

Division 4, NMRA MCR, Business Meeting September 11, 2026

North Olmsted Cabin

Superintendent Bert Wisbar and Secretary Chris Shick were unable to attend this meeting and arranged in advance for Assistant Superintendent Gary Sole to preside and Dave Williams to record the Minutes.

Assistant Superintendent Gary Sole opened the meeting at 7:00 PM with a minute of silence in memory of the victims of September 11, 2001.

Gary called for new members to introduce themselves, with three individuals responding.

The Minutes of the June meeting were approved by all those in attendance.

The Treasurer was not present; no Treasurer's report was given.

Gary reminded everyone to sign up this evening for volunteer duties during The Great Berea Train Show. He noted that vendor attendance at the recent National Narrow-Gauge Convention was affected both by fuel and hotel costs and we might need to be prepared for a similar occurrence. Train Show Chair David James said that he was still waiting to hear from some vendors but expected 700 tables to be in use. David reported that the coffee vendor would not be at this year's Show but that a separate food trailer would be available for vendors and volunteers. He reminded everyone that the majority of set-up would take place on Thursday night due to both volunteer availability and the desire of some exhibitors to be able to prepare their tables early on Friday. The Polaris Law Enforcement students will not be able to assist us this year, placing more responsibility for security on volunteers. The Berea Police will have a presence at the Show.

Gary reported that the recent Division outing to the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum was a success.

In New Business:

AP Chair John Hemsath MMR reported that he had no new activity to report.

Mark Pekelnicky said that new operating sessions were being planned for April 2027 at layouts within a one hour drive of Cleveland. Sign up sheets for both layout owners and operators will be available at the next meeting.

The Olmsted Falls Depot and Model Railroad Museum are celebrating the Depot's 150th anniversary this weekend (September 12/13 10-4 both days) with an open house.

Ron Morgan will be holding a model railroad estate sale at his home for Steve Kaplan's collection on September 26 and 27. Members should have received details via email.

The deadline for the Flatwheel newsletter is September 26.

Scott Benson spoke about items available at the Company Store and said that he is planning to order Division 04 hoodies in the near future – more information to be provided next month.

Craig Butler (Membership Chair, additionally covering Raffle and Module Group this evening) listed things to be raffled off this evening and related that the Division modules would be on display at the Great Northern Mall next weekend. He requested help staffing the Division membership tables at both the Mall and the Olmsted Falls Depot as well as during the Great Berea Train Show.

Layout Chair Gary Sole said that he was looking at the months of November 2026, and February/March/April 2027 for open house dates, and asked layout owners to consider being available.

Contest Chair Joe Filipiak said that the evening's contest was for Alco products and reminded everyone to vote. A brief explanation of how the contest works was given for the benefit of new members. Joe reported the winners for last season as well as giving a listing of contest categories for this season (see his report in the current Flatwheel).

Frank Bongiovanni said that the New York Central Historical Society would be holding a MiniCon at the Berea Historical Society on September 27. He invited everyone to attend and called for clinicians.

It was announced that the evening clinic would be on the Penn Central, presented by Brian Weisman.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM by motion of John Hemsath MMR and seconded by Bruce Bowie.

David M. Williams

Acting Secretary