

JOHN BATE

I am currently serving as the Canadian member on the NMRA Board of Directors. It has been an unusual three years, with almost everything going online, and only one opportunity to attend an in-person National Convention during my first term in this position. I hope and expect that more opportunities for face-to-face meetings will arise in the near future. However, the enforced shift to online operations has had its benefits. Members who were unable to attend events for various reasons can now participate more fully. The digital NMRA Magazine has been well-received, and allows us to avoid Canadian postage costs. I believe that we must continue to modernize the NMRA, adding benefits that will appeal to new and younger members, while maintaining the services that long-time members have come to expect.

I am well-positioned to play a role in this modernization. I am a retired Computer Science professor. In my first term, I have become the editor of the bimonthly eBulletin, and have carefully watched the developments in the more technical areas such as DCC and LCC. Most of my experience, and my clinics, have been in the areas of electronics, computers, programming, Arduinos, etc., and I believe that the NMRA must be careful to keep abreast of trends in these areas in order to remain relevant to new generations of model railroaders. I have a lot of administrative experience, as the former Secretary of NMRA Canada, the Treasurer of the Winnipeg Model Railroad Club, eleven years as the Head of Computer Science at the University of Manitoba, six years as the Secretary of the Canadian Association for Computer Science, and quite a few others.

I am confident that I can continue to make contributions as an NMRA Board member.