



Mid-continent Region

NMRA

President's Handcar

February 2006

<http://www.mcor-nmra.org>

As of 1 January 2006, all NMRA members living within the boundaries of the Mid-Continent Region are members of MCoR and your division or area. I would like to welcome all of the new members, MCoR now has 1072 members. MCoR is made up of the States of Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas, about 1/3 of Illinois and the lower half of Iowa. MCoR is divided in to 24 divisions/areas. This handcar goes to all 1072 members as part of your NMRA membership benefits. MCoR produces a quarterly publication called the Caboose Kibitzer which includes modeling and prototype articles, rail fan trips, and anything else related to modeling. For a subscription fee of \$6.00 a year, either sent to the membership chairman, or paid to NMRA HQ at the time of renewal, you may select a hardcopy mailed to you, or you may also elect to go on-line and download the CK from our web site. If you choose the latter, you must go to <http://www.mcor-nmra.org> and log on with your four digit MCoR number and have your E-mail address in our database in order to get to the on-line CK. The web site will check for your MCoR number, your E-mail address and make sure you are a current NMRA member before you will be allowed access to the CK. Currently, over half of our members have provided an E-mail address to MCoR.

I would encourage everyone to check out the MCoR web site at <http://www.mcor-nmra.org>. You can find the MCoR Call Board, which lists all MCoR Board of Directors (BOD) members, committee chairs, department chairs, and officers. You can find information about your division, and even go to their homepage from the MCoR web site. All MCoR conventions are also posted on the MCoR home page. There is also an "Ask The Experts" feature, where you can ask your modeling questions to all MCoR MMR's. Gary's Switching List gives all known train shows, meets, and conventions in

MCoR. It is only listed on the web site due to its date sensitivity. CHECK IT OUT!

I would like to welcome our newest division, the Eastern Iowa Division, which was chartered at the last BOD meeting. EID is gearing up to be a very active division, and they are considering sponsoring the 2008 MCoR Convention. If you live in that area, please give them your support as they start to revitalize the division.

The 2006 MCoR Convention will be held in Council Bluffs, IA from June 1 to 4, 2006. All MCoR conventions are two full days of activities.. There will be over six prototype tours, more than a dozen layouts on tour, and also more than twelve clinics to attend. There will be a silent auction, as well as NMRA model and photo contests with all awards given out at the awards banquet on Saturday evening. MCoR has contracted with Intermountain Railway Co. to produce four different numbered Rock Island boxcars which have never been produced before. The cars are reported to be 100% accurate by some of our most knowledgeable RI modelers. Be sure and get yours either by mail order or pick them up at the convention. These cars will be offered to MCoR members on a first come first served basis at a reduced price; the more cars you buy, the lower the price. Check out the convention and special cars on the web site above and in the latest CK. You may also contact Charles Fennen; his contact information is on the Call Board.

As of our last MCoR board of directors meeting, no one has stepped up to host the 2007 MCoR convention. Any division or combination of divisions/areas may sponsor a MCoR convention. Actually, any railroad club in any of the division/areas can step forward and propose to host a convention; however, the convention must be

officially sponsored by the MCoR. Help is available from Gary Hemmingway, the MCoR Convention Chairman. Our Regulations require that MCoR holds an annual convention with both the annual business meeting and a semiannual BOD meeting. Please consider stepping forward and help us with the 2007 convention.

Because of the change to automatic membership in MCoR with payment of NMRA dues, MCoR's dues have now been converted to a subscription fee for the Caboose Kibitzer. This fee has not been increased in well over ten years. In order to determine if the current subscription fee is appropriate, I have appointed a committee to look into MCoR's overall financial situation and make recommendations regarding the subscription fee to the BOD at the June meeting.

Presently under the new NMRA Regulations, the MCoR is divided between the NMRA's Central and Western Districts. Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Arkansas members vote for the Western District Director on the NMRA BOD, while Iowa and Illinois members vote for the Central District Director. The MCoR BOD is looking into petitioning the NMRA BOD to consolidate all of MCoR under one district.

MCoR BOD has received a request to investigate having certain areas in Northern Iowa transferred from the Thousand Lakes region to MCoR. According to NMRA Regulations, two thirds of all NMRA members in each three digit zip code affected must sign a petition to be submitted to both TLR and MCoR for approval before the effected areas can become part of MCoR. If TLR rejects the petition, then the petition will be presented to the NMRA BOD for approval. The NMRA Regulations are available to download from the NMRA web site at <http://www.nmra.org>. The MCoR Regulations are available from me; just ask if you would like a copy.

Over two years ago, MCoR, Turkey Creek Division, and Gateway Division, created a fund called the Heart of America fund by each contributing \$15,000 each to the NMRA, for a total of \$45,000. The NMRA had asked for the funds to use as seed money for special projects so as not to affect the cash flow of the NMRA itself. The money was provided with the understanding that initial

proceeds from funded projects would be used to replenish the fund up to its original amount and that any profits beyond the \$45,000 could be used at the discretion of the NMRA. Once the NMRA no longer needed this fund, it would be returned to the donating parties. The NMRA Treasurer is obligated to report the fund activity to the MCoR BOD within one month after each NMRA BOD meeting. The last report indicated the intention of using \$17,000 to fund the 2006 NMRA calendar.

Although there are a few inactive divisions in Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa, these four states make up the most active part of MCoR. Of concern are the divisions and areas in the states of Arkansas and Oklahoma. Although these two states have directors assigned for some of the divisions or areas, there has been minimal NMRA-related activity across these states. We have had no MCoR convention in either state in over ten years. I simply can not believe there are no active NMRA members in these two states. We are looking for volunteers to fill the vacant and inactive director positions. Being an area director does not have to take up all that much of your time. If you become the area director, you will be expected to communicate as appropriate with the members in your area. Once a month, I will send you a list of members that have joined or rejoined NMRA and that live in your area. Just send them a welcome letter and let them know you are available to assist them. You would be required to attend at least one of the two annual BOD meetings. One is always held in Kansas City in January and the other is held in conjunction with the annual MCoR convention. You must submit a report about activities in your area even if you do not attend the BOD meetings. Your primary purpose is to communicate with your area members, letting them know about shows and other activities in your area, as well as where and when the MCoR convention will be held each year. The Membership Dispatcher (me) will give you a list of all your area members each month. Postage costs, etc. can be reimbursed to you from the MCoR Treasurer, John Shaw. Please consider volunteering to become an area director. Let's get both Arkansas, and Oklahoma up and running actively again.

AP REPORT

Since the last report published in the CK, the following certificates have been earned.

GOLD SPIKES

Wendy Harlow – Western Heritage Division

AP CERTIFICATES

Howard Junkers	Volunteer	Platte Valley Division
Dennis Gerloff	Volunteer	Platte Valley Division
Dianne Mullins	Volunteer	Platte Valley Division
Sherman Luhn	Volunteer	Platte Valley Division
James Wells	Volunteer	Platte Valley Division
Earl Mullins	Author	Platte Valley Division
Earl Mullins	Dispatcher	Platte Valley Division
Earl Mullins	Civil Engineer	Platte Valley Division
Howard Junkers	Dispatcher	Platte Valley Division
John O'Neill	Dispatcher	Platte Valley Division
James Lorhan	Dispatcher	Platte Valley Division
James Wells	Dispatcher	Platte Valley Division
Paul Myers	Scenery	Turkey Creek Division
Gary Hankins	Volunteer	Turkey Creek Division
Fred Hulen	Structures	Turkey Creek Division
Louis Seibel	Volunteer	Turkey Creek Division
Dave Roeder	Author	Gateway Division

Please congratulate these members next time you see them; they have worked hard to earn these certificates. Activity in the AP has been very slow in Iowa, Oklahoma and Arkansas. I sure would like to see some AP certificates from those divisions/areas in the next report. If you have any questions about the AP, please email or call me.

Marty Vaughn, MCoR AP Chairman
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Below are the MCoR officers and BOD.

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MCoR Board of Directors Meeting
Johnson County Library
Olathe, KS
January 14, 2006

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of MCoR was called to order at 10:18 A.M., January 14, 2006, at the Johnson County Library in Olathe, KS. The presiding officer was President Richard Napper. A quorum was present, including the following officers and members:

Richard Napper MMR
MCoR President, Kansas Central Div. Director

Larry Alfred MMR
MCoR Vice President

John A. Shaw
MCoR Treasurer, MCoR Webmaster

Whit Johnson
MCoR Secretary, MCoR Contest Chairman

Jim Anderson
Gateway Div. Director

Charles Fennen
Western Heritage Division Director

Rick Liebich
Kate Shelley Division Director

Paul W. Meyers
Turkey Creek Division Director

John Averill
Great Midwestern Division Director

Chris Dancy
Kansas Central Division Director

Richard Hester
Nebraska West Central Division Dir. (Proxy)

Lester Lorhan
Platte Valley Division Director (Proxy)

Barry Quensel
Oklahoma Southwest Area Director

Gary Zillyette
Cedar Rapids, Davenport, & Moline Area Dir.

Dan Harris
Northern Oklahoma Area Director

Brad Slone
South Central Missouri Area Director

Gary Hemmingway
MCoR Convention Dept. Chairman, Area Meet Chair

Marty Vaughn MMR
MCoR AP Chairman

Robert Amsler
MCoR Attorney

Don Wetmore
MCoR Clinic Chairman

Robert Jefferis
Caboose Kibitzer Editor

Louis Siebel
MCoR Advertising Manager

Paul Richardson MMR
Turkey Creek Division Superintendent

Alan Merta
Cedar Rapids, Davenport, & Moline Area Asst.
Dir.

Robert Whiting
Nebraska West Central Division Member

Jack Boren
Turkey Creek Division Member

Ray Immel
Great Midwestern Division Member

Proxies were presented by John O'Neill, Platte Valley Division for Lester Lorhan, and Gene Tacey, Nebraska West Central Division for Richard Hester.

The minutes of the June 10, 2005 BOD meeting were read by Whit Johnson, MCoR Secretary. A motion to accept the minutes of the January 2005 BOD Meeting as read was made by Charles Fennen, seconded by John Averill.

PASSED

Treasurer John Shaw gave a report on MCoR Finances. A motion was made to accept the report by John Averill, seconded by Charles Fennen.

PASSED

Directors Reports: Reports were presented as published.

Richard Napper reported the Region has a total 1054 members. Of the members 578, currently are subscribers to the Caboose Kibitzer.

Convention Committee: Gary Hemmingway, MCoR Convention Committee Chairman addressed the BOD with the fact that no Division or Area has stepped up to host the 2007, MCoR Convention. There was discussion about several solutions and directions the MCoR could consider. President Napper referred the issues back to review committee and assigned Gary Hemmingway as chairman, along with Richard Hester, Charles Fennen, Rick Liebich, Don Wetmore, Chris Dancy, and all of the MCoR Executive Officers to serve on this committee. A resolution is to be presented in June 2006, at the next regular BOD Meeting. The 2005 Convention report shows a fiscal loss for the event, but the event is still considered to have been successful on all other areas. Some discussion as to areas we can all learn from in hosting these events followed. The 2006 Convention, hosted by the Western Heritage Division is well under way and proceeding. Registrations are considered low, but it is still early in the time line for this type of event.

President Napper called a break in the meeting at 12:00 P.M.

President Napper called the meeting back to order at 12:48 P.M.

Caboose Kibitzer Editor Bob Jefferis reported on the Caboose Kibitzer. The publication is now back on schedule and working to maintain this status. Articles and photos are requested to be submitted to Bob Jefferis for publication. All submitted materials and ads must be in before the deadlines published without exception in order to maintain the schedule.

Marty Vaughn MMR, AP Chairman, reported that there have been 34 AP Certificates processed for MCoR, 7 Golden Spike Awards, and 0 new MMRs. These numbers are since the June 2005 BOD meeting.

There was no report from the NMRA Treasurer on the status of the Heart of America Fund. Discussion was to notify the NMRA President that the NMRA was in violation of the contract that accompanied the funds that were part of this project.

There was no Trustee Report from the NMRA. Discussion was presented that we have been told that the Central and Western Directors do not report to the MCoR BOD. Bob Amsler, MCoR Attorney, pointed out the at the NMRA Regulations state that the Director appointed to the NMRA Board by the Region Advisory Council (RAC) is the person who is to report all communication from the NMRA Board to the Regions worldwide.

Old Business

The car project committee reported a 400 car run in four numbers has been placed and initial payment of 50% was paid. The cars are being advertised in the Caboose Kibitzer and orders are being taken at this time.

A motion was made by Gary Zillyette to set the price for the Caboose Kibitzer at \$6.00, per year. This price is set for both hardcopy and electronic copies of the Kibitzer. Seconded by Rick Liebich. PASSED

President Napper appointed a committee including the executive officers and the MCoR attorney to research the costs of both methods of publication and distribution in detail and report back to the BOD in June 2006.

A motion was made by John Averill, to accept the revised Division Constitutions and Bylaws with the conditions set forth by the MCoR attorney pending the Divisions approval. Divisions included in this motion are Kate Shelley Division, Kansas Central Division, and Nebraska West Central Division. Motion was seconded

by John Shaw.

PASSED

The Gateway Division and Western Heritage Division documents approved at the June 10, 2005, BOD were approved by the MCoR Attorney

New Business

The CD&M Area presented a petition from members in the area to be granted a charter to become the Eastern Iowa Division. A motion was made to grant the charter and accept the constitution and bylaws presented pending the approval of the Division membership on changes recommended by the MCoR Attorney, by John Averill. Seconded by Chris Dancy.

PASSED

Potential border adjustments with the Thousand Lakes Region were discussed. Kate Shelley Division has two members that have been affected by the new NMRA Regulations and would like to change regions. The new Eastern Iowa Division also has several individuals who want to become part of the MCoR and Eastern Iowa Division. This was assigned to Gary Zillyette, Allen Merta, Richard Napper, and Whit Johnson to work on getting the members defined, the zip codes defined, and a petition signed to present to the NMRA Board for approval.

Discussion of having decals made in alternate scales of the current MCoR Car project was held. At the present time there was not enough information or interest in MCoR doing this project. It was suggested that the Western Heritage Division consider following up on this as a Division project.

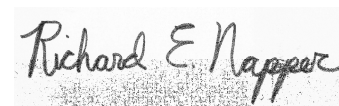
Meeting adjourned 3:12 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Whitney D. Johnson
MCoR Secretary

Remember the FRISCO!



**Richard E. Napper, MMR
MCoR President**