

Division 4, MCR, NMRA, Board of Directors Meeting, August 17, 2026 at the James' Homestead

Superintendent, Bert Wisbar opened the meeting at 6:20 pm. He thanked David and Carole James for their hospitality.

New Business:

Chattanooga Convention 2026 -Bert Wisbar - Let those present know who attended the Convention from the Division: Himself, Craig Butler, Jeff Lauren, Scott Benson, Jerry Krueger, David Williams, Chuck and Chris Shick. Bert then talked about the challenge thrown out by the T-Track group. They managed to cover 10,000 sq ft of modules from all over the world. There were many great Clinics and home layouts that were seen. Next year's National Convention will be in Tacoma, Washington, sometime in August.

New Annual Membership Fee - Bert Wisbar - Gordy announced the annual membership fee is dropping to \$50.00. If you have paid for the year at the old rate, your dues will be prorated and last longer. Rail Pass stays the same.

Building Younger Membership - Bert Wisbar - The NMRA is working out details in order to allow younger people to become members. Should have legalities ironed out by February. Just remember to use 2 deep leadership and meet in public places when working with a youth member.

East Broad Top - Bert Wisbar - 24 going and there is still room to go.

Pennsylvania Trolley Museum - Bert Wisbar - 12 members attended. Lee Sheffield, Tim Sheffield, and Bram Bailey did a great job of driving us around on several different Trolleys. Showing us behind the scenes works, along with the regular displays. It was an enjoyable time.

Back-Up People for Officers - Bert Wisbar - We learned a hard lesson recently with the passing of Steve Kaplan. Everyone holding an Officer position should have a back-up in order to keep our Division running smoothly.

Flatwheel - Don Oleksa - others complemented Don on the great job he is currently doing. Don would like to take the Flatwheel in a new direction. This means it will be bigger and bolder. He is looking for members to submit articles, comics, or anything relating to the hobby. Please send it to him. Side note: because of the size of the Flatwheel, it will not come up in the email; it will be a link.

Member Files - everyone was throwing around a bunch of ideas of how to get members to update their information. Most importantly, how do we reach those who have wrong or incomplete contact information for?

Old Business:

Great Berea Train Show - David James -

1. Vendors - We are gaining some new vendors, but losing some old ones. There have been many health issues or deaths in their families. They are pulling out for lack of help or not able to make it.
2. Those on the Board for the Show will be doing a "Dialing for Dollars", to hopefully get more vendors.
3. Advertising - Making fliers to go out. Let Gary Schaefer loose on the internet end of things for 3 weeks prior to the Show. Bert Wisbar and Chris Shick will be on "New Day Cleveland", the 29th of September.
4. David is having Chuck send out a memo for volunteers. In this memo it mentions how the Show is the Main source of income for the Division. It is important that we support and volunteer the Show in order for the Division to keep running.
5. Fairgrounds have not raised our rent again this year. Tables and chair rentals are the same cost as last year.
6. Polaris will not be with us again this year, Their advisors are not available.
7. David is going to reach out to the Berea Kiwanis Club to see if they would be willing to help in the ticket booth and other areas.
8. New for this year - there will be a food truck that is for vendors only.

Module Group - Adam Woodie - We will be at Great Northern Mall on September 19th and 20th. Location is in the main section of the mall, right in front of J.C. Penney. As of right now, Trees and Trains are on hold for this year. Gail is having health issues herself. Everything went well with the Cuyahoga County Fair.

Craig Butler made mention to keep an eye out for a new AP Award for Modules.

David James made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brian Haas seconded the motion. Board of Directors meeting came to a close at 7:30 pm.

This meeting has reached its final destination,

Chris Shick

Secretary, Division 4, MCR, NMRA