Midwest Region, NMRA Preliminary Meeting Minutes

Meeting Details:

- Date: May 2, 2026
- Time: 10:00
- Location: Zoom
- Attendees: John Coy, Jan Burnside, Phillip Burnside, Bob McGeever, Larry Nelson, Bob Wundrock, David Mashino, Ron Johnson, John Poray, Art Dawson, Jr., Bob Landwehr, Jim Landwehr, Gary Baker, Daniel Banks, Michael Hirvela, Marty Hendrickx, Greg Bueltmann, Thomas Ose, Jim Osborn, Alex Schneider, Eric Smith, Dave Down, Jim Marciniak, John Schaffer, Rich Hoker
- Absent: Robert Perry, Prescilla Roderick, Burnell Breaker, Paul Hillmer, Mike Lehman, Denis Zamirowski, David Leider, Rod Weinschenk
- Facilitator: Jim Osborn

Agenda:

- Call to order by John Coy and he welcomed the new Board members and thanked past Board members. John then asked to address an item out of order, due to time conflicts.
- **Bob Wundrock:** His explained his proposed changes to Clinic procedures. Asked to provide a list of the Clinic Chairs for searching and scheduling clinics from other divisions. At present, the language is not workable and as the Zoom clinic library grows it will be a problem. Need to improve the sharing and information process. There were no questions.
- Roll Call by Jan Burnside (via Zoom list)
- Minutes from Meeting of November 8, 2025, introduced by Jan Burnside and moved to approve. No discussion. Motion passed.

Reports:

- **Officer Reports:** John Coy asked for any comments on the Reports. Jan Burnside moved that all reports be accepted as is with the exception of the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Phillip Burnside. No objections. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Director at Large reports**: Motion to approve all of the Director at Large reports. Alex wanted to express his concerns about getting judges (from his report). Dan Banks related that Ray Pershing is working on this issue. Otherwise, no other comments or objections. Reports accepted.
- **Division Director reports** Motion to approve all of the Division Director reports by Alex S Schneider. Dan Banks seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- **Insurance**: Bob Perry not available, so tabled.

New Business:

- **Election: Results – Approval:** Alex Schneider moved to approve. Phillip Burnside seconded. No opposition. Motion passed.
- **Election: Results – Installation of New Officers:** Formally installed by John Coy welcomed new members by name and thanked the election committee individually.
- **Election: Results – Ballot Destruction:** Phillip Burnside moved to destroy the ballots. John Poray seconded. No objections. Motion passed.
- **Request from WISE for reimbursement of Train School expenses**: $313. 08. John Porary moved to approve. Phillip Burnside seconded. No opposition or objections. Motion passed.
- **Changes to Article IV – clerical revision:** Bob Wundrock; change name to "Clinic Information Interchange." Change to "responsible for compiling, disseminating list of current Division clinic chairs and available clinicians in September of each year." Alex Schneider moved to approve. Dan Banks seconded. No opposition. Motion passed.
- **Changes to Nominating Policy and Procedure:** Jim Osborn noted that current policy is over 20 years old and refers to an "executive handbook" that no longer exists. Problems arose during last election. He lifted the words and reorganized the documents to update and removed references to snail mail. Formally added self-nomination. Included bio links with limits to about 250 words and added a timeline of events. Bob McGeever moved to approve. Gary Baker seconded. No opposition or objections. Eric Smith suggested change to photo requirements since no printing is involved. Motion passed and approved with suggested change.

Post – Agenda Discussion:

- **MWR Convention 2027:** John Coy announced MWR Convention 2027. Dan Banks presented info and asked for guidance and feedback. He presented charts based on use of the Carmel IN library along with the related facilities in the area. Fee waived because the MWR is non-profit. He suggested setting fees to show profit to the Region. The Community rooms can be split. On-site coffee bar and various technical benefits, i.e., 3d printing labs and AV capability and it also has plenty of rooms for casual meetings. It has elevators and a covered parking garage. There is plenty of meeting room space and flexibility. There are blackout dates in June and July along with other limitations as to activities. Dan suggested a partnership of sorts to benefit both parties to entice the library to work with us as to admission restriction. Discussion followed regarding food and means of other possibilities like churches, arrangements with local hotels, parking, space for models, and other considerations.

Announcements:

- **NMRA Convention 2029:** Possibly in Indianapolis, at Gordy Robinson's request. Dan Banks, Eric Smith, and John Poray (chair) are unofficially the leadership for this event. It would be much like *IndyJunction* in 2022. John Poray related that they are putting a bid together. We need more information from National. 1,100 folks are signed up for Chattanooga to date, which is still in the early stages at this point. National signs the contracts and gives the final approval so the Region has no risks. This would be about double the size of *IndyJunction*. The first step was to get 60 volunteers, and that has been accomplished in only 48 hours with many volunteers from other Divisions outside the CID. John Coy asked that the Regional board support this and, if this event

occurs, moved that John Poray be the chairperson for that event. Phillip Burnside seconded the motion. No objections. Motion passed.

- **Upcoming election of President, Vice President, and 3 DALs during December-January:** We need to know those names at the next Meeting. Jim Osborn suggested the end of September because of the clerical work involved. Nominations are officially open. Jim asked whether anyone has been in contact with Precilla Roderick. Eric Smith said he recently heard from her regarding CID business. Jim Osborn has sent numerous emails. Precilla Roderick is no longer a Director-at-Large, but she is still Chair of the Nominating Committee; it is a four-year term. John Coy will reach out to her.
- **After meeting comment:** Mike Hirvela asked that the Treasurer's Report be presented in the more traditional P&L format. Phillip Burnside stated that he would do so in the future.

Next Meeting:

Date: November 14, 2026

Time: 10 EDT

Location: Zoom

Adjournment:

Adjourned at 10:59 am

MIDWEST REGION – NMRA, AUDIT COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
Sunday, June 14, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 14, 2026 at the home of Midwest Region President John Coy, in Avon, Indiana.

Audit Committee Members attending: Ron Phillips, Brian Chapman, Precilla Roderick and Committee Chair Rod Weinschenk
Unable to attend: Dick Smith and Alan Dunbar
Others attending: Midwest Region – NMRA President John Coy

Audit Period Established - R.Weinschenk reviewed the timeline provided in the 3-ring binder provided by Midwest Region – NMRA Treasurer Phillip Burnside which had 10-months of records dated July 1, 2025 to May 7, 2026.

Review of Documents – The board reviewed the records looking at each month. They noted the region has a checking account, CD and an Elite Money Market Account. All balances checked out against provided paperwork.

1. **Travelers Insurance** – The Audit Committee pulled the Travelers Insurance invoice and payment. They found it in order.
2. **Checking Account** – The following checking account balances were noted:
    a. **July 1, 2025** account balance was $38,178.71
    b. **April 22, 2026** account balance was $37,173.67.
    c. **Net Loss -** A net loss of $1,005.04 was noted
3. **Youth Programming** – Financial support for youth programming led to this net loss. The Audit Committee looked at the payments issued to the WISE (South East Wisconsin) and the South-Central Wisconsin Divisions of the Midwest Region of the NMRA for their model railroading youth programs. The Audit Committee found it interesting on how the two divisions took different approaches to promoting model railroading with today's young people.
4. **Continued Support** – The Audit Committee thought the Midwest Region should continue to support these two youth programs; however, must consider that this road will eventually deplete the checking account. It was suggested that a fund-raiser should be held to replenish the accounts and that funds raised could be used to support these youth programs. The first that came to mind was a Regional Model Train Show.

Review of Suggestions From Last Audit Meeting – The following recommendations were reviewed:

1. **Past Records to Be Destroyed** – The past records were still in possession of the Audit Committee and will be past to Midwest Region – NMRA Treasurer Phillip Burnside. Since the region is a 501c3 entity, the treasurer should follow requirements issued by the IRS. For example: A quick "Google search" suggests to keep records for 7-years.
2. **Renewal of CD** – Don't let the bank automatically renew the CD. The treasurer should research different options for the best return on the investment.

3. **Two Signatures on Checks** – The audit committee suggests the by-laws include the requirement of two signatures on checks. This could be the Treasurer, along with either the President or Vice President. This will provide an internal check-balance system.
4. **Record-Keeper** - It was felt that the Secretary should be the "check" and "balance" for the group, and note the Treasurer's Report in the monthly meeting records.

Motion to Accept and Approve Audit – On a motion from P.Roderick, second by B.Chapman, the Audit Committee found the Treasurer's records accurate and the audit "Satisfactory". The motion passed unanimously, "All Ayes".

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Minutes presented by Rod Weinschenk, Audit Committee Chair.

Roderick M. Weinschenk

Roderick M. Weinschenk

Item __4__

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, Nov. 14, 2026

To: Board of Directors

From: Bob Wundrock, SCWD

Date: October 25, 2026

Subject: November 14 report

Activities since the last board meeting

I sent out reminders August 5th and September 30th to Division heads and/or Division clinic chairs regarding MWR By-Law:

ARTICLE IV B. CLINIC INFORMATION INTERCHANGE.

1) Function: Responsible for compiling and disseminating list of current Division clinic chairs and available clinicians in September of each year.

2) Membership: A Chairman and the Division Clinic Coordinators provided for in Article V, Section 4 below. A Division's Clinic Coordinator should be the individual who schedules clinics for the Division.

To date I have received replies from four divisions, one of which is me and one other is pending.

As SCWD Clinics' chair I have scheduled 12 clinics for the SCWD for the September 2026 through April 2027 meetings.

Planned Activities

I will continue scheduling a few remaining SCWD open clinic slots through April 2027.

Item __5__

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, Nov. 14, 2026

To: Board of Directors

From: Daniel Banks

Date: 11/1/2026

Subject: Convention Chair Report

Activities since the last board meeting

I worked with the Carmel Public Library in an attempt to reserve the meeting space for our 2027 convention. After many conversations with library staff we were just unable to get to an agreement. The library's policy is that event attendees cannot be charged for attending events at the library. We had discussion about portions being open to the general public, such as half th large meeting hall with portable layouts, and hosting smaller/micro layouts in public areas of the library. Had we not wanted all conference rooms as well for clinic space, we would have been able to get this done. The library, in the end, decided that the request for space was too large to bridge a way around the policy and they had to decline.

I have not yet identified another location. We still have time as I am planning on the convention being late summer/early fall but a location has to be found soon. I am starting to investigate large churches as our next options. Also of consideration is that Indy is now the 2029 National location and it may be better to look a bit further outside the Indy area to avoid repeating visits so close to the immediate Indy area.

Planned Activities

- Locate new location, possibly in Lafeyette IN. There are some great layouts in the area as well as the Purdue Model Railroad Club.
- The location must be lower cost in order to keep convention attendance price reasonable and maximize regional profitability.
- Convention has to be be able to host us Thursday through Saturday at minimum

Item __7__

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 2026

To: Board of Directors

From: Jim Osborn, Election Committee Chairman

Date: October 21, 2026

Subject: Election Committee Report

Activities since Last Board Meeting

1) Destruction of the ballots from the last election per BoD approval.
2) Authored and fostered approval of a revised Nominating Committee Policy and Procedure.
3) Collected the photos and bios of nominees for the 2027 election as supplied by the Nominating Committee Chair.
4) Forwarded the item 3 nominee's bios and photos to the executive board for their approval.

Planned Activities

1) Update the Election Webpage when information is available from the nominating committee.
2) Create the election ballot after the BoD approves the candidate slate at the November 2026 BoD meeting per the Election Committee Policy and Procedure. The ballot will be in both "paper" form for the *Waybill* and as an e-ballot as specified in the Election Policy & Procedure.
3) Forward the "paper" ballot and voting instruction for on-line voting to the *Waybill* editor for inclusion in the winter *Waybill* and launch the on-line e-ballot form.
4) Receive and count the ballots after the forthcoming election and prepare the Election committee report for the next BoD meeting.

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 2026

To: Board of Directors

From: Jim Osborn, Internet Committee Chm.

Date: October 23, 2026

Subject: Internet Committee Report

Activities since the Last Board Meeting

1) Made updates to the MWR web site per requests from National, the Region & the membership.
2) Assisted with the Waybill electronic publishing.
3) Posted current PDF versions of the Waybill on the web site.
4) Assisted with several miscellaneous Division web site issues and updates.
5) Assisted the DuPage division with the population of their mobile friendly web site.
6) Assisted the President & Secretary with various web related documents and associated emails.
7) Continued to support the use of the Constant Contact email application. Currently the Constant Contact Account is shared among the FVD, SCWD, WISE, CID & RRVD as well as the MWR.
8) Tended to monthly updates of the MWR email distribution account.
9) Paid the Knownhost website hosting subscription – split with the FVD - $168.
10) Paid the Jotform license - $45.

Planned Activities

1) Continue with the general management and maintenance of the MWR web site and internet activities as appropriate.
2) Continue to assist with publishing electronic Waybill notices.
3) Supported any division web requirements as requested.
4) Assist the Secretary and President with the use of the Constant Contact application for the region.
5) Continue to manage monthly updates to the email data base per inputs from the Membership Chairman.
6) Support the upcoming election process – electronic ballot and tabulation.
7) Pay web related application fees as required. Knownhost will be $168 and 1 year domain registration will be $17.00
8) Future web related expenses for budgeting:

a.	12/11/26	JotForm License	$45.00	1 year
b.	2/1/27	Constant Contact Subscription	$983.00	1 year
c.	7/9/27	KnownHost Web Hosting Agreement (split with FVD)	$168.00	1 year
d.	11/24/26	MWR Internet Domain Registration	$17.00	1 year
e.	Total estimated expenses for the next 12 months:		$1213.00	
f.	Estimated price increases (+10%)		$1335.00	(estimated)

9) Request BoD approval for the future item 8 expense items.

Item _10__

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 14, 2026

To: Board of Directors

From: Bob Landwehr

Date: October 30, 2026

Subject: Membership Coordinator's Report

Activities since the last board meeting

Continued to provide membership information to Division membership coordinators on a monthly basis. The monthly report includes a roster, and the following reports as appropriate: 30 days past due on renewal, 60 days past due on renewal, new members, renewed members, re-railed members, deceased members, and change of address.

Continued working with the Region Constant Contact Coordinator to synchronize the Region Constant Contact list and the National database email addresses.

Planned Activities

Continue the above.

The membership trend is still going down.

Month	Monthly total	Monthly adds (newly joined)	Net gain/lose [1]
4-30-2026	1032	6	
5-31-2026	1024	3	-8
6-30-2026	1023	7	-1
7-31-2026	1009	0	-14
8-31-2026	1013	4	4
9-30-2026	1012	8	-1

[1] Net gain/lose – Members that have not renewed their membership before October 1st.

Number of memberships that have not renewed as of 10/1/2026.

6 memberships were not renewed in March 2026
5 memberships were not renewed in April 2026
5 memberships were not renewed in May 2026
3 memberships were not renewed in June 2026
4 memberships were not renewed in July 2026
6 memberships were not renewed in August 2026
5 memberships were not renewed in September 2026

Item _15___

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, Nov. 14, 2026

To: Board of Directors

From: Thomas Ose

Date: 10/03/2026

Subject: Youth Fund

Activities since the last board meeting

There has been no requests during this time period

Planned Activities

Continue to promote and receive requests for the fund.

For Minutes, Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 2026

To: Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA

From: Michael L. Hirvela, Director-At-Large, MWR

Date: November 1, 2026

Subject: MWR Director-At-Large Report for Fall, 2026 MWR BoD Meeting November 2026

Activities since Last Board Meeting:

- Continued to be supportive of the Region.
- Continued to be supportive of the goals of the national organization.

Planned Activities:

- Continue to support MWR programs and functions.
- Provide support to the MWR President and Board.

It should be noted my term at DAL expires in the Spring of 2027 and I will not be seeking another term. Further, I have no request either as MWR DAL or as Superintendent, FVD, for support for TrainFest in Milwaukee November 7 & 8, even though it is in MWR territory and is a premier train show in the country. I may attend TF just as an attendee and will be part of the host crew at the open house at the North American Prototype Modelers' model railroad club on the evening of Saturday, November 7.

Submitted:

Michael L. Hirvela
DAL, MWR

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, Nov. 14, 2026

To: Board of Directors

From: Rich Hoker

Date: November 14, 2026

Subject: Director at Large (DAL) Report

Activities since the last board meeting

- Coordinated the 2026 Summer Outing for the Fox Valley Division with a visit to the Milwaukee Light Engineering Society (MLES) railroad park near Cedarburg, WI. This is a 7 ½ inch narrow gauge railroad with over one mile of mainline track. Attendees can ride the trains around the park. Invites were extended to the South-Central Wisconsin, Rock River Valley, and Wisconsin Southeastern Divisions.

- Assisted a member with the disposition of over 40 HO scale layout buildings to NMRA members (at no charge). This type of free assistance was received well by the individuals. The buildings were used to assist members on their own layouts, to build modules that would be used at train shows, and for other uses.

Planned Activities

- Will continue to coordinate the summer outing for the Fox Valley Division and will extend invites to other divisions that may have an interest in joining. In 2025, the Fox Valley Division hosted a private Diesel Shop tour at the Illinois Railway Museum with over 50 attendees from several divisions. The goal will be to seek similar attendance for an tour in 2027. Attendance for the 2026 narrow gauge tour at the Milwaukee Light Engineering Society railroad park was disappointing. The event may have suffered from very hot weather on the day of the event and a longer than typical driving distance to the event location.

- Continue serving as Chief Clerk for the Fox Valley Division and supporting all divisional activity.

Member-At-Large Report

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 14, 2026

To: Board of Directors

From: John Poray, Board Member-at-Large

October 26, 2026

Activities Since Last Board Meeting

My activity since the last Board meeting has largely been focused on the 2029 NMRA National Convention.

Following approval in late July by the NMRA Board of Directors to award the 2029 National Convention to Indianapolis, I turned over the final stage of hotel contract negotiations to Jenny Hendricks, chief administrative officer at the NMRA national office.

I had a Zoom meeting with Jenny and John Schindler on October13. John is assisting Jenny on the 2027 national convention in Tacoma and, over time, will transition to assuming Jenny's convention responsibilities. Jenny reported that she completed the contract work with the hotel, the Indianapolis Marriott East. The convention dates will be July 16-21, 2029 (Monday – Saturday).

We discussed steps moving forward. She is deep into the production of Trainfest on November 7-8. After that has passed, she will provide me with a copy of the hotel contract, a suggested timeline for convention planning and a suggested volunteer structure. I anticipate beginning the recruitment of the convention committee key volunteers after the first of the year.

My other activities have included hosting two operating sessions, one of which was the special CID Ops Day for newcomers to operations. I will be assisting Show Manager, Dave Mashino, at the Danville (Indiana) Train Show on November 21. I attended the NMRA Convention in Chattanooga, devoting some of that time to taking notes on its operation and gathering ideas for the 2029 convention.

Respectfully submitted,

John Poray
Midwest Region Board of Directors - Member-At-Large
Chair, 2029 NMRA Convention, *All Aboard for Indy!*

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 2026

To: Board of Directors

From: Burnell Breaker – WISE Superintendent

Date: October 23, 2026

Subject: WISE Division Report

Activities since Last Board Meeting

October 11, 2026 – KMBS Model Railroad Show, had tables to sell estate items and promote the Division and NMRA.
Monthly meet October 17 with 25 people in attendance.
October 18, 2026 – Lionel Railroad Club Show, had tables to sell estate items and promote the Division and NMRA.
We are still accepting model railroad estate donations to sell the items as a way to raise money for the WISE Division

Planned Activities

Membership Meetings – March 20, 2027, Layout Tours Meet, April 10, 2027, Annual Meeting and Election Results

December 20, 2026, January 17, 2027, March 21, 2027 – Lionel Railroad Club Show, will have tables to sell estate items and promote the Division and NMRA.

November 7 & 8, 2026 – Trainfest with a booth to promote the Division and NMRA.

January 23, 2027 – Train School with various stations to help modelers

April 4, 2027 – Metro Railroad Club Train Show, will have tables to sell estate items and promote the Division and NMRA.

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, Nov. 14, 2026

To: Board of Directors

From: Paul Hillmer Superintendent Winnebagoland Division

Date: 10/26/26

Subject: WLD report May – November 26

Activities since the last board meeting:

Saturday May 2 2026 Spring Meet Waupaca WI at Waupaca Depot. 30 in attendance. We had 3 morning clinics, photo and model contest, Brat fry lunch provided by Depot Nonprofit crew, and 6 home layouts in area. Was perfect weather. Annual Meeting held with election of new officers for 26/27. A 9-year-old took 2nd in our photo contest. No Kidding.

May 9/10/26 Co-Sponsored and WLD booth Title Town Train Show Green Bay WI KI Center.

June 6th Summer Board Meeting at SHS building and zoom in Appleton.

August 29th Fall Board Meeting at SHS building and zoom in Appleton.

September 23, 2026 Workshop Wednesday via Zoom was held.

October 24m 2026 Fall Meet Appleton WI at St Peters School Appleton. 39 in attendance. We had 3 morning clinics, photo and model contest, lunch provided by church youth group, and 6 home layouts and 2 club layouts in Fox River Valley area. Was perfect weather.

Planned Activities:

November 14th is the 31st Annual WLD Operating Day. This year host is Wisconsin Valley Model RR Club in Wausau WI. Morning and afternoon sessions being planned.

Workshop Wednesday via Zoom is EOM 11/18/26, 1/13/27, 3/17/27, and 5/12/27.

Artic Run Train Show Stevens Point WI 1/24 & 1/25/26 co-sponsor and hold our board meeting at the Holiday Inn where the show is. In a real hotel meeting room!

Spring Meet is being planned for 4/10/27 at Sturgeon Bay WI (Door County). WLD has never had a meet there and we are excited.

WE will also be co-sponsors with Titletown Train Show in Green Bay 10/24/27 and this year will expand to much larger facility, Resch Center in Green Bay.

Item _27_

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, Nov. 14, 2026

To: Board of Directors

From: Gary Baker

Date: 10/15/26

Subject: Illinois Valley Division Activity report

Activities since the last board meeting

Two regular Division Meets have been held since the last MWR BOD zoom. The May meet was held at the Trinity Presbyterian church in Bartonville and the September Meet was combined with our annual membership potluck at Peck Park in Galesburg which is one of West Central Illinois' best railfanning locations where two mainlines of the BNSF Railroad intersect at a grade separated bridge crossing. The lower level track is the former Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe and the upper level is the former Chicago Burlington & Quincy / Burlington Northern and also serves as the Quincy Corridor for present day Amtrak making it a perfect spot to watch through freights, freight switching, and passenger trains all in one location.

Our portable layout continues to be very popular. The annual setup at Wildlife Prairie Park Train Day in May was once again a great success as we handed the kids the throttle and let them run our trains while they wait for their turn to ride the Wildlife Prairie Park Railroad and again after they disembark. Likewise, the setup for the annual Spoon River Drive event during the first two weekends in October at the Fulton County Narrow Guage Museum in Lewistown attracted the usual number of smiling kids to run our trains.

Since the last MWR BOD meeting two IVD members have earned AP program certificates Nelson for the Cars Certificate and myself for Chief Dispatcher.

Planned Activities

The November Meet is scheduled for November 21st in Atlanta, Illinois at the Atlanta Public Museum at 114 SW Arch St. This small town in the IVD's geographical area has a storied history with railroads beginning in the 1880's and continuing through today as the Amtrak Lincoln Service Corridor between Chicago and St Louis and is the premier high speed rail line in the Midwest spanning 284 miles. Later on, as automobiles started replacing passenger trains as a preferred mode of transportation, Atlanta was one of the many interesting stops located on the original 1926 alignment of Route 66 which still exists. The American Giants Museum and the Atlanta public Library and clock tower are just two of the many interesting reasons to spend an afternoon.

The IVD is happy to currently be associated with the museum in the early stages of their plans to reconstruct a model of a portion of downtown Atlanta along with (hopefully) operating steam of the era looping back and forth through town on the Chicago, Alton, and St Louis Railroad. If approved by the museum, the project is targeted for construction during the winter of 2027 and open for public display in April of 2028. Stay tuned.

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, Nov. 14, 2026

To: Board of Directors

From: Eric Smith, CID Superintendent

Date: October 25, 2026

Subject: November 2026 Board Meeting Report

The CID has reorganized and simplified our board/director/manager structure to better align with national's priorities. Instead of four officers, nine elected/appointed trainmasters, and eleven activity managers, all of our activities are now covered by five committees and two train show managers.

Communications Committee – includes all marketing and communications activities both within the CID membership and to the public. Our website and newsletter (The Rusty Spike) have been cleaned up to reflect our new structure. In the future, the communications committee will be taking the lead in marketing our events to share the load and to ensure consistent and correct communications.

Member Experience Committee – this committee will focus on our existing membership to generate more engagement and increase member retention. This committee planned our member picnic at the Indiana Live Steamers facility at Johnson County Park. In addition, they hosted an Ops Day to encourage more people to participate in operating sessions at layouts around the division. We got at least six new members who had never participated in an operating session before.

This committee is also working on scheduling monthly member meetings starting in the new year. These member meetings will include a brief update on the CID and the NMRA and include an educational topic. These meetings will be recorded and published on our YouTube channel for members who can't attend. The committee will also be planning at least one more social event in the new year.

Education Committee – this committee is responsible for all our activities focused on sharing knowledge. They hosted a modeler's meet at the beginning of October. They are also restarting our modeling contest. As the monthly member meetings get started, this committee will be responsible for planning the educational topic for each meeting.

Outreach Committee – this committee is responsible for our interactions with the public at train shows and at the library train events that we both host and participate in around the Indianapolis metro area. We had a table at the Fall Fest Train Show at the fairgrounds and will be participating at the Carmel Clay Library in November. We already have additional library shows scheduled for the new year, as well.

Portable/Modular Layout Committee – This committee is responsible for getting portable/modular layouts to our train events. In addition, this committee is taking on a new initiative to build a division-owned modular layout. This will ensure that we have a layout of our own to display whenever the need arises. The committee is currently looking at the available standards and is working up a "starter kit" for members who might want to build a module.

Train Shows

- Danville Train Show
  - November 21, 2026 from 10 am – 3 pm
  - Hendricks County Fairgrounds - Danville, Indiana
- Lebanon Train Show
  - January 24, 2027 from 10 am – 3 pm
  - Boone County Fairgrounds – Lebanon, Indiana

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, Nov. 14, 2026

To: Board of Directors

From: Mike Lehman, Illinois Terminal Division

Date: Oct. 30, 2026

Subject: Illinois Terminal Division Superintendent's Report

Activities since the last board meeting

Illinois Terminal Division continues to meet primarily online. Members have weekly access to the superintendent and other officers through a Zoom meeting with them while the limited official business needed is typically handled at the second meeting of the month. Several members have layouts that will soon achieve operational status, although this is coming along slower than hoped.

Our annual spring train show at Lincoln Square Village in Urbana, Illinois is our biggest event. We've been at least breaking even in recent years. We also assist those whose loss of a loved one results in inheritance of a layout they likely won't use. We had several cases this year and sale of salvaged assets at the show resulted in a slightly better than average result. Athearn showed up with their new switching layout for it's first outing, as well as showing support for the show with more than a thousand dollar's worth of items that were raffled to show registrants. Some items were directly in support of those attending with Freemo modules. They had such a good time they decided to stay for both days this year.

Superintedent Lehman organized a cookout at the C&EI Historical Society's Rossville Depot Museum in June. ITD members, museum staff and invited guests from Parkland College's Engineering Club. After dining on burgers and dogs, the C&EI staff opened their layout to operations by everyone. Such a good time was had by all that making this an annual event is under discussion.

The annual May business meeting was held to satisfy ITD bylaw and non-profit status organizational requirements.

Planned Activities

We're planning to resume regular round-robin ops sessions at the earliest possible dates as members get their layouts operational. The 2027 train show will be the first full weekend in April (3 & 4.) "Save the Date" notices went out in October by mail and, increasingly, electronically as Director Ernie Noa works to modernize the show process. We are also happy to report that ITD will have a newly organized show in the southern part of the division in Robinson, IL about a month prior to Urbana show. The organizer is a NMRA member of the Crawford County modular group that has brought their layout to the Urbana show in recent years. This will bring a NMRA-sponsored event to this long-neglected part of the division while offering an opportunity to recruit new members there and advertise the Urbana show that follows.

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 2026

To: Board of Directors

From: Michael L. Hirvela, Superintendent, Fox Valley Division

Date: November 1, 2026

Subject: Fox Valley Division Activity Report for MWR Board of Directors' meeting November 2026

Activities since Last Board Meeting

The Division concluded our 2025-2026 season with the last member meeting in May, 2026. We had a summer outing scheduled in July at the Milwaukee Light Engineering Society's property outside Jackson, Wis., northwest of Milwaukee. Several members participated and a good time was enjoyed by all attending. We featured photos of the visit during the member meeting in September.

The FVD started our 2026-2027 season in September holding monthly member meetings both in-person and over the Zoom computer system since the last MWR BoD meeting in May 2026. Our first In-person meeting of the season was held at the Mount Prospect (IL) Public Library, with Fall meetings held over the Zoom computer system, and again at the Mount Prospect Public Library. Member participation at the September and October meetings continues to average 12 in-person and another 12 over the net for an overall average of 24. This is an average attendance during 2025-2026 season. While we are encouraged by the monthly attendance, it is below last year.

The Division has continued supporting and co-sponsoring the Railroad Prototype Modelers Conference held at Northern Illinois University in Naperville, IL, on October 16-17, 2026. We get a table in the vendor room at no cost to display NMRA information and membership forms and talk up the organization during the conference. The NMRA supplies the insurance coverage for the RPM which is reimbursed by the RPM organization (Frank Hodina of Resin Carworks), so it is a win-win-win situation.

The Division also has continued to be in contact with the Chaplain of the Children's Hospital at Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, IL, providing maintenance assistance with two N scale display railroads that both have been suffering from a lack of maintenance in the past several years. Last year, Division personnel obtained replacement pushbuttons and cleaned the tracks and provided some maintenance and the railroads were working fine, but a recent report indicates there may have been a power pack failure. Additional on-scene visits will be needed to troubleshoot and repair. Also, some scenery work is desired and some maintenance will be scheduled. Overall, the experience is a win-win for the Children's Hospital, the FVD, MWR and The NMRA.

Planned Activities

The division plans on holding monthly member meetings through May of 2027 wherever space is available, or through the Zoom computer system. We are continuing searching for available and economical meeting space. We also plan future visits to the Children's Hospital N scale layouts.

Regards,

Michael Hirvela
Superintendent, FVD

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, Nov. 14, 2026

To: Board of Directors

From: Superintendent, Rock River Valley Division

Date: 10/29/2026

Subject: Activity report

Activities since the last board meeting

June Junket, day at Illinois Railway Museum
Annual picnic in August
Monthly meets in September & October

Planned Activities

Monthly meets the first Sunday in November, December, January, February, March & April
Annual Holiday dinner after the January meet
Annual Rock River Valley Train Show the weekend of April 3rd & 4th
Joint meet with SCWD with RRVD hosting in May
June Junket the first weekend in June
Annual summer picnic the 3rd Wednesday in August



Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, Nov. 14, 2026

To: Board of Directors

From: Greg Bueltmann

Date: 30 October 2026

Subject: Michiana Division Activity Report

Activities since the last board meeting

May 19, 2026, Bob Blake discussed the process of building his Blackhawk Lines layout. Lincoln Township Public Library Stevensville, MI

June 16, 2026, Ron Christensen discussed controlling switch machines with a diode matrix. Lincoln Township Public Library Stevensville, MI

July 21, 2026, Jeff Sodaro discussed basic DCC Decoders installation and programing. Lincoln Township Public Library Stevensville, MI

August 18, 2026, Chuck Hart discussed LED lights and other attendees showed pictures of their layouts. Lincoln Township Public Library Stevensville, MI

September 22, 2026, Members met to discuss their current projects. Lincoln Township Public Library Stevensville, MI

October 20, 2026, Robert Petit presentation about soldering techniques. Lincoln Township Public Library Stevensville, MI

Weekly Thursday Zoom Calls

5/28/26	Modern Deck and Through Plate Girder Bridges	Lloyd Keyser
6/4/26	Operations on the Rice Lake, Dallas & Menomonie RR	Bob Wundrock
6/11/26	2026 CNWHS Reedsburg WI Meet Highlights	Dave Nelson
6/18/26	History of the CNW railroad in the Baraboo Valley.	Mark Carlson
6/25/26	Railroad Cranes and Wreckers	Doug Harding
7/9/26	Grain Elevator Photos, Bricked Up Buildings, MMR Civil Engineer	Dave Nelson and Mark Carlson
8/6/26	My modeling of CNW's Madison Division for 40 years	Mark Carlson
8/27/26	Trucks, Derecho, Liberty IN depot, Cedar Rapids Layout	Ron Christensen, Greg Bueltmann, Doug Harding
9/10/26	Panel Discussion - Painting with Pan Pastels	Lester Breuer et al
9/24/26	Dave's Depot and Diner	Dave Sotheby
10/1/26	Coaling Towers and Interesting Photos	David Nelson
10/8/26	Favorite Freight Car Projects 2024 Muncie IN	Mont Switzer

10/22/26	Assembling AMB HO Scale Caboose Kits	Doug Harding
10/29/26	RI Depot Construction	Clark Propst
11/12/26	Modeling the Freight Cars of Muncie	Mont Switzer

Planned Activities

Monthly meetings will continue at Lincoln Township Public Library Stevensville, MI

Weekly Thursday Zoom calls will continue

Item _35__

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, Nov. 14, 2026

To: Board of Directors

From: Bob McGeever

Date: 10/31/26

Subject: Past Presidents Report

Activities since the last board meeting

Layout Coordinator for Trainfest November 2026.

Chairman Mad City Model Railroad Show and Sale February 2027

SCWD Paymaster and BOD member.

Planned Activities

Chairman Mad City Model Railroad Show and Sale February 2027

SCWD Paymaster and BOD member.

Four part, hands on, tutorial for SCWD Youth Group on hard shell scenery.

Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, November 2026
BOD Officer Report

To: Board of Directors

From: Jan Burnside

Date: November 1, 2026

Subject: Secretary's / Clerk's Report

Activities Since Last Board Meeting:

Attended CID Meetings

Planned and Ongoing Activities:

Collect and audit the Division Officer Organization Charts

Gather COI statements from all Officers in the MWR

Item 37

To: Board of Directors

From: Phillip H Burnside, MMR

Date: May 22,2026

Subject: Treasurers Report

The following is a recap of the accounts for this fiscal year that started July 1st 2026

We do need to talk about the membership rebate we get from NMRA National about giving this to the divisions that need it.

Midwest Region NMRA				
2026/2027 Balance Sheet				
		7/1/2026	11/2/2026	Net
Accounts	BMO Checking	$13,025.01	$12,847.01	$ (178.00)
	BMO Money Market	$ 5,097.09	$ 5,102.85	$ 5.76
	BMO CD	$16,160.92	$16,214.59	$ 53.67
	Net	$34,283.02	$34,164.45	$ (118.57)

BMO Checking Summary 2026/2027					
Expenses					Income
Office supplies	Donations for Loss Member	Youth Donations	Insurance	Web Expenses	National Membership rebate
$ 10.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 168.00	$ -

Item __38__

Meeting of Board of Directors, MWR, NMRA Nov 14, 2026

To: Board of Directors

From: Dr. Robert Perry, MMR #782, MWR Vice-President

Date: Nov 14, 2026

Subject: Nov 2026 MWR BOD Zoom Meeting

Please note: There is a high likelihood that I will not be available to attend this meeting as I will be in Colorado and out of communication. Given my wife and I recently retired, we have been doing a lot more travelling which has made participation in CID and MWR events and meetings difficult. As such, I will not be running for re-election as VP of the MWR as I cannot dutifully dedicate the time that this position rightfully deserves.

Activities Since Last Board Meeting

- Continued in my roles as Avon Train Display Manager, Mooresville Library Train Display Co-Manager and Co-Manager of Modeler's Meets for the CID.
- Organized and held the non-NMRA event known as Celebrating Avon in which local modelers bring their portable model railroads to display alongside other various hobbies and historical pieces.
- Worked on organizing the Modeler's Meets with Co-Manager John Coy that was held on Oct 3, 2026 and an upcoming one on January 2, 2027.

Planned Activities

- Started making arrangements for a Library train display at the Mooresville Public Library for Jan. 16, 2027.

Item __39__

Meeting of Board of Directors, MWR, NMRA November, 2026

To: Board of Directors

From: John Coy, MMR, President, MWR

Date: November 14, 2026

Subject: My fourth report as President to the Midwest Region Board

Model Railroad Season is upon us.

I attended a RAC session via Zoom which discussed a number of issues with the drop in dues, membership and the new modular AP certificate being among the topics.

MWR Convention Coordinator, Dan Banks, and I have been discussing possibilities for a 2027 MWR Convention. The national convention will be in the Pacific Northwest and therefore, we will not be “stepping on anyone's toes.” We had focused on the Carmel Library, however we discovered an issue in using that facility. We are going to “Plan B,” whatever that may be. Hope springs eternal!

To my dismay and surprise, on the deadline day, I learned that there were ZERO candidates for the three Director at Large positions that are up for election in 2027. I went into “scramble mode” and to the best of my understanding, there are now four candidates.

It is my opinion that it is much better to have the Board's representation spread out all over the Region vs. the vast majority of the Board belonging to one division. All of our needs and experiences are different.

Currently, I'm working with members in the Evansville area to put on a library train display in March of 2027. For those of you who may not be aware, our Region reaches all the way to the Tennessee border, including a huge portion of western Kentucky. There is ZERO NMRA sponsored activity inthat area. Evansville is the 3rd largest city in Indiana. There is huge potential there and ZERO activity.

Fortunately, there are two Members who joined the NMRA in the last year and are both hopeful and motivated to grow NMRA activity there.

NMRA check in the amount of $981.00 **Item __42____**

Region	Division	Code	Description	Qty	Amount
28	01	BM	BASIC MEMBER (BM)	55	$55.00
28	01	FM	FAMILY MEMBER (FM)	4	$0.00
28	01	LM	LIFE MEMBER (LM)	26	$26.00
28	01	PM	PREMIUM MEMBER (PM)	34	$34.00
28	01	RP	RAIL PASS MEMBER (RP)	2	$0.00
				121	$115.00
28	02	BM	BASIC MEMBER (BM)	57	$57.00
28	02	FM	FAMILY MEMBER (FM)	10	$0.00
28	02	LM	LIFE MEMBER (LM)	14	$14.00
28	02	PM	PREMIUM MEMBER (PM)	36	$36.00
28	02	RP	RAIL PASS MEMBER (RP)	2	$0.00
28	02	ST	STUDENT (ST)	1	$0.00
				120	$107.00
28	03	BM	BASIC MEMBER (BM)	39	$39.00
28	03	FM	FAMILY MEMBER (FM)	4	$0.00
28	03	LM	LIFE MEMBER (LM)	20	$20.00
28	03	LMNM	LIFE MEMBER NO MAGAZINE (LMNM)	1	$1.00
28	03	PM	PREMIUM MEMBER (PM)	40	$40.00
28	03	RP	RAIL PASS MEMBER (RP)	2	$0.00
28	03	SM	SUSTAINING MEMBER (SM)	1	$1.00
				107	$101.00
28	05	BM	BASIC MEMBER (BM)	22	$22.00
28	05	FM	FAMILY MEMBER (FM)	7	$0.00
28	05	LM	LIFE MEMBER (LM)	12	$12.00
28	05	PM	PREMIUM MEMBER (PM)	33	$33.00
28	05	RP	RAIL PASS MEMBER (RP)	7	$0.00
				81	$67.00
28	06	BM	BASIC MEMBER (BM)	76	$76.00
28	06	FM	FAMILY MEMBER (FM)	10	$0.00
28	06	LM	LIFE MEMBER (LM)	25	$25.00
28	06	PM	PREMIUM MEMBER (PM)	76	$76.00
28	06	RP	RAIL PASS MEMBER (RP)	4	$0.00
28	06	SM	SUSTAINING MEMBER (SM)	2	$2.00
				193	$179.00
28	07	BM	BASIC MEMBER (BM)	7	$7.00
28	07	FM	FAMILY MEMBER (FM)	1	$0.00
28	07	LM	LIFE MEMBER (LM)	2	$2.00
28	07	PM	PREMIUM MEMBER (PM)	11	$11.00
				21	$20.00

28	09	BM	BASIC MEMBER (BM)	42	$42.00
28	09	FM	FAMILY MEMBER (FM)	6	$0.00
28	09	LM	LIFE MEMBER (LM)	22	$22.00
28	09	LMNM	LIFE MEMBER NO MAGAZINE (LMNM)	1	$1.00
28	09	PM	PREMIUM MEMBER (PM)	61	$61.00
28	09	RP	RAIL PASS MEMBER (RP)	2	$0.00
28	09	SM	SUSTAINING MEMBER (SM)	3	$3.00
				137	$129.00
28	10	BM	BASIC MEMBER (BM)	25	$25.00
28	10	FM	FAMILY MEMBER (FM)	3	$0.00
28	10	LM	LIFE MEMBER (LM)	16	$16.00
28	10	LMNM	LIFE MEMBER NO MAGAZINE (LMNM)	1	$1.00
28	10	PM	PREMIUM MEMBER (PM)	19	$19.00
28	10	RP	RAIL PASS MEMBER (RP)	1	$0.00
				65	$61.00
28	11	BM	BASIC MEMBER (BM)	50	$50.00
28	11	FM	FAMILY MEMBER (FM)	6	$0.00
28	11	HLM	HONORARY LIFE MEMBER (HLM)	1	$1.00
28	11	LM	LIFE MEMBER (LM)	37	$37.00
28	11	PM	PREMIUM MEMBER (PM)	57	$57.00
28	11	RP	RAIL PASS MEMBER (RP)	1	$0.00
28	11	SM	SUSTAINING MEMBER (SM)	2	$2.00
				154	$147.00
28	15	BM	BASIC MEMBER (BM)	18	$18.00
28	15	FM	FAMILY MEMBER (FM)	1	$0.00
28	15	LM	LIFE MEMBER (LM)	16	$16.00
28	15	PM	PREMIUM MEMBER (PM)	21	$21.00
28	15	RP	RAIL PASS MEMBER (RP)	1	$0.00
				57	$55.00
Total				1056	$981.00
			APPROVED REBATE AMOUNTS		
			Affiliate Member - $1.00		
			Family Member - $0.00		
			Honorary Life Member - $1.00		
			Life Fund Member (Non-Actuarial) - $1.00		
			Life Member (Actuarial)) - $1.00		
			Regular Member - $1.00		
			Rail Pass Member - $0.00		
			Sustaining Member - $1.00		
			Student Member - $0.00		