



# THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

Official Publication of the Philadelphia Division  
of the Mid-Eastern Region  
National Model Railroad Association



April 2014

[www.phillynmra.org](http://www.phillynmra.org)

Volume 21, No. 2

## \*\*\* SPECIAL ELECTION EXTRA \*\*\* BALLOT ENCLOSED

Greetings, NMRA members! This special election issue of our newsletter, *The Dispatcher*, has been mailed to all division members. (Regular issues are available free on our website at [phillynmra.org](http://phillynmra.org) or in print by paid subscription.) Any NMRA member who resides 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 of the NMRA and entitled to vote.

Each spring we hold elections for open positions on our Board of Directors. This year's election will take place at the annual business meeting just prior to the morning clinic session at the June 7, 2014, division meet

to be held at St. Alban's Church, Newtown Square, PA.

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. The board members then elect four officers from among themselves, while the remaining three serve as directors at large. Those members whose positions are not expiring serve as the nominating committee.

On page 3 of this issue you will find a ballot, including a mini-questionnaire, the responses of which will better enable us to better serve our members. Please either mail the ballot to the address listed or bring it to the June 7th meeting.

### June "Ops" Meet to be held in Newtown Square, PA

Our next division meet will be held on Saturday, June 7, at St. Alban's Church in Newtown Square, PA. The first part of the morning session will be devoted to our annual business meeting, where elections will be held for three open seats on the board of directors. This will be followed by a clinic on layout operations conducted by board member and Ops Chairman Rob Hinkle.

Following lunch, interested members will participate in a hands-on operating session at the St. Alban's Railroad Club (StARR) layout in the basement of the church, guided by club members and seasoned operators. See the May issue of *The Dispatcher* or the division website ([phillynmra.org](http://phillynmra.org)) for more details.

### Planning Ahead – Division Meet & Event Schedules

<p><b>June 7, 2014</b> Philadelphia Division Meet St. Albans Church/StARR Club Newtown Square, PA</p>	<p><b>July 13–19, 2014</b> NMRA National Convention Cleveland, OH</p>	<p><b>September 13, 2014</b> Philadelphia Division Meet Quakertown Train Station Quakertown, PA</p>
<p><b>November 1, 2014</b> Philadelphia Division Meet Brandywine Town Center Wilmington, De</p>	<p><b>January, 2015</b> New Jersey - Philadelphia Division Joint Meet Haddon Township, NJ</p>	<p><b>March, 2015</b> Philadelphia Division Meet Elkins Park Train Station Elkins Park, PA</p>

Division meets typically consist of a morning session with one or more presentations on some aspect of model or prototype railroading, followed by home layout tours in the afternoon. These meetings are held to gather the membership together for fellowship, learning, and enjoyment. This is such a great hobby that we like to share it with everyone, so please consider attending, and perhaps bring a friend whom you think might show interest in becoming a member. We'd look forward to seeing you!

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## Candidates Bios and Statements

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### Joe Bergmaier



My name is Joe Bergmaier and I am running for re-election to the division Board of Directors and would greatly appreciate your support.

Currently I am serving in my first year as the division Superintendent. I have charted a new path forward for the division with a greater emphasis on the many benefits of being an NMRA member. We have concentrated on the Achievement Program (AP) and its many benefits for the individual modeler. So far, we have seen fantastic results that have resulted in six (6) Golden Spike Awards, and four (4) AP Certificates and there are more candidates in the pipeline.

We also placed a great emphasis on making our division meets exciting and informative, with top notch clinicians and topics. This past year we have had a former regional president do a clinic on “Demystifying the AP Program,” the regional judging chairman with his clinic on “How Judging is Done,” our own Mike Rabbitt with his clinic and fantastic model of a steel mill, and in June our meeting will be “OPS Boot Camp” followed by an afternoon of actually operating at the St. Albans RR. And last but not least, we started this year off by making the statement, “We are the Philly Division,” by introducing the practice of having Philly soft pretzels at all of our meetings. Who knows, but maybe someday we will have Philly cheese steaks at one of the meetings.

We want to make this YOUR division and we want you to enjoy yourselves. With your support, the Board of Directors will continue to improve your division and make it THE place to be.

### Mark Wallace



For these last two terms spanning four years, it's been my privilege to serve you as both a board member as well as Clerk of our division. In those roles, I have met and gotten to know many you through our meets, ops, clubs or at various layouts I've visited. As a member of the NMRA and Philadelphia Division since 2006, my continuing goal is to strengthen the role the division can play as your 'personal' contact point for model railroading. With the other board members, we strive to create some exciting meets for all of you to attend.

For as long as I can remember, I've been interested in railroading as a rail fan and a modeler. An architect in private practice, I enjoy designing layouts using computer aided design programs and kit bashing models. As a member of the Western Maryland Historical Society, I continue studying their line's infrastructure and rolling stock. I model a small portion of the WM in HO scale and guest operate on one of our member's layouts.

Having dismantled a fifty year old 16 x 6 ft, 3-rail layout, my son and I have been building, as time permits, a larger HO layout that will incorporate scenes and operations of the WM. I also enjoy operating as well as building models, trackwork, structures and making it look 'prototypical' or like the real thing. I belong to one 'round-robin' group that includes a wide variety of model railroaders having a variety of skills or interests.

I am aware and appreciate the wide variety of scale modeling that our members build and operate. Through our division's meetings and programs, I continue to see a great opportunity to educate and immerse both members and non-members into the exciting possibilities that model railroading has to offer. Growing our membership and maintaining a healthy, welcoming organization where modelers can share techniques and new ideas, is vital to sustaining our active community of railroad modelers.

### Pat McTeigue



My model railroading interest was rekindled in 1983 when my stepson and I started working on a 4x8 sheet of plywood. He lost interest by February but I didn't. I joined the North Penn Model Railroad Club in Lansdale, Pa. and enjoyed the comradery and opportunities to learn techniques in all the skills needed to build a smooth running railroad with realistic scenery. I was an office holder in the club for a couple years. During this time, I joined the NMRA and eventually became a life member. In the early nineties, the club had to vacate the home it had enjoyed for many years. Half of the then members decided to find a new home for the club and the others decided to form a round-robin club. I went with the second group. We are still active and now have several layouts that we are running operations schedules on. I'm also the secretary for another round robin

group that meets on Tuesdays currently. We meet on Wednesdays in the summer. My basement is filled with a bi-level prototype layout.

In 2004, after an early retirement package, I offered to help Steve Salotti on the 2006 NMRA Convention. He accepted my offer and I ended up being the Chairman of the Layout Tour Committee. The committee members did a fabulous job which resulted in many great tours. I also worked for Dave Messer as Marketing and Promotions Director for the convention. Working with the model railroading magazine editors and layout owners, we managed to get some articles published to highlight some layouts that we would have on our layout tours. We also got extensive free ad space from *Railroad Model Craftsman* magazine. It's a plug they deserve.

On October 10, 2006, I was in a near fatal auto accident on my way to an operating session. As a result of the accident, I'm blind now and some of my joints make strange noises, but that hasn't stopped me from being active in model railroading.

For the past four years, I've enjoyed serving on the Board of Directors for the division and hope to continue. I made the connections that enabled us to have our meeting at the Quakertown Train Station and I'm working on our holding a meeting at the Elkins Park Train Station next March. I try to keep in mind that we are serving our members to make the division activities interesting. We are also trying to pursue car and structure projects that will be available to members at a special price. It will be my pleasure to serve on the Board as a Director to help our division accomplish its current goals and plan for the future.

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 TAPE CLOSED, PLACE STAMP AND RETURN ADDRESS AND DROP IN MAIL

### Modeling Information (Optional)

Scale(s) modeled: \_\_\_\_\_ Prototypes followed: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a layout? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, would you be able to open it for members to visit at a future meet? \_\_\_\_\_

### 2014 Philadelphia Division Board of Directors Ballot

Please vote for no more than 3 (three) names.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: It is important that we have a correct email address (if you have one) to inform you of events and online availability of *The Dispatcher*. So please return this form regardless of whether or not you intend to vote. Or you can provide us with your email via a contact form at [www.phillynmra.org](http://www.phillynmra.org).**

Joe Bergmaier	_____	Pat McTeigue	_____
Mark Wallace	_____		

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**Detach and send ballot to:** Mark Wallace, Clerk  
 665 Bonny Brook Ave.  
 Trappe, PA 19426-1913  
 (or bring to the June Meeting)  
 POSTMARK NO LATER THAN JUNE 2<sup>st</sup>

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**4325 Wendy Way**  
**Schwenksville, PA 19473**

Inside:

CANDIDATE BIOS  
ELECTION BALLOT  
UPCOMING EVENTS

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Place  
Stamp  
Here

Mark Wallace, Clerk  
665 Bonny Brook Ave.  
Trappe, PA 19426-1913