

SUPER'S SIGNAL

A publication of Division 6, Mid-Central Region of The National Model Railroad Association, Inc.

August 2018



Superintendent's Report

Greg Short, Division 6 Super

August Super's Report

Hey all,

So once again it is time for me to update everyone on the things going on in the division. Well I am happy to say we have had a pretty good time since I last gave a report. First, several of our division members attended the MCR Convention in Cincinnati (West Chester). I have got to say it was not a bad time. The convention was very well put together and the facility was very nice. Unlike years past, our division attendance was down in numbers. A lot of it was due to conflicts with schedules and vacations, but that is going to happen.

I attended several of the clinics and found them to be informative and a couple quite entertaining. I wish that I had my notes in front of me to pass on but I left them somewhere and can't find them.

One highlight for me was a very informative discussion Matt Goodman and I had with the presenter/vendor there on LCC. We spoke with him for quite some time and got to play with their product. I will speak more on this at a later time.

An other highlight was a Q&A with several of the NMRA Officers both during their clinic, and in the Board of Directors Meeting.

NMRA President Charlie Getz and incoming President Pete Magoun both shared insights into issues

4 August (Saturday)

Division 6 Bus Trip Mad River and Nickel Plate Museum

7:00: Bus departs Great Southern Shopping Center, 3711 South High Street, Columbus

About 7:45: Bus departs NorthPoint Plaza (Walmart Super Center), 8659 Columbus Pike (Rt. 23), Lewis Center

18:30: Bus returns to NorthPoint Plaza

19:00: Bus returns to Great Southern Shopping Center

Division 6 Member Cost: \$40 (bus and admission) lunch on your own (restaurants are two block north of museum)

Non-Division 6 Member Cost: \$60 (bus, admission, and Rail-Pass) lunch on your own

Note: Bus Limit: 40 people. Call Greg to reserve a spot on the bus

Model Contest: Division sponsored structure

Photography Contest: Railroad derelict

*Super's Signal Deadline
9 August*

concerning our association. It was nice to hear from the leadership what they thought and where we can go with the hobby. I know that we often read what they have to say in the magazine. But as everyone knows it is always better to hear it direct and be able to hear the feedback. I hope they will repeat the Q&A at a future convention. I do realize that it is very difficult for it to happen every year.

The Super's Report
Continued on page 3.

Clerk's Report

Patrick Hreachmack, Clerk

Minutes for the Division 6, Mid Central Region, NMRA, Inc. Business Meeting for June 16, 2018 Marion Union Station

The Division 6 Business Meeting was called to order by Division 6 Superintendent, Greg Short.

Division 6 Officers in Attendance:

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Superintendent | Greg Short |
| Assistant Superintendent | Judy Logan |
| Clerk | Patrick Hreachmack |
| Paymaster | Dexter Hill |
| Director | Don Wilke |

Division 6 Chairpersons Present:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Company Store | John Retterer |
| Contest | Jim Ruisinger |
| Media | Matt Goodman |
| Membership | Matt Goodman |
| Program | Greg Short |
| Raffle | Greg Short |
| <i>Super's Signal</i> Publisher | Don Wilke |
| Web Master | Don Wilke |
| Yahoo Group | Jim Ruisinger |

Clerk's Report: Pat Hreachmack. The Clerk's Report, as it appeared in the current *Super's Signal*, was approved.

Paymaster's Report: Dexter Hill. The Financial Report was approved pending audit.

Program Report: Greg Short.

- Aug 4 Bus trip to Mad River and NKP Museum, Bellevue. Note: extra fare: \$40
- Sept 8 Mark Maynard's in Portsmouth
- Oct 14 Chillicothe
- Nov 4 Swap Meet and Meeting, Location TBD
- Dec 9 Upper Arlington: Annual media presentation

Web Master Report: Don Wilke. New information will be posted on the web within the week and include a list of contest winners.

Super's Signal Report: Don Wilke. Anyone wanting to include anything in the next *Signal* must have your input to Don by June 21.

Media Report: Matt Goodman. Reminders will be emailed to anyone who has missed several division meetings in hope of reminding them to return to Division 6 Meetings.

Membership Report: Matt Goodman. Membership is up by one from last month. Please review the Retention Recruitment committee report in the last *Signal*. As a result of that survey, Matt reported that we are growing our clinic program and already have 37 distinct ideas. For our new Ambassador program, we need to great and talk with each visitor or new member, so as to make them feel welcome. Watch for continued committee reports in each *Signal*.

The Clerk's Report
Continued on page 3.

DIVISION 6 OFFICERS

Division 6 Superintendent

Greg Short:

10515 Brownsville Rd

Brownsville, Ohio 43721

Super@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

Div. 6 Assistant Superintendent

Judy Logan:

AssistSuper@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

Division 6 Clerk

Patrick Hreachmack:

DepClerk@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

Division 6 Pay Master

Dexter Hill:

Paymaster@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

Directors

Dick Briggs, MMR,

Donald Wilke,

Mike Wolf:

Director@div6-mcr-nmra.org

APPOINTED CHAIRS

Achieve. Program: Dick Briggs, MMR

Contest: Jim Ruisinger

Media: Matt Goodman

Members Aid: Available

Membership: Matt Goodman

Program: Darrell Logan

Raffle: Harry "Butch" Sage

Web Master: Don Wilke

Super's Signal Publisher

Donald Wilke:

SuperSignalPub@div6-mcr-nmra.org

DIVISION 6 WEB SITE:

www.div6-mcr-nmra.org

Mid-Central Region President

Bob Weinheimer

president@midcentral-region-nmra.org

NMRA Central District Director

Robert Beaty, MMR

Non-Credited Photos by Donald Wilke

Company Store: John Retterer. John reported that we have a total of 25 remaining HO building kits, and 48 HO gondola kits left in stock.

Yahoo Group: Jim Ruisinger. Jim asked that more members need to sign up for the Yahoo Group.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mad River and Nickel Plate Museum Bus Trip: Greg Short. For the upcoming August 4th bus trip to Mad River, the cost for the bur is \$40 for members. Non-NMRA folk will be charged an additional \$20 for a Rail Pass plus the \$40 for the bus ticket. Pick up points will be one on the south side and one on the north side. Watch the *Signal* for pick up locations still to be determined. Let Greg know at

Super@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org immediately if you are interested. There is a limit of 40 people on the bus.

NEW BUSINESS:

Program: Greg Short. Darrell Logan is taking over the Program development and reports.

Raffle: Greg Short. Harry "Butch" Sage is taking over the Raffle.

Division Meeting Format: Greg Short. Expect a change of the division meeting format as Greg intends to streamline the business meetings to allow more time for clinics.

Marion Lunch: Greg Short. Special Thanks and Well Done to Darrell and Judy Logan and their committee for the wonderful lunch!

CLUB REPORTS:

The Columbus Model Railroad Club: The Columbus Club building is being demolished in July. They hope to capture the event on film. Meanwhile, remaining limited CMRC rolling stock and buildings, plus some other equipment will be auctioned at Rob Gibbons' barn location at the same day and time as Joe Slancer's items are auctioned.

COMRC: COMRC is having a trip to the Age of Steam Roundhouse. Contact the club if interested.

Janis Center: The Janis Center is repairing the club layout and improving scenery and wiring in preparation for the 2018 Ohio State Fair.

Zanesville: The Zanesville Club will be running this coming weekend.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Master Modeler #610: Mid Central Region President Bob Weinheimer presented Howdy Lamprecht with his NMRA Master Modeler #610 Certificate. Well done Howdy!

February Certificates: Bill Alarie received his certificate for 3rd place photo in the February meeting.

April Certificates: For the last meeting, the following certificates were awarded. Peggy Doerflein for 3rd place photo, Bruce McDonald for 2nd place photo, and Rich Hartley for 1st place photo. For models, Peggy Doerflein earned 3rd place, Jim Russinger earned 2nd place, and Howdy Lamprecht won 1st place.

CONTEST:

Subject for today's models and photos was Favorite Trains. The following earned certificates which will be presented at the next meeting.

Models: Favorite Train

1st Place: Howdy Lambrecht – Logging Train

2nd Place: Patrick Hreachmack – SVL Weed Service Train

3rd Place: Judy Logan – Challenger Military Train

Photos: Favorite Train

1st Place: Don Wilke – GB&L on Georgetown Trestle

2nd Place: Howdy Lambrecht – Logging Train

3rd Place: Don Wilke – BB&L at Georgetown Loop

The next contest will be division Sponsored Buildings for the Model and Railroad Derelicts for the Photo contests.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Next Division Meeting: he next meeting will be the Mad River bus trip on August 4th, followed by the September 8th meeting of the Portsmouth Region at Mark Maynard's Layout.

Adjournment:





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For those who could not attend we had our annual Marion Business Meeting this past weekend, it was another winner. We did get a bit of a late start due to not being able to get out of the Firehouse and on the road as early as I wanted, but hey I tried. Once everything got going it turned out to be a great day. We had three great presentations and I wish to thank those who put them on. Darrell and Judy got the food together for lunch and from what I gathered it was a hit. The weather was good and we had plenty of sunshine for prototype photo ops. CSX and NS provided quite a bit of action during the day.

The meeting itself had a couple of things I need to bring up. One is our bus trip. Unless you have been under a rock or abducted by aliens, you have heard we are once again doing a bus trip. I will not get into all the details here as it will be in *Signal* and on all the social outlets we use.

The second is, I announced that the meeting program content is going to change. I am going to look at shorting up the business portion of the meeting. This will allow more time for clinics and other presentations. This is due to concerns by some members thru the survey feedback. It indicated the meetings are getting too long. So hopefully we can fix this.

We had a couple of presentations at the meeting that I want to pass on. Mid Central Region President Bob Weinheimer, MMR, was present to pass on a couple of items to Howdy Lamprecht. Howdy is the NMRA's newest MMR in Division 6. Howdy has worked hard for this and has now

seen the rewards of his work. Congratulations to Howdy.

The next is an award that I, as the Super, select from our membership. I started this when I became the Super and it is in honor of Howard Smith. Throughout the year I keep a watch, as I should, on the membership and see the effort put forth by our members. I then select the one who has had the biggest impact thru their efforts. This in the past has been quite a job to pick just one of you for the award. Some members probably question my selections, but this year it was easy. This year's Howard Smith Award goes to Butch Sage. A lot of us should look at Butch and follow his lead. For those who have not been at the meetings or not keeping tabs, Butch stepped in, took over, and ran the contests while Jimmy Ruisinger recovered from his nasty accident last fall. When he did took over, it was seamless. It could have been very easy for this program to be put on hold while Jimmy was down. But Butch did not let that happen. Butch also was the contact for Jim and kept us informed on his progress during the process of getting healed up from the injuries. Congratulations Butch on the award but more importantly thanks for your efforts.

Well I am sure that there are other things that I am forgetting. More than likely I will remember them after I send my report off for the *Signal* but hey there is always next time. So everyone have a great summer and a Happy Independence Day

Hope to see you on the Bus Trip.

HAPPY MODELING - GREG



Mid Central Region Officer Elections

Bob Shreve

Bob Belt

Jim DiPaola

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The following Mid Central Region Board of Directors positions are open for election in 2019:

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

The current *Vice President* is term limited and is ineligible to be a candidate for that position in the 2019 election. The current *President*, *Secretary*, and *Treasurer* are eligible to be candidates for their current positions in the 2019 election. Any MCR member in good standing who wishes to be considered for candidacy for one of these positions should send a notice of their interest to:

nominations@midcentral-region-nmra.org

Clinic Teasers

Darrell Logan, Clinic Chair

Oct 14, 2018 – Prototype Signals – What they mean

Rich Harley will explain to the division members the different signals used on the railroad. What does that signal mean and what action is the engineer required to take? Does it mean go ahead, stop and wait, or continue past but be prepared to stop. A signal card will be provided to each member present to take and study and see if they can adapt the prototype meanings to their layouts.

Nov 4, 2018 – Backdrop – to Finished Scenery (Part 1)

Rich Hartley and Darrell Logan will demonstrate the first part of painting and installing a backdrop on your layout. It will be based on the concept that you have already have painted “sky” color backdrop. We will demonstrate how to paint clouds on to your backdrop. After the clouds are painted we will then start to paint a backdrop using a very easy technique that you will be able to complete on your own layout.

A session will be allocated to allow everyone present a chance to paint clouds using the techniques we will demo. After the cloud session we will have pre-painted sections with clouds to allow you the modeler to try the technique we use for painting backdrops.

Jan 2019 – Backdrop – to Finished Scenery (Part 2)

Starting at the first of the year meeting, we will continue with this backdrop clinic and start to add additional details to help you see just how easy it is to create a backdrop. You might have some ideas of your own that you might wish to share. Just because this is how we do it doesn't mean it is the only way. This is what we have found that works best for us and it is easy for you to duplicate. Who knows we may have a Van Gogh in our midst.

2019 – Air Brakes – How they Work

Later in 2019, Rich Hartley will present a clinic of how air brakes work on the prototype so you will be able to understand just what it takes to stop/start a train. He will also explain what you don't want to stop a train unless you have no other option. Just because you have anti-lock brakes, trains do not. Too fast you have an issue, to slow you have an issue also.

JOE SLANSER (1932-2018)
RIP

Joseph A. Slanser, age 85, passed away about 1 am on the morning of 3 July. He entered this life on September 25, 1932 in Marion and was the sole child of Joseph and Hazel Slanser.

Joe worked briefly for the Erie Railroad before joining the Army where he served in Korea just after the Korean War. Upon returning to Marion he started his career at GTE an engineer. After 36 years with GTE, now Verizon, he retired.

He was a long-time NMRA, MCR and Division 6 member, having joined in 1950. Joe was a Master Model Railroader and belonged to several area model railroad clubs during his life.

His fascination with trains, especially model trains, was very evident to anyone who knew him. He helped to form the Marion Model Railroad Club, was a member of the Marion Union Station Association, The Columbus Model Railroad Club, and The National Model Railroad Association. He was also a major benefactor of The Marion Union Station Association. His abilities were such that the Columbus Model Railroad Club allowed him to join as a teenager - and was still a member 58 years later.

Joe was a lifelong bachelor and had no children, but his life was full of friends and many interests. His memory will be cherished by anyone who was fortunate to have known him.

Division 6 and the hobby have lost a great friend and modeler.

Memorial

There is a memorial service planned at Marion Union Station on Thursday, August 2 at 7 pm. There are no calling hours or other events planned.



Auction

Joe was a life-long collector of models, and many of those models will be up for auction on August 25th. We're told that he had a huge collection of brass locomotives - including some from the forties and fifties.

More information, including photos, can be found at the following link. They are adding new photos as they go through the collection, so check back occasionally.

Gibbs Auctions: <http://www.gibbsauctionservice.net/index.html>



Division 6 – 2018 Time Table

| Date | Event | Location | Contest |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|
| 14 Jan | Division 6 Meeting | Business Meeting: Columbus Library–South East, Groveport Clinic: <i>TBD</i> | Model: Open Freight Car WITH Load Photo: Open Freight Car WITH Load |
| 18 Jan | <i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline | | |
| 11 Feb | Division 6 Meeting | Business Meeting: Hill Top, Columbus Library, Columbus Clinic: <i>TBD</i> , Bill Connell | Model: Non-Revenue Car Photo: Non-Revenue Car |
| 15 Feb | <i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline | | |
| 18 Feb Sunday | Boy Scout Merit Badge Clinic | Boy Scout Headquarters, Columbus | |
| 11 Mar | Division 6 Meeting | Business Meeting: Columbus Library–South East, Groveport Clinic: <i>San Diego Model Railroad Museum</i> | Model: Non-Steam Locs Photo: Diesel & Electric Locs |
| 15 Mar | <i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline | | |
| 8 Apr | Division 6 Meeting | Business Meeting: Smoke Stack Hobby Shop, Lancaster Clinic: <i>TBD</i> | Model: Lineside RR structure Photo: Lineside RR structure |
| 2 May | <i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline | | |
| 17–20 May | MCR Convention | West Chester, Ohio | Model: Modeler's Choice Photo: Modeler's Choice |
| 9 June Saturday | Division 6 Meeting | Business Meeting: Marion Union Station, Marion | Model: Favorite Train Photo: Favorite Train |
| 13 June | <i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline | | |
| 4 Aug Saturday | Division 6 Trip | Mad River and NKP Museum, Bellevue (Extra Fare) | Model: Division sponsored structure Photo: Railroad derelict |
| 9 Aug | <i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline | | |
| 8 Sept | Division 6 Meeting | Joint Business Meeting 6 & 9: Mark Maynard, Portsmouth | Model: Steam Locomotive Photo: Steam Locomotive |
| 13 Sept | <i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline | | |
| 14 Oct | Division 6 Meeting | Business Meeting: Chillicothe Clinic: <i>Prototype Signals – What they mean</i> , Rich Harley | Model: Cabooses (Cabin Car) Photo: Cabooses (Cabin Car) |
| 18 Oct | <i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline | | |
| 4 Nov | Division 6 Meeting | Business Meeting: <i>TBD</i> Clinic: <i>Backdrop – to Finished Scenery (Part 1)</i> , Rich Hartley & Darrell Logan | Model: Closed Freight Car Photo: Closed Freight Car |
| 15 Nov | <i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline | | |
| 9 Dec | Division 6 Meeting | Business Meeting: Upper Arlington Library, Upper Arlington Annual media presentation | Model: Passenger Car Photo: Passenger Car |
| 13 Dec | <i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline | | |

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Contest Report

Jim Ruisinger, Contest Chair



Olive Grove Lumber Co., Log Train
Howdy Lamprecht

From the Contest Department: Marion Meeting Contest Recap

Model subject is: Division 6 sponsored structures.

Photo subject is: Railroad Derelicts aka stuff for the rip track.

We had a modest turnout of models and photos for our June 16th Division Meeting contest in Marion. Our subject matter was Favorite Train.

Winners in the Model Contest were:

- 1st Place:** Howdy Lamprecht – Olive Grove Lumber Co., Log Train
- 2nd Place:** Patrick Hreachmack – SVL Weed Spraying Train
- 3rd Place:** Judy Logan – 4-6-6-4 Challenger with Military Coaches

Winners in the Photo Contest were:

- 1st Place:** Don Wilke – G.B. & L. #40 on Trestle
- 2nd Place:** Bruce McDonald – Concrete Coaling Tower near Marion
- 3rd Place:** Don Wilke – G.B. & L. #40 on lower level, Georgetown Loop

Congratulations to all the winners. We will have Certificates for you at the next meeting, which will be the August 4th bus trip up to the Nickel Plate & Mad River Museum in Bellevue, Ohio.



G.B. & L. #40 on the Georgetown Loop Upper Trestle
Don Wilke

Contest Point Summary June 2018

Modeler

Jim Ruisinger, Contest Chair

Photographer

| | | | |
|-----------------|----|---------------|---|
| Howdy Lamprecht | 13 | Jim Ruisinger | 3 |
| Pat Hreachmack | 6 | Jim Borcz | 2 |
| Lon Wilson | 5 | Bill Alarie | 1 |
| Peggy Doerflein | 4 | Jim Kehn | 1 |
| Greg Short | 4 | Rich Hartley | 1 |
| Darrell Logan | 3 | Bob Lee | 1 |
| Judy Logan | 3 | | |

| | | | |
|-----------------|----|----------------|---|
| Don Wilke | 12 | Bruce McDonald | 3 |
| Matt Goodman | 7 | Lon Wilson | 3 |
| Peggy Doerflein | 6 | Bill Alarie | 2 |
| Howdy Lamprecht | 5 | Scott Brown | 1 |
| Rich Hartley | 4 | Greg Short | 1 |

Special Note: Please relay our desire that photos be on good quality photo paper stock and not just any old paper. Photo paper can be glossy or matte finish.

Newest NMRA Master Modeler #610

Howdy Lamprecht recently completed and turned in his AP paperwork. He was awarded five Merit Awards at the April Division 6 meeting:

- ❖ Merit Award for Structure: Olive Grove Lumber Company Mill #1
- ❖ Merit Award for Structure: Olive Grove Lumber Company Log Unloader
- ❖ Merit Award for Civil Engineer: Turnouts, Cross Overs, & Crossing
- ❖ Merit Award for Structures: Sun Rise Wood Trestle
- ❖ Merit Award for Structures: Hotel Beverly

He also was awarded four Certificates of Achievements at the April Division 6 meeting:

- ❖ Model Railroad Engineer – Civil
- ❖ Master Builder – Structures

- ❖ Master Builder – Cars
- ❖ Master Railroad Engineer – Electrical

Mid Central region President Bob Weinheimer presented Howdy with his Master Model Railroader Certificate and Plaque along with a number of pins and things at the division's Marion meeting.

Congratulations to Howdy for his hard work and participation in the AP program.

Howdy also had a First Place in the Model Contest and a Second Place in the Photo Contest at Marion.

Remember, it's never to late to turn in your paperwork – or to early.



Mid Central Region President Bob Weinheimer, MMR, presents Howdy Lamprecht with a his Master Model Railroader #610 Plaque.

Membership Report May 2018

Matt Goodman, Membership Chair
Summary/Comments

I attended the MCR Convention in Dayton in May and had the opportunity to talk to Gerry Leone (VP Special Projects – which he says actually means projects no one else wants to mess with) and Marketing Director Christina Ganzer-Zambri about a topic that I've written about for a couple months in a row now – data changes in the membership files that National sends to the divisions each month.

I learned that the reason for the changes were the result of a modernizing of the way membership is stored – a good thing. Testing oversights were the reason that I noticed these back end changes – after all the best upgrades are the ones that the end user doesn't notice. They also noted that my concerns about not being

notified of the changes were heard – but that there would be no more changes.

About two weeks later, I received a notification from National that due to ongoing issues, they were going back to the old data store for the near term. That's unfortunate, but I was really pleased that National gave us the heads up this time. That, and the fact that I had kept a copy of the old data format, made working with the data a non-issue.

On to regularly scheduled programming, we gained one member this past month. This was not a new member, but someone who had fallen off the rolls temporarily during the renewal process. All the details are below.

And as always, check your dates!

Active Members (end of the month):

| | | | |
|-------|-----|-----------|-----|
| May | 161 | May '17 | 165 |
| April | 160 | April '17 | 163 |
| March | 164 | March '17 | 169 |

Upcoming Expirations – **Check your dates!**

Note: If you have questions about when your membership expires, check your magazine address label or contact Membership Chair Matt Goodman.

| | |
|------|----------------------------|
| May | 4 memberships are expiring |
| June | 3 memberships are expiring |
| July | 3 memberships are expiring |

New Members

| |
|--------------------------------|
| No new members joined in April |
|--------------------------------|

Renewals and Re-Rails (returning lapsed members)

| |
|---------------------------------|
| We had eleven renewals in April |
|---------------------------------|

Other Stuff

- Have you changed your address or other membership information?
- Are you not getting emails from the division?
- Not sure when your membership expires (or if it already has)?
Notify headquarters by email: nmrahq@aol.com

You can contact either the Buckeye Division membership chair, or the National Headquarters to give updates or get your questions answered:

National

Email: nmrahq@aol.com

Phone: 423-892-2846 (9am – 4:30pm)

Mail: NMRA, Inc.
P.O. Box 1328
Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328

Buckeye Division Membership Chair

Email: MembershipChair@div6-mcr-nmra.org

Phone: 614-313-3681 (please leave a message)

Mail: Matt Goodman
130 S. Algonquin Ave.
Columbus, OH 43204

Division 6 on YouTube:

www.youtube.com/user/nmrabuckeyedivision

Division 6 in Facebook:

NMRA Buckeye Division [in search field]

Member Recruitment and Retention Committee Update

By Matt Goodman

We have two topics this month - the first one regards the committee name. In the April edition of the *Super's Signal* (https://archive.div6-mcr-nmra.org/Super-SigFold/I8D_Signal.pdf), Mike Wolf introduced our new committee - but noted that it had not been named yet. Well, now it has - we are the **Member Recruitment and Retention Committee**. Conveniently, it abbreviates to "MRR Committee" - just in case we get tired of typing the whole name.

The second topic is longer - an overview of the guiding ideas behind the committee. At our first official meeting, we tossed around some ideas to help define what our purpose was, so that we could stay focused on relevant items. That led to the development of the committee's scope of work and its supporting goals. Following are those items, with some contextual details.

Scope

We decided on the following two points for the committee's scope of work. If an idea does not naturally fit under one of these two headings, it's not a good fit for the committee (even if it's a good idea).

1. **New member acquisition** - Includes any idea that seeks out new members, through any channel.

The "channel" could mean one-on-one recruitment, having a presence at a public show, a social media campaign or similar.

2. **Member retention** - Includes any member-related efforts that take place *after* someone has signed up.

Any idea that gives a member a good reason to *remain* a member would fit in this category. As it turned out, this is a VERY broad category.

Once we decided the scope of our committee, we laid down some ground rules - goals - to further help keep us on track.

- Goal 1** - Identify outreach opportunities and program changes/additions that attract and retain new members.

This one seems pretty obvious - many of the ideas that come out of the MRR Committee will fall under this goal.

This goal covers the more visible ideas (more clinics, train shows presence, etc.)

- Goal 2** - Institutionalize new member development. This is a permanent effort that should become part of the culture that every member understands and actively practices.

The idea behind this goal is that members will be more engaged in the division if they are actively involved in some form. Involvement runs the gamut from being welcoming to new members to giving a clinic to supporting someone who is nervously presenting their first clinic! The "institutionalize" part of this goal means that being involved and supportive becomes the norm - part of our culture. If it becomes part of our culture it will, in turn, rub off on new members - a virtuous cycle.

- Goal 3** - All efforts should be sustainable by a volunteer organization, without relying on blitzes or putting all the effort on individual members.

This goal is about making sure that the ideas that come out of this committee can be implemented - and more importantly - continued without burning anyone out. If it takes more than an hour or two per week, it increases the chances that the effort won't be successful over time. From a more practical standpoint, less effort will hopefully encourage more people to volunteer. After all, no one wants to volunteer for a full-time job!

If you have any questions about this, contact MRR Committee members: Bruce McDonald, Darrell Logan, Mike Wolf, or Matt Goodman.

On a final note, we have a good mix of experience in the committee - ranging from a couple of years to a lifetime. When our Superintendent announced the committee formation in the March *Super's Signal*, he stated "Attracting new members to model railroading is and has been an issue for a number of years. So I am asking the newer members to come forward and give a hand. You are the people we are looking for." If you meet that criteria, give us a holler!



May 17-20 Cincinnati Express Convention

Rick Crumrine, Cincinnati Express Chair

NMRA Mid Central Region Members -

This updates and shares important new information about the May 17-20 **Cincinnati Express** Convention –

· We're pleased to report we've recently morphed the Matandy Steel & Hamilton Railfanning Tour into our renamed "**Steel Tour**". We've done this by adding a guided tour of **Precision Strip**, a fascinating steel rolls processing plant. This large operation features 3 custom slitting lines, 4 huge bays of lights-out picking/placing cranes, with inside truck and rail unloading/loading, including their own vintage GE diesel switcher, plus NS and CSX service. In addition, we're including an incredible photo stop location overlooking a **modern coke plant**. This is all in addition to the **Matandy Steel** plant tour. See the updated tour description in our Registration Booklet at <http://www.cincy-div7.org/convention.html>.

· There are still lodging rooms available at the beautiful **Cincinnati Marriott North Hotel**, but you need to hurry as our room block and discounted prices are only guaranteed for reservations made **before Thursday, May 3rd**. Recall, you should make reservations using the convenient [special link](#) or by calling **(877) 739-9460**. Also recall these discounted room prices are good for 3 days before and after the May 17-20 convention dates, should you wish to extend your stay.

· The first version of the **Rail Clinics Abstracts** and the second version of the **Rail Clinics Schedule** are now posted on our website.

Other Cincinnati Express updates –

· While both convention and hotel registrations are brisk, with people attending from 15 states, there's still room for more of you to join us. See our **Expanded Registration Form** at <http://www.cincy-div7.org/convention.html>.

· We're having a huge **White Elephant Sale** at this convention. Please see our webpage, and bring items you wish to have our team sell to other attendees. This is a great way to pay for part or all of your trip!

We're looking forward to seeing you soon at this action packed fun convention,

Rick Crumrine

Cincinnati Express Chair

John Burchnall

Cincinnati Express Vice Chair

Roy Hord

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