



The Whistle



COWCATCHER DIVISION

Division One of The Lone Star Region of the NMRA

MAY 2024



ADVANCE DRAFT

Volume 8, Number 5

Director's Report



Wow the year is highballing along, it is already May. I want to take this opportunity to wish all the mothers a "Happy Mothers' Day."

Last month's clinic by Pat McCarthy, "A Brief History of Railroad time", was very enlightening. The history behind each watch, watch making company, and the vision of a single man who brought order from chaos was very fascinating. Thanks again Pat McCarthy!

Jim Ogden has a equally interesting clinic for the Division this month. Ken Fitzgerald will be presenting a clinic on Diesel Locomotive Horns. Ken has a great display of diesel horns for your review.

In last month's meeting, the Division donated \$500.00 to the Texas Western Model Railroad Club. Several weeks ago, I received a very thoughtful note from the club acknowledging our generosity.

The Lone Star Region, especially Donna Orr and Joe Leising, are working to establish a schedule for regional conventions out 4 -5 years. In an effort to encourage smaller divisions to host conventions they are creating "format committees" or technical committees to assist with registration, advertising, website development, and clinics.

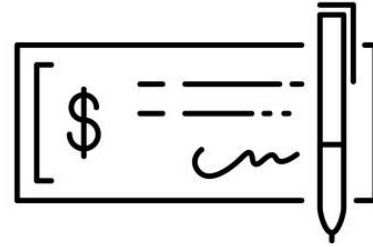
Currently the schedule is 2025 Baton Rouge, 2026 Austin, 2027 Division 3, and 2028 San Antonio. Division 1 is being asked to host the Convention in 2029. The last time D1 hosted a regional convention was 2016. I'm supporting this proposal but think we should discuss it in May's meeting.

As you may have read in the NMRA May/June eBulletin published on May 1, the NMRA has published Leadership Expectations and Responsibilities for Division Superintendents and Division Directors. I am including the Division Directors Expectations and on pages 4 & 5 for your review. Also, the NMRA has developed a Member Code of Conduct which I will publish through a "special group i/o" email next week.

We are going to have a great meeting so you don't want to miss it .

Please bring a friend!

Dick Brannan
Director-Cowcatcher Division
LSR- NMRA



Treasurer's Report

Checking account balance April 30, 2024

Open balance 26062.02

Deposits 61.00

*Withdrawals 22689.98

Ending balance 3433.04

* \$22,000.00 was transferred into an 8-month CD at 4.75% interest.

David Grein
Treasurer-Cowcatcher Division
LSR- NMRA

Menu Links on the Division Website

<https://cowcatcherdivision.org>

- Train Shows and Conventions - click Coming Events & Conventions
- Past Meeting/Program/Clinic Recordings – click Programs/YouTube
- Past Whistles – click Whistle Newsletter
- AP Certificate Listing - click Achievement Program (Are yours listed?)
- Order Shirt and Stuff – click Merchandise.
- Social media – click Division Facebook Page
- News – click Division groups.io
- Cowcatcher Division History – click Division History
- Layouts – click Member Layouts
- Models – click Meet the Modelers & Modelers at Contest



National Model Railroad Association

Division Superintendents/Directors

– Expectations and Responsibilities

The National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) is a three-tiered organization, from National through Regions to Divisions. Individuals join the NMRA at the National level, but most of their interactions, as well as where they gather, socialize, learn, and contribute, occur at the Divisions. With few exceptions, the Division has more impact on the satisfaction and retention of individual NMRA members than Regions or NMRA's national officers and Board of Directors. As leader of the Division, the Division Superintendent normally has more impact than any other on the success of the entire NMRA organization. Specific duties, responsibilities, and authorities assigned to individual Division Superintendents may vary and should be set forth in each Division's bylaws. In general, Division Superintendents' responsibilities include the following:

- Ensure Division information sources, including newsletter, website, and social media, are kept up to date with dates, times, and locations of events, reports of activities, and contact information, as these are key resources for Divisions within the Region and for recruiting new members.
- Provide positive leadership and direction for the Division. Regularly communicate effectively with all Division members. Promote a positive culture of support.
- Implement and support NMRA and Region programs.
- Serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the Division, conduct all Division business consistent with NMRA rules and regulations, their Region's rules and regulations, and their Division bylaws. Schedule and preside over Division Board of Directors (BoD) and General Membership meetings, and ensure that all orders and resolutions of the BoD are carried into effect.
- Organize regularly scheduled events for Division members to attend.
- Be responsible for the overall planning and coordination of Division activities, including marketing.
- Execute all legal documents requiring the signature of the person authorized to represent the membership except where the signing and execution thereof shall expressly be delegated to some other officer or agent by the Division BoD or bylaws.
- Keep Division members informed of the actions and activities of the Region BoD and NMRA BoD.

- Maintain contact with the Region President or Superintendent to include reporting new Division Officers and Committee Chairs as soon as they are elected/appointed.
- Actively engage with the Region Board of Directors in accordance with the Region's guidance documents.
- Develop an effective recruitment and retention program.
- Review monthly NMRA membership reports and act on new, expired, or changed membership status.
- Respond promptly to all requests for information from their Region and the NMRA.
- Through their assigned Region, advise NMRA HQ of Division member issues and concerns.
- Request assistance promptly through their Region or directly to NMRA HQ for matters requiring a higher level of authority.
- Appoint committee chairpersons and ad hoc committee members as needed. Be a member ex-officio of all appointed committees.

Additional information as well as a suggested list of committees is included in the Division Superintendent's Handbook:

https://www.nmra.org/sites/default/files/education/regions_divisions/division_superintendent_handbook_20160428.pdf