

RPO

GATEWAY
ST. LOUIS

NMRA
MCoR



Volume 30, Issues 1 and 2

Spring and Summer 2022

From the Superintendent's Desk

By Willie Richter, Superintendent, Gateway Division

As I start writing this article today it is 83 degrees outside and I will be finishing planting my soybeans over the next 2 days. Normally when the weather gets nice it is a slow time for our model railroads, but this year is different. There is so much to do and prepare for. Train shows are starting to make a return. Check on some of your favorites and see if they are happening. If so, try to get to one and enjoy the comradery of other folks that enjoy this wonderful hobby. We at the Gateway Division made the decision several months ago to cancel the 2022 fall meet. We will begin planning for 2023 meet this fall.

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Cover Photo: CD&H #102 comes down the hill off a mine run on Chuck McCabe's CD&H layout in the basement of his hobby shop in Marion, IL. What does CD&H stand for? Chuck's Depot & Hobbies. Photo Credit: Jeff Cooper



From the Superintendent's Desk

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Spring & Summer 2022: Volume 30, Numbers 1 & 2

The RPO is the official publication of the Gateway Division of the National Model Railroad Association

Editor: John Carty

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Submission deadlines:

Spring: April 1
Summer: July 1
Fall: October 1
Winter: January 1

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Visit our website at:
www.gatewaynmra.org

Another thing to look forward to is the Gateway 2022 NMRA National Convention. This is going to be a great time for all. This will be a great time to rub elbows with the best of the best. If you haven't signed up to attend please do so. Also consider volunteering. I am sure that even by the time you are reading this there will still be volunteer opportunities available. If you find yourself with some free time at the convention itself, you might ask if anyone needs some help. It seems that almost weekly there are updates on the gateway2022.org website. It just keeps getting better and better. I can't wait.

The division elections will be coming up soon as well. We encourage everyone to think about what roles they can do to help with the division. I know that a few board members are not planning to seek reelection so some positions will be open. I don't view the election as trying to replace someone on the board. I view it as what can I do to help the board and what can I bring to the table. Every person has their own perspective and set of skills that we all can benefit from. So I ask that you consider running for a position.

Yes, I admit I basically copied the previous paragraph about elections from one of my previous reports. I just can't think of a better way to say it.

Now for the best news. We will be returning to in person meetings in September at the Lutheran Church in Missouri. I hope I am not jinxing it. I can't wait to see you in person and have some of those great face to face conversations. We are still going to try and keep broadcasting these meetings with ZOOM so that our friends and members that can't attend in person can still participate.

For my final announcement, I would thank John Carty for his service to the Gateway Division and Editor of the RPO. John has been the editor since 2011 and has done a great job. If you see John at a meeting or event say Thank You. Going forward Jeff Cooper will be taking over the RPO. Jeff has been a member of the Division since 2005. He took over as clerk at the beginning of this year. When we started the virtual meetings Jeff was able to participate more and jumped in with both feet. Thanks Jeff.

Great times are ahead for the Gateway Division. I hope you enjoy them as much as I do. Have a great rest of your year and stay safe.

Director's Reflections

By David C. Lowell, Director, Gateway Division,
Mid-continent Region

I have entitled this piece "After the Storm" because I am trying to look forward to life after COVID. In reality, I think COVID is here to stay, becoming endemic v pandemic. Like the flu and some other communicable diseases. For better and for worse COVID has impacted us and will leave a mark on society for an extended period. As with most major world and life events, life really never goes back to way to was. We just settle into a new normal. That being said I am going to focus on some positives that I think have emerged from the COVID era for the Gateway Division.

We have adapted. After a hiatus, we got the Division meetings on line. This opened up participation to a larger audience than the usual suspects who live close enough to attend the monthly meetings in person. It's nice to be able to reach out to those outside the immediate metro area and get a more inclusive participation. In the long run the Division will be better off for it. The Gateway BOD is continuing discussions about how to keep this virtual link when we do start meetings again in person so we can keep the improved connection. We have some technical issues to resolve with equipment and connectivity in our meeting places, but we think we can work through that.

We have expanded the pool of clinicians beyond the Division and immediate acquaintances. Dan Knipp's tireless efforts to bring in clinicians to present via our virtual link has given us a larger pool of topics to draw from. We have enjoyed several clinics from fellow NMRA members from all over the country. Hopefully the future of this will continue to go hand in hand with our plans to keep our virtual capabilities.

Also, next time you see Dan, take a minute and thank him for his efforts. He really does work hard to line up these clinicians. By the way, if getting out there and talking with folks from other Divisions sounds interesting to you, we are looking for a full time Clinics Coordinator. Just reach out to Dan and let him know if you are interested. What the worst thing that can happen? You will get to pre-audit a bunch of great clinics.

We are getting a second chance at the canceled 2020 convention. The convention committee consisting of

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Division Officers

Superintendent

Willie Richter
W. Alton, MO
636-233-1483
willie@richterfarms.com

Assistant Superintendent

Dan Knipp
Belleville, IL
618-277-0537
dgknipp@att.net

Clerk (Secretary)

Jeff Cooper
Marion, IL
618-889-8907
jefntwi@mediacombb.net

Paymaster (Treasurer)

Bill Levin
Chesterfield, MO
314-878-2119
wmlbill@hotmail.com

Division Director

David Lowell
St. Louis, MO
314-517-0935
lowellcomotive@gmail.com

Coming Soon:

Division Elections

Elections for Superintendent and Paymaster (Treasurer) will occur this fall. If you are interested in serving, please contact the Nominating Committee Chairman:

Dale DeWitt

dcdewitt@charter.net

Director's Reflections (continued)

John Schindler, Bob Amsler, Jimmy Ables and Brad Joseph have endured a second long year of planning to make this happen. With Gateway 2022 being the first live convention since Salt Lake City back in 2019 and also being centrally located in the middle of the country it is positioned to be a grand event for the committee, the NMRA and for St. Louis. It will be exciting to be a part of it. So please think hard about not only basking in your personal experiences, but how if you volunteer you will be able to take pride in knowing that you helped make it a success.

Our AP program has gotten a reboot. Dave Ackmann recently volunteered to be the AP Chair. He has wasted no time re-energizing the program. He has already established a working group for a number of individuals pursuing the Model Railroad Engineer-Electrical AP Certificate, has addressed the BOD about training and grooming of Division judges to help foster review for those pursuing AP Certs, and has been working with the Region and National AP Chairs to get up to speed. Knowing Dave, he probably has some other plans he is fermenting for the future as well.

The final positive I will mention is that the one thing that this extended absence, I think, has made us all the more keenly aware of is that it is the personal interaction within our model railroading communities, the fellowship, that we have missed. That fellowship we have missed through our inability to participate in train shows, ops events, in person meetings and other in person activities. I think we appreciate more now many of things we have taken for granted in the hobby. I hope this extended period of isolation makes us all more enthused to get out and do some group activities as soon as it is safe. I will always be available, as well as the great team of officers we have, to receive any comments or suggestions you may have. You can reach me at LowellCoMotive@gmail.com

Division Chairs

Achievement Program

Dave Ackmann

Activities

Ron Gawedzinski

Clinics

Dan Knipp

Contests

Chris Oestreich

Fall Meet

Walter Beckmann

Layout Tours

Dave Roeder

Membership

Bill Linson

Operations

Greg Gramlich

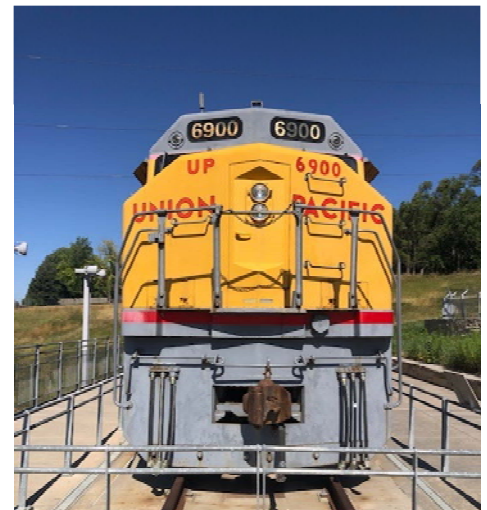
Publicity

Jim Ables

Webmaster

Richard Schumaker

UP DDA40X #6900 at Kenefick Park,
Omaha, NE; Photo Credit: Jeff Cooper



Help Wanted: IT Chair

As we return to in-person meetings in September, it is our goal to have our meetings be a hybrid of in-person and virtually through Zoom. As such, we are in need of an IT Chair to help out with the technical aspects of setting up and operating the equipment necessary to have hybrid meetings. If you are interested, please contact Willie Richter, Superintendent, at willie@richterfarms.com.

Three New Achievement Certificates Awarded to Gateway Division Members

By Dave Ackmann, Achievement Program Chair, Gateway Division

The Achievement Program is NMRA's way to recognize its members for expanding their modeling scope and improving their modeling skills, and the second quarter of 2022 has been active within the Gateway Division. Glenn Koproske and Dave Ackmann were awarded Certificates for Electrical Engineering, and David Lowell was recognized for his contribution as an Association Official. They will be officially presented their certificates when in-person Divisional meetings resume in September. Additionally, Greg Gramlich has submitted his Statement Of Qualification (SOQ) for Electrical Engineering and his Golden Spike Award, and Dave Ackmann has submitted his SOQ for Association Volunteer; these are currently awaiting final review.

While the "Working Group" for Electrical Engineering wrapped up its work at the end of June, a new group for "Master Builder – Structures" was launched at the beginning of July, with the intent of helping each member to submit their SOQ by the end of March 2023. A working group gives the opportunity for members to support and encourage each other toward achieving a particular AP Certificate within a particular time frame. The Structures certificate is one of the more difficult awards because it requires 12 structures be built, and while some of the structures may be built from craftsman kits and super-detailed, the other six must be scratch-built. At least one structure must be a bridge or trestle. Furthermore, at least 6 of the structures must be contest judged and receive a "Merit Award" of 87.5 out of 125 points (70%). So far, 6 members of the Division have joined the Working Group, and several members' structures will be judged at the National Convention; hopefully even more will be judged in the fall. Projects are scored against a standard, not against other models and modelers, and judging is intended to recognize the good things builders have done and suggest areas where a model can be enhanced even more. Plans are for the Working Group to have a virtual meeting in September where participants will be able to present some of their work for informal comments and suggestions, while sharing techniques and what they have learned. If this sounds of interest to you, there is still time to join the Structures Working Group.

When a member receives an AP Certificate, they agree to help other members in advancing their skills, so don't be afraid to ask for help and advice. If you want to find out more about these and other Achievement Program categories, just visit the NMRA web site at NMRA.ORG and click on the Education tab, or contact Dave Ackmann at Ackmanns@charter.net. Happy Modeling to All!

"The AP requirements are a set of standards, but they can also serve as a set of guideposts for those who are new, near-new, and not-so-new to the hobby. Not because they lead to some sort of official pat-on-the-back, but because they are a source of ideas for projects that can help us learn to become better modelers."

From the nmra.org website

In Memoriam

By David C. Lowell, Director, Gateway Division, Mid-continent Region

On behalf of the Gateway Division, we offer the families and friends of all those who have passed our sincerest condolences. We wish you peace and comfort during these difficult times.

Richard Lake

Richard passed away on February 23, 2022 and the following is his remembrance as written by his wife Venita:

Richard Ezra Lake III died on [Wednesday, February 23, 2022](#), at Sunrise Assisted Living on Clayton in St. Louis County. He had been there since [October 2020](#). Members of the Gateway Division, NMRA, may be interested in some of his NMRA activities. Rick and I have been NMRA members since 1993, and probably under a different address for a while after we bought our first basement in 1964. We first learned about the Gateway Division when we attended a regional in Kansas City and someone from St. Louis noticed a St. Louis tee shirt I was wearing. Rick made friends there while explaining that his wife deserved to take the diesel engine cab ride she had won in the drawing instead of giving him the chance because he had worked as fireman, switchman and other jobs at the Kansas City terminal as a young man.

Rick served as division clerk and assistant superintendent in the 1990s but opted not to run for superintendent, as he was retiring from teaching and started working long summers at the Zooline Railroad. He was an engineer and then dispatcher for several years. We regularly operated on layouts of several other Zooline friends. As Gateway prepared for the NMRA national convention in 2001, we had a regular layout construction group that rotated Saturdays starting about 1998. There are signatures and dates somewhere on our 2X4 benchwork, including some members who came to help even though they were well past their own benchwork construction.

Other activities involved working on project railroads, usually 4 by 8 foot portable layouts taken to train shows as demonstrations and to sell raffle tickets. One project designed for and built during the 2001 National Train Show was sold to the highest bidder. Before the convention, Rick dealt with getting structures and track, soliciting manufacturers for donations and recruiting members to build one or more structures. The plan featuring St. Louis was later duplicated for an exhibit at the Missouri History Museum about toys through the ages.

After going to our first NMRA national convention in Atlanta in 1995, we attended every convention but one through 2011 in Sacramento, as well as regionals and operating events like BayRails in California. We assisted with registration at several conventions and Rick gave many clinics. He wrote articles for the Mid-Continent *Caboose Kibitzer* and the *RPO* and earned his Volunteer and Author AP awards. I am currently compiling our Dispatcher AP applications, set aside for several years, and finishing the track diagram. More importantly, I am reviving the long-delayed work on our El Dorado and El Reno Railroad with Rock Island connections. It will be on a layout tour during the NMRA Convention on [Monday, August 8, 2022](#).

In Memoriam

Moe Berk

Moe passed away on March 12, 2022 and services were held on March 16, 2022.

Moe was president of the St Louis S-Scale club for many years and a long-time member of the Gateway Division. His obituary is below:

Fortified with the Sacraments of Holy Mother Church, died March 12, 2022, at the age of 82. Moe was born in Chicago on June 26, 1939, to the late Morris Berk Jr. and the late Dorothy (Vinton) Berk Luedtke. He grew up in Flossmoor, IL, and proudly achieved Eagle Scout. He was married for 58 years to "the little girl down the street" and is survived by his wife and faithful life partner Rita (Dolan) Berk. He was a step-son of the late Franklin G. Luedtke of Flossmoor, IL, and is survived by his sister Marian D. Schouten (Richard) of Homer Glen, IL, brother Gregory C. Berk (Donna) of Geneva, IL, and daughters Mary E. Berk of Troy, MO, Ann M. LaRue (Dennis) of Chesterfield, MO, Karen P. Kalka (Randy) of Jacksonville, FL; granddaughters Margaret Kalka, Kimberly LaRue, Marissa LaRue; grandson Reese Kalka and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Doug Whetstone

Doug passed away on April 5, 2022 and services were held on April 9, 2022. Doug was a member of the neighboring Central Missouri Area Division and was instrumental in working to get the Division more active. He interacted with many of our Gateway Division members. His obituary is below:

Dewey Douglas "Doug" Whetstone, 73, of Jefferson City, Missouri passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at Capital Region Medical Center. He was born on July 11, 1948 in Independence, Missouri, a son of the late Dewey Roland and Iris Clementine (Cairns) Whetstone. He was united in marriage to Kay Irons in St. George, Utah on February 14, 1993. He is survived by his wife of 28 years, Kay; his children, Brian Leroy Whetstone (Wendy) and Jolie Osbjornsen (Rick); grandchildren, Dalton, Kelton, Daynaira, Joshua, Ryland, Layne, and Deborah; great-grandchildren, Ana, Elise, Ashlynn, and Lukas; siblings, Dan Whetstone (Stacia) and Katee Vee Kolm (Rick); and numerous close friends. He was preceded in death by one son, Mason Douglas Whetstone.

Carolyn Kraichely

Carolyn, the wife of long time Gateway Division member, Hank Kraichely, passed away on June 11, 2022 and services were held June 16, 2022. Her obituary is below:

Carolyn Jean (Allred) Kraichely of Ballwin, Missouri was a caring wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend. She is preceded in death by sister, Barbara (Allred) Hauff, mother Bernice (Lange) Allred, father Carl Allred. Carolyn leaves behind husband Henry (Hank), married almost 60 years. They have 4 children, Brian Kraichely (Golbahar), Katherine Schuth, Jeffrey Kraichely (Deanna) and Kimberly Gatenby (Ryan) and 11 grandchildren: Michael Schuth, Jennifer Schuth, Katelyn (Katie) Kraichely, Elizabeth (Ellie) Kraichely, Samantha (Sami) Kraichely, Jeffrey Alexander "Jack" Kraichely, Elsie Gatenby, Declan Gatenby, Henry Gatenby, Daria Kraichely and Aidan Kraichely. Carolyn also leaves behind a very cherished sister, Sharon Fletcher.

Meeting Minutes for January 17, 2022

Superintendent:	Willie Richter	Activity Coordinator:	Ron Gawedzinski
Assistant Superintendent:	Dan Knipp	Publicity Chairman:	Jim Ables
Paymaster:	Bill Levin	Membership Chairman:	Bill Linson
Clerk:	Thomas Ose	AP Chairman:	John Carty
MCoR Director:	David Lowell	Contest Chairman:	Chris Oestreich

Business Meeting:

Superintendent Willie Richter called the Zoom meeting to order. Reminder was given that meeting may be recorded. Also mentioned to state name when speaking.

New Members/Visitors Recognition

No new visitors or members.

Year End Financial report (Bill Levin)

2 transactions: \$45 from Don Ayers Estate, \$1.73 interest, YTD: -801.69

MCoR Directors meeting (Dave Lowell)

Tulsa Convention went well. Article in Caboose Kabitzer

Southern Missouri/Arkansas area open positions. Several filled and Several Available.

No Regional Convention this year because of National in STL

MCoR reception for Gateway 2020 still in planning stages.

Old Business

AP Chair Dave Ackmann

Electrical Engineering Working Group formed. 5 members.

What certificate to work on next as a Working Group.

Merit Awards – Marty Vaughn will be doing a Virtual Presentation on Judging in April

New Business

Clerk position – Tom Ose resigned the Clerk Position. Asking for interested people.

General Announcements

Great American Train Show St Charles Conv. Ctr. January 29 and 30, 2022

Vandalia 2nd Annual Train Show January 29, 2022 Vandalia Moose Lodge

Pacific Eagles Train Show Saturday February 19, 2022

TNMOT Model Train Swap Meet March 5, 2022

Springfield Train Fair Sunday March 12, 2022

Sons of the American Legion train show Dupo April 9, 2022

Iron Spike 6th Anniversary Train Show April 30, 2022

RPM meet Collinsville July 29 & 30

Gateway 2022 Convention August 7-13, 2022

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Meeting Minutes from January 17, 2022 Continued

Clinic/Presentation

January Clinic

Edward M. Koehler Jr. (Sunrise Trail Division – Northeastern region)

D&RGW Narrow Gauge through the Cameras of Richard Kindig and Richard B. Jackson 'The Northern System': Using a photographic collection of the works of

these two well known photographers Ed Koehler has created both a history lesson and a photographic exploration of the Monarch branch with its switchbacks; the 'Old

Main Line' to Gunnison; there is a nod to the branches to Baldwin, Crested Butte, and Lake City; and the 'Valley Line'.

February Clinic

Chuck Jenkins (Palmetto Division of the Southeast Region)

Trees (and Weeds) as Supporting Actors

Still looking for presenters for live meetings or over Zoom. Contact Dan Knipp

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

Willie Richter

Superintendent, Gateway Division



A scene from Dick Morgan's freelance layout inspired by the Franklin & South Manchester but designed with his own special touch. Dick's layout features craftsman structures from all the major manufacturers including the actual prototype model of the South River Model Works Delabarre Tap & Die built by Mr. Van Gelder himself.

Photo Credit: Jeff Cooper

Meeting Minutes for February 21, 2021

Superintendent:	Willie Richter	Activity Coordinator:	Ron Gawedzinski
Assistant Superintendent:	Dan Knipp	Publicity Chairman:	Jim Ables
Paymaster:	Bill Levin	Membership Chairman:	Bill Linson
Clerk:	Jeff Cooper	AP Chairman:	Dave Ackmann
McoR Director:	David Lowell	Contest Chairman:	Chris Oestreich

Business Meeting:

Superintendent Willie Richter called the Zoom meeting to order. Reminder was given that meeting may be recorded. Also mentioned to state name when speaking.

New Members/Visitors Recognition

No new members or new visitors except Chuck Jenkins our presenter.

Old Business

Jeff Cooper was elected Clerk by acclamation to serve the remainder of the term.

Jim Ables updated the 2022 convention information.

New Business

No new business was introduced.

General Announcements

Gateway 2022 [Gateway 2022 Convention](#) August 7-13, 2022

Clinic/Presentation

Chuck Jenkins (Palmetto Division of the Southeast Region)

Trees (and Weeds) as Supporting Actors Chuck will show us three or four methods he has used to introduce variety and interest to the model railroad landscape on his 1' x 8' shelf layout. He'll show how trees and shrubs were created from two common garden perennials, and how he created an overgrown but functional roadbed using simple, budget-friendly techniques

March Presentation

Edward M. Koehler Jr. (Sunrise Trail Division of the Northeastern Region)

The continuation of the D&RGW system.

D&RGW Narrow Gauge through the Cameras of Richard Kindig and Richard B. Jackson 'The Southern System': Using the format of the 'Northern System' presentation, Ed Koehler presents the San Juan Extension from Alamosa to Durango, the Silverton branch, the Farmington Branch, the Tefft spur and with a nod to the 'Chili Line' to Santa Fe and the 'Valley Line'.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Knipp
Assistant Superintendent
Gateway Division

Meeting Minutes for March 21, 2022

Superintendent:	Willie Richter	Activity Coordinator:	Ron Gawedzinski
Assistant Superintendent:	Dan Knipp	Publicity Chairman:	Jim Ables
Paymaster:	Bill Levin	Membership Chairman:	Bill Linson
Clerk:	Jeff Cooper	AP Chairman:	Dave Ackmann
McoR Director:	David Lowell	Contest Chairman:	Chris Oestreich

Business Meeting:

Superintendent Willie Richter called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A reminder was given that meeting may be recorded. He also mentioned that attendees need to state their name when speaking and to mute their lines to prevent background noise when not speaking.

New Members/Visitors Recognition

Willie Richter recognized one new member in attendance (Ed Smith) and one visitor (Edward M. Koehler, Jr., our presenter.)

Old Business

Convention Update: Jim Ables updated the 2022 convention information and reported that a new promotional video has been released. The Layout Design SIG information is not yet on the convention website; however, all of the other activities and tours are live on the website. The clinic schedule continues to evolve and updates will continue to occur. There will be door prizes donated by various manufacturers. Glenn Kroposke inquired about past issues regarding receiving a name tag for entrance into the National Train Show. Jim Ables reported that National is responsible for this and that he would reach out to National to ensure that any past issues have been resolved for the upcoming convention.

MCOR Meet and Greet: David Lowell updated the MCOR Meet and Greet that will be held during the convention. The meet and greet will be Tuesday, August 9 from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Kirkwood Mopac station. There will be food and beverages.

New Business

Willie Richter discussed the possibility of adding a position to assist with technology needs as the division moves forward to hybrid in-person and Zoom meetings. He asked members who are interested in technology to consider volunteering once plans have been finalized. More information will follow at future meetings.

General Announcements

Willie Richter made the following general announcements of upcoming events:

- Iron Spike Swap Meet Third Saturday March through October
- Sons of the American Legion Train Show Dupo April 9, 2022
- Iron Spike 6th Anniversary Train Show April 30, 2022 Washington MO
- After the Storm Train Show May 14, 2022 Imperial MO
- RPM meet Collinsville July 29 & 30, 2022
- Gateway 2022 Convention August 7-13, 2022

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Meeting Minutes for March 21, 2022 Continued

Dave Ackmann made the announcement that he and Glenn Kroposke have completed their Electrical Engineering SOQ which have been submitted to National. Dave invited anyone else who is interested in attaining their certificate to join their support group.

Clinic/Presentation

Edward M. Koehler Jr. of the Sunrise Trail Division of the Northeastern Region presented his clinic on the **D&RGW Narrow Gauge through the Cameras of Richard Kindig and Richard B. Jackson: 'The Southern System'**. Using the format of the 'Northern System' presentation, he presented the San Juan Extension from Alamosa to Durango, the Silverton branch, the Farmington Branch, the Tefft Spur, the 'Chili Line' to Santa Fe, and the 'Valley Line'.

Willie Richter announced the April clinic/presentation will be conducted by Walter Beckman from the Gateway Division. The topic will be: **Resin Printers and You - A Novice's Journey Into the Unknown**. The presentation will cover 3D printing and Walter's experience with several resin printers.

Willie Richter announced that the division is still looking for presenters for live meetings or over Zoom. Please contact Dan Knipp to make arrangements.

Adjourn: Willie Richter adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeff Cooper
Clerk
Gateway Division



Above: The depot at Gauley Bridge, WV. It was built by the Kanawha and Michigan RR in 1893 and later became a Chesapeake & Ohio depot. It closed to trains in 1958. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

Right: Former Norfolk Southern (ex-K&M, NYC, PC, Conrail) bridge at Gauley Bridge, WV. The bridge has a main span length of 150-ft and a total length of 610-ft. It was taken out of service in 2010.



Photo Credit (Both Photos): Jeff Cooper

Meeting Minutes for April 18, 2022

Superintendent:	Willie Richter	Activity Coordinator:	Ron Gawedzinski
Assistant Superintendent:	Dan Knipp	Publicity Chair:	Jim Ables
Paymaster:	Bill Levin	Membership Chair:	Bill Linson
Clerk:	Jeff Cooper	AP Chair:	Dave Ackmann
MCoR Director:	David Lowell	Contest Chair:	Chris Oestreich

Business Meeting:

Superintendent Willie Richter called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. A reminder was given that meeting may be recorded. He also mentioned that attendees need to state their name when speaking and to mute their lines to prevent background noise when not speaking.

New Members/Visitors Recognition

Willie Richter recognized 2 visitors in attendance: Jim Murphy from the Mid-eastern Region and Edward Koehler from the Sunrise Trail Division.

Membership Report

David Lowell presented the membership report. The Division currently has 220 members and the MCoR Region has 870 members. Mr. Lowell also reported that Dough Whetstone passed away. Mr. Whetstone was very prominent in attempts to get the Central Missouri Area more active.

Financial Report

Jim Ables presented the March 2022 financial report. A member questioned the rent expense as we have not yet returned to in-person meetings. Mr. Ables reported that the \$200 on the rent expense line is related to the Kirkwood Station gathering for the MCoR region during the National convention.

Minutes from Prior Meetings

Jim Ables reported that minutes from the previous meetings were not available to present at this meeting as a result of the Clerk having some access issues with Dropbox.

Old Business

Convention Update: Jim Ables provided an update of the 2022 convention. Mr. Ables reported that the clinic and tour schedules have been updated and are available on the website. There has been one addition to the layout tour schedule. Gary Hoover has agreed to make his new layout available for layout tours. Mr. Ables announced that Walter Beckman is the volunteer coordinator and to contact him to sign up to volunteer at the convention. His email address is wrbbee@gmail.com. Mr. Ables noted that volunteers are needed for the convention and that each volunteer will generate a value of \$10 per hour that can be offset against the volunteer's convention registration fees or it can be donated to a local train club as long as it is a 501(c)(3) charity. There are 85 shifts to fill and hours for the shifts vary from 2 to 6 hours. There is also a need for 12 bus captains and volunteers for bus captains do not have to pay the bus tour fee in exchange for volunteering. Dave Ackmann requested additional information regarding parking for the convention. Mr. Ables reported that hotel parking is \$30 per day and there are surface parking lots within a few blocks of the hotel that cost \$5 to \$10 per day. Carl Wessel asked if layout helpers can count their time towards volunteering. Mr. Ables reported that question is still in discussion.

Continued on next page

Meeting Minutes for April 18, 2022 Continued

New Business

April Board Meeting Report: Willie Richter, Jim Ables, David Lowell, and Dan Knipp updated the membership on the discussions and decisions from the April 8, 2022 Board meeting:

In-person Meetings: In-person Division meetings will resume after the National convention; however, they will be hybrid meetings allowing members to attend either in-person or via Zoom. Edward Koehler commented that the Sunrise Division has been holding hybrid meetings and specifically noted that attention needs to be paid to possible feedback between computers in the same room. Dave Ackmann noted that the Cowcatcher Division has been holding hybrid meetings and Mike Mackey would be a good source of information.

Elections: The election process for Superintendent and Paymaster will begin in September. The Election Committee will be called to together to carry out the process.

Member Survey: A survey will be sent out to see what members want to get out of the Division. Possible activities include quarterly Saturday workshops and/or judging events and reinstating the Model Railroading 101 program. Jim Ables noted that Mark Twain Hobby and the Museum of Transportation have been supportive of Division activities in the past. Dave Ackmann noted that there could possibly be a workgroup set up for AP for structures. David Lowell mentioned that a structure make-and-take event could be set up.

Dropbox: The Board members are discussing moving away from Dropbox and are investigating Google Workspace for not-for-profits which would allow more storage space and offer greater capabilities.

Local Presenters Needed: Dan Knipp reported that presenters are needed for future meetings with the May meeting presentation still to be determined. Local presenters are the highest priority.

IT Chair: David Lowell reported that the Division is need of an IT Chair to assist with technology matters when the Division transitions to hybrid in-person/Zoom meetings. Please contact a member of the Board if you are interested in serving in this role.

General Announcements

Upcoming Events: Willie Richter made the following general announcements of upcoming events:

Iron Spike Swap Meet Third Saturday March through October
St Louis Area Narrow Gauge Meet April 23, 2022, Manchester MO
Iron Spike 6th Anniversary Train Show April 30, 2022, Washington MO
After the Storm Train Show May 14, 2022, Imperial MO
RPM meet Collinsville July 29 & 30, 2022
Gateway 2022 Convention August 7-13, 2022

RPM: David Lowell reported that the RPM needs volunteers to assist with the meet primarily in the area of registration. The shifts are either 8 hours or two 4-hour shifts. For each volunteer meeting the hour requirements, the RPM will donate \$50 to the Gateway Division and the volunteers will get into the RPM for free. Jim Ables asked David for a writeup to include in an e-mail to Division members.

Narrow Gauge Convention: Dale DeWitt reported that Pete Smith will have an open house for his layout on Friday night during the convention.

AP Certificates: Dave Ackmann announced that he, Glenn Koproske, and David Lowell recently received AP certificates.

Continued on next page

Meeting Minutes for April 18, 2022 Continued

AP Program: Glenn Koproske asked for clarification of the use of 3D printing and the AP program. Dave Ackmann reported that no points are deducted as 3D printing is considered a tool. Jim Murphy further noted that 3DS printing counts toward scratchbuilding credit if the builder created that actual CAD files.

Clinic/Presentation

Walter Beckman of the Gateway Division presented his clinic **Resin Printers and You - A Novice's Journey into the Unknown**. Walter covered 3D printing, his experience with several resin printers, examples of the items he printed, and details about what he learned along the way.

Willie Richter announced the May clinic/presentation is still to be determined.

Adjourn: Willie Richter adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeff Cooper
Clerk



Scenes from the Mississippi Valley N Scalers modular layout at the train show in St. Charles, MO in January 2022. Photo Credit (All Photos): Jeff Cooper

Meeting Minutes for May 16, 2022

Superintendent:	Willie Richter	Activity Coordinator:	Ron Gawedzinski
Assistant Superintendent:	Dan Knipp	Publicity Chair:	Jim Ables
Paymaster:	Bill Levin	Membership Chair:	Bill Linson
Clerk:	Jeff Cooper	AP Chair:	Dave Ackmann
McoR Director:	David Lowell	Contest Chair:	Chris Oestreich

Business Meeting:

Superintendent Willie Richter called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A reminder was given that meeting may be recorded. He also mentioned that attendees need to state their name when speaking and to mute their lines to prevent background noise when not speaking.

New Members/Visitors Recognition

Willie Richter asked if there were any new members or visitors attending the meeting. There were no new members or visitors attending.

Old Business

IT Chair: Willie Richter announced the division is still looking for a member to fill the IT Chair role to assist with the technology component of future hybrid meetings.

Convention Update: Jim Ables provided an update of the 2022 convention. Mr. Ables reported that the convention website is current with the latest updates. Mr. Ables announced that the self-driving tour cost has been reduced to \$22.50 each and those who have already signed up for the tours will receive a refund. The convention is still in need of volunteers for the registration desk, monitoring the contest room, audio/visual assistance in the clinic rooms, and to help setup and take down the convention. The Freight House small vendor exhibition is in limbo as not enough vendors have signed up for it. There is a possibility that it may be replaced with modular layouts as the National Train Show has limited space for layouts. Some of the prototype tours have already sold out with others nearing capacity. Venita Lake noted that some layout owners are in need in volunteers to assist with the layout tours.

Local Presenters: Willie Richter reminded the group that local presenters are still needed for the monthly meetings.

RPM Volunteers: David Lowell announced that all volunteer slots at the RPM have been filled.

Member Survey: Dan Knipp reported that there will be a member survey e-mailed out to the members of the division. It is being put together now in Google Forms. Venita Lake inquired about the purpose of the survey. Mr. Knipp responded that it is a chance for the members inform the Board what types of things they want the Division to do.

Election Committee: Willie Richter asked for members to serve on the elections committee which will be assembling later this year

New Business

None

General Announcements

Upcoming Events: Willie Richter made the following general announcements of upcoming events:

Iron Spike Swap Meet Third Saturday March through October
RPM meet Collinsville July 29 & 30, 2022
Gateway 2022 Convention August 7-13, 2022

Continued on next page

Meeting Minutes from May 16, 2022 Continued

NMRA Survey: Jeff Cooper announced that National just opened up a survey regarding the future direction of the education component of the organization. Mr. Cooper noted that the survey was 35 questions and that the link was posted on Facebook.

Clinic/Presentation

The Clinic/Presentation was an NMRAX recorded presentation by Mike Mackey, MMR, from the Cowcatcher Division of the Lone Star Region entitled **"Details Make the Difference."** In his presentation, Mike discussed how to improve your models with details, different types of details, where to get details, and setting a scene. Dan Knipp noted that he thought the clinic was beneficial for members who are working on their AP for structures.

Next Meeting: Willie Richter announced the June meeting will be June 20, 2022 through Zoom and the clinic/presentation is still to be determined.

Adjourn: Willie Richter adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeff Cooper
Clerk
Gateway Division



Left: Union Pacific Big Boy #4014 crosses the bridge over old Route 3 at Gale, IL (just north of Thebes, IL) on 8/28/2021. Photo Credit: Twila Wyskiver-Cooper

Above: Coal-fired Heisler #6 is under steam in Durbin, WV and is ready to take the *Durbin Rocket* on its run on 9/23/2021. #6 is a three-truck Heisler built in 1929 and has ties to West Virginia's logging industry. Photo Credit: Jeff Cooper

Meeting Minutes for June 20, 2022

Superintendent:	Willie Richter	Activity Coordinator:	Ron Gawedzinski
Assistant Superintendent:	Dan Knipp	Publicity Chair:	Jim Ables
Paymaster:	Bill Levin	Membership Chair:	Bill Linson
Clerk:	Jeff Cooper	AP Chair:	Dave Ackmann
McoR Director:	David Lowell	Contest Chair:	Chris Oestreich

Business Meeting:

Superintendent Willie Richter called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. A reminder was given that meeting may be recorded. He also mentioned that attendees need to state their name when speaking and to mute their lines to prevent background noise when not speaking.

New Members/Visitors Recognition

Willie Richter asked if there were any new members or visitors attending the meeting. There was one visitor at the meeting (Jim Kellow, MMR).

Old Business

IT Chair: Willie Richter announced the division is still looking for a member to fill the IT Chair role to assist with the technology component of future hybrid meetings.

Convention Update: Jim Ables provided an update of the 2022 convention. Mr. Ables reported that much of the planning is complete and they are still looking for volunteers. Walter Beckman is the volunteer coordinator. His email address is wrbbee@gmail.com if you are interested. Mr. Ables reported that the clinic schedule continues to grow with more additions expected. The clinic schedule has been updated on the convention website. Mr. Ables reported on two tours that convention organizers are particularly excited about which are the tour of St. Louis Union Station and the TRRA Rail Excursion. Mr. Ables further stated that there may be 2 more layouts added to the self-driving tours pending confirmation. Finally, Mr. Ables noted that the Micro-engineering tour is sold out. Dave Ackmann asked about registration numbers. Mr. Ables reported that registrations are picking up and that there are challenges related to COVID, gas prices, and air travel; however good attendance is still expected. Mr. Ackmann inquired about parking for the convention. Mr. Ables reported that overnight parking at the hotel is \$30 per night; however, there is daily parking at the hotel at a reduced rate from the overnight parking (possibly \$5 to \$10 per day). Mr. Ables also reported that there are several surface lots within 1 to 2 blocks of the hotel with reasonable rates.

Local Presenters: Dan Knipp reported that local presenters are needed for the return to the hybrid in-person/Zoom meetings. Mr. Richter noted that in-person meetings will return on September 19th at the Trinity Lutheran Church at 14088 Clayton Road in Town and Country, MO.

Member Survey: Dan Knipp reported that the member survey has been sent via e-mail. There have been 62 responses out of 180 valid e-mail addresses. He asked that if you have not yet completed the survey, please do so by the end of June as we will be discussing the results at the July Board meeting.

Election Committee: Willie Richter asked for members to serve on the elections committee which will be assembling later this year. There will be a nominating committee that will collect the information on those who want to run and to also solicit members to run. There is also an election committee that will prepare the ballot. The voting will be electronic with paper ballots mailed to those without a valid e-mail address. In the past, it has worked out that members who serve on the nominating committee end up serving on the election committee. Dale DeWitt volunteered to serve on the committee. Additional volunteers are needed in addition to Dale. Please reach out to Willie Richter if you are interested.

Continued on next page

Meeting Minutes from June 20, 2022 Continued

New Business

Gateway Division Facebook Page: Dan Knipp reported that the Division Facebook page has been resurrected. It is named Gateway Division NMRA. Members reported of issues what they have seen posted on other Facebook pages and groups, primarily from non-members. Mr. Knipp noted that members can post in the Facebook community but the administrator is the only person who can move it to the main page. He noted the need for a backup administrator. Jim Ables volunteered to be the administrator backup after the National convention.

General Announcements

Upcoming Events: Willie Richter made the following general announcements of upcoming events:

Iron Spike Swap Meet Third Saturday March through October, ironspike.org

Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet, Collinsville, July 29 & 30, 2022, strpm.com

Gateway 2022 NMRA National Convention, Gateway 2022, August 7-13, 2022, https://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?preview&event_id=13724

Model Train Tailgate Swap Meet, The National Museum of Transportation, August 27th, tnmot.org

The National Museum of Transportation 2022 Speaker Series, second Thursday of each month; 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., reservations are free but required; tnmot.org; As of 6-8-2022 there are a limited number of seats remaining.

- July 14: Fr. Tom Keller: The Old Monopoly: Wiggins Ferry Co. and Influences on the Railroads
 - August 11: Doug Schneider: How Railroads Shaped St. Louis
 - *September 8: Amanda Clark: More Than a Bridge (on James B. Eads)
 - *October 13, Ed Dickens. The person who ran the working restoration, and continues to run the touring, of UP Big Boy No. 4014
 - November 10: David Lobbig: Bridging the Confluence: Building the Eads and Bellefontaine Spans
- *September/October speaker events might be swapped depending on Ed Dickens' schedule

New Tracks Modeling: Jim Kellow, MMR provided information on New Tracks Modeling, a Zoom and YouTube livestream for the purpose of mentoring and modeling. You can subscribe at newtracksmodeling.com

AP Update: Dave Ackmann reported that 2 members have completed the Electrical Engineer AP, himself and Glenn Kroposke. Greg Gramlich is going through his review now. Mr. Ackmann also announced that he is setting up an AP work group for Structures. This work group will be active from July through March. He will share first hand knowledge of what it is like to be an entrant and also a judge as he entered 2 structures at Indy Junction and also served as a judge for the first time. Mr. Ackmann also has a strong interest in 3D printing. Please contact Mr. Ackmann at ackmanns@charter.net if you are interested in joining the Structures work group.

Continued on next page

Meeting Minutes from June 22, 2022 Continued

Clinic/Presentation

The June Clinic/Presentation was **"Post-Covid 19 Model Railroading."** Our presenter was James Knabb from the Trinity River Division of the Lone Star Region. In his presentation, James discussed how the model train industry has changed significantly since the height of the pandemic and how there has been a huge amount of people joining the hobby. We chatted about what types of new modelers are out there and how to get them to join the NMRA. We also discussed what other clubs and Divisions have been doing to stay active and engage their membership.

Next Meeting: Willie Richter announced the June meeting will be July 18, 2022 through Zoom and the clinic/presentation is still to be determined.

Adjourn: Willie Richter adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeff Cooper
Clerk
Gateway Division



Scenes from the *Santa Fe All the Way* modular layout at the train show in St. Charles, MO in January 2022. Photo Credit (All Photos): Jeff Cooper

Thank you, John Carty

On behalf of the Gateway Division, we would like to thank **John Carty** for all of his work and contributions for publishing the RPO for the past 11 years. Publishing the newsletter is no easy task, and he did it for over a decade. As this is John's final issue as editor, we would like to take this moment to express our gratitude for all that he has done for the Gateway Division. Thank you, John.

RPO

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www.gatewaynmra.org



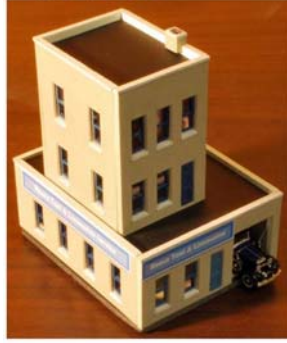
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Volume 29, Number 3
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A selection of covers from the 35 issues published during John's tenure as the editor of the RPO.

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