



THE DISPATCHER

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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 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 four 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. Below and on

the following pages are the statements of each of the candidates running for office. Each 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 on page 3). If you vote electronically, any paper ballot received will be discarded.

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*. Additional copies of this issue and ballots can be downloaded and printed from the link on the right sidebar of the division website, www.phillynmra.org.

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 below. Also, highlights to our June meet can be found on the last page.

Planning Ahead – Division Meets & Other Upcoming Events

<p>June 10, 2023 Philadelphia Division Meet/Picnic Alverthorpe Park Jenkintown Road & Forrest Avenue Jenkintown, PA 19046</p>	<p>August 20–26, 2023 NMRA Convention “Texas Express” Gaylord Texan 1501 Gaylord Trail Grapevine, TX 76051</p>	<p>September 2023 Philadelphia Division Meet TBA</p>
<p>October 19-22, 2023 MER Convention “Round the Curve to Altoona” Altoona Grand Hotel, 1 Sheraton Drive Altoona, PA 16601</p>	<p>November 2023 Philadelphia Division Meet TBA</p>	<p>December 2023 PhillyNMRA/GATSME Train Show TBA</p>

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

Candidates’ Statements



Kevin Feeney

I am a retired CPA and college accounting professor. I have been a life member of the NMRA since the 1990s and served as a member of the NMRA board of directors and as an officer. I have been formally involved with the Philadelphia Division since I moved to Abington, Pennsylvania in 2019.

When I lived in Connecticut, I started a new NMRA

division, Metro-North, and served in various positions including chair of two NER conventions. I was on the committees for the 1993, 2006, and 2009 NMRA conventions and the 2019 MER convention run by our division. I have attended countless NMRA events in maybe 14 different regions across the US and the UK.

I hold AP certificates for Officer, Volunteer, and Author and am actively working on Chief Dispatcher.



I model the Illinois Central Railroad in August 1969 and belong to the GM&O, TRRA (Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis), and IT (Illinois Terminal) historical societies. I am also a member of the NRHS and serve on its national board of directors and as an officer of the NRHS Fund.

I was elected to the Philadelphia Division Board of Directors in 2021 and currently serve as treasurer. I also handle sales of donated items. I would be happy to serve another term.



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.



Jeff Witt

As you likely know from *The Dispatcher* or attending meets, I have been serving as a director at large since 2021, in charge of securing venues for our meets. I'm asking for your vote to allow me to continue to serve for the next two years in whatever capacity the larger BOD determines is appropriate per the division bylaws.

Like many of us, Lionel trains around the Christmas tree are my earliest memories of model railroading. This was followed by a year-round Lionel platform. But what really caught my interest was my dad's stillborn HO layout, which never got far, but had enough track for a boy to push cars around on. Then, when a little older, I discovered his stash of magazines, which contained the magic and art of John Allen. I and my brother Steve were hooked! An N-scale layout in my early teenage years and an HO 5x9 in the '80s followed. Career and family obligations kept me in the armchair until my daughter graduated college and moved out, freeing up a bedroom for my next layout and current project, the freelance Taggart Transcontinental.

I joined the NMRA in 2003, but didn't start attending meets until much later. When I did, I realized what I was missing! The friendly faces and enthusiasm for the hobby of our division members keeps me coming back. Along the way I have seen some incredible craftsmanship and met the creators whose talent humbles and inspires me. With encouragement from the late Dave Messer and Earl Paine, I earned three AP certificates (Civil, Electrical, and Scenery) in 2018. I have been able to share my admiration for John Allen by giving clinics for our division, the New Jersey Division, at the 2019 MER Convention, and most recently at the joint meet with the New Jersey Division. I also presented a

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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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clinic in November 2021 on hand-laid track, and am scheduled for three clinics at the MER Altoona meet in October. I've also helped represent the division by volunteering at several train shows.

My candidacy brings no particular agenda with it, other than to help the generous volunteers who have given so much for so long with the many tasks and obligations they have, and to learn from them so that the division can build a deeper "back bench" for the future. Although there are those who feel that the NMRA is no longer relevant to the hobby, I vehemently disagree. I believe this is a "big tent" hobby, and that while social media is a great asset, it is not a replacement for real human interactions. The NMRA plays a major role in promoting and creating opportunities for these personal interactions.

On a personal note, I retired in September of 2022 from my role as a senior member of technical staff at ON Semiconductor, where I designed integrated circuits and drove design methodologies. I have been married for 42 years, and have a grown daughter and son who have left the nest. I own and run two John Allen tribute websites, "gdlines.org" and "gdlines.info," as well as actively participating in a groups.io G&D group and a G&D Facebook group. Sometimes I find time to work on the Taggart Transcontinental, too! My progress can be viewed at <http://witt-family.com/LayoutConstruction.htm>. Thanks for reading.



Steve Wysowski

I recently (3 years ago) moved to Royersford, PA from Bristol, Connecticut. I was a CT public school educator: teacher, then principal, and finally took on oversight of CT high school athletics. Did a long stint as an adjunct graduate professor at two CT universities. Retired in 2020. Earned a Ph.D. along the way.

Currently I volunteer at the Colebrookdale Railroad as a conductor/engineer (student). I have been doing some speak-

ing engagements for them, also. Worked at Essex Steam Train in Connecticut at the same positions. The work has been inspired by my life-long love of railroads and my fascination with their operation.

I am former secretary of the Farmington Valley Railway Society where I operated and scratch built historical structures for the club's layout in HO scale. I was a member of Nutmeg Division where I did presentations. I have written and been published in NMRA publications. I model the HOn3 Ansonia and Birmingham RR, (freelance version of the Derby branch of New Haven.

My affiliations with a historical museum, member of a CT model train club, and now member of the NMRA have made me a better modeler, and through these affiliations I have been able to share my skills with other modelers. The symbiotic relationship has helped the hobby and allowed me to help develop the talents of young model railroaders. My background as an educator has given me the skills to bring in those younger modelers, a goal that I now have in the hobby.

My passion for model railroads began when I received my first American Flyer train set at four years of age. I've kept at it since then. I love introducing young people to the hobby. Growing up around the New Haven Railroad has inspired my research, another skill I would love to teach other modelers. I have taught the skills of track wiring, soldering, decoder installation, and other modeling tips to small groups, I want to expand that audience by my active participation with this division, I already have published tips on scratch building that have been published and are currently on the NMRA website. I am currently involved in the achievement program and look to earn Master Model Railroader. I am learning so much and I wish to help share that learning.

I look forward to continuing to contribute and push the hobby forward by making it a less daunting endeavor, and serving on the board of directors for this division would facilitate that wish.

----- CUT HERE AND MAIL OR VOTE ELECTRONICALLY -----

2023 Philadelphia Division Ballot			
Name:		Mail to: Charles Long, Clerk 227 Locust Rd. Fort Washington, PA 19034	
Email:		Questions: Contact an official (right sidebar on page 2)	
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. If you vote electronically, any written ballot submitted will be discarded.			POSTMARK NO LATER THAN MAY 27th
<input type="checkbox"/> Rob Hinkle	<input type="checkbox"/> Jeff Witt	<input type="checkbox"/> Steve Wysowski	
<input type="checkbox"/> Kevin Feeney	Write-in:		NOTE: Copies of the ballot and election issue can be downloaded and printed from the division website, phillynmra.org

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JUNE MEET/PICNIC PREVIEW

DATE: Saturday, June 10, 2023

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(s): TBA
- White Elephant Table – sell/buy stuff
- Display Table – bring your models/projects
- Model Judging – 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: Layouts for visitation

Come and join in the fun!

Complete details in the upcoming May issue of
The Dispatcher or on the division website at

<https://www.phillynmra.org/>

