



Philadelphia Division
Mid-Eastern Region
National Model Railroad Association
2026 Board of Directors Election



Greetings, NMRA members! This is the printed ballot for the 2026 Philadelphia Division Board of Directors election. Any NMRA member residing in the Pennsylvania counties of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, or Philadelphia, or anywhere in the state of Delaware, is automatically a member of the Philadelphia Division.

Who is eligible to vote: Paid-up Regular Members, Life Members, and Sustaining Members.

Who is ineligible to vote: Lapsed Members, Railpass Members, Family Members, and Student Members.

The ballot is available on the home page of the division website at <https://www.phillynmra.org>. The online posting includes the candidates' bios and statements as well as a ballot you can print out should you misplace this one.

Each spring the division holds elections for open positions on our board of directors. The division bylaws direct us to elect a total of seven board members for two-year terms, four positions of which on odd years, and the other three on even years—so this year there are three positions open. The board members then elect four officers from among themselves, while the remaining three serve as directors at large.

As of this time, nominations are closed. Each eligible division member who has provided a working email address will receive a link to an online ballot through the Election Buddy program. You may choose to vote either electronically or by mailing in a paper ballot (located below). If you vote electronically, any paper ballot received will be discarded. Candidate bios/statements can be found beginning on the bottom of this page.

The election results will be announced at the June meet, and will be posted on the website and published in the August issue of *The Dispatcher*.

In addition to the election, this mailing serves to introduce you to the Philadelphia Division should you not be aware of its existence, and also to inform you of upcoming events, a schedule of which can be found on the last page along with highlights of our upcoming June meet.

Division Personnel	
Superintendent	
Joe Walters, MMR 840 N Gwynn Ct. Bear, DE 19701	302-521-5884 josephwalters@yahoo.com
Asst. Superintendent	
Rob Hinkle 1755 Slayton Dr. Blue Bell, PA 19422	610-279-2394 robhink@gmail.com
Clerk / Membership	
Michael Junod 207 Windsor Ave. Southampton, PA 18966	215-805-6325 trolleyman@verizon.net
Treasurer	
Jeffrey Witt 117 Chestnut Valley Dr. Doylestown, PA 18901	267-261-3229 jlwitt@yahoo.com
Directors at Large	
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----- CUT HERE AND MAIL OR VOTE ELECTRONICALLY -----

2026 Philadelphia Division Ballot

Name:		Mail to: Michael Junod, Clerk 207 Windsor Ave. Southampton, PA 18966 Questions: Contact an official (right sidebar above) POSTMARK NO LATER THAN JUNE 12, 2026 NOTE: Copies of the ballot can be downloaded and printed from the division website, https://www.phillynmra.org
Email:		
NOTE: Only paid up Regular Members, Life Members, and Sustaining Members may vote. Lapsed Regular Members, Railpass Members, Family Members, and Student Members are not eligible to vote. Please vote for up to three (3) candidates for Board of Directors. If you vote electronically, any written ballot received will be discarded.		
_____ Joe Walters, MMR	_____ Michael Junod	
_____ Mike Dettinger	Write-in:	

CANDIDATE BIOS



Mike Dettinger

Model railroading, if done right, is a marvelous adventure. Opportunities abound to participate in woodwork, history, photography, drafting, computer programming and scripting, electronics and wiring, mechanical engineering, architecture, sculpting, operations, and landscaping, just to name a few. There are so many facets to

this hobby that it is impossible to do all of them without any kind of help. Before finding the NMRA, I wandered aimlessly dabbling with this and that, never able to connect the dots between the end vision and my humble starting point.

As I surround myself with other rail enthusiasts, my model train experience is much more enjoyable. Not only have I developed model railroading skills, I have found that my excitement about trains has also grown. I am no longer trapped on the Isle of Sodor with its great plywood plain and its single giant blue spruce.

I enjoy the friendships that I have cultivated with other model railroad enthusiasts. I hesitate to call model railroading a fraternity, as I truly believe that this hobby can be just as rewarding to our female members. I have learned many new techniques and I have been challenged to learn even more new and different things. And with this freely given knowledge, I am moved to share what I have learned with the NMRA membership, be that through conducting clinics or providing representation and service for the membership.

I would ask the membership to consider my re-election to the board and continue with me on a journey to promote the hobby of model railroading and our journey of personal growth, focused on:

- Breaking down the perceived barriers that prevent potential members from joining the NMRA
- Strengthening the social bonds of model railroading and teamwork
- Promoting model building creativity and excellence



Joe Walters, MMR

Growing up in Philadelphia, I, like so many children, had an American Flyer train set running around my Christmas tree. Living three blocks from the Northeast corridor at Holmesburg Tower, I saw my fair share of real passenger and freight trains. As a matter of fact, I dodged many while trespassing on their tracks. From an early age I was intrigued

by the workings of both the small and the much larger. It was no surprise when I chose working on a railroad as my career. I served four years in the Marine Corps after high school graduation. While attending school on the GI Bill, I secured a job with the Reading Railroad as a coach cleaner. I rose through the ranks as Reading became Conrail. After ten years of service I made a change. I joined Amtrak in the back shops. During my tenure with Amtrak, I supervised locomotive and passenger car overhauls. I eventually became Assistant Superintendent of the Mechanical Department. I retired in 2004.

I became interested in model railroading when one of my car repairmen introduced me to his layout. I thought it would be a great hobby and a way to spend time with my three sons. It turns out they were more interested in sharing their time with girls. Nonetheless, I caught the bug.

After a move to Delaware in 1991, I started to build my current

layout. During the time of building, I joined a Wednesday night operating crew which consisted of twenty people. These men met every Wednesday to operate different railroads. This group has been in existence for thirty years. With such a large gathering, information and inspiration is plentiful. By 1992, my layout was part of the round robin rotation with these gentlemen. I owe a great deal of gratitude to them.

In 2016, while hosting an open house of my layout, I met Philadelphia Division member of the NMRA, William Fagan. He asked if he could videotape the railroad, and submit the video of the layout for a Golden Spike award. Not being an NMRA member at the time, I had no idea what that was. To my surprise, it was the opening for the AP program, and my introduction to becoming a Master Model Railroader. I suppose you could conclude that Bill was my inspiration for starting this journey. I appreciate his interest in furthering my ability through my hobby. This in turn led to my quickly earning all of the appropriate certificates to qualify me for my Master Model Railroader #644, which I earned in October of 2019.

My hope is to be able to continue to assist AP Coordinator Earl Paine with judging and in managing the Achievement program. As a board member, I would pledge to work with the board and division to promote enthusiasm for the AP among division members and model railroading in general.



Michael Junod

Like many baby boomers, my early model railroading influence started with the obligatory Christmas train layout. Mine was with American Flyer trains. My father soon transitioned to HO trains and as I grew older I helped set up the layout and eventually took over the job and the layout stayed up year-round. I became a “serious”

model railroader with my first purchase of an issue of *Model Railroader* magazine in March of 1963. A subscription soon followed. I was introduced by a friend to the Abington Lines Model Railroad Club and have been an active member continuously since April of 1969. I have held just about every office in that railroad club. In 1986, as president, I organized the incorporation of that club as a non-profit corporation and purchased the current location of the club in Richboro, PA. I designed the current club layout and its predecessor, and built a majority of the hand-laid track and turnouts. I am currently the operation committee chairman and chief dispatcher for the Abington Lines.

I always had a strong “sub-interest” in trolleys and I joined the East Penn Traction Club in the late 1970s. East Penn is the largest traction modeling group in North America and holds their National Trolley Meet every 2 years. I have been the president and vice-president of East Penn and I am currently the president again. I also helped restore and operate trolleys along Delaware Avenue/Columbus Blvd. as a member of the Buckingham Valley Trolley Association (BVTA) until its closure and eventual movement

to Scranton, PA. I was also on the board of directors of BVTA as public relations director and I am still a trustee of the Electric City Trolley Museum Association (ECTMA), the successor organization of BVTA.

I grew up in a “railroad” family. My father worked as a locomotive fireman and subsequently locomotive engineer for 41 years on the Pennsylvania Railroad, Penn Central, and Conrail. His two brothers—my uncles—were a conductor and brakeman respectively and my grandfather was a conductor on the PRR. I worked in the signal department of Penn Central for my co-op assignments while attending Drexel University for electrical engineering. I enjoyed going to work with my father on the locomotives several times and “unofficially” operated them.

I model in two scales. I do HO railroad and traction as well as O-scale traction. My home layout is an O-scale trolley layout called “Mayfair Electric” named after my childhood neighborhood in Northeast Philadelphia. I am attracted to the traction “niche” of model railroading because the lack of ready to run equipment and supplies requires real modeling skills. I thoroughly enjoy designing and building hand-laid track as well as stringing working overhead wire. I do “tedious” really well! I find it therapeutic.

At this point in my life, I find it most important to share the knowledge and skills I have accumulated over the years with a new generation of modelers. I find the NMRA and the local monthly division meetings a perfect forum for that. I have been a member of and held leadership positions in several model railroad organizations. With that experience base, I hope to continue to promote the hobby and craft of model railroading by membership on the Philly Division board.

JUNE MEET/PICNIC PREVIEW

DATE: Saturday, June 20, 2026

LOCATION:

**Alverthorpe Park
Jenkintown Road and Forrest Avenue
Jenkintown, PA 19046**

GATES OPEN: 9:00am

MEETING BEGINS: 10:00am

- Annual Business Meeting/Election Results
- Clinic: Electronics Tips & Tricks
- Clinic: Illuminated PRR-Style Marker Lights
- White Elephant Table – sell/buy stuff
- Display Table – bring your models/projects
- AP Evaluation – notify us ahead of time
- Door Prizes
- 50/50 Raffle – Take a chance to win half the pot
- Bar-B-Q – Burgers, franks, drinks
- Afternoon: Layout visitation

Come and join in the fun!

Complete details in the upcoming June issue of *The Dispatcher* or on the division website at <https://www.phillynmra.org>

Division Meets & Other Upcoming Events

<p>June 20, 2026 Philadelphia Division Meet/Picnic Alverthorpe Park Jenkintown Road & Forrest Avenue Jenkintown, PA 19046</p>	<p>July 18–19, 2026 Philadelphia Division Table Greenberg Train Show Greater Philadelphia Expo Center 100 Station Avenue Oaks, PA 19456</p>
<p>July 28–August 2, 2026 NMRA Convention “Scenic City Express” Chattanooga Marriott Downtown Two Carter Street Chattanooga, TN 37402</p>	<p>August 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026 Model Railroading Days Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania 300 Gap Rd. Strasburg, PA 17579</p>
<p>September 2026 Philadelphia Division Meet TBA</p>	<p>October 15–18, 2026 MER Convention “Tracks to Tidewater” Virginia Beach, VA</p>

Check <https://www.phillynmra.org/regional-timetable> for links to these and other upcoming events.