

NMRA BULLETIN

DEPARTMENT & PROGRAM MANAGERS

Chief Administrative Officer —
Jenny Hendricks
P.O. Box 1328
Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328
O: (423) 892-2846 Fax: (423) 899-4869
e-mail: hq@nmra.org

Library -
423-892-2846 or adminrep@nmra.org

Education Department Manager —
Michael Hohn, MMR®
Morgantown, WV 26501-4535
(304) 296-6303
e-mail: educate@nmra.org

Howell Day Museum Committee Chair —
John Stevens
Tyrone, GA 30290
H: (770) 632-0753
e-mail: museum@nmra.org

Information Technology Department
Manager —
Gert "Speed" Muller
Murphy, TX 75094-3524
(469) 345-0022
e-mail: itmanager@nmra.org

Development & Fund Raising Department
Manager — Alan Anderson
West Jordan, UT 84088 H: (801) 613-0801
e-mail: fund@nmra.org

Marketing Consultant
VACANT
e-mail: marketing@nmra.org

Meetings & Trade Show Department
Manager — Jenny Hendricks
e-mail: mts@nmra.org

Publications Department Manager —
Riley Triggs
Austin, TX 78704 H: (512) 636-3521
e-mail: pubs@nmra.org

Standards & Conformance Department
Manager — Andy Zimmerman
Tallahassee, FL 32309
C: 850-524-4399
e-mail: tech-chair@nmra.org

**Have you changed your address or
other membership information?**

Notify NMRA Headquarters

**e-mail: hq@nmra.org
Phone: 423-892-2846 (8am-4pm ET)
Mail: P.O. Box 1328
Soddy Daisy TN 37384-1328**

REGION PRESIDENTS

Australasian Region—Duncan Cabassi
Sinnamon Park, QLD, Australia
M: +61 0424 844 807
e-mail president@nmra.org.au

British Region—Peter Borchers
Cookham Dean
United Kingdom
e-mail: brprez@nmra.org

Lone Star Region—Donna Orr
2625 Rolling Meadows Dr.
Rockwall, TX 75087
e-mail: lsrprez@nmra.org
H: (972) 342-8598

Mid-Central Region—Jerry Doyle
56 Justin Court
Huntington, WV 25705
H: (304) 638-2826 e-mail: mcrprez@nmra.org

Mid-Continent Region — Larry Diehl
7008 Millridge St
Shawnee, KS 66218-9608
(C) 913-441-1605
e-mail: mcorprez@nmra.org

Mid-Eastern Region—Scott Unger
115 S 22nd Street
Allentown, PA 18104-6400
C: (610) 462-0756
e-mail: merprez@nmra.org

Midwest Region—John Coy, MMR
6409 Woodhaven Court
Avon, IN 46123
H: (317) 294 4675
e-mail: mwrprez@nmra.org

Niagara Frontier Region—Gerald Arends
165 Eighth Ave
Kitchener, ON, N2C1S5, Canada
(226) 476-1801 e-mail: nfrprez@nmra.org

North Central Region—Richard (Rich)
Mahaney; 316 Arnstrom Drive
PO Box 265, Gobles, MI 49055
H: (269) 214-4221 e-mail: ncrprez@nmra.org

Northeastern Region—Ed O'Rourke, MMR®
5193 Pointe East Drive
Jamesville, NY 13078
H: (315) 247-0494 e-mail: nerprez@nmra.org

Pacific Coast Region—Chip Meriam
2260 Cherry Glenn Court
Chico, CA 95926
H: (530) 228 1544 e-mail: pcrprez@nmra.org

Pacific Northwest Region—Jeff Herrmann
PO Box 1012
Rathdrum, ID 83858
H: (714) 651-3903 e-mail: pnrprez@nmra.org

Pacific Southwest Region—Joel Morse
11891 Tunstall Street
Garden Grove, CA 92845
H: (714) 614-5401 e-mail: psrprez@nmra.org

Rocky Mountain Region—Gary Myers
e-mail: rnrprez@nmra.org

Southeastern Region—Roy Masterson
3502 Glendon Dr.
Chattanooga, TN 37411-4114
H: (423) 227-0334 e-mail: serprez@nmra.org

Sunshine Region—Andy Zimmerman
Tallahassee, FL 32309
C: 850-524-4399
e-mail: ssrprez@nmra.org

Thousand Lakes Region—Art Suel
14500 Alabama Ave
Savage, MN 55378
e-mail: tlrprez@nmra.org

NMRA Canada President—Ed Molenkamp
Edmonton Alberta T5M 2M9
e-mail: presca@nmra.org

Region Secretaries: send all
changes in Region officer infor-
mation to the NMRA Secretary:
secy@nmra.org.

2026 NMRA National Convention Dates and National Train Show Reservations
2026 Scenic City Express, Chattanooga, Tennessee www.nmra2026.org/
Train Show Booth Reservations—Jenny Hendricks Registrar • P.O. Box 1328, Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328
423-892-2846 • ntsreg@nmra.org
• 2027 Tacoma, Washington

rev 7/2/25

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

NMRA AP CERTIFICATE REPORT

JUNE 2025

GOLDEN SPIKE

Lone Star Region

Jim Archer, Lewisville, Texas

Eric Smith, Hurst, Texas

Mid-Central Region

Scott Klein, Harrison, Ohio

Richard Reichenbach, Ellwood City, Pennsylvania

Pacific Northwest Region

Nelson Renz, Sturgeon County, Alberta, Canada

Steve Hauff, Port Angeles, Washington

Ryan Bates, Chattaroy, Washington

Pacific Southwest Region

Ron Hart, Peoria, Arizona

MASTER BUILDER - MOTIVE POWER

Lone Star Region

Lourdes McCleary, Kingwood, Texas

Mid-Eastern Region

Robert S. Gamble, Cary, North Carolina

MASTER BUILDER - CARS

Mid-Eastern Region

Thom Radice, Long Branch, New Jersey

Pacific Coast Region

Paul Deis, Paso Robles, California

Pacific Northwest Region

Russell Kerr, Milton, Washington

Pacific Southwest Region

Wayne L. Pierce, El Cajon, California

Sunshine Region

J. Joseph Brann, Orlando, Florida

MASTER BUILDER - STRUCTURES

Australasian Region

Craig Veitch, Bemboka, New South Wales, Australia

Mid-Central Region

Stan White, Louisville, Kentucky

MASTER BUILDER - SCENERY

Australasian Region

Craig Veitch, Bemboka, New South Wales, Australia

John Arrowsmith, Bowen Mountain, New South Wales, Australia

Phil White, Kellyville, New South Wales, Australia

Northeastern Region

John McHugh, Plaiston, New Hampshire

Pacific Northwest Region

Malcolm Anderson, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada

Mike Murphy, Hayden, Idaho

John Bilahorka, Kennewick, Washington

MASTER BUILDER - PROTOTYPE MODELS

Lone Star Region

Jay Waters, Midlothian, Texas

MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER - CIVIL

Mid-Central Region

Ray Persing, Cincinnati, Ohio

Pacific Southwest Region

Carl Heimberger, Corona, California

Southeastern Region

W. David Godwin, Canton, Georgia

MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER - ELECTRICAL

Lone Star Region

Dick Brannon, Weatherford, Texas

Mid-Central Region

Ray Persing, Cincinnati, Ohio

CHIEF DISPATCHER

Northeastern Region

Will Everitt, Portland, Maine

ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL

Mid-Central Region

Larry K. Smith, Lawrenceburg, Kentucky

Southeastern Region

Steven R. Folino, Afton, Tennessee

ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER

Lone Star Region

David Kranda, Fort Worth, Texas

Mid-Eastern Region

Kenneth S. Roth, Lebanon, Pennsylvania

Midwest Region

Gregg Burks, Plainfield, Indiana

North Central Region

Jens Hensel, Suttons Bay, Michigan

Irvin Chmielewski, Farmington Hills, Michigan

Pacific Northwest Region

Robert Badmington, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

MODEL RAILROAD AUTHOR

Mid-Eastern Region

Lee Stoermer, Aldie, Virginia

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER

J. Joseph Brann, Orlando, Florida

Ray Persing, Cincinnati, Ohio

Carl Heimberger, Corona, California

John McHugh, Plaiston, New Hampshire

Robert S. Gamble, Cary, North Carolina

Paul Deis, Paso Robles, California

AP QUESTIONS: If you have questions about the AP program or requirements, start with your local or Region AP manager. If you still have questions, contact Ray Persing at achiev@nmra.org.

Correction to March 2024 report:

GOLDEN SPIKE

Pacific Northwest Region

Paul Schmidt, Sequim, Washington

**Not getting the bi-monthly
NMRA eBULLETIN?**

The new **NMRA eBulletin** comes out every other month near the 1st of the month. Either your SPAM filter is blocking it, or you need to update your email address with us. Have HQ update your address at: <http://www.nmra.org/customer-service-request>



ROBERT GAMBLE

EARNs

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER® #800

My train story begins in the typical fashion with a Lionel set that I played with on my bedroom floor. I don't remember ever not liking trains. My father would take me to look at large train layouts. My uncle had an HO layout that I would see on occasional visits. My mother even liked trains. So, the support structure was there.

As a small boy, my father took me to Philadelphia, where he worked at a refractory (firebrick) plant. This rail-served plant was large enough to have its own industrial switcher. My father arranged for me to get a ride in the cab. The engineer said I could work the throttle. Cool! He told me to move the lever forward, and so I gave it a little push. The lever moved a little, and the engine crept forward. He said that I needed to give it a good shove. Okay, you asked for it. I then slammed the throttle forward all the way. The engine jumped. The wheels spun. The engineer said some words I hadn't heard before, grabbed the throttle, and stopped the engine. Flustered and wor-

ried about his job, the engineer quickly got me out of the cab and tried to act as though nothing had happened. But I had fun.

Unfortunately, my early train days were cut short when my mother decided that I was not playing with my trains and gave them all to the next-door neighbors. At the age of ten, I moved on to HO-scale slot cars and plastic modelbuilding. While my first decade was in New Jersey, my second was in Georgia. My father's plant was served by Southern Railway. As a customer, he got some swag that he passed on to me, along with a few other perks. One such perk was an event down at the Macon fairgrounds, all catered and served by Southern passenger train staff. I still remember the excellent service, a real performance by these men. Today, I model the Southern.

In my teens, I improved my model building skills (a bit) and dabbled in radio-controlled planes and tanks. A good friend of mine, Jamie Raynor, had a very nice N-scale layout in his basement. This model railroad planted the seed of one day having my own layout. That seed would lie dormant for 20 years, through education, marriage, and career-building

moves. We ended up in North Carolina in a house with a walk-up attic (basements being rare). I finished the attic and declared it "my space." I thought a train layout would be something I could do with my two young sons. So, in 1995, I embarked on my real model railroading track.

To learn, I subscribed to *Model Railroader* and joined a local club. There, I was advised to join the NMRA. A layout plan was created in an early railroad CAD program. Construction began. Being that it was 1995, I had the benefit of using DCC from the start. The layout benchwork and basic track were completed over the next few years, along with basic scenery and some structures. A local division of the NMRA was established in 1998, but it was several years before my schedule allowed me to attend meetings of the Carolina Piedmont Division (CPD). I was heavily involved in the Boy Scouts, serving as the Scoutmaster of a large troop. From the CPD meetings that I could attend, I learned of the Achievement Program and was encouraged to pursue certificates by Dick Genthner, MMR. Through the local club, we ran a series of Boy Scout Railroading merit badge

classes at their annual train show. Scouts could earn the merit badge in a single day. Over 300 Scouts earned their Railroading merit badge, and I earned my first AP certificate — Association Volunteer — in 2003.

However, scheduling and priorities put model railroading on hold. The layout gathered dust for 14 years until 2018, when I decided to rearrange my priorities, making trains my top leisure activity. I started going to Division meetings and resolved to “complete” my layout. Division friends encouraged me to continue with the Achievement Program. Charlie Rausch, MMR, got me started on the author path and helped me explore other achievement certificates that I might earn. Jack Dziadul, Jim Murphy, and Gene Sing (all of them MMRs) were

also instrumental in my success through encouragement, advice, and counsel. Many others have also encouraged me along the way, but above all, I must acknowledge the tolerance and indulgence afforded me by my wife, Linda.

Through this support, I earned Electrical in 2020 and Civil in 2021 during the COVID lockdowns; Author in 2021; Scenery in 2023; and Chief Dispatcher in 2024. When our Division hosted the 2024 Mid-Eastern Region convention, Joe Walters, MMR, and Superintendent of the Philadelphia Division, gave me the encouragement that I needed to pursue Master Builder – Motive Power, which I earned in 2025. That certificate got me over the last hump, all thanks to Joe.

I encourage anyone interested in model railroading self-improvement to

consider the Achievement Program. It provided a means to get me out of my comfort zone to explore aspects and do things outside of my natural inclination. By and large, it was also fun!

Certificates Earned
Robert Gamble, MMR® #800

Association Volunteer
Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical
Model Railroad Engineer – Civil
Model Railroad Author
Master Builder – Scenery
Chief Dispatcher
Master Builder – Motive Power

FROM NMRA HEADQUARTERS

NOTICE OF 2026 ELECTIONS

Mike Cummings
NMRA Secretary

The following NMRA Board of Directors positions are open for election in 2026:

Central District Director
Canadian Director
NMRA Canada President
NMRA Canada Vice President
Regional Advisory Council (RAC) Director



Please check Section E of the **Corporate Policies & Procedures Manual** located at <https://www.nmra.org> for the extent of the districts affected. Candidate Statements are limited to 400 words.

Thinking of Running for an NMRA Director or Officer Position?

Click “Organization and Structure” from the NMRA Resources section in the blue “footer” on each page.

Click “Board of Directors” listed in the blue “box” on the right side of the page.

Click “Thinking about running for an NMRA office”

Central District Director

Submission of candidates’ names for consideration for the position of Central District Director shall be submitted to National Nominating Committee Chair Jordan Kramer at nominations@nmra.org no later than October 1, 2025.

Canadian Director, NMRA Canada President, and NMRA Canada Vice President

Submission of candidates’ names for consideration for the positions of Canadian Director, NMRA Canada President, and NMRA Canada Vice President shall be submitted to can-nominations@nmra.org no later than October 1, 2025.

Regional Advisory Council (RAC) Director

Submissions of candidate statements for RAC Director shall be submitted to racnominations@nmra.org no later than September 1, 2025.

Candidates may wish to run for these positions by petition and not be subjected to the decisions of the appropriate nominating committees. Requirements for submitting by petition are contained in the CPPM. All submissions by petition shall be received by the NMRA Secretary at secy@nmra.org no later than December 1, 2025.

Members with questions about the election may contact the NMRA Secretary at secy@nmra.org.

PIONEER AWARDS

by Mike Arnold

Chair, Pioneer Awards Committee

The Pioneer Awards Committee was established to be solely responsible for the annual award of Pioneer to those in our hobby who have made significant contributions to the enjoyment of our hobby. The Committee is comprised of members with backgrounds and experience in senior roles within the NMRA, the hobby trade, and manufacturing.

The history of the award is long, dating to 1985, when it was initiated by the Model Railroad Industry Association,

September 30 to allow time for due consideration and any questions that might arise from Committee members. The following will be helpful in composing any nomination.

The Pioneer Award recognizes those individuals who have had a profound impact on the hobby of model railroading, primarily (but not exclusively) in producing products that were revolutionary, innovative, or made significant improvements. The candidates can be from any country worldwide. Any nomination must demonstrate to the Committee the contribution that the individual has made to the hobby, how impactful that has been, and details of any developments from the original work. It should also include a résumé of the nominee's life/career in the hobby, as well as their current status, such as whether they are still active or alive. Any nomination for individuals who are deceased should be supported by contact details of alternative recipients to accept the award on his/her behalf, such as family or the company of their relevant employment.

When considering a nomination, reviewing the list of past recipients on the NMRA website may prove helpful – see <https://www.nmra.org/nmra-pioneers-model-railroading-year>.

In 2025, our 90th Anniversary Year, the Committee is awarding six

Pioneers: four have been awarded so far, with two more to be awarded in Europe. Those awarded so far in 2025 are:

Yuji Kato

Founder of Kato Precision Railroad Models in 1957 and Kato USA in 1986, manufacturer of locomotives and rolling stock in HO, N, and OO9, following Japanese, North American, European, and British prototypes, trackwork, and lineside accessories.

Sydney Pritchard

Founder of Pritchard Patent Products Limited (PECO) in 1946, manufacturer of trackwork in all of the popular gauges and scales distributed worldwide, and rolling stock and structure kits. PECO also publishes two monthly magazines and several modeling guides.

Tony Koester

Author of regular articles in the hobby press and editor of magazines, annual publications, and guides. He is also a pioneer of proto-freelancing and a promoter of realistic operations on model railroads.

Minton Cronkhite

Developed O-gauge in the USA and acknowledged as a producer of prototypical models, mostly of his favorite railroad, the Santa Fe. He is famed for designing and building layouts and was a pioneer of scenic modeling, including a layout for Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry.



Inc. (now part of the NMRA Pioneers in Model Railroading). The NMRA took over responsibility for this award in 1994. The Committee welcomes nominations from members, which should be addressed to pioneer-chair@nmra.org. While public nominations are accepted, the Committee decides all awardees at its sole discretion, and all decisions are final and non-appealable. The Committee's decisions on the annual awards are made toward the end of each year for presentation and announcement the following year. Nominations should thus be submitted no later than

