

RPO

Volume 27, Number 1
Spring 2019
www.gatewaymra.org



RPO

Spring 2019: Volume 27, Number 1

The *RPO* is the official publication
of the Gateway Division
of the National Model Railroad Association

Editor: John Carty

Articles, photos and any other materials for publication are to be sent to the Editor. No payment can be made for publication of any materials. Regular issues are published quarterly: Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. Subscriptions to the *RPO* are available to members of the NMRA as a service provided by members of the Gateway Division. Send subscription applications and renewals to the Division Treasurer.

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Articles may be submitted as handwritten, typed, plain unformatted text on disk, or plain text via email to johnpcarty@hotmail.com; photo submissions may be made as hi-res digital files, 35mm slides or negatives or as prints.

Submission deadlines:

Spring: April 1
Summer: July 1
Fall: October 1
Winter: January 1

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On The Cover

photos by Jon Marx

Two photos from slides of NKP Berkshire on its way back from Promontory Point 50 years ago. The top is at Glen Carbon Tower, while the bottom is in eastern Missouri.

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Superintendent's Desk

by Willie Richter

Model Railroad Empire or Workbench?
Most Friday evenings around my house are spent working on the West Alton and Belleville Railroad in my basement. Basement being the catalyst to my inspiration to write this article. It's springtime and when you live between the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers thoughts of potential high water lead a person to cleaning and organizing the basement. As I was looking at the Christmas decorations on the shelf that never seem to make in back into their boxes I saw a stack of boxcar kits that I haven't gotten around to building. I picked them up and sat them on the layout. Then I started to look at the layout and realized that it has become more of a workbench and storage area than an operating layout. There are boxes with cars, kits and locomotives

stacked in the main yard. There are tools and scenery products stacked in the other yard. There are partially built buildings stacked on the other end where the depot will go someday. At least these are layout related items. Then there are the woodworking books, magazines, Christmas lights and other miscellaneous non train related items that seem to be everywhere on the layout. The WA&B has become a storage shelf and workbench. The worst part of this story is that there is a great workbench setup that is so cluttered with stuff that we can't use it. We use the layout. Now I am not seeing the layout as an enjoyable getaway from the real world, I see it as a cleaning chore that needs to be completed. Where is the fun in that? So, as well as getting the basement organized I have to get the layout organized as well. Take a look at your Railroad Empire. Hopefully you don't see what I saw on mine; but if you do, I challenge you to do a little cleanup and organizing. Soon you will be on the right track and the trains will be rolling.

Willie Richter
Superintendent

Under the Wire

by John Carty, Editor

Happy Summer!

Obviously, I am still running behind. Children do that to you. I hope to get things back on schedule with the Fall issue. Wish me luck.

Softball and baseball seasons are over for my kids, but school is around the corner, along with the activities which accompany the time of year. Hopefully, I can carve out a little more therapy

time: modeling. Of course, we all have our challenges.

The Fall Meet will be upon us soon, and we will need judges for the contest as well as entries. Please consider volunteering to judge or prepare some entries to share with the other members of the division. I have found the contest to be a great way to get feedback on my modeling. The information gained has provided me with the impetus to improve. Last year saw several new entrants with a variety of entries, as the results published herein will attest.

Regarding the RPO, I have noticed a steady decline in the quantity of material members have submitted. This publication provides an outlet for members to share their knowledge and experiences with fellow members. To this end the RPO requires a steady supply of material to keep going. This issue is one of the shortest I have published in the last seven and a half years. I hope everyone can contribute to rectify this trend. If each member submits one item during the course of a year, the entire membership of the division will benefit.

Articles on constructing models, taking photographs, researching prototypes, prototype history, and explaining techniques allow growth as modelers. Photo essays on layouts, railfanning, and railroad-themed vacation spots also provide opportunities for others to enjoy our great hobby.

Please accept this invitation to take part in the contest as well as submitting material to keep the RPO going.

John Carty
Editor

Director's Reflections

by David Lowell

As promised in my opening Director's Reflection remarks from the Winter RPO I am reporting back after attending the mid-year Board of Directors (BOD) meeting on January 5, 2019 in Kansas City. It was a very enlightening meeting. I say this because I have only been a NMRA member since March of 2015 so I gleaned a far greater understanding of the NMRA and its interworking's beyond the limits of just our Division boundaries. I think the two biggest takeaways from the meeting were: 1) How good our Division really is doing, and. 2) The level of commitment I saw by those who are active at all the Divisions and in our Region including a group of younger-ish members who seem to be gravitating toward leadership roles.

Include herein for your perusal is the report I filed on behalf of the Division. It would be reasonable for you to expect, with my penchant to pontificate in text form, it is long. But on this occasion, I would say its length is more related to the content than any long windiness on my part. And that content is a direct and positive reflection of the Division and its membership.

What I hope that you take away from this report in respect to point one above is how much and how diverse our activities were. We, as a group, have done a lot in the last year. And with respect to point two, there are a lot of names listed who are responsible for the origination and execution of all this, not just a few. But we always want more.

To add some additional perspective; many of the other Division reports were only three quarter of a page or less and a few were a couple of pages. The brevity was not because of poor effort on the other Directors to assemble a

report or lack of enthusiasm in their Divisions, but a reflection of proportion. Many cover vast rural areas where members are less densely present and must travel great distances to convene, thus making it harder for them to have group event.

We have an established and strong Divisions with better than average participation. So, this is the challenge that I will leave with each of you with. What would happen if each one of you made only an incremental effort to participate just a little more? Come to a meeting at least one a year if you come to none. If you only come to the Missouri or Illinois side, come a little farther and expand your horizons. I know many of you are a wealth of knowledge on a particular topic, or many. Share it. I want to learn and I want to know what other modelers and rail fans are up to. Enter just one model in the fall meet. Take a shift at the PR table at a show and get in free! Or, come to one of the many other activates. We average about 20 attendees at the meetings out of 216 current members. We, as a group, can make this incremental increase happen. Look at what we are already doing.

I will always be available, as well as the great team of officers we have, to receive any comments or suggestions you may have. You can reach me at LowellCoMotive@gmail.com

I hope that you all had a truly happy holiday season in whatever manner that you choose to celebrate them, until then.

Happy Rails

David C. Lowell

Director, Gateway Division, Mid
Continent Region

Nation Model Railroad Association

Tour of Amsted Rail Company, Granite City

by Ron Gawedzinski



On Wednesday, May 29, 2019, a joint group of 28 railfans from the St. Louis Chapter NRHS and the Gateway Division NMRA toured Amsted Rail Co. foundry.

The foundry, over a hundred years old, sits on 17 acres, with 800,000 square feet under roof. Amsted is the global leader in fully integrated freight car systems for the heavy haul rail market. It builds everything from wheels, axles and bearings to brake systems, bogies, bolsters and more.

Nine Amsted management personnel acted as tour guides and gave us an extensive tour of the foundry, providing excellent explanations of what went on at each foundry work site, from creating molds, pouring of molten steel, heavy crane movements, and using lots and lots of sand. We saw and learned a lot more details and appreciation for what special expertise it takes to fabricate the numerous parts for railroad freight cars. We viewed and gained a better insight into the specialized, heavy-duty equipment and labor used in the production and testing of the parts, from inception to final product.

This was our group's first tour of a site on a weekday, and under actual working conditions in the foundry. So there was plenty of "background sounds" (noise) as well as "flames, fire and heat" from the pouring of molten steel to make the tour even more interesting.

Unfortunately, we were not allowed to take pictures or videos due to proprietary fabrication practices. But what we saw will remain in our memories for some time. As a couple of members said, "Wow!"

Tour arranged by Ron Gawedzinski, Outside Activity Coordinator, Gateway Division and St. Louis Chapter

Gateway Division Report, Mid Continent Region,
National Model Railroad Association,
January 5, 2019

by David C. Lowell

**THE STATE OF THE GATEWAY
DIVISION IS STRONG.**

With calendar year 2018 behind us the Gateway Division can report that it was an active and productive year. We continued to have or regular meetings that alternate monthly between the Illinois location and the Missouri location and attendance has been steady at both. Our financial status is secure. In addition to our monthly business meetings we have had twelve excellent clinics put on by member or guests. They have included basic modeling skills such as decal application and advanced modeling skills such as kitbashing. Subjects related to electronics like the use of LEDs, WIFI throttles and Arduinos. We have had programs on new model railroads just started and on completed railroads as well as prototype related subjects. See Appendix A for a full list. Once again, our Outside Activates Coordinator, Ron Gawedzinski, has done an exemplary job to set up two special trips in conjunction with the St. Louis Chapter of the National Railroad Historical Society, of which we share multiple members. In April a group toured the Gateway Rail Services shops in Madison Illinois where locomotives and cars are repaired, upgraded and restored. In September a group toured Continental Fabricators in St. Louis to learn how boilers, particularly steam locomotive boilers, and other heavy vessels are made and see the boilers for several prominent restorations that are in progress.

ur achievement program under the guidance of AP Chairman John Carty has seen renewed activity with multiple members gaining merit awards and AP certificates. Three received their Association Official certificate and one Dispatcher certificate was earned. Several more have been submitted for review.

The RPO

<http://www.gatewaynmra.org/gateway-nmra-rpo/>, our Division newsletter continues to be churned out quarterly by Editor John Carty with great articles, pictures and information in a top quality format.

The National Convention in Kansa City was attended by about fifteen Gateway Division members. The conventions was thoroughly enjoyed by all and afforded another opportunity for fellowship inside our Division group as well as with regional and national fiends, both old and new. Though our group was small we managed a respectable showing in the celebration room.

We have three active rotating informal operating groups in the St. Louis area. The Thursday night Gandydancers, the Tuesday night group and the Wednesday day group, all afforded the opportunity of fellowship and education on operations through the generosity and hospitality of the model railroad Owners who host these groups. We also have a number of railroads that operate regularly with set crews.

On our radar screen for the near future is working with the Gateway 2020 committee of John Schindler, Bob Amsler, Jimmy Ables and Brad Joseph to find ways the Division can support their efforts for the NMRA National Convention scheduled to be held in St. Louis in 2020.

<http://www.gateway2020.org/>

As part of our mission of education and promotion of model railroading the Gateway Division, through its various members and committees, is supporting several outreach activities.

1. The Division staffs an informational and recruitment table at all major local train shows and some special events.
2. The inaugural Archrails event, Archrails 2019 <http://archrails.com/>, is the reincarnation of Run Extra St. Louis. It is an operations weekend to be held in March on 14 St. Louis metro area model railroads and will support approximately 60 operators from other regions. If all goes well it may be expanded in scope in future years. This effort is being supported by John Schindler, Gary Gross, Joe and Tony Pellegrino, and David Lowell.
3. The Gateway Division is also hosting, for the second year, Model Railroading 101 which is targeted to the general public. This year past Asst. Superintendent Don Ayres is relocating the event from the Museum of Transportation to Mark Twain Hobby Center and it will be held on February 2, 2019. Additionally, as a result of the feedback received last year, we are shifting the focus from a children's orientated curriculum to an adults oriented curriculum for those who want to

enter the hobby but don't know how with respect to model railroad construction and modeling skills.

4. We will continue to support John Golden, Lonnie Bathurst, Dan Kohlberg and Dave Roeder's St. Louis RPM Meet, the premier Railroad Prototype Modeler event in the country set for July 26th and 27th 2019 in Collinsville II. <http://icg.home.mindspring.com/rp/m/stlrpm.htm>
5. And last, but certainly not least, is our own annual Fall Meet held the first Saturday each November which was once again a successful event for both attendance by the public and members as well as for fundraising. We had great participation in the Celebration Alcove in both the number of models entered along with the number of members participating. Three clinics <http://www.gatewaynmra.org/2018/gateway-nmra-announces-clinics-nov-3-2018-st-louis-train-show/>, display railroads, attendance prizes, a gym full of vendor tables and model railroad tours rounded out the day.

Detailed information on most of the events outlined above can be found on our website that is maintained by Richard Schumacher, under the blog section at <http://www.gatewaynmra.org/model-railroad-blog-news/> or via the links above.

At our December meeting we wrapped up the year with the installation of a new slate of officers (see attached) after a crowded election process that was a welcomed change. Outgoing Superintendent Jimmy Ables and

Assistant Superintendent Don Ayres are to be commended for their service as well as outgoing Director Jon Marx. Equal thanks goes to Paymaster Rich Velten and Clerk Gregor Moe who were re-elected to their respective roles and will support new Superintendent Willie Richter and Assistant Superintendent Dan Knipp through their transition period. David Lowell was elected Director. A strong group with a good combination of old heads and fresh faces.

While the Gateway Division had a great year it did end with one sad note. Past Superintendent and current Contest Chairman Tim Stout passed away unexpectedly on 12/19/18. Tim was an active member and well-liked by all who knew him. He will be missed on the call board.

Respectfully submitted,

David C. Lowell

Director, Gateway Division
Mid Content Region, NMRA

Appendix A

January

Guest speaker Gary Brandenburger, D.Sc., discussed Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs). What they are and how to power them. He also discussed Miller signs and how to inexpensively convert them from battery to AC power. Lighting train cars by converting incandescent lighting to LEDs and making them run without flicker was also covered.

February

Brad Joseph, the Owner of Oliver C. Joseph Chrysler Dodge Jeep RAM, welcomed us to his dealership to tour his restored Great Northern passenger car as well as a display about the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad which served Milwaukee. The display was designed

and built by the Milwaukee County Historical Society in conjunction with and for Trainfest and featured 32 panels of photos, graphics, maps and stories about the Milwaukee Railroad.

March

Carl Wessel discussed how he settled on the Kankakee Belt RR as the subject for his model RR along with a bit of history on the prototype. He shared some of the materials he has collected and used as the basis of his model railroad. He discussed his planned method of operations, the anticipated waybill handling of the cars and equipment, and the current status and future plans of the model railroad's construction.

April

Guest Thomas Ose from the Illinois Valley Division presented the first of three sections on "Arduinos and Model Railroading." Arduinos are inexpensive, small computers that have many different applications in model railroading. This session was an introduction on what an Arduino is and why we as modelers should care to use them. Future section will focus on Arduinos for automation, DCC control, and lighting.

May

Dave Roeder, MMR, presented his techniques for modeling prototype railroad equipment, vehicles, structures, WWII tanks, and a dune buggy. These techniques included a mix of kits, kitbashed models, scratchbuilt structures, and other models and drawings he created for NMRA competitions. Additional techniques discussed include photographing and measuring structures, creating drawings, and styrene construction.

June

Pete Smith took us on a photographic tour of his impressive SN3 Loon Lake Railway and Navigation Co. He also discussed the design concept and some of the modeling techniques he used to create this truly impressive railroad.

July

David Lowell presented a clinic on his methods for applying decals. After a brief instructional presentation a hands-on clinic followed. The Gateway Division provided unpainted box car shells for a canvas, decals, tools and supplies needed.

August

Thomas Ose from the Illinois Valley Division returned for the second section of his series on "Arduino and Model Railroad". He delved deeper in the usage of Arduinos for your model railroad. This session looked at DCC++ in more detail, the required components, and how Arduinos are modified and configured. A test track demonstrated DCC++ in action using JMRI as the controller.

September

Glenn Koprooske presented an interactive clinic on the Digitrax LNWI

WiFi Interface module for LocoNet. There was an audience participation component in conducting tests on its capabilities for capacity and range.

October

Thomas Ose returned for the third and final section in his series on "Arduinos and Model Railroad". In this session he reviewed sensors and how they are used for detection and automation. The demo built on the DCC++ unit introduced in the last session included a speedometer and also some automation based on train detection.

November

As is our tradition we do not have a meeting in November but rather we hold our annual holiday party with spouses. The social hour was followed by dinner and a railroad presentation after dinner, always a great time.

December

With the competition for time around the holidays we have our traditional Bring it and Brag and Division Swap Meet. Favorite model are displayed and discussed. And then excess kits, locos, structures are available for barter or at bargain rates.

2018 Gateway Division Fall Meet Contest Results

Steam Locomotives Judged

- 1st Place: Chris Dinardo, C&IM #551
- 2nd Place: Dave Roeder, SG&W #34
- 3rd Place: Chris Dinardo, SJ&P #4

Steam Locomotives Popular Vote

- 1st Place: Chris Dinardo, C&IM #551
- 2nd Place (tie): Chris Dinardo, SJ&P #4
David Lowell, C&IM #540

Diesel Locomotives Judged:

- 1st Place: Dave Roeder, CRGX #2
- 2nd Place: Dave Roeder, #6 GE
- 3rd Place: David Lowell, C&IM #71

Diesel Locomotives Judged:

- 1st Place: Dave Roeder, Cargill #311
- 2nd Place (tie): David Lowell,
C&IM #21, C&IM #31, C&IM #71

Traction, Popular Vote
1st Place: David Lowell, Atlas Car
Pusher

Passenger Car, Judged
1st Place: David Lowell, C&IM #1
Best of Show
2nd Place: Robert Brady, Frisco
Heavyweight Coach

Passenger Car, Popular Vote
1st Place: David Lowell, C&IM #1
Best of Show
2nd Place: Robert Brady, Frisco
Heavyweight Coach
3rd Place: Chris Dinardo, C&IM #90

Freight Car, Judged
1st Place: Dave Roeder, T&E #567
2nd Place: Dave Roeder, St. Louis
Northern Shortline #1828
3rd Place: David Lowell, C&IM #1526

Freight Car, Popular Vote
1st Place: David Lowell, C&IM #1516
2nd Place (tie): Noah Oestreich, BN
Dave Roeder, BN #631021

Caboose, Judged
1st Place: Dave Roeder, #1901
2nd Place: David Lowell, C&IM #42
3rd Place: Dave Roeder, Consol

Caboose, Popular Vote
1st Place: Dave Roeder, #1901
2nd Place: David Lowell, C&IM #34
3rd Place (tie): David Lowell,
C&IM #42, C&IM #30

Maintenance of Way, Judged
1st Place: David Lowell, X-32 & Tender

Maintenance of Way, Popular Vote
1st Place: David Lowell, X-32 & Tender
2nd Place: David Lowell, #1001

On-Line Structure, Judged
1st Place: David Lowell, Pecan Run
Trestle
2nd Place: David Lowell, Water Tower

On-Line Structure, Popular Vote
1st Place: David Lowell, Avenue Tower
2nd Place (tie): David Lowell,
Pecan Run Trestle, Water Tank

On-Line Structure, Judged
1st Place: Chris Dinardo, Engine 51
2nd Place: Thomas Ose, Gasthoff
Danizog
3rd Place: Robert Miller, Old Red Dairy
Barn

On-Line Structure,
Judged & Popular Vote
1st Place: David Lowell, Corner Market
2nd Place: Robert Miller, Frisco Yard
Tool Shed

Whole Train, Popular Vote
1st Place: Dave Roeder, Firefly Train
Set
2nd Place: Robert Miller, Frisco Freight
Train
3rd Place: David Lowell, Interchange
Coal Train

Model Photo, Popular Vote

1st Place: David Lowell, Shove Move

2nd Place (tie): Robert Miller, Frisco

F3A&B

David Lowell, Local Works
Thru Pawnee

Model Photo, Popular Vote

1st Place: Robert Miller, #111

Georgetown Loop

2nd Place (tie): Richard Schumacher,

UP 844 @ St. Louis
Florida Gulf Coast

Rail Pass, Popular Vote

1st Place: David Lowell, C&IM

Gateway Div./NRHS Tour of Micro Engineering

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Arrangements have been made to have a Joint Group Gateway Division NMRA and St. Louis Chapter NRHS **tour of Micro Engineering Co.**, 1120 Eagle Road, Fenton, Missouri, on **Tuesday, September 24, 2019, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM.**

Micro Engineering Co. (MEC) was started in 1964 under original name "Rail Craft Products." MEC manufactures an assortment of model railroad products, from track to bridges, etc.

Attendance is limited to just 30 people! Mark your calendar and set the time aside. Also, **PLEASE NOTE; the tour is on a weekday, Tuesday, in the morning.** MEC does not work on the weekend.

Safety Requirements: Tour of a Manufacturing Shop under Actual Working Conditions! Safety is paramount!

- Not required - safety shoes, hard hats, and earplugs.
- Regular eyeglasses with safety lens are acceptable.
- Neither tank tops nor flip-flops are allowed.
- **ADA accessibility** - narrow aisles can accompany folks with canes; wheelchair could be difficult.

Picture taking and videotaping are allowed.

More information will be coming later as to directions, parking, etc.

Signup sheets will be available at upcoming meetings or you may contact Ron Gawedzinski, rwgawed@yahoo.com, and telephone 314-846-5559.

Division Minutes

by Gregor Moe

Meeting Minutes for January 21, 2019

Superintendent: Willie Richter

Assistant Superintendent: Dan Knipp

Paymaster: Richard Velten

Clerk: Gregor Moe

MCoR Director: David Lowell

Activity Coordinator: Ron Gawedzinski

Publicity Chairman: Don Ayres

Membership Chairman: Bill Linson

AP Chairman: John Carty

Contest Chairman: Chris Oestreich

Clinic:

The clinic was three mini clinics by Bill Linson hiding a helix, Dale DeWitt repairing Proto 2000 engine gears, and Hank Kraichely detailing a scene.

Business Meeting:

Superintendent Willie Richter called the meeting to order. There were 28 members present and two guests Ray Anderson and Ralph Wiemann.

Minutes of Previous Month's Meeting

Minutes from the December meeting were available for review prior to the meeting start. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Rich Velten presented the paymaster's report. The opening balance was \$18,074.82 during the month we had receipts of \$58.14 and expenses of \$358.00. The closing balance was \$17,774.96. The major expense was gift to the VFW for use of their facility. He also had a breakdown of the year month by month of income and expenses. The report was approved.

Merchandise Report

Rich Velten stated that there are wheel sets and standard gauges available.

RPO Report

The winter edition of the RPO is in work.

Directors Report

Willie Richter gave the directors report for David Lowell and it was attached to the minutes.

Achievement Program (AP) Report

No report.

Publicity Chair Report

Jim Ables said he needed volunteers for the St. Charles show.

Outside Activities Report

No report.

Old Business

The 2020 convention the registration is now \$155.

Model railroading 101 the next class will be February 2, 2019 at Mark Twain hobby store. Need a person to give the structure portion of the Model Railroading 101.

Jim Ables had no report on the shirts and caps.

New Business

Willie Richter brought up the membership report with 216 members in the district. During discussions it was determined the number was within the normal range for members.

With Tim Stout's death the group needed a new contest chairman. Chris Oestreich agreed to be the contest chairman if someone would help typing up the certificates. Carl Wessel agreed to help.

Dan Knipp is looking for clinics for the year.

Announcements

Don Ayres said he has pancreatic cancer and the outlook was positive as it was found early.

Upcoming clinic

The February clinic was not announced.

Drawings

50/50 winner: Carl Wessel

Gift Card winner: Bob Miller

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gregor Moe,
Clerk, Gateway Division

Meeting Minutes for February 18, 2019

Superintendent: Willie Richter

Assistant Superintendent: Dan Knipp

Paymaster: Richard Velten

Clerk: Gregor Moe

MCoR Director: David Lowell

Activity Coordinator: Ron Gawedzinski

Publicity Chairman: Don Ayres

Membership Chairman: Bill Linson

AP Chairman: John Carty

Contest Chairman: Chris Oestreich

Clinic:

Glenn Koproske and Richard Velten will be presenting "Locomotive Maintenance," a clinic on their recommendations to perform periodic maintenance on your locomotives. Glenn will cover maintenance on N scale locomotives and Rich will cover maintenance on HO scale locomotives. They will use their own models as they show typical lubrication points as well as places to clean. Lubrication and cleaning materials will be discussed.

Business Meeting:

Superintendent Willie Richter called the meeting to order. There were 23 members present and two guests Steve Diehl and Randall Colton.

Minutes of Previous Month's Meeting

Minutes from the January meeting were available for review prior to the meeting start. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Rich Velten presented the paymaster's report. The opening balance was \$17,774.96 during the month we had receipts of \$357.66 and expenses of \$99.77. The closing balance was \$18,032.85. The Income was the security deposit from the Christmas party. The report was approved.

Merchandise Report

Rich Velten stated that there are wheel sets and standard gauges available.

RPO Report

No report.

Directors Report

Willie Richter gave the directors report for David Lowell. There are 220 members in the division and 794 in the region. The Caboose kibzser is catching up. The North and South regions are combining. MCoR elections are coming up if you wish to run contact Whit Johnson. MCoR region convention will be June 20-23 in Wichita. Archrails is set for March 22. OPSIGs a local group that hold operating sessions. If interested contact Dave Lowell.

Achievement Program (AP) Report

No report.

Publicity Chair Report

Jim Ables said he needed volunteers for the Boeing show. Jim thanked the workers of the Great American train show.

Outside Activities Report

Ron reported he is working on a new outing in April.

Old Business

The 2020 convention the registration fee is \$150.

Model railroading 101 class was held at Mark Twain hobby store. Those who were there said it was a success. Mark Twain said they would be willing to do it again.

Jim Ables reported the cost and types of shirts available from our current provider. He had a shirt from a different provider that the group liked. He said he'd get info on those shirts. Further discussion was tabled.

New Business

Jim Ables discussed the number of persons attending the two meeting places. There were discussions about a central location for our meetings. No consensus was reached.

Announcements

No announcements.

Upcoming clinic

The March clinic will be on arduinos by Tom Ose

Drawings

50/50 winner: Jim Ables

Gift Card winner: Bob Gibson

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gregor Moe,

Clerk, Gateway Division

Meeting Minutes for March 18, 2019

Superintendent: Willie Richter

Assistant Superintendent: Dan Knipp

Paymaster: Richard Velten

Clerk: Gregor Moe

MCoR Director: David Lowell

Activity Coordinator: Ron Gawedzinski

Publicity Chairman: Don Ayres

Membership Chairman: Bill Linson

AP Chairman: John Carty

Contest Chairman: Chris Oestreich

Clinic

Thomas Ose presented his recap the "Arduino and Model Railroading" clinic he presented at the fall meet and then went deeper in the usage of Arduinos for your layout. Arduinos are inexpensive, small computers that have many different applications in model railroading. This session will look at DCC++ in more detail, the required components, and how they are modified and configured. A test track will demonstrate DCC++ in action using JMRI as the controller.

Business Meeting:

Superintendent Willie Richter called the meeting to order. There were 32 members present and 3 guests Dave Goben, Ben Jordan and Randall Colton.

Minutes of Previous Month's Meeting

Minutes from the February meeting were available for review prior to the meeting start. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Rich Velten presented the paymaster's report. The opening balance was \$18,032.85 during the month we had receipts of \$51.34 and

expenses of \$159.25. The closing balance was \$17,924.94. The main expense was post office box rent. The report was approved.

Merchandise Report

Rich Velten stated that there are wheel sets and standard gauges available.

RPO Report

No report. Submissions to the summer RPO are due 1 April.

Directors Report

Willie Richter gave the directors report for David Lowell. The region is looking for a new editor for the Caboose Kibitzers. The region meet will be June 20-23.

Achievement Program (AP) Report

No report.

Publicity Chair Report

Jim Ables said the next train show will be the Bellville show. He has had some talks with the national park service about doing something for May 11 about railroading.

Outside Activities Report

Ron reported he has secured a tour of Amsted Rail Co. for Wednesday May 29 from 10:30 to 12:00.

Old Business

The 2020 convention the registration fee is \$150.

New Business

A discussion was held on the fall meet on ways to raise more money for the division.

Announcements

No announcements.

Upcoming clinic

The April clinic will be short clinics on various topics.

Drawings

50/50 winner: Bill Levin

Gift Card winner: Jim Ables

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gregor Moe,

Clerk, Gateway Division

Timetable of Events

Do you know of an event of interest to other Gateway Division members? Send the information to the editor so it can be listed in future *RPOs* and on the www.gatewaynmra.org website.

NMRA Divisions or St. Louis area clubs may have their event listed here by sending a description of the event, in the format shown here, to the Editor (rpo@gatewaynmra.org).

Mon., August 19, 2019

Gateway Division Meeting, VFW Hall, O'Fallon, IL, 7 p.m.

Sat., September 7, 2019

OMRA Show, East Hall Ozark Empire Fairgrounds EPlax, 3001 N. Grant Ave., Springfield, MO. FREE PARKING. 9am-3pm, 200 vendor tables, a dozen operating railroads featuring various scales. Several new G, HO & N layouts. Kids can earn certificates as Chief Whistle Blower, Official Switchman or Official Engineer. Kids of all ages can ride the Kiddy Train, weather permitting. Admission \$8 adults, children 11 and under are free with paying adult. Food, door prizes and a train set every two hours for kids. Get vendor forms at the OMRA website at <http://omraspringfield.org>. or call Joe Davidson 417-380-0821. For other info call Ron Williams MMR 417-839-3433. Email: rwilliams3129@gmail.com

Mon., September 16, 2019

Gateway Division Meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church, 14088 Clayton Rd, at Woods Mill Road (Hwy 141),

Ballwin, MO (West St Louis County), 7 p.m.

Tue., September 24, 2019

Joint Gateway Division and St. Louis Chapter NRHS of Micro Engineering Co., 1120 Eagle Rd., Fenton, MO, 10-11 a.m., for reservations and information contact Ron Gawedzinski at telephone 314-846-5559 or rwgawed@yahoo.com.

Mon., October 21, 2019

Gateway Division Meeting, VFW Hall, O'Fallon, IL, 7 p.m.

Sat., November 2, 2019

Gateway Division Fall Meet, Trinity Lutheran Church, 14088 Clayton Rd at Woods Mill Rd, Ballwin, MO, 9am - 3pm, includes Model & Photo Contest, swap meet, modular layouts, and layout tours. Admission: \$7, Children under 12 are free

This show is sponsored by the Gateway Division and we'll be looking for your help in supporting the event.

Mon., November 18, 2019

Gateway Division Holiday Party.

NMRA MCoR Region & Gateway Division

The National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) is a world-wide organization dedicated to all aspects of model railroading. In order to bring the most benefit to its members, the association is subdivided into Regions, and each Region has a number of local Divisions. National dues are \$72 per year, and all members of the NMRA

are automatically members of the Region and Division in which they live. The Gateway Division is part of the Mid-Continent Region, which represents Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, and parts of Iowa and Illinois.

The Mid-Continent Region publishes a quarterly bulletin, *The Caboose Kibitzer*, and holds an annual convention meeting that usually includes modeling clinics, local tours of layouts or prototype facilities, and model contests. Annual subscription to the Mid-Continent Region *Caboose Kibitzer* is included with membership at the National level and runs concurrently.

The Gateway Division is well represented on the regional and national levels of the NMRA. Its members actively promote the modeling hobby through local monthly meetings, this quarterly newsletter, an annual train meet in the fall, participation in area train shows and other events, and a comprehensive website. Annual subscription to the Gateway Division *RPO* is \$10, running from July 1 through June 30. Members who subscribe mid-year are given extended memberships. The division's official mailing address is on the "Contact Us" page on the website: <http://www.gatewaynmra.org/gateway-nmra-contact-us/>. Checks may be sent to Gateway Division NMRA, PO Box 7742, Chesterfield, Missouri 63006-7742. Membership is open to anyone from the beginner to the most advanced modeler, of all ages, so that everyone can share questions and knowledge of the hobby. Visitors are welcome at the monthly Division meetings listed on our website, www.gatewaynmra.org

Division Officers

Superintendent

Willie Richter

Assistant Superintendent

Dan Knipp

Clerk (Secretary)

Gregor Moe (Bonnie)

Paymaster (Treasurer)

Richard (Rich) M. Velten (Marilyn)

Division Director

David Lowell

