
DIVISIONS

by Richard E. Bradley

The Philadelphia Division of the MER started last March when the discussions at the MER Directors meeting convinced Dick Bradley that it is desirable to have a local Division. Dan Henon promptly supplied background material on how other divisions are run, and on how properly to organize an M E R Division. With all of this material digested, it became clear that it is easy to start a Division. With the concurrence of the club, a meeting was called for early May at the Abington Model RR Club. Calling the meeting required sending notices to NMRA members in the Philadelphia area; there are about 300 of them. To cut down mailing, club members were not sent notices, but their clubs were notified. This was a mistake, since no club bothered to pass on the notices to its members, (not even the two clubs to which I belong!!)

At the May meeting a draft charter was discussed line by line and revised to be presented to the MER Directors. A petition to the MER Directors to grant the charter for the Philadelphia Division was signed by thirteen MER-NMRA members. After reviewing the charter mailed in advance, the MER Directors granted approval at the Easton Convention. Quickly the organizational meeting was called for mid June in the Greater Northwest Club. This time all 325 individuals were notified by mail. Sixteen modelers signed membership applications and elected these officers; Superintendent, Dick Bradley; Assistant Superintendent, Jack Kennedy; Chief Clerk, Hugh Jenkins. The returns of a questionnaire about the new division indicate that about six meetings a year are desired. These meets should deal with MODEL Railroading. Stationery and membership cards should be printed by August; patches are on order for sale this fall.