



THOUSAND LAKES REGION

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

The FUSEE



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www.thousandlakesregion.org

Summer 2019



2019 TLR-MWR Convention Recap

The Combined Thousand Lakes Region/Midwest Region convention was in LaCrosse, WI in May. Attendees were able to visit the Stella Jones Tie Plant and learn about the process of turning logs into ties and the creosoting process. Ties are aged up to a year before processing and as expected, most go to railroads. After the Tie Plant the group visited L.B. White, who manufactures agricultural and commercial heaters. All the parts are made on site, and the products are shipped world-wide. The heaters vary from small ones to warm chicks to one million BTU commercial construction heaters.

After the business tours, the Dahl Car Museum was visited and the cars ranged from Model T to LeMans race car Ford GT. There was a lot of envy and drool around these cars! Following the car museum, the 4000 Foundation hosted us to tour the Grand Crossing Interlocking Tower and the CB&Q Steam Locomotive they have. This crossing was between the CB&Q, Milwaukee and C&NW. The tower is set up to represent the last days of sue and there was a former employee talking about

working in the tower, what the color of the handles mean and some odd events that he experienced. The locomotive is a 4-6-4 Hudson type and is being restored to cosmetic condition. The cab is nearly finished now, and further exterior work is ongoing. There is also a wood caboose.

There were modeling clinics through Modeling with the Master program, and these were very well attended. Modelers were able to get first hand instruction on the finer points of part preparation, painting, appropriate glues and random tidbits that just popped up. Everyone left with a model, some to be finished at home.

Clinics were throughout Friday and Saturday and covered a variety of topics. Tool tips, second lives of cabooses, railroad memories and model railroad topics were all covered.

There were a number of operating sessions through the convention as well. The LaCrosse modelers have an every other year weekend of operating called River Rails, and they have their



View from the Cab President Jay Manning

Now that we have past another annual milestone, the annual convention, it is time to look back at some outstanding efforts by members of the TLR and some lessons learned. FIRST AND FOREMOST, I want to

thank Gerry and Peggy Miller for their outstanding dedicated efforts to make sure we had a convention this year. For those of you who don't know it, in addition to having to coordinate convention activities with our cost host, the Midwest Region, the hotel where the convention was held suffered frozen and broken water pipes. This flooded part of the facility—including guest rooms and the electrical system. Sixty days before the convention, the Health Department closed the facility. The owners made an outstanding effort to get back into operation in time to support the convention, including recruiting a workforce. As time moved toward the convention, the Millers made several trips from Dubuque to ensure that we would have a convention. The registered attendees for the convention exceeded 150. The Millers managed the registration, transportation and tour requirements, the banquet, and the logistics required to support the entire convention. I authorized a special Presidents Award in recognition of their efforts.

At the 2018 Convention in Sioux Falls, there was a noticeable fall off in entries in the Contest Room. The incoming Contest Director, Kennedy Gauger, was given the task of expanding the interest in the contest room. He began a campaign to inform TLR members of the processes involved with the Contest Room, expanding the categories for exhibit, and the choices individuals have when presenting items for display in the room. Working with the Contest Director from the Midwest Region, the Contest Room in La Crosse had 115 items displayed equally split between TLR and MWR members. The TLR and MWR members split the 30 total awards at the joint convention. Kennedy, not satisfied with the results in 2019, immediately pulled lessons learned from La Crosse and is working to improve the TLR Contest Room for 2020---beginning with the name, it is now known as the "Celebration Room." One of the hard lessons learned was that individuals who display items for evaluation want and are entitled to comments as to how to improve their model. Actions have been taken for 2020; entrants WILL receive written comments concerning their entries. There WILL be categories for handicraft items. Kennedy has also developed a system to better organize the area, including not having names associated with actual entry displayed. There will be another series of emails discussing the Celebration Room, and of course he will

invite questions and comment. Remember, the Celebration Room is science, not science fiction.

It is summer season when model railroading sometimes takes a "back seat" to other individual and family activities. It is also a season of small town celebrations, opportunities to display a Division's model railroad either at open houses or actually setting up a display as part of the celebration. These are opportunities to get before the public, answer questions, allow children to operate a model train and recruit members. A Division needs to get out and meet the leadership of the celebrations and seek opportunities to participate in local events. Summer time is still an opportunity to work on growing the hobby.

As you now know, the Dakota South Eastern Division will host the 2020 convention in Sioux Falls. I am assured that the gathering will be different that the past 2 gatherings in Sioux Falls. Initial plans include spending part of one day at Prairie Village in Madison South Dakota. Prairie Village has its own railroad loop that is used for excursion rides. They have both steam and diesel power, an effort is underway to have steam operating during our visit. They also have a large display area that includes one of the only two chapel cars left in the United States. Theirs has been refurbished by a craftsman from England. Additionally, there are also some new industries in the Sioux Falls area that are rail served that are being approached for tours. The gathering will be at the same hotel as the 2018 gathering. More to come in future editions of THE FUSSEE.

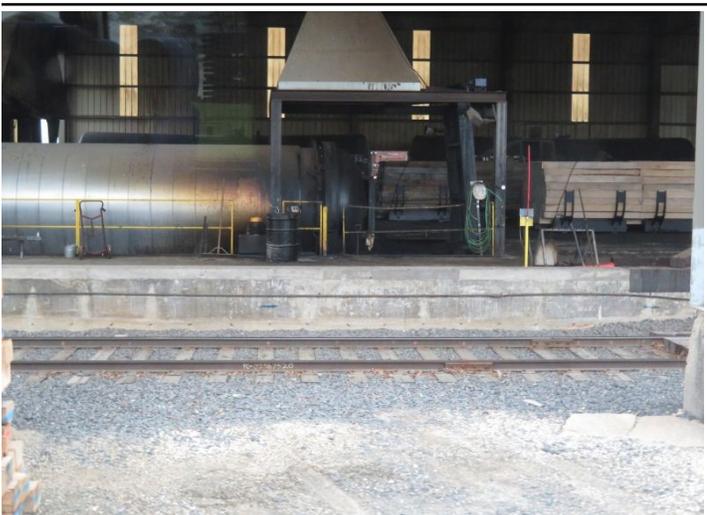
I again need to emphasize succession planning. The TLR will have several offices us for election in 2020; I encourage you to consider being a volunteer who serves on the Board. Succession planning is also the key to success at Division level. Division leadership needs to include members in their processes so that members see that being an officer is NOT A HEAVY BURDEN. Leadership with a goal of expanding the hobby both thru Division related functions and public displays are critical to Division success. Opportunities do not generally "coming a knocking" you have to find them. Working together strengthens the hobby, and the Division.



Stella Jones cut ties drying in the open air. Wet winter can delay the normal 12 months to 18 months. Thousands of ties are stacked on property.



Dry ties are stacked on dollies prior to being pushed into the massive retort that will use high pressure to force creosote into the wood.



The tie dollies are to the right, and silver tube is the retort that is used to treat the wood.

operations well tuned. Some sessions went to almost midnight! There are rumors that some stray cars ended up in odd locations on the layouts, but this has not been verified.

The Non-rail Tour had tours of The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Rose Convent Chapel, The Hixon House, and Riverside Museum. Also, attendees could make blankets with Project Linus (see separate article).

The Banquet combined some new awards from the MWR and the traditional Chinese auction with Gerry Leone and Alan Saatkamp presiding as our emcees. There was a large selection of donated items and the grand prize was a brass locomotive that was live auctioned.

The convention wound down Sunday morning with the General Meeting (see the minutes for details) and some layouts available for viewing. We want to thank the convention committee for a great convention, and especially Gerry Miller for all the long



Tour attendees get the background on L.B. White and their business products before the tour.

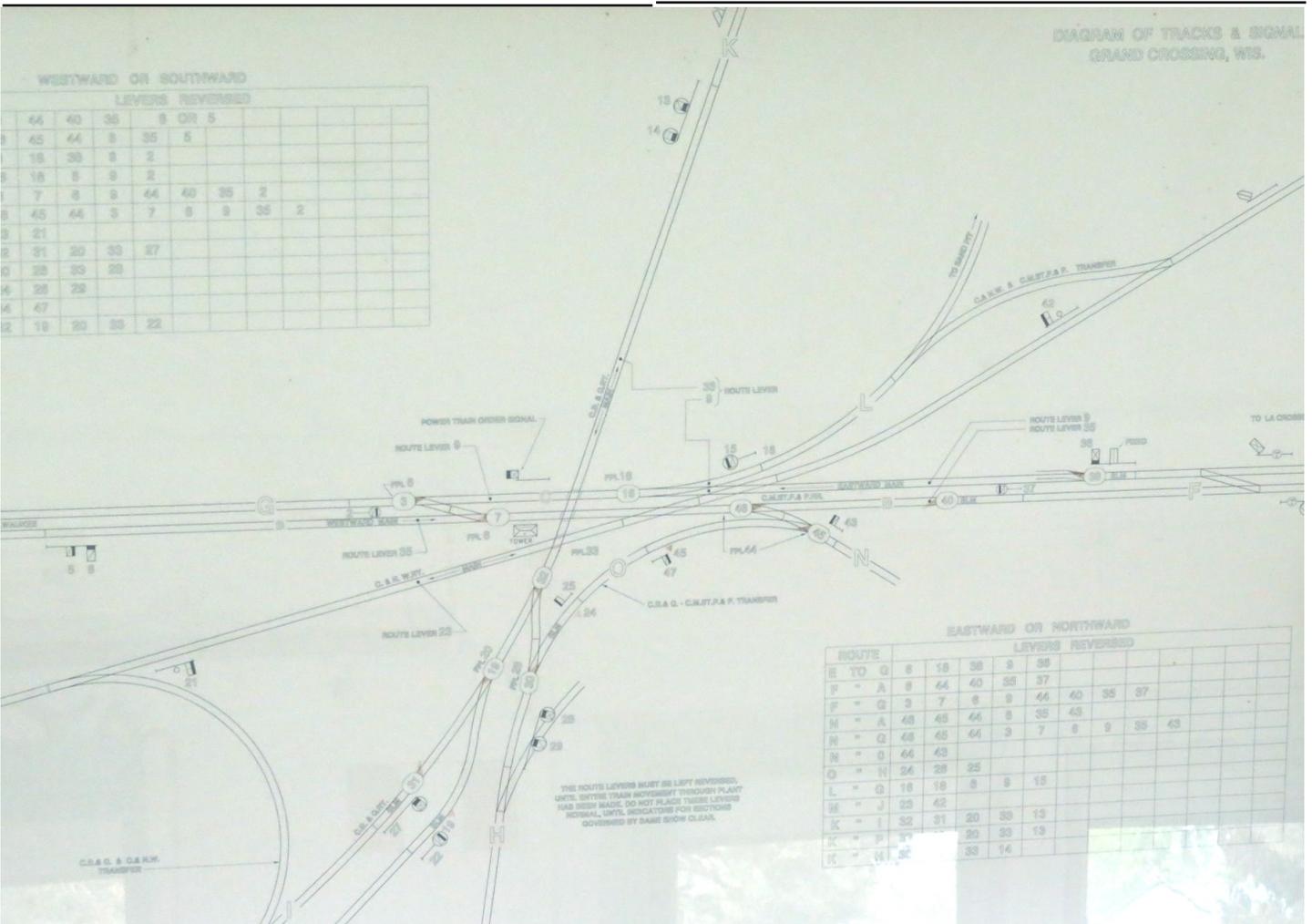


The tour guide explains how the stamping machine in the background punches out the metal in different shapes and patterns for assembly.



The Grand Crossing switch tower. The red handles are for signals, the white/black handles are for switches and the blue are locks. Each railroad had it's own set of signals that had to be controlled.

New iron by old iron. The Caprice in the foreground is dwarfed by Hudson #4000. Even though the 4-6-4 design was not the largest locomotive, they were still impressive and very fast!



The Grand Crossing tower controlled the diamonds between the CB&Q single main from the north, the CNW from the Northeast diagonally to southwest, and Milwaukee's double main from the east. There are numerous interchange tracks connecting the mainlines.



Rich Mahaney presents on oil and ethanol cars.

Clinics



Modeling with the Masters— this group is working in the DPM Modules session.



Clark Kooning, MMR explains the finer points of preparing a laser-cut kit for assembly.



Les Breuer, MMR discusses glue and paint. The sessions were attended by new and experienced modelers.



Fred Headon, MMR was in charge of the spray coating and chose a well ventilated area to do it. Fortunately it was not raining.



Model Railroading as a family adds a special dimension to the hobby. Here the Prox's are working on the Laser-Cut Kit.

Banquet and Awards



Convention Chair Scott Nesbit and President Jay Manning got the banquet started with awards and thank you's.



MWR President Steve Studley welcomes everyone to the convention.



Achievement Chair John Hottvet, MMR bestows this honor to Thomas Gasior. Tom is MMR #635.



The Presidents Award was given to Kevin Dill, Fusee Editor (left) and Caleb Van Der Brink, Web Master, for their work on the electronic Fusee. John Schneider (right) accepted the award for Caleb.



The Bob Dew, Sr. Service Award was given to Jay Davis, DSED division. John Schneider accepted the award for Jay.



President Manning presents the Stafford Swain Lifetime Achievement award to Fred Headon, MMR. Fred has been a tireless proponent of the hobby and well deserving of the honor.



Rich Holzapfel received the Jock Oliphant award for excellence in modeling.



Matt Lentz received Best of Show Novice Model for his diesel locomotive, GP38 OSMX 2001. He also Matt Lentz won 1st, 2nd and 3rd place for his diesels locomotives.



Best in show and 1st Place.

Photo Jim Osborn



2nd Place, Midway 6502.

Photo Jim Osborn



3rd Place, OSMX 2002

Photo Jim Osborn



Kevin Dill received Best in Show Kit Model for his Great Northern Reefer.



Frank Gerry received Best in Show Color Photo for Grade Crossing at Dusk, and First Place Black and White Photo for Station Stop



Photo Jim Osborn



Grade Crossing at Sunset



Station Stop

Seeking Clinicians for 2020 Convention (May 14-17) in Sioux Falls:

We are looking for clinicians for our 2020 convention for a range of topics, including for general arts and crafts for the non-rail participants. Please contact Richard Dahl (clinic coordinator) at richdahl@gmail.com, if you have clinic you'd be willing to present.



Paul Ulrich received 2nd Place for BNSF Freight Leaving Dilworth Yard.



Superior Crossing, 1st Place

Thomas Gasior, MMR received 1st Place Black and White Model Photo for Superior Crossing, 2nd Place for RIP Track and 3rd Place, Color Photo Prototype for Storm Light.



Storm Light, 3rd Place



RIP Track, 2nd Place



Kevin Dill won 3rd Place Black and White Prototype for *I've Been Workin' #2* and Peoples Choice Award Photography for *Choices*..



I've Been Workin' #2

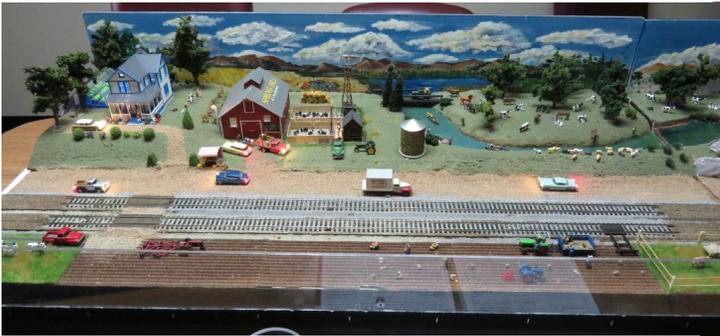


Choices



Matt Lentz won 3rd Place Black and White Photo for *Hercules at the Apollo*





Spring Hill Farm A



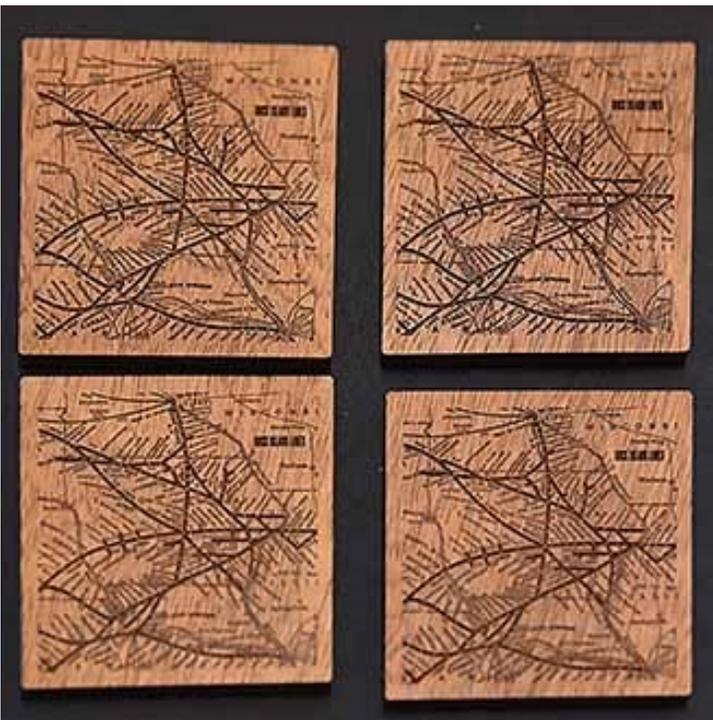
Spring Hill Farm B



LEFT and ABOVE- Rich Holzapfel won 1st and 2nd in the Modules group for Spring Hill Farm A & B.



O scale versus N. Maybe the Editor will learn how to pose for a picture and display things properly. Ron Olson has his model completed!



Matt Lentz won 2nd Place in Arts and Crafts for his laser etched coasters, Rock Island Lines.



Matt Lentz won 1st Place Rail Pass for his South Red River Valley Division Pass.

Thomas Gasior, MMR #635

congratulations to Thomas Gasior for earning MMR #635! Thomas is no stranger to the Fusee and is a prolific modeler and author. He is actively involved in model railroading locally and nationally. He earned Dispatcher, Author, Volunteer, Civil Engineering, Electrical, Rolling Stock and Scenery Certificates. In his acceptance speech, he focused on taking the time to bring new people, especially kids, into the hobby. Many people offer material goods to new modelers, but Thomas feels strongly that giving time is the most valuable since it offers direct encouragement and teaching that is the most long lasting.

Way to GO!



Achievement Program Report

May, 2019

John R Hotvet, MMR

The last twelve months have been very productive in the Thousand Lakes Region. There have been 9 Achievement Certificates issued, including one Master Model Railroader, and 5 Golden Spikes since May, 2018.

The following modelers received the listed certificates:

Thomas Gasior, MMR – Master Builder – Scenery, Master Model Railroader
Jay Manning – Master Builder – Scenery
Marion Manning – Master Builder- Scenery
Arthur Suel – Association Official
Ron Olsen – Association Official
John Hotvet, MMR – Master Builder – Prototype Modeler
Scott Nesbit – Association Official
Neil Maldeis – Association Volunteer

The following modelers have been awarded Golden Spikes

Ed Recker , Cascade IA
Gordon Block, Asbury IA
Al Ford, Asbury IA
Tom Gay, Fargo ND
Glenn Wolfe, La Crosse WI

It should be noted that John Hotvet, MMR has now received all eleven AP certificates, the first one in the TLR to achieve that milestone.

One certificate is pending approval at the National level.



Dennis Reitz's new model railroad in his apartment in Winnipeg, MB.

By Paul Ullrich
Photos by author

Former TLR President Dennis Rietze is one of the most creative and inventive model railroader in the hobby. He's well known for building an amazing layout in the crawl-space of his split level house. He is having his new layout, which his called the Twisted Creek Railway, custom built to fit in the spare bedroom of he new apartment that he and his wife LuElla had moved into recently.

ment, the layout has been designed to be free standing so none of the walls will be drilled into or damaged. It is supported by a series of pillars, which allows for wheelchair accessibility. As it is built in several lightweight sections using framed styrofoam boards, it can be taken down and moved without much difficulty. (photo 1)

All of the backdrops are attached to the back side of the layout. The most outstanding feature of the layout is something that literally is outstanding! It's a large peninsula is supported by several long carriage bolts that are anchored to the frame of the layout. (photo 2)



Photo 1 showing the pillars that support the deck and avoid connecting the structure to a wall. The pillars are standing on a paper cutout of the layout.



Photo 2 shows the carriage bolts extending from the left into the peninsula which allows it to be free floating and wheelchair accessible.

The plan is a modified version of one that appeared in Model Railroader magazine. As it is in an apart-

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Dennis has also recycled several structures from his previous layout. His free standing peninsula will feature a modern grain elevator depot. Dennis, who was never shy about

embracing new technology, has plans to put in a street with moving vehicles.



The completed frame with fascia and foam top.



This is a good view of the peninsula. The end at the lower right has no obstructions underneath.

Minneapolis & Northland Railroad Company



I enjoy model railroading and want to share my experiences with you! You can see my build of kits, how-to's, painting information and much more on my internet blog. Check out <http://mnrailroadcab100.blogspot.com>.

Lester Breuer, MMR

Publishing Deadlines

<u>Publishing Date</u>	<u>Submission Deadline</u>
March 1 Edition	February 1
July 1 Edition	June 1
September 1 Edition	August 1

8th Annual Model Railroad Show & Sale Sponsored by



Sunday, October 27, 2019
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Franklin County Convention Center,
Hwy 3 West, Hampton, Iowa

Admission \$5.00 (Ages 10 & under Free with Paid Adult.
For More Info Call (641)456-1998 or
Email: eastsidetrains@gmail.com

2019 Railroad Modeler's Retreat

Ken Zieska

Who better than the NMRA to host a weekend of exceptional modeling displays and presentations? That was the thinking of the Twin Cities Division when we organized the first "Railroad Modelers Retreat" in 2015. This annual event, now better known as the Twin Cities Division RPM weekend continues to flourish by featuring a full schedule of presentations, informative displays and a great lunch for regional model railroaders.

This year's event was held March 15-16 in Plymouth Minnesota. Friday was a full evening of presentations with the display room already ½ full of exceptional models and modeling projects. Saturday morning, the coffee was on by 7:30 with display tables



Les Breuer made this RI hopper.

filling quickly. The first two presentations began at 9:00 continuing until lunch and social time. The afternoon was filled with additional presentations with ample time to enjoy the modeling displays, operations on the "Hawkins Chemical" micro layout (featuring macro fun) and more social time.

It is unfair to attempt to select just a few events to feature as highlights however, here is just a taste. Lester Breuer MMR opened his toolbox and shared modeling secrets so vast that the scheduled hour could not contain him. Bob Rivard and Luke Lemmens both nationally recognized SOO



Daniel Dossa constructed a microtrain layout.

Line modelers gave in depth presentations on how they replicate the SOO Line motive power and prototype scenes. Most of us have marveled at the workmanship on Clark Propst's beautiful layouts. Clark shared with us many of the ideas and techniques he uses to create such amazing scenes on his latest layout.



Richard Ramirez built this beautiful GN Depot

The 6th annual event is already being planned. Four solid presentation proposals have already been received and great suggestions have been shared for additional events. The goal of the weekend is to feature the great hobby of model railroading and the NMRA. Look for information on the TLR and TCD social media pages and in future issues of the Fusee and the Crossing Gate. Ideas and questions, please contact Ken Zieska mhry19@gmail.com.

Thousand Lakes Region (TLR) 2020 Celebration Room Entry Options

Why is it called the Celebration Room? This is because there are many ways that NMRA members and their families celebrate our great hobby. The Celebration Room (also known as the Contest Room) is where these are displayed. Some entries are for competitive evaluation, whereas others are entered to obtain constructive feedback from qualified individuals. Yet others are presented solely for Popular evaluation by convention goers and finally some simply showcase (Modeler's Showcase) to fellow NMRA members and family members what a member is doing.

When submitting your NMRA Contest Entry Form (Form 901), along with your entry, you will have a separate TLR Celebration Form to indicate your intent in submitting your entry. This will facilitate your entry's placement within the Celebration Room. These options are:

- Entering for Merit Award (Achievement Program, AP) evaluation
- Entering a Scenery Display (or individual module) for Merit Award evaluation (AP special additional requirements apply: <https://www.nmra.org/scenery> and <https://www.nmra.org/sites/default/files/education/achievement/pdf/2019-scen-eval.pdf>)
- Entering a photograph; special guidelines apply: <https://nmra.org/national-photo-contest-judging-guidelines>
- Entering for evaluation by a qualified modeler (desire to get feedback without submitting for AP evaluation)
- Entering solely for Popular Vote
- Modeler's Showcase: display only, not critically evaluated (may be Complete or, In-process models or, Railroad-oriented projects)

Novice. If you are a first-time Celebration Room participant, we would like to be aware if this, so we ask you to indicate this to us on the "Modeler's Intent" form.

Thanks for thinking about participating. Armed with this information, share your intent and bring your entries to the TLR 2020 convention in Sioux Falls
Kennedy Gauger, Celebration Room Chair

HELP!

**The South Red River
Valley Division
needs your help**

We are seeking donations of
N SCALE Track, Accessories,
Power Packs & any other
N SCALE equipment
ANY CODE, BRASS OR NS WORKS

We are constructing an operating
N Scale layout that connects to our
T-Trak layout

EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS!

email: mkl@janushd.com
or

Quartermaster: Don Radeck
Phone: (701) 234-9351

41st Annual Spud Valley Hobby Show

Sunday, October 20, 2018

- Admission: \$5.00** ♦ Large and small
(under 12 free with paid operating model
adult) Railroads
- Delta by Marriott** ♦ Vendors selling farm toys,
plastic models, model rail-
road items, die cast vehi-
cles, old toys, railroad col-
lectibles and more
- Crystal Ballroom**
- 1635 42nd St. S., Far-
go, ND**
- ♦ Door prizes
♦ Valley RC Flyers display
their planes

Call Don—701-234-9351 or email spudvalley@hotmail.com

Project Linus

Project Linus is a non-profit organization founded in 1995 to provide “a warm hug” to children in need. This includes hospitals, shelters, social service agencies or anywhere a child is in need. The blankets are hand-made by children and adults and donated all over the country. Diana Haverberg and Sandy Robinson organized a sewing event at the TLR-MWR convention and had a number of participants who helped either at the show or at home and brought blankets to the convention. Diana provided the descriptions of some of the blankets in the following photos. Watch for more of these at future conventions!

Diana writes- “I’m sending you a “wrap up” about the Project Linus at the convention in La Crosse. We kept it going, and we are happy about that. The space you arranged for us was great — plenty of room to sew and spread out our supplies. We did have some visitors poke their heads into the room to inquire what we were doing, and a few more might have joined us if they had known this project would be there. Please share this with other people on your team that worked so hard for this convention!”



The easy project was tying fleece blankets. We brought 13 pre-cut fabric panels, and a couple of additional convention attendees did help get all of them tied. The left picture shows the fun close-up of the tiger/leopard design and the right picture shows the four patterns we offered to work on.



Our other projects were quilts that were brought in already finished and a few that were completed at the convention. These two photos show Linda Swett’s beautiful work. She brought in three quilts that she had started at the national convention last summer and finished at home later. She sewed from start to finish the princess quilt (border of little girls print) at this LaCrosse convention. Try to imagine how much fun it is to see bits of fabric turn into something so lovely right before your eyes!



I brought three completed blankets and did one quilt at the convention. The vehicles print and the hands-all-over print are flannel baby blankets, the kind of blankets given out in NICUs for premature babies. Here in the Madison hospitals, new parents get to choose a blanket when their baby is born. The next photo has simple squares sewn together. The one of the left has great texture with a velvety animal fur look. I sewed the one on the right, which has African animals on it, from start to finish at the convention. The local Project Linus in Dane County provided a precut kit for that one. I'm sure the animal prints will spark the imagi-



Sandy Robinson sewed the "Riding the Rails" pattern for both of these quilt tops. This is based on a pattern that was shared at the national convention. Sandy will be finishing these very soon. Such fun colors for a child to cuddle up with!

"With the pictures shown here and the fleece blankets not shown, we have 23 blankets to donate to Project Linus. Kathy Mangan has chaired the Project Linus activity for several regional conventions but was unable to attend with us this time. She has some blankets ready to contribute also. Sandy, Kathy and I will get together and sew more soon, as we have some kits cut and ready to work on. We truly enjoy doing this kind of project at conventions, and it is a great way to get acquainted with new people."

Diana Haverberg

Region Roundup—model railroad-related events in and around the TLR

- July 7-13 NMRA National Convention
Salt Lake City, UT
- July 27 29th Annual Rail Fair
Copeland Park, La Crosse, WI
- Sept 14 Twin Cities Model Railroad Museum
Hobby Show and Sale
9am-3pm, Mn State Fairgrounds
- Oct 20 Spud Valley Hobby Show
Delta by Marriott, Fargo ND
- Oct 27 7th Annual Model Railroad Show
Hwy 3 West, Hampton IA

REPORT OF MEMBERSHIP CHAIR FOR YEAR 2018-2019

Thousand Lakes Region experienced an increased in membership of 30 individuals. The region started with 452 and ended with 482. I have included charts showing the membership by Division and new members. There are only 11 months listed as no EOM (End of Month) membership report was received for June 2018. I sent the EOM out the same day received to the officers and division superintendents to keep them informed.

Thousand Lakes Region NMRA Membership by Division

Div #	Division	EOM										
	Name	18-May	18-Jul	18-Aug	Sep-18	18-Oct	Nov-18	18-Dec	19-Jan	19-Feb	19-Mar	19-Apr
10	No 1 Northern	34	31	31	30	28	30	30	29	32	30	31
80	Prairie Lakes	37	34	37	39	41	40	40	43	43	44	44
51	Dakota Southeastern	37	39	38	38	36	34	37	38	38	37	35
91	Southeastern	31	34	33	35	36	37	38	38	37	39	39
60	Twin City	217	217	224	222	223	226	227	235	236	239	237
62	Mn River Valley	19	18	17	17	19	19	20	22	21	20	19
35	So. Red River	18	16	16	16	16	12	18	17	16	16	15
20		10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	11
30		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	4
40		12	13	13	13	13	14	14	14	14	14	14
50		10	11	11	11	12	5	10	11	11	11	11
70		5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	2
90		20	20	19	19	19	20	20	21	21	20	20
	totals	452	450	456	457	459	453	470	484	485	488	482

As part of my efforts to get new members involved, I sent out a welcoming letter tailored to the division that member was in. I also enclosed a TLR logo patch. I have attached a sample letter for your information. A total of 95 new members joined the NMRA from our region area. Attached is a chart showing new members by Division

Thousand Lakes Region NMRA NEW Members by Division

Div #	Division	EOM	EOM	EOM	EOM	EOM	EOM	EOM	EOM	EOM	EOM	EOM	
	Name	18-May	18-Jul	18-Aug	Sep-18	18-Oct	Nov-18	18-Dec	19-Jan	19-Feb	19-Mar	19-Apr	total
10	No 1 Northern						1	1		1		1	4
80	Prairie Lakes			1					2			1	4
51	Dakota Southeastern	1	2			2	3	3	3	4	7	5	30
91	Southeastern		1	1					3		2	1	8
60	Twin City	1	8	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	7	5	40
62	Mn River Valley	1						1	1				3
35	So. Red River							1					1
20											1		1
30											2		2
40						1	1						2
50													0
70													0
90													0
	totals	3	11	4	2	5	8	9	12	9	19	13	95

(continued page 18)

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The region had a positive membership trend, but the divisions need to get these new members involved so that we can retain them. New members bring a healthy and different perspective on how to enjoy model railroading that can and would be a benefit to existing membership and the hobby.

Sincerely

Arthur C. Suel

Membership Chair

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

May 17, 2019

La Crosse WI

Call to Order- President Jay Manning called the meeting to order at 8:36 pm

Roll Call – Secretary Art Suel conducted the roll call. Those present were President Manning, Secretary Suel, Treasurer Tom Gay, Convention Director Scott Nesbit, Publications Director Kevin Dill and Contest Director Kennedy Gauger. Division Superintendents present were Matt Lentz (SRRV) and Gerry Miller (SED). Also attending the meeting was NMRA Vice President for Special Projects Gerry Leone, MMR, NMRA Canada Director Fred Headon, MMR and Thousand Lake Social Media Chair Tom Gasior, MMR.

Approval of Minutes - Miller/Gay moved to approve the minutes as written for the Board of Directors meeting on February 6, 2019. Motion passed on a voice vote without dissension.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Gay reported that the region financials are healthy. Miller noted he has convention registration fees in a separate account. He will transfer the monies to Gay and close the account. Members wishing to see the financial report please contact Tom Gay for a copy. Nesbit/Miller moved to accept the treasurer's report. Motion passed on a voice vote without dissension.

Director Reports

A - Public Relations - Director Dill updated the board on the following. Prairie Lakes Division has received their NMRA banner with divisional logo. Dill has a copy of each divisional logo and a flash drive will be sent to Suel for archiving with the secretary records.

Dill informed the members present that there is a treasure trove of video on the NMRA website in the "Members Only" section. Can be utilized for divisional meetings or members can view the videos on devices at home.

Brochures are available for divisions at the website. National does not print and send brochures to divisions any longer. Just download the brochure and print the number of copies needed. Dill believes it is the responsibility of the region to provide the brochures. Each divisional superintendent will be receiving a flash drive with videos, slide shows and the brochure loaded on the drive.

Final item he is in the process of compiling a list of stores

where modeling supplies can be purchased. Besides the traditional hobby store, he wants the names of other retailers and their locale that has modeling supplies available. Dill wondered who should be his contact person in each division? Lentz commented it should be the Superintendent responsibility.

B- Contest Director - Gauger reported that in order to increase the contest entries, he sent out a series of emails to members highlighting categories and how to enter. Entries from the TLR doubled over last year. Gauger believes communication is the key in succeeding.

C-Convention Director – Nesbit turned the floor over to 2019 convention chair Miller for the report. The joint convention with the Midwest Region has 150 registrants. Split roughly 50/50 between the two regions. Attendees have come from Missouri, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and even Scotland. Nesbit said this convention was well planned and the prototype tours were great. Miller said one area that needs attention is the region's website so that convention updates can be posted there.

Clinics were headed by Reid Kahrs of the Midwest Region. The schedule was all set till March 1st when 4 clinicians canceled. He had to scramble to find replacements. Prototype tours are getting harder to schedule with companies leery of public going thru their facilities or their insurance companies say no.

Dill comment that the difficulty in arranging prototype tours are why divisions are hesitant in hosting conventions. Priority should be on convention venue, clinics, layout tours and operating sessions where possible. Prototype should be the last item in planning a convention.

Miller told the board in getting the displays open at Copeland Park, a donation to the 401 Foundation is in order. His recommended amount would be \$250.00. Miller/ Nesbit moved that the board approve the donation. Motion passed on a voice vote without dissension.

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Leone wondered if the region should conduct a survey to get the priorities members desire in a convention. Headon is happy that the "Modeling with the Masters" is expanding beyond the national into the regions now. Manning appointed Dill, Miller and Nesbit to come up with recommendations by the September 2019 Board Meeting.

Chair Reports

Social Media -Gasior is moving our Facebook from a closed to a group setting. This will allow members to post model railroading content. Christina Zambri, NMRA marketing consultant is at this convention and has been posting clinics on NMRA Facebook live.

Webmaster – No report

Membership – Suel reported that the region had a net gain of 30 members since this time last spring. He has been sending out a welcome to the Thousand Lake Region letter to each new member with a TLR logo patch. Leone said that the biggest reason members do not renew after their first year is that no one has contacted them. Suel asked that the divisional superintendent contact the new members too.

Achievement Program – Suel read John Hotvet, MMR report. 9 certificates were earned by members in the last year. Gasior has earned his Master Model Railroader. Hotvet has become the first TLR member to earn all 11 certificates. Five members earned their Golden Spike Award.

Fusee – Dill reported that the electronic Fusee is being well received. A couple of bugs have been discovered, with Van den Brink, they are working to solve them. One is if a person unsubscribes to website, that person cannot re-subscribe in the future. To solve this, the Fusee will be sent to the email addresses instead of posting on the website. Members need to inform Headquarters of their emails if they change the email address. Lentz recommend that superintendents contact members who do not have an email on file. That is the course of action he is doing.

Division Reports

Southeastern Division – Miller said that the group is making plans to conduct a train show in Dubuque the coming year. Monies generated will be used to construct additional modules for their modular model railroad. The division has added new members by enforcing the 3-visit rule.

Prairie Lake Division – John Schneider gave the report for Superintendent Jay Davis. The PLD spring meet had over 100 attendees. The meet consisted of clinics, business meeting and 20 vendors. One issue is persuading members to take on leadership roles.

Dakota Southeastern Division – Nesbit reported that

the division had a very active and successful year. The highlight was hosting the 2018 Thousand Lakes Region convention in Sioux Falls, SD. Their modular model railroad was exhibit at various functions within the division. The Christmas gathering was successful with their largest attendance every from divisional members. Their train show in March was their most successful to date.

Twin City Division – Suel reported that the division had their annual business meeting in May. Elliot Feinberg was re-elected to a new two-year term as Assistant Superintendent. Ken Zieska is rejoining the board as the Director at Large. Their Modular Retreat held in March was successful. The board will consider some tweaks to this event and the monthly meetings for the upcoming year. The annual spring layout tour was May 4, 2019.

Minnesota River Valley Division – Suel read Terry Davis's report. Five members attended the annual membership meeting in Montevideo Mn. Davis was re-elected to a new 2 yr. term as Superintendent, but due to term limits, it will be his last. Their new NMRA banner is set up next to the 2-level model railroad the members constructed. The layout is in the Milwaukee Road Heritage Center in Montevideo. It is set in 1953 circa. The members also measured the Depot in Watson, MN to construct a model for the layout.

South Red River Division - Lentz said that the division is focusing on their operating T-Trak modules. In March, Tom Gay was videoed taped fulfilling the requirements for the Electrical AP certificate. This video is available on U Tube.

National Officers Reports

A – NMRA Vice President for Special Projects – Leone, MMR informed the board is in charge of the re designed of the national web site. Finding an IT company to perform the redesign is difficult due to the limited budget. National is looking for a volunteer to be Content Manager for the website. Would be responsible for finding and posting model railroading related content. The Service to the Division award is a huge success. Nominees were from all regions except for the European Region. The opening of the NMRA display at the California State Rail Museum is tentatively scheduled for September 2019. Leone commented that the "Modeler's Only Program" (discount program) is being utilized by members. There are now 37 manufactures' and or dealers participating. If a member knows of a hobby shop giving discounts to NMRA members, please notify Leone .

B – Canada Director – Headon, MMR, mentioned that the Member's Only section of the website now has over 150 clinics videos including over 60 from the last two national conventions. Christine Ganzer, Marketing consultant for the NMRA is at the TLR/MWR joint con

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vention. Her goal is to help divisions and regions to promote the hobby. To that end, the NMRA will reimburse divisions and regions up to \$50.00 for expensing relating to promoting the hobby.

Old Business

Jock Oliphant Award – Manning reported there is room for eight more winner plates on the plaque.

New Business

Grants

1 – DSED Nesbit explained the grant request to the board. The grant would be used to purchase a larger trailer for transporting their modular model railroad modules to where it is going to be exhibited. Old trailer would be traded in. Miller told the board that when the DSED received a grant to purchase the smaller trailer, the board was split on. Since getting the trailer to transport the modules to promote the hobby, their membership has grown from 12 to 38 members. This is an excellent use of TLR funds. Lentz/ Schneider moved to approve the request. Miller informed the board the by-laws call for a roll call vote and members of the board from the division requesting must abstain. Suel conducted the roll. The following voted yes, Suel, Gay, Dill, Miller, Lentz and Schneider. There were no votes. Abstaining were Manning, Nesbit and Gauger. Motion passed 6-0.

2 – SRRD – Lentz explained that the \$500.00 would be used to build some modules for their T-Trak modular model railroad. Miller/Nesbit moved to approve. Roll call voted is required. Voting in favor were Manning, Suel, Nesbit, Gauger, Miller, and Schneider. No nay votes were made. Abstaining were Dill, Gay and Lentz. Motion passed.

Nominations Chair Report - Miller reported that all four board members whose terms are expiring are eligible to seek re-election. Next year, two board members (Suel and Nesbit) will be term limited. Will need to find two willing members to fill those seats.

Convention Discussion – Manning explained the concept of the planning two years out. While many regions start 6 months out, now days with some

hotels being booked by other organizations up to 5 years in advance, you can not wait till the last minute. He said that we still need a host for 2020. Nesbit spoke that DSED is willing to host next years’ convention. It will be held on Victoria Day weekend (May 14-17, 2020). The Ramkota will be the hotel again. The tour itinerary will be different than the 2018 convention. Division wants to be assured that if a loss occurs, region will cover that. Miller spoke up and said the region covers losses and splits the profit 50/50. Dill said there are two options, no convention or accept the DSED offer.

2020 Convention Site – Based on the previous discussion, Dill/Miller moved to accept DSED offer for 2020. Motion passed on a voice vote without any dissention. At this point, Gay spoke that he had an offer from the members in Bismarck/Mandan area to host the 2021 convention. Headon, MMR, remarked that it has been some time since the regional has gone to the western portion for a convention. Gay said he would be the convention chair. Nesbit/Lentz moved to accept offer. Motion passed with out dissention. Future conventions could be 2022 (TCD) and 2023 (SRRD).

President’s Remarks – Manning would like the region to compile a listing of hobby shops in the region. Lentz said to look at other sources such as gaming stores which sell paints, scenic supplies etc. Manning wants the superintendents to forward that information to Dill. He then spoke about the need for succession planning at both the division and regional levels. Finally, board members must respond to requests from the President or the Secretary in a timely manner.

Adjournment – Schneider/Miller moved to adjourn. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:38 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

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TLR Secretary

Region Round-up

The Region summaries are in the meeting minutes. Please read them there.

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