



THE DISPATCHER

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



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★★★ ELECTION ISSUE ★★★

Greetings, NMRA members! This special Election edition of our newsletter, *The Dispatcher*, has been mailed to all Philadelphia Division members. The issue is also available in color on our website at www.phillynmra.org. 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.

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 during the morning session at the June 12, 2021 Division Meet to be held outdoors at the Montgomery County 4H Center, 1015 Bridge Road, Collegeville, PA 19426. 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.

This year there are four positions available, but only three candidates. You can find their bios and statements on page 2 and 3 and the election ballot on the bottom of page 3.

Below is a statement from the nominating committee describing the election procedure.

Aside from the election, this mailing serves to introduce you to the 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 page 3. A summary of the June meet itinerary and an area map can be found on the last page. Full details will be available in the upcoming June issue of *The Dispatcher* and on our division website, phillynmra.org.

Wanted: One More Director!

That person could be you, only we don't know about you just yet. Normally we cast a fairly wide net over our members and various networks to come up with some great nominees to join our board as a division director. However this year so far, we are one seat shy of a full slate of candidates for coming annual election. To qualify for the board you must be a paid-up Philadelphia Division member in good standing.

What's involved? A two-year commitment for a couple of hours a month to help plan, support, and participate in local division meets. In addition, board members are encouraged to attend local train shows, advocating for and supporting the model railroading hobby. Occasionally we'll be engaged in special projects such as producing a new car to sell, membership drives, or hosting a regional convention. There are also good leadership and networking opportunities along with model railroading fellowship. It can be fun and rewarding. The regional convention our division sponsored in October of 2019 is an example of such a special event. There were a lot of good vibes and fun.

However, in terms of the bylaws, time has run out. So, what happens if we can't fill the full slate? Well, we have a procedure for that. The bylaws direct us to present the slate to the members a couple of weeks ahead of our annual business meeting. That slate of candidates is presented in this special election issue and shown on the enclosed ballot, PLUS there's an empty write-in blank providing you the option of adding a name to fill the empty seat. So we

BALLOT ON PAGE 3

respectfully ask you as good citizens in the hobby of model railroading to vote—not only for the candidates presented on the ballot, but this time you get to add another person! That's an opportunity. You can even write in your own name. But please remember, the write-in must be a regular member* living within the division boundaries to be eligible.

We hope each of you will look at the ballot, read the biographies, and think about someone you know in the division and write their name (or your own) in the blank space, and return the ballot or bring it to the meet on the 12th. And what if there's a tie? Well, if more than one written-in candidate want to serve, we'll hold a quick run-off ballot at the meeting. At any rate, this could be an opportunity and we hope you'll not only vote, BUT also attend our first in-person division meet in over 16 months! We look forward to your vote and to see you on the 12th. Thanks from the 2021 nominating committee: Joe Walters MMR, Mike Dettinger, and Mark Wallace.

* NMRA regular memberships include life members, but exclude Railpass members, family or student members, and corporate, business, or club members.

Candidate Bios/Statements



Rob Hinkle

I have been a model railroader since a very young age when each Christmas would involve a setup of a Lionel set around the tree. I visited a number of tourist railroads and museums growing up that influenced my interest in trains, as well as reading numerous library books about railroads. I drifted into and out of the hobby until I joined the NMRA in 2001. I attended my first NMRA national convention in Philadelphia in 2006 and have been a regular at conventions since then.

During the summer of 2008 I joined a round-robin group and started attending local division meets gathering valuable knowledge and meeting great people. The experience I've gained between the round-robin and division meets has been influential in the layout and operations planning of my currently-under-construction layout based on the Reading Company's Lebanon Valley Branch.

My goal for the division would be to look to expand membership and attendance at the division meets. I think the division has a lot of members that are willing to help each other out and I think we need to look towards social media sites to draw in members (young and old) who are getting back into the hobby and aren't sure what the NMRA and the Philadelphia Division can do for them.



Chip Stevens

For the last two years, it has been my privilege to serve you as a division director. We successfully staged a regional convention and negotiated COVID restrictions and the division kept going. Several activities I attempted to complete (the 50th anniversary meal as an example) were derailed by C19. However, my suggestion that we conference call our board meetings (accepted by the C19 isolation mandate) and a more formal process for record storage after the treasurer's fire have been put in place.

I think I still have some positive contributions to make to the division, and with your support, would like to serve another term as director.

Thanks in advance for your support.



Kevin Feeney

I have been an NMRA member since 1985. I joined at the Milwaukee Convention that year and have been to every national convention since save 2012 and 2019. I "discovered" the NJ Division in 1986 and have attended their meetings ever since. In the mid-1990s, I started a brand-new division in the NER and was its superintendent and newsletter editor for several years. I co-chaired two NER conventions and have attended countless regional conventions in 13 different regions. I was on the NMRA board of directors for several years and served as treasurer for one year. For years, I participated in the Philly Division when I was in the area. My wife and I owned a high-rise condo as our weekend house in Center City from 2004–2015. I became more involved with this division after finally selling our house in Connecticut and moving to Abington on 1/31/2019. My wife and I ran the white elephant sales at the 2019 MER convention in King of Prussia.

I have a medium-sized HO layout in a garage. It depicts the Illinois Central Railroad set in July 1969 between Chicago and E. St. Louis. Other modeling interests include: IT, TP&W, and the GM&O. I hold AP certificates as volunteer, author, and official, and am working on chief dispatcher and scenery. I am a member of the GATSME club. I just became president of the Philadelphia Chapter of the NRHS and edit its onthly newsletter, *Cinders*. I am a retired CPA who ended my 43-year career teaching accounting in the USA, EU, and Asia. I have written extensively about railroad accounting and railroad annual reports including presenting over 25 clinics at NMRA conventions. I just was part of the team that audited the MER

THE DISPATCHER

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Submissions: THE DISPATCHER welcomes any model railroad- or railroad-related material. Members are encouraged to send in articles, letters to the editor, reviews, etc. The editors reserve the right to, when necessary, paraphrase portions of the text in order to fit the space available.

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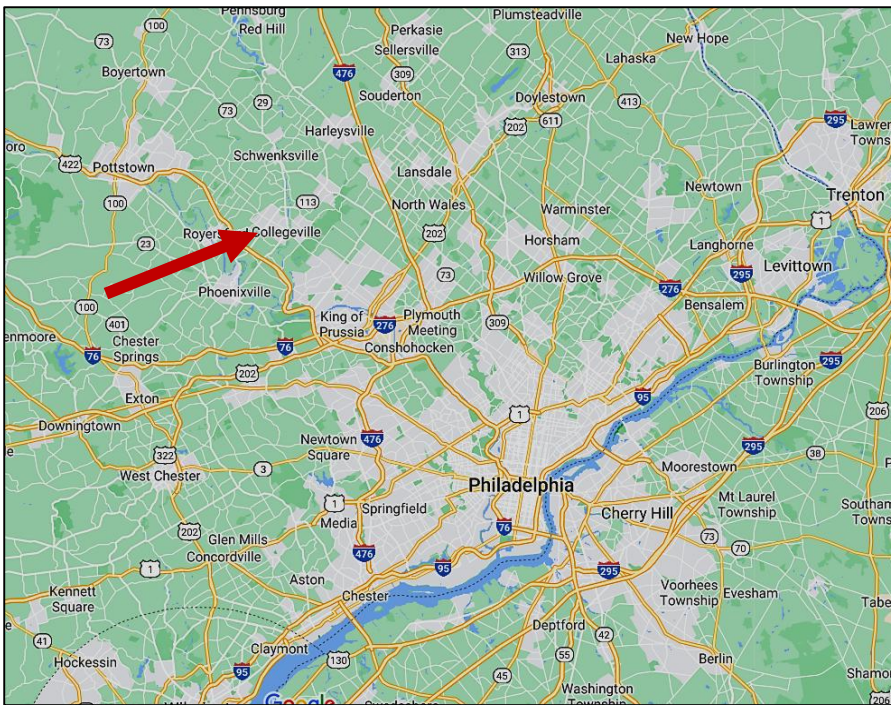
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financial statements for 2020.

Having been involved with the NMRA at all three levels, I know how important the division level is. It is the place where most folks become involved with the NMRA. I would like to serve as an ambassador to welcome new members and talk with guests about the benefits of the NMRA. I would like to see the division participate in area train shows, perhaps through a small modular layout. I would welcome your vote for director. Thanks.

Planning Ahead – Division Meets & Other Upcoming Events

<p>June 12, 2021 Philadelphia Division Meet Montgomery County 4H Center 1015 Bridge Rd. Collegeville, PA 19426</p>	<p>September 11, 2021 Philadelphia Division Meet Abington Twp. (tentative) Details TBA</p>	<p>November 13, 2021 Philly/NJ Division Joint Meet Brandywine Town Center 4050 Brandywine Pkwy Wilmington, DE</p>
<p>August 21–22, 2021 Philadelphia Division Table Greenberg’s Train & Toy Show Oaks, PA</p>	<p>October 21–24, 2021 MER Convention “Mt. Clare Jct.” mtclarejct.com Hunt Valley, MD</p>	<p>January 2022 New Jersey/Philadelphia Division Meet Grace Episcopal Church Merchantville, NJ</p>



JUNE MEET HIGHLIGHTS
DATE: Saturday, June 12, 2021
LOCATION:
 Montgomery County 4H Center
 1015 Bridge Road (PA-113)
 Collegeville, PA 19426
GATHERING BEGINS: 8:30am
MEETING BEGINS: 9:00am

- Annual Business Meeting/Elections
- Clinic: TBA
- Mike Dettinger’s Quizzo RR Trivia Contest
- Expanded Show & Tell – display your projects, and discuss them if you like
- Swap Tables – sell/buy stuff
- Door Prizes
- Coffee, donuts, and Philly pretzels
- Afternoon: Layouts to visit (hopefully).

Come and join in the fun!
 Complete details in the upcoming June issue of *The Dispatcher* or on the division website at <http://www.phillynmra.org/>

----- CUT HERE AND MAIL OR BRING TO MEET -----

2021 Philadelphia Division Ballot	
Name:	
Email:	
NOTE: Only paid-up, NMRA Philadelphia Division members in good standing may vote. Railpass members may not vote, having agreed to postpone that right until joining as full members.	
Please vote for up to four (4) candidates for Board of Directors:	
_____ Kevin Feeney	_____ Chip Stevens
_____ Rob Hinkle	Write-in:
Detach ballot and bring to June meet or mail to: Mark Wallace, Clerk 665 Bonny Brook Ave. Trappe, PA 19426-1913 Questions: 610-454-9510 or mwallace665@verizon.net POSTMARK NO LATER THAN June 7th	

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**7308 Cornerstone Drive
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Discounts for NMRA Members at Local Hobby Shops
**Be sure to patronize the following hobby shops that are now offering
discounts on model railroading purchases to NMRA members:**

Nicholas Smith Trains
2343 West Chester Pike (PA-3)
Broomall, PA 19008
610-353-8585

nicholassmithtrains.com

10% discount (excludes O & G items)

Henning's Trains
128 South Line Steet
Lansdale, PA 19446
215-362-2442

henningstrains.com

10% in addition to already discounted prices

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS, SALE ITEMS & ORDER FORMS, NMRA NEWS, AND MORE!**

www.phillynmra.org