Dave Insley	Official	HUB
Drew James	Official	CNY
Drew James	Cars	CNY
Jack Lutz	Volunteer	Seacoast
Tom Lynch	Scenery	CNY
Ben Maggi	Dispatcher	Hudson-Berkshire
John McHugh	Author	Seacoast
Phil Monat	Cars	Sunrise Trail
Mark Moritz	Dispatcher	Garden State
Mark Moritz	Official	Garden State
Ed O'Connell	Electrical	Lakeshores
Ed O'Connell	Dispatcher	Lakeshores
Tom Oxnard	Official	Seacoast
DK Paul	Volunteer	Little Rhody
Brian Scharfstein	Golden Spike	Garden State
Stephen Scharfstein	Electrical	Garden State
Robert Schmidt	Golden Spike	Garden State
Dan Shepard	Golden Spike	Sunrise Trail
Paul St. Martin	Golden Spike	Little Rhody
Erich Whitney	Official	HUB

ATTACHMENT (4)

NMRA PRESIDENT'S AWARD for DIVISION SERVICE

David Metal Sunrise Trail Division

NER PRESIDENT'S AWARDS

Richard C. Laube NER New Jersey Registered Agent (for corporate status)
Erich Whitney NER Office Manager
Gerry Covino Outgoing NER Treasurer

SPATE AWARD *Presented by VP Dave Insley*

Stephen (posthumusly) and Kim Lamb HUB Division

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

Ed O'Connell Lakeshores Division

ATTACHMENT (5)

MODEL CONTEST AWARDS *Contest Chair: Ned Spiller*

SCRATCH BUILT

FREIGHT CAR	1st	Andreas Werder	HO	Northern Pacific RR Wood Chip Car
	2nd	Peter Bach	HO	Buckhead Flat w/Canoes
STEAM LOCO	1st	Malcolm Houck	HO	NYO&W RY 2-10-2 Bullmoose #351
PASSENGER CAR	1st	Mark Moritz	HOn3	Combine Ferromonte
STRUCTURE	1st	Tom Oxnard	HO	Baked Bean Factory
	2nd	Doug Dederick	N	Glacier Park Station
	3rd	Tom Oxnard	HO	Burlingame Building
DIORAMA	1st	John Becker	N	

KIT BUILT

DIESEL	1st	Dennis Colucci	N	Amtrak E8A
FREIGHT CAR	1st	Dennis Colucci	N	Penn Cntrl Boxcar
	2nd	Mark Moritz	HOn3	Ore Car
NON-REVENUE	1st	Jeff Paston	HO	NY Central Russell Snowplow
	2nd	Jeff Paston	HO	D&H Jordan Spreader
STRUCTURE	1st	Mark Moritz	HO	Switch/Interlocking twr
	2nd	John Becker	N	Carrigan House
	3rd	Kevin Tully	HO	Grain Elevator
DIORAMA	1st	Andy Reynolds	HO	Polar Cold Storage
	2nd	Andy Reynolds	HO	Georgetown Station
	3rd	Andy Reynolds	HO	McCauley Stream

SPECIAL AWARDS

Lakeshores Division Harold Russell Award Tom Oxnard

(Harold will be 93 and is MMR #14. Son Michael Russell made the presentation with grandson Kevin Miller attending.)

HUB Division Award (for 2nd highest score) Tom Oxnard

Baldwin Award (for best in show) Mal Houck

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

Mal Houk	Locomotive
Gary Renolds	Rolling Stock – Circus Train
Tom Oxnard	Structure – B&M Bean plant
Howard Miller	Diorama – Harpursville Trestle

ATTACHMENT (6)

PHOTO CONTEST "CELEBRATION of IMAGES" AWARDS

Presented by Photo Contest Chair Mike Tylick

BLACK & WHITE

PROTOTYPE	1st	Brian Kelley- Coupler
	2nd	Brian Kelly- Tourist Train

COLOR

PROTOTYPE	1st	James Lauser —Cass Crossing
	2nd	James Lauser- Pennsylvania Noses
	3rd	Blaise Vece- Repair Shop
	HM	Robert Welk- Naugatuck Railway #1
MODEL	1st	James Lauser- Trout Lake
	2nd	Malcolm Houck- Ontario Express
	3rd	James Lauser- Passengeer Train
	HM	James Lauser- Passengeer Train

BEST IN SHOW Bill Brown- Engine Trestle

PEOPLE'S CHOICE Brian Kelly- Coupler