

RPO

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RPO

Spring 2005: Volume 13, Number 1

The RPO is the official publication
of the Gateway Division
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with Mike Thomas

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On the Cover

The classic Santa Fe warbonnet paint scheme on an Athearn Genesis F7A. Photo by Richard Schumacher.

Editor's Note

by Mike Thomas

This issue of the RPO, Volume 13 Number 1, should have appeared last Spring, but we jumped from the Winter 2005 (V 12 No 4) issue straight to Summer (V 13 No 2). The librarian in me can't stand to ignore the skipped number, not to mention the product review Alex Schumacher submitted (with his father's help), so I'm using this issue to get caught up with a year's worth of meeting minutes and other official matters.

Mike Thomas, 314-664-0680
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Product Review

by Richard and Alexander Schumacher

Product: Press & Go Train
Category: Toy Train
Manufacturer: Fisher-Price
Scale: approximately G gauge (off-rail use only)
Powered: yes, batteries (included)
Special features: sound, lighting effects
Accessories included: five peek-a-blocks
Price: approximately \$20

Too! Too! Pressing the smokestack is all it takes for your littlest engineer to get this train moving, with lights, music, and lots of block bobbing, spinning, and teeter-tottering action. The Press & Go Train is part of Fisher-Price's extensive Peek-a-Block system.

When running, a block placed in the engine's cab bobs up and down. A turntable mechanism on the top of the tender engages special peek-a-blocks, causing movement inside the block, while two flashing LEDs light the block's



interior. The mechanism is well designed, and is not damaged if its movement is obstructed (such as by small fingers).

The detachable car has a flip-down back and a teeter-totter mechanism in the interior capable of loading two blocks. The teeter-totter action is activated by movement of the car, driven through one of the car's axles. A proprietary coupler is provided on one end of the car.

The rear axle of the tender is powered, and has traction tires for excellent performance on carpet as well as on hard surfaces.

Alex especially likes the various circus-themed tunes which play when the tender's turntable mechanism is pressed. While pressing the smokestack causes the train to move and play music, pressing the tender only plays music.

A holiday edition (in a red and green paint scheme, with appropriate holiday peek-a-blocks and music) is seasonally available.

Gateway Division Clinicians Wanted

One thing doesn't change from one year to the next: we still need clinics for upcoming meetings. If you know something other people don't then you're

qualified to conduct a clinic. And if you don't think you can fill an hour, we can pair you up with another short clinic for the evening. We especially need more hands-on and how-to modeling workshops and more in-depth prototype clinics.

Call Bill Levin at 314-878-2119.

Recruit a New Member

The NMRA has recently created a special category of membership, available for a limited time, to recruit new members. The NMRA Rail Pass Membership is a six-month "trial" and includes six issues of the NMRA magazine *Scale Rails* for only \$9.95. It is for new members only and Rail Pass members will need to renew at standard rates. Rail Pass members can vote, attend conventions, and participate in contests, but cannot hold office.

If you know someone who has been wavering, stalling, or procrastinating about joining, this is the time to get them acquainted with the benefits of membership. We have membership forms available at meetings and swap meets and information is available on the NMRA website at www.nmra.org. The Division has decided that we will also send RPOs to these new members, when they join through us or otherwise identify themselves to us.

With all new and continuing members, it is important that we each support our organization by making an effort to get acquainted with visitors and newcomers, share our skills, and ask for help when we need it. Members of the Gateway Division are lucky to have a large number of active hobbyists in our vicinity, so let's take advantage of it.



Find signs to print for your model railroad at www.gatewaynmra.org/download.htm

Division Minutes

Recorded by Bob Boedges, Clerk

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for October 18, 2004

Business Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Assistant Superintendent Richard Laux at 7:05 PM.

Visitors:

No new members or visitors were in attendance.

Minutes of the August Meeting:

The minutes of the September Meeting were distributed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Bob Amsler and seconded by Dick Wegner. The motion was **Approved** by a voice vote of the membership.

Treasurer's Report:

A printed copy of the one month treasures report (September 20th through October 17, 2004) was distributed. The report indicated a balance in all funds of \$28,155.84. A motion to accept the report was made by Bob Amsler and seconded by Mike Satke. The motion was **Approved** by a voice vote of the membership.

Directors Report -- Board of Trustees:

Jim Anderson reported that the District Board of Trustees meeting would be held in January 2005. He also indicated that he attended the regional meeting on September 9, 2004. The purpose of the meeting was to look at the Mid-Continent Region Rules and Regulations. The goal is to complete the necessary revisions to bring the regional standards in line with the new national regulations by the

January Board of Trustees meeting. Bob Amsler is working on the revisions and hopes to have them completed by the middle of November. The Gateway Division will also need to complete the same process.

National Dues, Local Dues, RPO Cost, Reminder Cards:

Assistant Superintendent Laux initiated a rather lengthy discussion concerning the newly adopted national dues structure and the impact on local dues, mailings, printing costs, etc. Suggestions were made by Bob Amsler with regard to cost cutting measures, and he indicated that he would be rewriting the Division Bi-Laws which would deal with many of these problems. After considerable discussion, no action was taken pending Bi-Law revisions and further discussion by the officers.

Old Business:

AP Awards – Don Taschner was not present and no formal report was made. Brian Post and other members reported that John Lee received his MMR at the National Convention.

Heart of America Fund – A question was raised by Dick Wegner concerning the disposition of the NMRA Heart of America Fund. Bob Amsler indicated that the National Treasurer is supposed to provide this information one month after the mid-year and the annual board meetings. This information is given to the trustees and appears as a "separate account." To date these reports have not been made. A formal request for information should be made to the national treasurer with a copy to John Roberts.

Merchandise Sales – Hank Kraichely reported that he sent an order including payment for the wheel sets we discussed. Tom Kues will be given the right of first purchase on the sets when they are received since he was missed at the end of the last sale. The wheel sets will be sent in

the actual retail package of 12 sets each. He has an order form to be used by members interested in purchasing wheel sets. The form asks for you to indicated scale, wheel size, and number of packages desired. The price is the same as before, \$6.00 per package or \$.50 per wheel set.

RPO – No report.

Project Layout – Brian Post indicated that he was chairing the committee for the new layout. He brought a design plan proposal which included a wharf scene along a large body of water. The "water" has been purchased. The first work session will be held at John Schindler's house on Saturday, October 23, at 11:00 AM. John Kalin has donated 16 feet of retaining wall, and Chris Zigmont has provided a full size computerized track plan. Pete Smith has donated his house for some work sessions. Bachman has provided a command control system that comes with one decoder equipped GP 50. Donations of cars will be gratefully accepted. The foam will be joined together by 3M General Purpose 45 Spray Adhesive. Hank Kraichely asked about the provider of folding legs for the layout and Rich Laux provided information on a manufacturing company on Broadway at Highway 70.

Fall Meet – Hank Kraichely reported that the Quincy group would be bringing their layout. Brian Post reported that 25 vendors have purchased tables. Table prices have been raised from \$8.00 to \$12.00. Tom Bousman reported that all of the clinic spots are filled except for one. Information has appeared in the hobby magazines, and flyers have been distributed to all of the local dealers. Set up will be on Friday, November 5, at 3:00 PM. Volunteer help for the set-up is needed. A few dealers will be coming at that time. Three layouts are set for the tour and another layout is being sought in the west county or north county area. Randy Meyer, Dave Bartz, and Mike Peters have agreed to host.

New Business:

Volunteer Opportunities and Clinic Presentations - Richard Laux volunteered to take care of refreshments. Clinicians – Richard Laux is trying to get Rail Cruise America to provide a presentation at the Holiday Party. Jim Ables will provide the December clinic. Jim Anderson provided more information about the Holiday Party. He was interested in numbers, and requested that everyone bring a snack or appetizer of some sort. Bob Boedges indicated that he would send the reminder cards a week earlier than usual and include the food reminder in the “gray area” of the card.

50/50 Drawing – Tom Kues held the winning ticket.

The O’Fallon Caboose:

Tom Kues provided a brief informational session about the caboose prior to adjournment.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Randy Meyer and seconded by Dick Wegner. The motion was **Approved** by voice vote of the membership.

Attendance – There were 13 members in attendance.

Clinic Session – Following the meeting, the members in attendance toured the O’Fallon Caboose. The Division thanks Tom Kues for his presentation, and making it possible for us to see the excellent restoration work completed by the volunteers that spent countless hours providing this historical landmark.

Respectfully Submitted

Robert J. Boedges, Clerk

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for Dec. 20, 2004

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Mike Thomas at 7:00 PM. Superintendent Thomas introduced Jim Ables who presented his clinic on railroad related software that he entitled *Model Railroads and Computers 101*. The membership thanks Jim for his excellent presentation.

Business Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Thomas 8:00 PM.

Visitors:

No new members or visitors were in attendance.

Minutes of the August Meeting:

The minutes of the October Meeting were distributed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Brian Post and seconded by Bill Levin. The motion was **Approved** by a voice vote of the membership. (John Schindler voted **NO** but as usual everyone ignored him. The membership realized that he was out on a one night pass, and no one wanted to make him feel bad and risk an uncontrolled outburst.)

Treasurer’s Report:

Printed copies of three months treasures reports (September 20th through December 19, 2004) were distributed. The reports indicated a balance in all funds of \$27,069.79. A motion to accept the reports was made by Richard Lake and seconded by Brian Post. The motion was **Approved** by a voice vote of the membership.

Directors Report -- Board of Trustees:

Jim Anderson reported that the MOCOR Board of Directors meeting would be held on the last Saturday in January 2005. He also indicated that the Board of Trustees

meeting of the NMRA would be held on the second Saturday in January. He indicated he would be giving a more complete report at the next Division meeting. A great deal of time is being devoted to the issues surrounding the change to a single dues structure on the first of September. Superintendent Thomas pointed out that the regional meeting would also include consideration of the new constitution and by-laws. Anderson indicated that Bob Amsler is working on these revisions and they would be discussed at the Division level after the 1st of the year. The membership will be asked to approve the changes by mail ballot.

Division Merger:

Superintendent Thomas announced a request by Pete Smith to merge Division 20 from Southern Illinois with the Gateway Division 10. The merger was requested due to the fact that Division 20 only serves 8 to 10 members. They have always been included in Gateway Division activities. The disadvantage to the merger is the loss of a Division vote on the Regional Board of Trustees. A formal proposal will be made by Pete to the national organization.

Division Election Results:

Superintendent Thomas indicated that he received 41 of the 42 votes for Superintendent. Bill Levin received 1 vote as Superintendent and 41 votes for Assistant Superintendent. Dick Wegner received 1 write in vote for Assistant Superintendent. Bob Boedges received 42 votes for Clerk, and Dave Lyon received 42 votes for treasurer. Richard Lake moved that Ken Thompson destroy the ballots now that they have been counted. The motion was seconded by Ron Kraus. The motion was **approved** by a voice vote of the membership. . Thanks were expressed to Rich Laux for his work as Assistant Superintendent during 2004.

Old Business:

Clinicians - Superintendent Thomas indicated that Bill Levin’s major task as Assistant Superintendent would be to find clinicians for future meetings. To date the only clinician scheduled for the 2005 season is Brian Post who will present an update on current DCC technology. Clinicians are needed for the rest of the season.

Meeting Rooms – Superintendent Thomas indicated that he requested the use of the VFW hall for the 2005 year. Jim Anderson also reported that he requested the use of the facilities at Trinity Lutheran Church. One change in the regular schedule was announced. The 3rd Monday in November is during Thanksgiving week and the membership agreed that a Holiday party meeting might be a problem during this week due to travel plans, etc. The meeting date was changed without objection to Monday, November 14. Thomas also indicated that he made our annual contribution to the O’Fallon VFW for the use of their facilities.

AP Awards – Don Taschner reported that he had a *Certificate of Achievement for Model Railroad Engineer – Civil* to be presented to David Davis. Mr. Davis was not present to accept the award.

Merchandise – Jack Templeton is still making and selling Division name tags. Hank Kraichely reported that he had wheel sets with him at the meeting. They are Intermountain wheel sets in 33” and 36” sizes. They are being sold for \$6.00 per package and each package contains 12 wheel sets. To date he has sold 66 packages. The sets seem to be fine quality. He also has sets in N scale. The HO 36” sets may be sold out. Gary Hoover cars are still available.

RPO – The fall issue of the RPO and the updated membership directory should be going to the printer and into the mail by mid-December. The Winter issue will be published in mid-January.

Website Renewal – Superintendent Thomas announced that we renewed our contract with the hosting service to continue the Division website for the next 24 months.

World's Greatest Hobby Show –

Superintendent Thomas announced that the World's Greatest Hobby Show will be presented at America's Center on the weekend of January 8th and 9th, 2005. This is a project developed by the model railroad manufactures to promote the hobby to new modelers. There will be four shows nationally with the first show in New Jersey, followed by shows in St. Louis, Los Angeles, and Denver. The New Jersey show attracted 15,000 people, and would have had more if more parking had been available. The Jersey show was also limited by the high cost of advertising. It is anticipated that the St. Louis show will be even better attended. The shows are very popular with families and children. We will be present to welcome people into the hobby, and sell chances on the project layout. Hank Kraichely is coordinating the list of workers. Members that work will be admitted to the show free of charge. Members will have to pay for parking, or ride Metrolink. Our booth will be placed at the front of the hall near the main entrance. Times are 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM on Saturday, and 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Sunday.

Project Layout – Thanks were expressed to Brad Joseph and his crew for their work on the 2004 layout. The layout was displayed five times during the course of the year at GATS shows, our Regional Convention, and the Museum of Transport. The layout cost \$553.85 to build and produced revenue in the amount of \$1,946.00 for a profit of \$1,392.15. This is near the amount of our Division operating budget for the year. The layout was won by a gentleman from Maryville on the final weekend of the season. GATS was paying us \$100.00 each time we displayed the layout. This has been changed to \$50.00 and the clinic presentations we were presenting are no longer being requested.

A brief slide presentation on the status of the 2005 layout was presented by Mike Satke and Bob Boedges. They announced the need for trees, rolling stock, figures, and vehicles.

Fall Meet – Hank Kraichely reported that the fall meet was very successful. The final paid attendance number was 206. We had 39 dealer tables and they all were pleased with the show. Several of the vendors have already indicated that they would be returning next year. Dave Lyon prepared a financial report which indicated a net profit of \$556.46. The membership thanked Hank and his workers for their support of the project.

New Business:

The need for clinicians, World's Greatest Hobby workers, and workers for the project layout have been covered under old business.

Club Layouts –

- Christmas hours were discussed for the Big Bend club.
- Missouri HO Gaugers in Maplewood will have their layout open for the last time is January 7, 2005. After that the layout will be dismantled.
- The O Scale National Convention will be held in St. Louis in June.
- The S Scale layout is in the downtown Famous and Barr during the holiday season.
- The St. Charles Model Railroad Club will have their annual Flea Market on the 22nd of January, 2005.
- There is a very nice G Scale Layout on display during the Holidays at the Botanical Garden.

Display Boards – Where are the Division display boards?

Future Events – Brian Post indicated that we are scheduled to display the project layout at the GATS shows in February at Collinsville, and June in Belleville. We are

also signed up for the Dupo show in February but this has not been confirmed. The schedule also includes the Boeing show. We will contact the St. Charles club to see if we might display at their show in January. A request was made to publish all upcoming dates on our website.

50/50:

Jerry Smith won \$17.50 in the drawing.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Bob Boedges and seconded by Jim Anderson. The motion was **Approved** by voice vote of the membership.

Attendance – There were 27 members in attendance.

Respectfully Submitted

Robert J. Boedges, Clerk

**Gateway Division Meeting
Minutes for January 17, 2005**

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Mike Thomas at 7:06 PM. Superintendent Thomas introduced Brian Post who presented his clinic on the MRC Sound Decoder. The membership thanks Brian for his presentation.

Business Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Thomas at 8:02 PM.

Visitors:

Bob and Dianna Sharp were introduced as new members. Jeff McKay was introduced as a visitor.

Minutes of the December Meeting:

The minutes of the December Meeting were distributed. The heading "Minutes of the August Meeting" was corrected to read "Minutes of the October Meeting." The last

sentence of the item "Division Merger" was corrected to read "A formal proposal will be made by Pete to the Regional Organization." John Schindler asked that the item concerning his "one night pass" be changed to a "two night pass." A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by Richard Lake and seconded by Jim Anderson. The motion was **Approved** by a voice vote of the membership.

Treasurer's Report:

Printed copies of the one month treasures report (December 20, 2004 through January 16, 2005) and the year end report for 2004 were distributed. The reports indicated a balance in all funds of \$27,248.82. A motion to accept the reports was made by Richard Lake and seconded by Dick Wegner. The motion was **Approved** by a voice vote of the membership. Hank Kraichely indicated he still had wheel sets available. The 36" HO sets and the "N" scale sets are sold out.

Directors Report -- Board of Trustees:

Jim Anderson reported that he and Bob Amsler had just returned from the mid-year NMRA Board of Trustees meeting which was held in Phoenix. He indicated that several motions had been passed during the session, but he would prefer to delay his report until he received the finished documents from the NMRA secretary. On September 1, 2005 the NMRA would be moving to the single dues structure. Dues paid for membership in the national association would include automatic membership in both the region and the local division. Subscriptions and other services would result in some "incremental dues." Any members that would elect not to pay the additional amounts would still be members and would have voting rights.

This was the last meeting of the Board of Trustees as it is currently configured. The July meeting will include only nine members instead of the seventeen members under the old system. The United States is being divided into

three districts; the Western District, the Central District, and the Eastern District. Each district will have one director on the board. There are three international districts including Australia, Canada, and Europe and each of those districts will have one director on the board. There will be two "at large" directors in the U.S. and one director approved by the presidents of all 17 regions. Jim will be running for the Western District Director position, as Missouri has been assigned to that District. Illinois has been assigned to the Eastern District. The divisions were organized based on membership not geography, resulting in the large area which makes up the Western District. Ballots will be in the February issue of *Scale Rails*.

A change in the dues structure was approved at the meeting. Affiliate membership without *Scale Rails* will be changed from \$23.00 to \$33.00. A full membership which includes *Scale Rails* will remain at \$45.00. These changes will go into effect on September 1, 2005. The "life membership" program will be discontinued, but those who have a life membership will continue to receive their benefits.

The length of the term of office for new board members was "staggered" by a lottery system. The Eastern Division Director's term will be for three years, the Western for two years, and the Central for one year. The same system was applied to the international representatives and the "at large" positions. This was done to avoid the problem of having a completely new board every three years. The changes do not effect regional or divisional make-up.

Division Merger:

Superintendent Thomas announced that the Mid-Continent Division meeting would be held in two weeks and that the merger of Division 20 from Southern Illinois with the Gateway Division 10 would be on the agenda. The merger was requested due to the fact that Division 20 only serves 8 to 10 members. The question which needs to be

answered concerns the number of representatives will be allowed for the expanded area. Will we still have one representative or two for the enlarged Gateway Division? Jim Anderson indicated that the merger would be approved and further that two positions would be allowed. This would necessitate a search to find someone willing to represent the Illinois members.

National, Regional, and Division News:

- Anderson also indicated that the Mid-Continent Region officers would be up for re-election on September 1, 2005. The Region is looking for volunteers to run for Treasurer. Ken Thompson has been filling this position for at least four years, and has decided to "take a break." The Regional position is not a difficult one, and Jim is looking for Candidates.

- Hank Kraichely encouraged all division members to take the time to vote for Jim Anderson in the national election.

- The Regional Convention will be held in Topeka, Kansas on June 3rd through 6th.

Gateway Division Changes:

Superintendent Thomas indicated that the Gateway Division will need to modify its constitution and by-laws to reflect the new unified dues system to reflect the fact that any NMRA member is also a Division member with attendance and voting privileges. A supplemental fee would be required for the *RPO* since the Division would not be able to absorb the cost of printing and mailing the publication to over 300 members without additional funds. Bob Amsler indicated that he felt that an officers meeting should be held to determine the changes that need to be made, and the results of the meeting should be brought to the membership for a vote. Jim Anderson suggested that Divisional changes should be made after the Regional Meeting so that any additional factors could be taken into consideration.

Old Business:

AP Awards – Don Taschner was not present to present a report.

Merchandise – Wheel sets were discussed earlier in the meeting. Jack Templeton is still making and selling Division name tags. Gary Hoover cars are still available.

RPO – No report was available, and no set publication date was announced. Some concern was expressed concerning the delay in publication. Some discussion of computer programs was initiated with input from Venita Lake. Some further discussion involved the status of the membership lists.

World's Greatest Hobby Show –

Superintendent Thomas announced that the World's Greatest Hobby Show took place the weekend of January 7th through the 9th, 2004. The project layout was on display and chances were sold. Several new memberships were sold, as well as \$565.00 in raffle ticket receipts. These were best single weekend receipts in at least three years. Superintendent Thomas thanked everyone who helped out over the weekend, and Brian Post offered special thanks to Bob Boedges and Mike Satke for taking the layout down to the show and taking it home. The vendors reported that sales were good especially in the area of children's toys, and train sets.

Project Layout – Three shows opportunities for the project layout were announced. The St. Charles Show on January 22nd. In addition the Dupo show will be held on February 12th and the GATS show in Collinsville on February 19th and 20th. Brian Post indicated that he did have the Dupo and GATS shows on the schedule. Bob Boedges and Mike Satke agreed to take the layout to the St. Charles show. Volunteers to work all of the shows were solicited.

New Business:

Volunteer Opportunities: The need for clinicians, and workers for the various

shows with the project layout are still needed.

Club Layouts – No announcements or information.

50/50:

John Schindler won \$20.00 in the drawing.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Who Knows and seconded by Hank Kraichely. The motion was **Approved** by voice vote of the membership.

Attendance – There were 32 members in attendance.

Respectfully Submitted

Robert J. Boedges, Clerk

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for February 21, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Assistant Superintendent Bill Levin at 7:02PM. Levin introduced Brian Post who presented two videos featuring layouts that would be appearing on the tours at the upcoming national convention. The membership thanks Brian for his presentation.

Business Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Ass't Superintendent Levin at 8:06 PM.

Visitors:

Steve Warren was introduced as a new member. There were no visitors present.

Minutes of the January Meeting:

The minutes of the January Meeting were distributed. The heading "Directors Report from the Board of Trustees" was corrected to read "Illinois has been assigned to the Central District." The item "Division Merger" was corrected to read "the Mid-Continent

Region meeting would be held in two weeks..." A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by Tom Bousman and seconded by Ron Gawedzinski. The motion was **Approved** by a voice vote of the membership.

Treasurer's Report:

Printed copies of the one month treasures report (January 17 through February 20, 2005) were distributed. The reports indicated a balance in all funds of \$26,781.33. Treasurer David Lyon pointed out that the receipts for the prior weekend's train show in Collinsville were not in the bank, and were not reflected in the report. Receipts totaled \$669.00 and would be included in the March report. He also thanked everyone who worked at the GATS show transporting the layout and accepting contributions. A motion to accept the reports was made by Jack Templeton and seconded by Ron Gawedzinski. The motion was **Approved** by a voice vote of the membership.

Directors Report -- Board of Trustees:

Jim Anderson reported that the merger proposal submitted by Pete Smith was approved at the Regional Directors meeting. Division 20 has been disbanded and those members are now part of Division 10. The Gateway Division could have a second director for the Illinois side of the river if we so desired. That would provide two votes on the Regional Board as well as provide a closer contact for the Illinois membership.

Assistant Superintendent Levin reminded the membership that the regional convention would be held in Topeka, Kansas on June 3 through 6, 2005. He also pointed out that there is a ballot in the latest issue of Scale Rails, and that Jim Anderson is running for office. Levin encouraged everyone to cast a ballot.

Old Business:

AP Awards – Don Taschner indicated that there was nothing new to report.

Merchandise – Wheel sets and name tags were available at the meeting. Gary Hoover cars are still available through Ken Thompson who was not in attendance.

RPO – Two issues were recently mailed to the membership. There is no information on a future publication date.

Project Layout – The project layout is complete. We are scheduled to display it at the Boeing Show in North County on April 2nd. We are also scheduled for the GATS show on July 30 and 31, 2005 in Belleville. Brian Post is looking for volunteers to work both shows. He pointed out that the GATS management again talked to the members in attendance concerning the legality of a raffle in the state of Illinois. Bob Amsler indicated that it was legal in Illinois, and the problem might have been with the City of Collinsville. Brian is going to deal with the issue before the next GATS show. Brian indicated that a new chairman would be needed for the next project layout, and Assistant Superintendent Levin deferred that decision until it could be dealt with by Superintendent Thomas.

Clinicians – Assistant Superintendent Levin announced the following clinics:

- March – John Schindler = DCC 101
- April – Dave Roeder = Resin Casting
- Other future presentations will be given by Brad Joseph, John Schindler – switching contest, Bob Boedges – Tips and Tricks, and Hank Kraichely - home layout tour.
- More clinicians are needed.

New Business:

No new business.

50/50:

Hank Kraichely won \$19.00 in the drawing.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Brian Post and seconded by Ron

Gawedzinski. The motion was **Approved** by voice vote of the membership.

Attendance – There were 21 members in attendance.

Respectfully Submitted

Robert J. Boedges, Clerk

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for March 21, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Mike Thomas at 7:00PM. Thomas introduced John Schindler who presented a power point clinic on DCC Basics. The membership thanks John for his presentation.

Business Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Thomas at 8:01PM.

Visitors:

Neil Fink introduced himself as a new member. There were no visitors present.

Minutes of the January Meeting:

The minutes of the February Meeting were distributed. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Bob Amsler and seconded by Jim Anderson. The motion was **Approved** by a voice vote of the membership.

Treasurer's Report:

Printed copies of the one month treasures report (February 21, through March 20, 2005) were distributed. The reports indicated a balance in all funds of \$27,432.42. A motion to accept the reports was made by Bob Amsler and seconded by Bill Levin. The motion was **Approved** by a voice vote of the membership.

Directors Report -- Board of Trustees:

Jim Anderson did not have a report for this month, other than to mention that work is continuing on changes in regulations, etc.

Constitution and Bi-Law Revisions:

Superintendent Thomas reported that the officers have nearly completed work on Constitution and Bi-law revisions for the Gateway Division to bring the Division into compliance with the changes in the NMRA Constitution. The Gateway Division will be combining both documents into one document called "Regulations." The membership will be receiving the revised document prior to the next meeting, and the changes will be voted on at the April 18th session. Approval of the document will require a positive vote by a 2/3 majority of the members present.

Old Business:

AP Awards – Don Taschner indicated that there was nothing new to report.

Merchandise – Wheel sets are still available through Hank Kraichely who was not in attendance at the meeting. Gary Hoover cars are still available through Ken Thompson who was not in attendance.

RPO – Two issues were mailed to the membership. The next issue is "in the works" but there is no information on a publication date. Consideration is being given to posting the entire publication on the website in order to save mailing costs when our membership jumps from 150 to over 300. There is no information contained in the RPO which should not be placed on the site for public viewing. Of the members present 12 would prefer to get the publication on line. The real savings would be realized from the reduced mailing costs, not in set-up or printing costs. Further discussion concerning bulk mail, first class mailing, cost per issue, etc. did not result in any action by the membership in attendance. Venita Lake requested that everyone update their email address with her as soon as possible.

Project Layout –The project layout is still complete The layout is scheduled to be shown at the Boeing Show on April 2, and the GATS show on July 30 and 31 in Belleville. Brian Post is looking for workers for both events. He is also dealing with the legality of raffle ticket sales in Illinois. The immediate solution to the problem is to call the ticket price a “donation.” A sign-up sheet was distributed for workers to sign up for the Boeing show.

New Business:

Clinicians – Assistant Superintendent Levin indicated the need for six additional clinicians for the year. He is especially interested in finding a member with experience using a DCC “freeware” program to program decoders. Any other clinicians are welcome to sign up and are needed. April’s presentation will be given by Dave Roeder on “resin casting.” Superintendent Thomas asked for volunteers for Layout Tours for the May meeting and Bob Boedges, Randy Meyer, and Tom Orear offered to host the event

Club News - The 2005 O Scale Convention will be held in Collinsville on the 15th through the 18th of June. The organizers are still looking for O Scale and O Scale narrow gauge layouts for tours during the event. Merit judging was discussed and qualified members were asked to serve as judges.

Old Bulletins – Don Taschner indicated that he had old bulletins available from the 1970s which he would be willing to give to anyone interested. He also has a large quantity of the old TruScale roadbed if anyone in the group uses it.

50/50:

Dick Wegner won \$22.00 in the drawing.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by John Hardy and seconded by Bill Levin. The motion was **Approved** by voice vote of the membership.

Attendance – There were 34 members in attendance.

Respectfully Submitted

Robert J. Boedges, Clerk

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for April 18, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Assistant Superintendent Bill Levin at 7:00PM. Levin introduced Dave Roeder who presented a clinic on Resin Casting. The membership thanks Dave for his presentation.

Business Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Assistant Superintendent Levin at 8:00PM.

Visitors:

Mike Watson and Ralph Kniepkamp were introduced as guests.

Minutes of the January Meeting:

The minutes of the March Meeting were distributed. The item entitled “50/50” was corrected. The winner of the drawing was Matt Martin, not Dick Wegner as indicated. A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by Tom Bousman and seconded by Jim Anderson. The motion was **Approved** by a voice vote of the membership.

Treasurer’s Report:

Printed copies of the one month treasures report (March 21, through April 17, 2005) were distributed. The report indicated a balance in all funds of \$27,679.04. A motion to accept the report was made by Ron Gawedzinski and seconded by Dick Wegner. The motion was **Approved** by a voice vote of the membership.

Directors Report -- Board of Trustees:

Jim Anderson reported that the Mid-Continent Region Convention for 2005

would be held in Wichita, Kansas on June 9th through the 11th. Information is available through the internet on the MoCor website. Information is also available from Jim.

Constitution and Bi-Law Revisions:

Assistant Superintendent Levin began the process of voting on the proposed revisions to the Gateway Division Regulations. The membership received a copy of the document in the mail along with their meeting reminder card. Bob Amsler moved that the membership approve the revised document, and the motion was seconded by Carl Schoeneberg. Ron Gawedzinski proposed a large number of revisions and corrections to the document which were accepted by both Amsler and Schoeneberg. After considerable discussion the revised document was **Approved** by a unanimous voice vote of the membership. (The changes in language were too numerous to be included in these minutes. If interested in the changes members should compare the document as originally presented to the final document when it becomes available.) Assistant Superintendent Levin thanked Bob Amsler for all of the work involved in the preparation of the new “Regulations.”

Old Business:

AP Awards – Don Taschner was not in attendance and no report was given.

Merchandise – Wheel sets are still available through Hank Kraichely who was in attendance at the meeting. He reported that he sold the last of the 36” sets on the date of the meeting. He still has 140 packets of 33” HO scale wheel sets remaining to be sold. There are 12 axels per packet. He reported that he has sold 50% of his original purchase of 3520 wheel sets. He also reported that the quality of the wheel sets was excellent and even surpassed the quality of sets sold through the division in the past.

RPO – No report.

Project Layout –The project layout is still complete The layout was shown at the Boeing Show on April 2, and will be displayed at the GATS show on July 30 and 31 in Belleville.

May Clinic – Assistant Superintendent Levin indicated that the May clinic would be presented by Bob Amsler. Bob will give a presentation on “Time Table and Train Order Operations.” This presentation will replace the layout tours originally scheduled.

Club News - The 2005 O Scale Convention will be held in Collinsville on the 15th through the 18th of June.

New Business:

Roberts Rules of Order - Ron Gawedzinski moved that the Division purchase a copy of the Roberts Rules as a reference for meetings should questions of procedure arise. The motion was seconded by Tom Bousman. The motion was **Approved** by a voice vote of the membership.

Swap Meet – Hank Kraichely suggested having a “swap meet” at one of our regular meetings in place of a clinic presentation. The consensus of the members in attendance was to have at least two with one on each side of the river. No further action was taken.

50/50:

Jim Ables won the \$16.00 prize drawing.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Hank Kraichely and seconded by Ron Gawedzinski. The motion was **Approved** by voice vote of the membership.

Attendance – There were 22 members in attendance.

Respectfully Submitted

Robert J. Boedges, Clerk

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for May 16, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Mike Thomas at 7:05PM. Thomas introduced Bob Amsler who presented a power point clinic on Time Table and Train Order Operation. The membership thanks Bob for his presentation.

Business Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Thomas at 8:26 PM.

Visitors:

Richard Crapenhof was introduced as a guest.

Minutes of the January Meeting:

The minutes of the April Meeting were distributed. Robert Boedges corrected the item listed under "Directors Report from the Board of Trustees:" The Mid-Continent Region Convention would be held in Topeka, Kansas. A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by John Hardy and seconded by Ron Gawedzinski. The motion was **Approved** by a voice vote of the membership.

Treasurer's Report:

Printed copies of the one month treasures report (April 18, through May 15, 2005) were distributed. The reports indicated a balance in all funds of \$27,785.38 A motion to accept the reports was made by Tom Bousman and seconded by John Hardy. The motion was **Approved** by a voice vote of the membership.

Directors Report -- Board of Trustees:

Jim Anderson announced that the MoCor Region Convention would be held in Topeka, Kansas. He also indicated that the new MoCor regulations as well as ballots for the election of the new regional officers' election should have been received in the

mail. Bob Boedges strongly encouraged the membership to vote for his opponent in the "race" for the position of Treasurer. The results of the election for the new NMRA Board of Directors should be out some time in the next week.

Old Business:

AP Awards – Don Taschner indicated that there was nothing new to report. Jim Anderson indicated that the lack of participation in the AP Program at the national level was becoming a concern for the NMRA. He encouraged the membership to do the paper work and participate.

Merchandise – Wheel sets are still available through Hank Kraichely. Hank indicated that approximately 50% of the wheel sets have been sold including all of the N Scale sets and all of the 36in HO wheel sets. The remaining sets are all HO Gauge 33in. sets. Gary Hoover cars are still available. Some of the cars will be shipped to the NMRA National Convention in Cincinnati to be sold. The Gateway Division owns the cars so that all sales are now 100% profit.

RPO – The RPO is at the printer and should be back this week. Superintendent Thomas indicated that someone would be needed to handle the mailing. As a default, Thomas volunteered his teenage son to perform these duties.

Project Layout –The project layout is still complete and is currently being stored in John Schindler's basement. The layout will be next shown on July 30 and 31, 2005 at the GATS show in Belleville, IL. Superintendent Thomas gave a short recap on the construction and purpose of the Project Layout for the benefit of guests and new members.

New Business:

Gateway Division Display – Bill Levin suggested that the Division create a "pop-

up" display to highlight the construction techniques used to build the layout. Don Taschner suggested that we photograph the layout winners to be displayed the following year. Hank Kraichely reminded the membership that the Division purchased and sold a display of the type Levin was describing. Some consideration was given to contacting the organizing committee in Cincinnati to check on re-purchase. After more discussion the item was tabled for further review.

Clinicians – Assistant Superintendent Levin indicated that the June program would be an AP presentation by Don Taschner.

Club News – The Metro East Railroad Club is having an open house on June 11 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. They will also be open during the O Scale convention on Thursday, June 16 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. The national convention will be held in Cincinnati beginning on July 3rd. The convention of the Railroad Prototype Modelers will be in St. Louis in August. Representatives from this group will be invited to the June meeting. There was continuing discussion concerning the low enrollment and the activities planned for the Topeka McCor convention. John Schindler suggested that consideration be given to changing the convention date to avoid the many conflicts during the summer months.

50/50:

Dick Wegner won \$21.00 in the drawing.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by John Hardy and seconded by Bill Levin. The motion was **Approved** by voice vote of the membership.

Attendance – There were 32 members in attendance.

Respectfully Submitted

Robert J. Boedges, Clerk

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for June 20, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Mike Thomas at 7:04PM. Assistant Superintendent Bill Levin introduced Don Taschner who presented a clinic entitled Improve Your Modeling Skills and Build / Improve Your Layout with the NMRA Achievement Program. The membership thanks Don for his presentation.

Business Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Thomas at 8:14 PM.

Visitors:

Ralph Kniepkamp was introduced as a guest.

Minutes of the May Meeting:

The minutes of the May Meeting were distributed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by John Hardy. The motion was seconded and **Approved** by a voice vote of the membership.

Treasurer's Report:

Printed copies of the one month treasures report (May 16, through June 19, 2005) were distributed. The report indicated a balance in all funds of \$27,894.24. A motion to accept the report was made by Tom Bousman. The motion was seconded and **Approved** by a voice vote of the membership. As a follow up to the treasurer's report Superintendent Thomas announced that the \$3.00 Division Dues would be due at the end of June. In addition he announced to the membership that the Gateway Division Dues in the future would be called a "publications fee" and would be continued after the change to the "unified dues structure" takes place on September 1, 2005. Members wishing to receive the "Reminder Cards" and the RPO

would be required to continue paying this fee on an annual basis. Discussion of the costs of both the "reminder card" as well as the RPO did not result in any motions or changes in the system.

Directors Report -- Board of Trustees:

Jim Anderson announced that he and several other members attended the Regional Convention in Topeka, Kansas from June 9th through the 11th. He indicated that it was a good convention in terms of the organization and the activities. However the attendance was very low with only 82 registered and this resulted in a considerable loss of funds for the sponsoring Division. Next year's Regional Convention will be held in Council Bluffs, Iowa. The dates will be earlier in the year and it is hoped that attendance will be stronger.

The discussion at the Regional Board meeting centered on the continuation of the \$6.00 dues to cover the costs of the publishing and mailing the Caboose Kibitzer. It was decided that the dues would remain the same.

Old Business:

AP Awards – Don Taschner indicated that there were no new awards to present.

Merchandise – Wheel are available through Hank Kraichely. The remaining sets are all HO Gauge 33in. sets. Dave Lyon had the sets available at the meeting.

Project Layout – Brian Post announced that there was a GATS show scheduled for July 30, and 31. The show will be held in Belleville and he is looking for volunteers to sell tickets. A sign up sheet was distributed.

Brian also indicated that the organizers of the Railroad Prototype Modelers Convention on August 20 would like for the Division to have the NMRA Tables set up on display. They would also like to have the project layout on display. This is a long show from 9:00 AM to 10:00

PM. Attendance is projected to be low. He is looking for volunteers for this activity. The organizers are also looking for help selling tickets and taking in money. Our display would be near the door and we could easily provide help in these areas.

Brian has also received the information for the Boeing show which will be returning to Queeny Park on September 10. The layout will be on display. There is some concern about taxes needing to be paid at this show.

As an informational item Brian announced that Nu-Way Industries would cut Homosote into strips up to 100 linear feet for approximately \$25.00. The strips will be cut to the width of your choice.

New Business:

Elections – A slate of candidates for next year will be needed and volunteers will be needed for the nominating committee. Superintendent Thomas asked for members to see him after the meeting to volunteer for either position.

Clinicians – Assistant Superintendent Levin indicated that he was working on future clinic presentations.

50/50:

Bill Birdsell won \$15.50 in the drawing.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Gregor Moe. The motion was seconded and **Approved** by a voice vote of the membership.

Attendance – There were 26 members in attendance.

Respectfully Submitted

Robert J. Boedges, Clerk

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for July 18, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Mike Thomas at 7:12PM. Superintendent Thomas introduced Dale DeWitt who presented a clinic entitled *Making A Good Model Better – Atlas Ballast Cars*. The membership thanks Dale for his presentation.

Business Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Thomas at 8:13 PM.

Visitors:

Jim Urnes was introduced as a guest.

Minutes of the May Meeting:

The minutes of the May Meeting were distributed. The minutes were accepted without correction.

Treasurer's Report:

Printed copies of the one month treasures report (June 20, through July 17, 2005) were distributed. The report indicated a balance in all funds of \$27,910.76. The report was accepted after a discussion of the "parties" entry under "Administration." The entry refers to the annual Christmas party. The report was accepted without further discussion.

Dave Lyon reminded the membership that the Gateway dues of \$3.00 expired on June 30, and that payments for 2005 – 2006 were being accepted.

Directors Report -- Board of Trustees:

Jim Anderson was not in attendance at the meeting. Superintendent Thomas announced that Hank Kraichely was this year's recipient of the Larry Long Award. This is the second year in a row that the award winner was a member of the Gateway Division. Last year the Long

Award was presented to Venita Lake. Thomas pointed out that it is very unusual for the award to be presented to two members of the same Division in consecutive years.

Old Business:

AP Awards – Don Taschner that Dave Bartz is working on a certificate in the Freight Car category.

RPO - There is no confirmed date for the publication of the next issue.

Project Layout – Superintendent Thomas announced that there would be a GATS show in Belleville on July 30, and 31.

Hank Kraichely indicated that GATS had been sold effective July 1, 2005. Several locations were dropped. Four locations were transferred to The Worlds Greatest Hobby Show. The Collinsville show in November is one of the events that will now be sponsored by this new group. The remainder of the shows were sold to the Greenberg group.

Brian Post was not in attendance and information on volunteers for the Belleville show was not available.

National Convention - Richard Lake reported that the convention was very well organized and ran very smoothly. The attendance was lower than expected due to a variety of reasons mostly related to promotions. The tours were excellent and featured many beautiful layouts. All activities were centered at the convention center. Next year's convention will be held in Philadelphia.

New Business:

Fall Meet – Hank Kraichely reported that the organizing committee that will be working on this year's meet will be the same as last year. The meet will take place on the first Saturday in November. Layout tours will be different than last year.

Region Convention – The 2006 Mid-Continent Region convention will be held in Council Bluffs Iowa. The dates are June 1 through June 4, 2006. Dick Wegner announced that he had brochures available for anyone interested in the event. He pointed out that the strong presence of the Union Pacific Railroad in the area might be a good motivation to attend. Hotels are booked, the convention center is under contract, and a convention car is being designed.

Directory Information – Venita Lake announced that she distributed current information and update forms to the members in attendance. She asked that these forms be completed and returned. She also discussed the impact of the new rules and regulations on the membership and asked for volunteers to help with Hobby shop contacts, and club contacts.

Division 20 Merger – A new candidate for the position of “Director” for the Southern Illinois portion of the Gateway Division will be needed for the fall ballot. This is a three year term.

Elections – A slate of candidates for next year will be needed and volunteers will be needed for the nominating committee. Superintendent Thomas asked for members to see him after the meeting to volunteer for either position.

University of Missouri St. Louis – UMSL will be offering a non-credit course on Railroads in American Life which will be given on Monday evenings from January 23 through May 8, 2006. Tuition is \$160.00 which includes a parking permit.

Merchandise – Hank Kraichely indicated that he was sold out of wheel sets. After some discussion it was decided that more sets would be ordered with the amount to be determined by the “break point” on the price.

Hank also announced that the Walthers Corporation purchased Life Like Proto lines and their toy lines.

50/50:

Rich Laux won the drawing.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by John Hardy and **Approved** by a voice vote of the membership.

Attendance – There were 26 members in attendance.

Respectfully Submitted

Robert J. Boedges, Clerk

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for August 15, 2005

Business Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Thomas at 7:12 PM.

Visitors:

No guests or visitors were in attendance

Minutes of the May Meeting:

The minutes of the July Meeting were distributed. The minutes were accepted without correction.

Treasurer’s Report:

Printed copies of the one month treasures report (July 18, through August 14, 2005) were distributed. The report indicated a balance in all funds of \$28,294.38. The report was accepted without discussion.

Directors Report – Board of Trustees

Jim Anderson indicated that there was no report for this month.

Old Business:

AP Awards – No report for this month..

Merchandise – Hank Kraichely reported that the minimum order for the next division purchase of wheel sets

from Inter-Mountain at the same price as our last order would be 1000 axles. The sizes could be mixed. He indicated that our last order of 3000 sold out very quickly. A motion was made by Jim Anderson to purchase the minimum number of axles. The motion was seconded by Jack Templeton. Rick Lake offered an amendment to change the motion to 1200 axles because of the way they are packaged. The amendment was accepted and the motion passed.

Clinic

At this point, Superintendent Thomas interrupted the business meeting to introduce Chris Zygmunt who presented a clinic to the membership entitled “Planning and Designing Layouts Using 3rd Planet.” The membership thanks Chris for his presentation.

Business Meeting (cont’d)

The business meeting was called back to order by Superintendent Thomas at 8:40 PM.

Old Business Cont’d:

RPO – No report.

Project Layout – Superintendent Thomas reported that the Division sold \$213.00 worth of Raffle Tickets at the Belleville GATS show. He thanked everyone for their help. Brian Post reported that the layout would be displayed at the Railroad Prototype Modelers show at the Collinsville Convention Center on Saturday, September 20, 2005. He also indicated that members were invited to Brad Joseph’s house on Friday, September 19, after 7:00 PM. It was decided not

to display the layout at the Decatur show because of the distance involved. The layout will be on display at the Boeing show in Queeny Park on Saturday, September 10.

New Business:

Elections – Superintendent Thomas announced the following slate of candidates for office for 2006:

- Superintendent = Bob Boedges
- Assistant Superintendent = Bill Levin
- Pay Master = Dave Lyon
- Clerk = Ron Gawedzinski
- Missouri Director = Jim Anderson (continuing)

• Illinois Director = A candidate is still needed. We have the largest Division in the Region and we are entitled to have this representative. This person should be an Illinois resident, and have the ability to attend the meetings.

Volunteer Positions – Superintendent Thomas announced the need for help in the following areas:

Membership tasks including recruiting, record keeping, and the membership directory.

Project Layout tasks including chairing the project, design and construction, display and raffle, and transportation/storage.

Announcements:

September Clinic - Bill Levin announced that John Schindler would be presenting a clinic on small railroad operations at the September meeting using the Project Layout.

November Holiday Party – We are looking for anyone who might have “train oriented” videos.

Jeremy Janson – Will be hosting an open house and barbecue on August

27, and he has asked that members let him know if they plan to attend. Jeremy has a N scale layout with an HO layout under construction. Superintendent Thomas has a handout and map for anyone interested.

Sale of Equipment – Jack Templeton announced that he would be selling a variety of items out of his collection at the Boeing show.

Gary's Switch Lists – Superintendent Thomas announced that copies of the list would be available at the door.

Trinity Lutheran Church - The project layout will be used to present a program as part of the church "How-To Series." The presentation will be made on the Saturday before the fall meet.

Fall Meet Flyers – Hank Kraichely announced that he had flyers announcing the Fall Meet available for distribution.

Downtown Train Displays – Tom Bousman indicated that Charlie Brennan from KNLC Channel 24 was initiating a project to bring model train displays back to the downtown area during the Holiday season.

50/50:

Don Ayres won \$18.00 in the drawing.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by John Hardy and **Approved** by a voice vote of the membership.

Attendance – There were 27 members in attendance.

Respectfully Submitted

Robert J. Boedges, Clerk

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for Sep. 19, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Mike Thomas at 7:08 PM. Thomas introduced John Schindler who presented a clinic entitled *Setting Up Operations on Small Layouts*. The membership thanks John for his presentation.

Business Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Thomas at 8:07 PM.

Visitors:

Carl Wessel was introduced as a new member.

Minutes of the August Meeting:

The minutes of the August Meeting were distributed. The minutes were corrected as follows: The heading "Minutes of the May Meeting" was changed to Minutes of the July Meeting. The dates in the "Project Layout" entry were changed from September to August. The "Downtown Train Displays" item was changed to read KMOX Radio rather than KNLC Channel 24. The minutes were accepted as corrected.

Treasurer's Report:

Printed copies of the one month treasures report (August 15, through September 18, 2005) were distributed. The report indicated a balance in all funds of \$28,484.97. The report was accepted without discussion.

Directors Report – Board of Trustees:

Jim Anderson announced that as of September 1st we have officially entered the "single dues era." NMRA is having problems establishing their data base under the new structure, but they hope to have the problems corrected within the next month.

Old Business:

AP Awards – Don Taschner reported that he along with Venita and Richard Lake went to visit Dave Bartz and judge his work on four scratch built cars and two locomotives to qualify him for his Master Modeler certificate for rolling stock.

Merchandise – Hank Kraichely reviewed the discussion from last month and indicated that Inter Mountain was developing a new line of wheel sets that would fit into N scale MicroTrains trucks. Since these are not available as yet the total order has been delayed. He asked for N scale modelers to let him know how many they might order so that the total order might be adjusted. He also pointed out that a change in the order would have to be approved by the membership. After considerable discussion it was decided to table the item and to put ordering information on the back of the reminder card for the October meeting.

RPO – Still a mystery. Superintendent Thomas indicated that he would be willing to take over as editor of the RPO after he completes his term as Superintendent.

Project Layout – Superintendent Thomas reported that the drawing for the current project layout would be held at the fall meet on November 5th.

Membership Contest – A question was asked concerning the final results of the membership contest and Hank Kraichely indicated that a new contest was under discussion. He also indicated that the former contest resulted in 99 new members with no cost to NMRA.

New Business:

Elections – Superintendent Thomas announced the following slate of candidates for office for 2006:

Superintendent = Bob Boedges

Assistant Superintendent = Bill Levin

Pay Master = Dave Lyon

Clerk = Ron Gawedzinski

Missouri Director – Jim Anderson (continuing)

Illinois Director – A candidate is still needed. We have the largest Division in the Region and we are entitled to have this representative. This person should be an Illinois resident, and have the ability to attend the meetings. Jim Anderson indicated that filling this position would give our division two votes on the NMRA Board. Hank Kraichely pointed out that in order to receive an MMR certificate members had to hold office at the Regional or National level and this position would qualify a person in this category. Richard Lake indicated that an Illinois Director is an important in terms of recognizing the Gateway Division's Bi-State membership.

Volunteer Positions – Superintendent Thomas announced the need for help in the following areas:

Membership - recruiting, rerail, membership directory

Gateway Central XIII – Bob Boedges and Mike Satke have agreed to assist in construction. Bob also agreed to chair the project. Brian Post agreed to continue to function as the display and raffle chairman.

No one at the meeting volunteered to fill any of the positions discussed.

Announcements:

October Clinic – Carl Wessel volunteered to provide the October clinic on the "light rail" system.

November Holiday Party – The November meeting will be held one week earlier than usual, and will be the traditional Holiday Party. A clinic presentation is still being sought.

Fall Meet – Hank Kraichely announced that he had flyers announcing the Fall Meet available for distribution and was looking for volunteers to take them to local hobby shops. The Quincy group will be bringing

there railroad to the show. Also the Freemo group will be bringing their modular layout. He encouraged the group to bring models to the modeling contest. Brian Post is taking care of the dealer's tables.

Window Display – Richard Lake asked for assistance in developing a window display for their local public library for the month of November.

50/50:

The drawing was won by the Bousmans.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by someone and approved by a voice vote of the membership.

Attendance – There were 38 members in attendance.

Respectfully Submitted

Robert J. Boedges, Clerk

January 2005 MCoR BOD Meeting Highlights

Jim Anderson

Gateway Division Director

1. The proposed revised regulations for MCoR were approved by the BOD to put MCoR in conformance with the new NMRA Rules and Regulations approved by the membership in 2004. These proposed revised regulations will be submitted for approval to MCoR members by May 2005.

It's now important that the Gateway Division get its documents in line with the MCOR/NMRA regulations. Hopefully this will occur in April/May.

NMRA has requested that all regional and divisional regulations be brought into conformance with the NMRA documents by 9/01/05.

2. The merger of the Southern Illinois Division 20 with the Gateway Division was approved.

3. Candidates for MCOR offices (to be elected later in 2005) include:

President: Richard Napper

Vice-President: Larry Alfred

Secretary: Whit Johnson

Treasurer: John Shaw

Bob Boedges(Gateway)

4. A new editor for the MCOR publication, Caboose Kabitzer, is being sought as Charles Marchbanks has asked to be replaced.

5. The 2005 MCOR regional convention will be held in Topeka, KS from June 9-11. Registration forms can be downloaded from the MCOR website. They will also be available in the next CK.

6. Divisions are being asked to recommend candidates for the 3 MCOR annual awards:

-Larry Long Award

-Kenny John Award

-Kenny Cline Award

Thanks and Please:

I want to thank Richard Schumacher for the work he did in getting this issue started, and I want to thank Bob Boedges for recording all these pages and pages of meeting minutes.

I hope we never again have to play catch-up like this, but if there's anything even less interesting than page after page of meeting minutes, it's page after page of white space. Future issues will require content – words and pictures – and that's the responsibility of the membership. And that means **you**. Please contribute a photo, a product review, a modeling tip, or a write-up of a clinic you've given.

Mike Thomas
