

No. 199, December 1999

THE
NER  **coupler**



A Publication of the Northeastern Region, National Model Railroad Association



Through Crawford Notch on the North Conway Scenic RR. Photo by Dick Towle

NER BRASS

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**Deadline for next
issue, 15 March 2000**

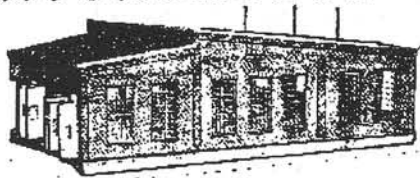
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popecki@globalnetisp.net
Your contributions, articles, photos, sketches, filler & ideas are most welcome. The Editor may accept, reject or edit copy as received. Accepted items will appear in the *Coupler* as space permits. Letters to the Editor of a constructive and professional nature are welcome. If you wish your submission returned, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. If you send a disc, include a hard-copy. **Find mistakes? Thanks for letting us know!**

WEB PAGES: English: <http://home.computer.net/~waynerep>
French: <http://www.cite.net/~capaigle/fnerhome.html>

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DOWN AT THE ROUNDHOUSE



Glenn Glasstetter
PRESIDENT, NER, NMRA

As I write this column, we are experiencing our first appreciable snowfall here in northern Vermont. That, coupled with the fact that it seems to be dark all the time can only mean one thing - it's Model Railroad Season! Now if I can only find time to get downstairs, I know there are a lot of projects waiting to be done.

Conventions

Our recent NER fall convention, sponsored by the Hub Division, at North Conway, New Hampshire, was a great success. This was held in conjunction with the North Conway Scenic Railroad's Twenty-fifth Anniversary. The Hub tried out some new ideas for the convention format that were quite successful. We had a beautiful train ride to Crawford Notch and on Sunday they ran the first steam train to the Notch in many decades.

This past weekend, Brian Whiton and I attended the Mid-East Region Convention in Hagerstown, Maryland. We had heard from several of our members that they put on a good convention and we were not disappointed. The convention started on Thursday evening and lasted through Sunday afternoon. This was a good preview for their tri-regional convention next October 5-8, 2000 in Altoona, Pennsylvania. The NER will be attending as well as the Mid-Central Region. It will include over thirty clinics, with several nationally-known model railroaders and a number of rail events in this famous railroad city. Mark your calendar now. It will be well worth the drive.

One feature of Mid-East conventions is the Operations Call Board. Several of the layouts were open for operating sessions for a limited number of people who signed up in advance. This is a great way to really enjoy a visit to an operations-oriented layout, learn how others operate and meet other model railroaders.

Our NER Spring 2000 convention, Rails in the Northeast Kingdom, sponsored by the Green Mountain Division, will feature two of our operations-oriented layouts on the Operations Callboard. This convention, to be held on June 9-11, 2000, in Lyndonville, Vermont, will be quite different in a number of ways from our usual convention format. This will be a very affordable convention and we hope to draw a large number of attendees with an exceptional program. It will be held on the

beautiful campus of Lyndon State College with a dormitory room rate of \$36.00 per person for two nights! If you would rather stay in a motel, we have the Days Inn, approximately two miles away in the \$60.00 price range.

Friday afternoon and evening will be devoted to clinics. Saturday there will be more clinics, a train show, open layouts and local rail yards to visit. Although the boat trip and lunch on Lake Memphremagog had to be canceled as the boat has been sold, we are developing an equally desirable nonrail fan trip. In addition to our usual contests, we will hold a popular vote contest for those who would like to show their models, but may not want to be judged by NMRA rules. So work on a model or two this winter, and bring them to the convention next June. There will still be judging for our usual awards as well as for the NMRA Merit Awards for those who participate.

We have a special event scheduled for our after dinner program. Jim Murphy, a retired dispatcher, will present a one man stage play in an intimate theater setting. Jim's entertaining and often humorous performance depicts "A Day in the Life of a Station Agent Operator," using sound, video and a replica set of a station agent's office, complete with an operating telegraph, that Jim has constructed for this purpose.

Sunday will include more layouts in N, HO, S, O and G and our premier event, Dr. Marvin Kendall's full size Passumpsic Railroad, featuring his 1922 Heisler locomotive under steam. This locomotive has appeared at two Sacramento, California, railfair events. Marvin's railroad collection also includes twenty pieces of rolling stock, including three GE 44 Tonners, a Plymouth gas derrick, snow plow, flanger and five cabooses.

As you can see, this convention will be a one of a kind event at an extremely affordable price. I don't think you will want to miss it! Full details and the registration form will be in the Spring issue of the *Coupler*.

Garden State Division

After many years of hibernation, the sleeping bear is finally waking, just in time for this winter's model railroad season. Our Garden State Division in northern New Jersey, has tremendous potential with over four hundred NMRA members living within it's borders. Tom Matthews is leading an effort with a growing group of people to bring this Division back to life. You may have seen in Jim Zinzer's Region Roundup column in the October issue of the *Bulletin*. If you are interested in helping with this effort, or would like to join the GSD, you can contact either Tom or Robert McQueen, our NER NJ Director.

Tom Matthews	Robert McQueen
326 N. Lanza Court	124 Crease Road
Saddlebrook, NJ 07663	Budd Lake, NJ 07828
201/556-0373	973/448-9752
owner@aol.com / robert.mcqueen@worldnet.att.net	

I look forward to the GSD getting back on track and eventually hosting a long overdue NER convention in northern New Jersey in the future.

This is the kind of grass roots effort it takes to get a division up and running and to keep it going.

We are an organization of volunteers. Your Region Officers are here to help and support the Divisions, but divisions must be run by the local members. If you are interested in getting involved with your local division, see the NER Brass listing on page two of the Coupler for your local contacts. This listing is there for your reference.

NER Membership Survey

Thank-you to those that took the time to fill out and return the Survey in the last Coupler. I have received forty two returns to date. The results will be reported in a future issue, which means that all of you who have not returned the Survey still have a chance to send it in and have your opinions counted. Out of approximately nine hundred and fifty members, we should have a larger sampling than 4-5%. Don't forget to write in any ideas you might have as well. Many of the returns have included some very constructive ideas.

I wish all of you a healthy and happy holiday and model railroad season.

Glenn Glasstetter 11/18/99

Model Contest Update
CONFORMITY GUIDELINES

By Rich Laube

Several years ago the point structure used in the Model Contest and the AP Program was modified to reduce the Scratchbuilding points from 40 to 15, while increasing the Conformity points from 10 to 25, along with changes in some of the other categories as well.

Conformity deals with what is commonly known as prototype practice. A model that is logically built and having the design features of a particular prototype being modeled is considered to be conforming to the prototype. The same considerations are given to freelanced and cross-kit models. Ask yourself if the model was built full size, would it do the intended job?

Documentation such as plans or photographs **MUST** be provided during judging for a model to receive the 25 point maximum. If **NO** documentation is provided, the maximum points possible is 15. Judging is based on a combined scoring scale which considers whether the model is minimally or extensively in conformity, and whether the model is partly or completely prototypical. When these factors are considered, the Judges are able to determine where in the 0 to 25 point range a particular model falls. That score is then adjusted for any reduction required due to the lack of documentation as described above.

Documentation is **NOT** an issue of quantity, so don't think that you have to go out and find every plan and photo possible. What we are looking for is sufficient documentation to demonstrate that what you have done is reasonable. Uncommon practices must also be documented. If you are modeling a specific prototype at a specific time, then going to the actual prototype is the best way to

achieve conformity. If you are modeling something that falls within a general class or practice, then you should provide examples from several similar situations if you cannot find a specific example of the practice. Freelanced and Kit-bashed models will fall more into this latter example of providing documentation.

Our Spring Convention will be using these Judging Guidelines, so I want you to have the time in advance of the contest to get your documentation together.

Meanwhile, Happy Modelling *RICH*



**New
Members
NER,
NMRA**

11 AUGUST TO 26 NOVEMBER 1999

Connecticut

RUSSELL WRIGHT, BURLINGTON; BOB SOMERS, CANTERBURY; SANDY ALONZO DEEP RIVER; JOHN PLANT, GUILFORD; WILLIAM SIMPSON, MADISON; SHERWOOD LOVEJOY, MONROE; HERMAN TROMMER, NEWINGTON; GEORGE GARDNER, OAKDALE; MICHAEL PETREYCIK, STRATFORD; CRAIG ROBINSON, W HARTFORD; JERRY LARSON, WATERFORD; JAMES KASIDAS, WATERTOWN; MATT DOBUSH, WINSTED.

Massachusetts

STEPHEN BAKER, ABINGTON; DAVE MCDEVITT, BURLINGTON; ROBERT BLICK, BUZZARDS BAY; ROBERT HOGAN, CONCORD LUCILLE BREEN, FRAMINGHAM; EDMUND CHILDS, LONG MEADOW; CHARLES FRANKLIN, MANCHESTER; MICHAEL GREENE, NORTH GRAFTON; RAYMOND CHAPPELL, RAYNHAM; PAUL ERCOLINI, WESTFORD; ED ALEO, WINCHESTER. LEONARD GOULD, WINCHESTER; E JAMES WHITEHEAD, WINCHESTER.

Maryland

JOHN WALTER FOSTER, OWINGS MILLS.

Maine

IAN ROBERTSON, SPRINGVALE.

New Hampshire

WAYNE SLAUGHTER, AMHERST; ROLAND RIVARD, BERLIN; BUD WRIGHT, CONCORD; Sandra DROHEN, Derry; Fenton WELLS, Dover; Thomas OXNARD, Exeter; Joseph KAYE, Na-shua.

New Jersey (next page)

p. 4 **NEW MEMBERS**

New Jersey

DAVID PEARCE, BERNARDSVILLE; JOSEPH MORIARTY, BLAIRSTOWN; JOE SCHAEFFER, CLARK ; EDWARD MERRELL, DUBLIN; VINCENT ALTIERE, EAST HANOVER; MATT MARTINI, FLEMINGTON; PAUL HARBORD, HAWTHORNE; ROBERT SHEPARD, HEWITT; JOHN FLAHERTY, JAMESBURG; WILLIAM DEBUVITZ, MENDHAM; CHARLES RAUSCH, MORGANVILLE; RICHARD ODIERNA, NORTHVALE; RIXFORD BEALS, SOMERSET; PEGGY WINGARD, SOUTH ORANGE.

New York

EDWARD FERNAU, BALLSTON SPA; MARK PHILLIPS, BEACON; STEVEN DELIBERT, BROOKLYN; NORMAN HENDRICKSON, CAMBRIDGE; STEVEN SWIRSKY, CHAPPAQUA; THOMAS PLESNARSKI, CLIFTON PARK; RICHARD RUHLE, CORONA; RICHARD MENZINGER, DEER PARK; LESTER SITTLER, FLY CREEK; STEPHEN COTANT, HIGHLAND; ANDREW DESIDERIO, PE, HOLTSVILLE; ROBERT STELTZ, KINGSTON; DENNIS ROUSE, MASSAPEQUA; H GORDON BAIER, MERRICK; NICHOLAS PELUSO, MONTROSE; CHRISTOPHER CREAGHAN, NEW YORK; CARL SCHROEDER, PINE PLAINS; CHARLES BATCHELDER III, ROME; RICHARD CLARK, SCHENECTADY; HOWARD SAMBORN, SOUTHAMPTON; ALLAN ROBERTS, STATEN ISLAND; ROBERT MASLOW, VALLEY STREAM; ROBERT SCHURMANN, VALLEY STREAM; ROBERT LODDING, WANTAGH; BARRY SULLAM, WEST ISLIP; ALFRED PISZCZ, WHITESBORO.

Province of Quebec

F FRANCIS, BEACONSFIELD, Quebec

Rhode Island

LUTHER SPOEHR, BARRINGTON; DONALD IRACE, NORTH SCITUATE; ROBERT LAMONTAGNE, PROVIDENCE.

Vermont

KEVIN DUBY, BRATTLEBORO; GARY CHAMBERLAIN, DANVILLE; ROGER SWANSON, VERNON; JOE STEITSON, WESTFORD.

To our Veteran Members of NER/NMRA

If you haven't already done so, make it a point to meet these new members and make them feel welcome at your events and clubs. Office Manager, Joe Lecaroz, can help you locate these new members by their Divisions.

To our new members: Study the BRASS page (2) for information about our officers, Directors, Division Supers and Presidents, as well as your Achievement Program and Member Aid Chairmen.

Ya shoulda been there!

THE UNCONVENTIONAL CONVENTION

From notes by Convention Chair/VP Ken May

On the weekend of October 17-19, 1999, the Hub Division hosted the whole Region at this convention with a different format. One hundred and twenty-five members and their spouses made the color-filled journey to North Conway in northern New England.

It began on Friday afternoon with clinics that went on through the evening. One of the most interesting was the last, a hands-on demonstration clinic by Stan and Debbie Ames which gave members the opportunity to both do and watch the installation of DCC equipment. [Check the photos on the Picture Gallery page and Dick Towle's wonderful cover shot made prior to the event.]

On Saturday, the majority opted for the railfan trip on the North Conway Scenic RR. Passengers boarded at the Old Quarry Branch to avoid the congestion at the station. Just after joining the main line, the train stopped and coupled on NCSRR's historic 0-6-0 steam engine for the trip through the Saco River valley on the way to Crawford Notch. At one of the bridges along the way, the train stopped for a photo runby. The two diesels pulled the train through the Notch and back. Never has there been such a satisfied bunch of railfans.

Meals at the Red Jacket were informal and delicious with lots of railroad-type conversation. The Saturday evening reception for President Glenn Glasstetter was held in a separate building and was equally informal. The modular switching contest put on by Hub had everybody trying train-direction skills, including Glenn. Sunday morning breakfasts heard from their Hub hosts and took home some prizes. A Board business meeting following was open to the members.

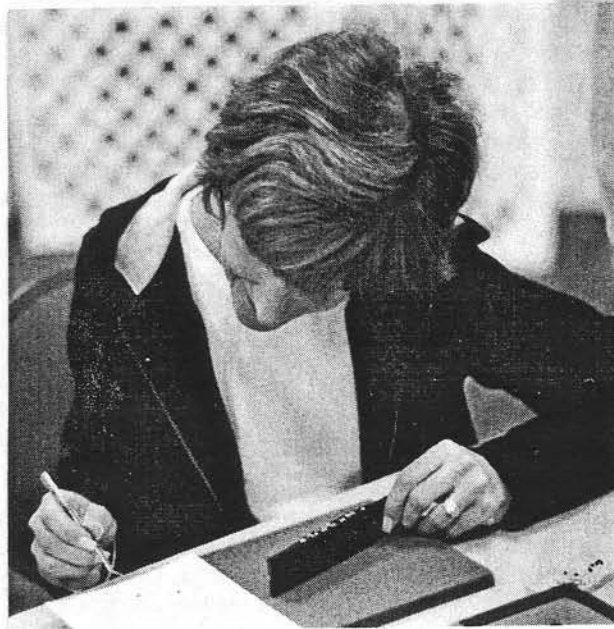
CONVENTION NEWS

Chair Ken May and Registrar John Campbell have two conventions planned for the millennial year. "Rails to the Northeast Kingdom" will be sponsored by the Green Mountain Division in Vermont. Glenn has covered many of the details in his "Roundhouse" column. Contests will be back, many home layouts will be open in the area, and there will be a big train show in the nearby ice palace. Reasonably priced meals will be provided by the food service at Lyndon State College and you will never find less expensive housing. On Sunday, we'll see Doc Kendall's vintage Heisler locomotive. This is 1:1 scale live steam!

The fall NER Convention will be will be a joint meeting with the Mid-Eastern Region in Altoo-

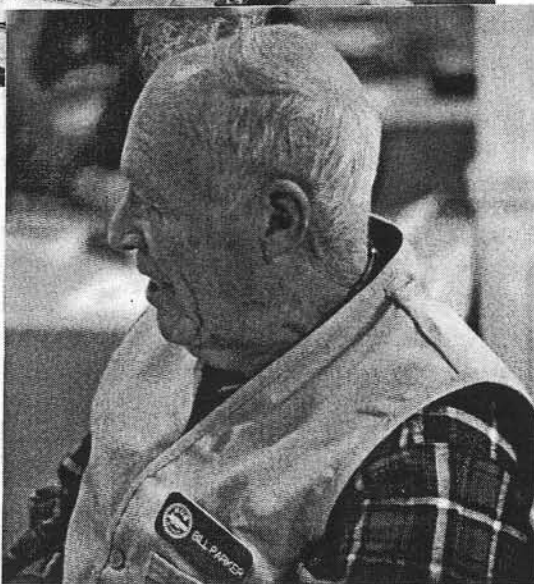
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PICTURE GALLERY



Clockwise from upper left: Pete Davis dirties up a boxcar in his Weathering Clinic; John Hillier works on a flat car for the Make & Take Clinic; Larry Madson, the patient leader of the M&T; newcomer Regina Matzella tries her hand at car building.

PICTURE GALLERY



Clockwise from upper left: DCC Clinic copresenter Debbie Ames with Rudy Slovacsek; Stan Ames gives clinicians the overall picture of Digital Control; Mark Harlow tries his hand at installing a DCC unit; a tired but happy Bill Parker observes the fruits of his organizational work; Stan advises Bill Goldthwait on his DCC installation.

A Living Document Requires Timely
Adjustments. This is why we propose
Changes to the Constitution

Vice-President Ken May explains the reasons for the proposed changes. The full revised text follows. You are asked to vote on these changes as a group. Instructions for doing this are with the Ballot. If you have questions, contact an officer or director (see BRASS page).

The Board of Directors presents the following version of the NER/NMRA Constitution to the membership for ratification. The changes are part of three active projects that are being pursued by the Board: single membership, tax exempt 501(C)(3) status, and correction of a typographical error in the changes voted by the membership in 1997.

Article I Section 2. - The changes here are to make the purpose of the NER analogous to the purpose of the NMRA. Since the NMRA is already a 501(C)(3) organization, being a subsidiary of the NMRA and having similar purposes will make our application stronger.

Article II. - The entire article has been rewritten. The principal changes are in Section 2. The classes of membership have been changed to be in alignment with the classes of membership of the NMRA. These changes are primarily to support single membership, but there are also 501(C)(3) considerations here.

Article IV Section 2. Section 2 was changed in 1997 to address the issue of the NMRA Trustee and his relationship to the Board of Directors of the NER. The Board voted in 1997 that the Trustee should be an ex-officio (by virtue of his office) member of the Board, without vote. When the text of the Constitution was printed in the *Coupler* to be voted upon by the membership, the "without vote" was somehow omitted. In 1999 the Board voted again on this matter and reaffirmed the desire that the Trustee be a member of the NER Board of Directors without vote.

Article VI Section 6. This section was added to formalize the procedure the NER shall follow to nominate candidates for NMRA Trustee from the Northeastern Region.

Article XII. This article has been added to address concerns regarding what shall happen to the assets of the NER should the

Region be dissolved. This is an important concern when applying for 501(C)(3) non-profit status.

Are these all the changes to the Constitution? They are all that are pending at this time. **Will they be the last changes? Probably not**, as our Constitution should be a living document that is changed to reflect the realities of the day. I hope you will consider these changes favorably, and vote to accept them. If you have concerns about these changes or suggestions for other issues important to the Northeastern Region, feel free to contact one of the officers or Directors with your concerns. Thank you for your interest.

If a majority of members votes to accept the changes noted, the following text will be the latest version of the

CONSTITUTION OF THE NORTHEASTERN REGION, NMRA

ARTICLE I - NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1: The Northeastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association, Inc. also known as the NER, was organized April 28, 1946, at Kingston, New York, and became a Nonprofit Corporation of the State of New Jersey on November 2, 1953.

Section 2: The purposes of the NER are to promote, stimulate, foster and encourage by all manner and means the art and craft of model railroading and the preservation of the history, science and technology thereof, and this corporation is organized for charitable, educational, literary and scientific purposes consistent with such purposes. These purposes include, but are not limited to:

A. To support and recommend persons with technical expertise to fulfill the objectives of the National Model Railroad Association;

B. To develop the technical skills of persons engaged in the art and craft of model railroading and promote fellowship among model railroaders;

C. To educate persons engaged in model railroading about methods of building and operating model railroad equipment and prototype practices;

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D. To advance the hobby of model railroading wherever and whenever possible by publications, meetings and all things necessary or incidental to the forgoing purposes;

E. To promote closer activities among members of the NMRA, the NER, and its divisions.

ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1: Any person interested in model railroading and a member of the National Model Railroad Association, Inc. may become a member upon application to the Office Manager and payment of dues as directed by the By-Laws, as the same are amended.

Section 2: The classes of membership are:

A. **REGULAR:** Regular members of the NMRA may become Regular Members of the NER.

B. **FAMILY:** Family Members of the NMRA may become Family Members of the NER.

C. **YOUTH:** Youth members of the NMRA may become Youth Members of the NER.

D. **AFFILIATE:** Affiliate Members of the NMRA may become Affiliate Members of the NER.

E. **SUSTAINING:** Sustaining Members of the NMRA may become Sustaining Members of the NER.

F. **LIFE:** Life Members of the NMRA may become Life Members of the NER.

G. **RETIRED LIFE:** Retired Life Members of the NMRA may become Retired Life Members of the NER.

H. **DISABLED LIFE:** Disabled Life Members of the NMRA may become Disabled Life Members of the NER.

I. **AFFILIATE LIFE:** Affiliate Life Members of the NMRA may become Affiliate Life Members of the NER.

J. **HONORARY:** Honorary Members may be elected by the Board of Directors and shall not pay dues or vote.

Section 3: The member shall be issued a membership card and shall be listed on all rosters, and have rights and privileges as determined by the Board of Directors or as defined in the By-Laws of the NER.

ARTICLE III - MEETINGS

Section 1: An Annual Meeting shall be held in September, October, or during the first two weekends of November each year to receive reports from Officers and Committee Chairmen, to discuss matters pertaining to the NER,

and to install the newly elected Officers and other Board Members on even numbered years, as specified in the By-Laws.

Section 2: Conventions shall be held semiannually if practicable, one in conjunction with the Annual Meeting in September, October, or during the first two weekends of November each year, the other during the last two weekends in April, or in May or June of each year.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 1: The Officers of the NER shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2: The Board of Directors, also known as the BOD, shall consist of the following: President, Vice-President, immediate Past President, and one Director from each area. The NMRA Trustee for the Northeastern Region shall be an ex-officio member of the BOD, without vote. The President shall be the Chairman of the BOD.

Section 3: The general management of the NER shall be vested in the BOD which shall hold title to all moneys and property of the NER in trust for the members.

Section 4: The Secretary, and Treasurer shall be appointed by the President and confirmed by the BOD.

Section 5: Vacancies developing in the BOD shall be filled by appointment by the President, except that the President shall be replaced by the Vice-President.

Section 6: Vacancies developing in positions normally filled by appointments of the BOD may be filled on an interim basis by appointment by the President, such interim appointees to serve until the next meeting of the BOD.

Section 7: Only Regular or Life Members shall be entitled to vote or serve as Officers or Directors.

ARTICLE V - STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1: The Standing Committees shall include the following:

A. Nominating; (Article IV, Section 2 of By-Laws)

B. Ballot; (Article IV, Section 3 of By-Laws)

C. Permanent Convention; (Article IV, Section 4 of By-Laws)

D. Audit; (Article IV, Section 5 of By-Laws)

E. Membership; (Article IV, Section 6 of By-Laws)

F. Model Contest, (Article IV, Section 7 of By-Laws)

G. Photo Contest, (Article IV, Section 8 of By-Laws)

Section 2: The composition and duties of the

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Committees shall be as specified in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE VI - NOMINATIONS

Section 1: The Nominating Committee members and duties shall be defined in Article V, Section 2 of the By-Laws.

Section 2: The Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate of at least one candidate for each elective office in accordance with the By-Laws.

Section 3: Not later than April 1st of the year of an election, 20 Regular or Life Members of an Area may petition the nomination of a candidate for Director from their Area. Such candidates shall appear on the printed ballot and may become part of the slate of the Nominating Committee. (Article IV, Section 2(E) of the By-Laws)

Section 4: Not later than April 1st of the year of an election, 30 Regular or Life Members, not more than 10 from any one Area, may petition the nomination of a candidate for President or Vice-President. Such candidates shall appear on the printed ballot and may become part of the slate of the Nominating Committee. (Article IV, Section 2(E) of the By-Laws)

Section 5: The right of voting members to write in names not otherwise on the ballot shall be preserved.

Section 6: The Nominating Committee shall execute the nomination procedure of the NMRA Trustee from the Northeastern Region as defined in Article V, Section 2(G) of the NER By-Laws.

ARTICLE VII - VOTING, BALLOTING, ELECTIONS, AND AMENDMENTS

Section 1: Elections, Referendum, Initiatives

A. Election of the President and Vice-President shall be by mail vote of the Regular and Life Members.

B. Election of each Director shall be by mail vote of the Regular and Life Members of each respective Area.

C. In the election of Officers and other Directors, the candidate receiving a plurality of votes shall be declared elected. A tie vote shall be resolved by a majority vote of the BOD.

D. Election of the President, Vice-President, and other Directors shall take place in even numbered years. The length of term(s) shall be specified in the By-laws.

Other matters requiring referendum may be submitted to the membership for balloting in any year.

Section 2: Voting by the General Membership

A. Those matters petitioned under Article XI, and matters the BOD may direct, shall be submitted to all Regular and Life Members in a referendum for a decision by mail vote, ballots to be prepared according to Article VI, Section 3 of the By-Laws.

B. The preparation of referendum questions or proposals and the means of handling the mail vote shall be as directed pursuant to the By-Laws. (Article VI, Section 3 of the By-Laws)

C. Except as otherwise provided, a simple majority of valid votes cast shall decide.

Section 3: Voting by the Board of Directors

A. A majority of the BOD shall constitute a quorum.

B. A Director may appoint another Regular Member, in good standing, or a Life Member, by written proxy, to act on his behalf as a Director on all matters at meetings of the BOD. Such proxies shall be counted in all voting and in determining a quorum.

C. Adoption of amendment of By-Laws for the NER as hereinafter authorized shall be by at least two-thirds majority of those BOD members present at a meeting of the BOD, a quorum being present.

D. Except as otherwise provided, a simple majority of valid votes cast shall decide.

E. Votes may be cast by voice vote, show of hands, or paper ballot.

Section 4: Amendments

A. Amendments to the Constitution shall be submitted to all Regular and Life Members for decision by mail vote in accordance with Section 2 above.

B. At least a two-thirds majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to amend this Constitution.

ARTICLE VIII - REPRESENTATION AREAS AND DIVISIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Section 1: The NER territory shall be divided into logical geographical areas for the purpose of electing Directors. These areas shall be as specified in the By-Laws.

Section 2: Divisional organizations may be chartered within the NER, in accordance with the By-Laws, to provide local activities.

ARTICLE IX - PUBLICATIONS

Section 1: The Coupler shall be the official publication

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Northeastern Region, NMRA, Ballot on Constitution Revision, 1999

I approve the proposed changes to the NER Constitution

I do not approve the proposed changes to the NER Constitution

INSTRUCTIONS: Cut out or photocopy your ballot, seal it in a plain inner envelope (a #6, 9, or 10 (folded over)). In the return space on the outer envelope write your name, complete return address, NMRA Membership number and expiration date, and NER Membership number and expiration date. Mail by 31 March 2000, to Charles Bettinger, Chair, Ballot Committee, 29 Foster Drive, Vernon CT 06066. Thank You for participating!

p. 10 CONSTITUTION

of the NER and shall be issued at least four times a year.

Section 2: An Editor of The Coupler shall be appointed by the President and confirmed by the BOD.

Section 3: Other Publications may be authorized by the By-Laws.

ARTICLE X - BY-LAWS

Section 1: By-Laws to implement the provisions of this Constitution may be adopted or amended by the BOD as herein provided.

ARTICLE XI - INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM

Section 1: The Regular and Life Membership shall have the right to have any proposal placed on the next annual ballot by petition by a minimum of 30 Regular and Life members, not more than 10 from any one Area.

Section 2: At least a two-thirds majority of votes received on such proposals shall be required to adopt a proposal initiated under Section 1 above.

ARTICLE XII - DISSOLUTION

Section 1: Should the dissolution of the Northeastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association occur, no officer, member or employee thereof shall receive any pecuniary profit from the Northeastern Region except reasonable compensation for services in effecting one or more of its purposes. Any remaining monies shall be donated to the National Model Railroad Association, Inc. **END**

p. 5 CONVENTION NEWS

na, Pennsylvania, the cradle of the Pennsy's Freight operations for decades. This will be a four-day event beginning on Thursday and ending on Sunday. Many activities will be available, including a railfan weekend celebration at the Railroad Museum, a visit to Horseshoe Curve, the maintenance shops (once the largest in the U.S.) and much more. Reserve the weekend of 5-8 October 2000 for this exciting weekend.

At this time, there are no confirmed conventions for the year 2001. While this is not yet panic time, Ken urges NER members from areas where there has been a recent NER meeting to consider assembling a convention program and making a bid for either 2001 or 2002. Areas where he would like to see a proposal would be Maine, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and the lower Hudson Valley in New York State.

Remember, in order to consider putting on a convention, you do not have to invent the whole thing yourself. There is a *Convention Manual* with lots of practical information on how to put together a good program. In addition, the Permanent Convention Committee is always there to provide suggestions and assistance. This is a good way to give back to those who have sponsored conventions in other areas that you have been able to attend and enjoy.

Promotion and Membership. "After six months of 'single membership dues' dues collection though the NMRA Headquarters in Chattanooga, the number of NER members is steadily rising. This is good news from the perspective of bringing NER activities to the attention of more and more people. After all, the most fundamental principle of the NER and the NMRA is the sharing of our common interest in railroading and model railroading. While it is

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OFFICE MANAGER NER
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NEWBURGH NY 12550



The
NER Coupler

FIRST CLASS

All the news that fits we print

Changing your address?
Please tell the Office Manager
so we can stay in touch.

**New Constitution & Ballot
Inside. Please vote.**

L103 LIFE
KENNETH H 36281
NER VICE PRES 71 BUFF CAP RD
TOLLAND CT 06084

In Memoriam

Donald A. Clerke died Sunday, October 31, 1999. He was well known within the model railroading community as a member of the "Hartford Workshop". His model railroad, based on the Boston & Maine, was considered one of the finest in the New England area. Don was also active in the B&M Railroad Historical Society. We miss him!

Clayton Luf, Super of the Metro North announces its next four public meetings: January 8th, 2000, at the Apple Bank, Thornwood, New York, 10 to 1, Clinics, slide show and two layout tours; March 4th, New Canaan Library, Connecticut, 10 to 1, visit to the restored train station, clinic, slide show and layout tours; May 8th, Brewster Methodist Church, New York, 10 to 1: Joint meet with the Hudson Division, with clinics (making molds and castings), slide show, and visit to a modular layout at the Putnam Museum in Yorktown.

Amherst Railway Society Show, February 5-6, 2000, at the Fairgrounds in Springfield, Massachusetts. Save your bucks!

Sorry the inclusion of the new Constitution and ballot bumped some articles we planned to run.

FROM THE MAIL BAG

Bill Brundage e-mails from "no basements, brain-fried Florida", that he'd like to hear from his New England friends. His e-mail address is: princeton@earthlink.net. He's homesick; give him a growl.

Kingston Model Railroad Club will host its 17th annual Train and Hobby Show on Sunday, March 26, 2000, at the New York State Armory, North Manor Avenue, Kingston, New York. It will be open from 10 am to 4 pm, and the admission is \$3 for adults, and \$1 for children under 12. More info from Tom Scrivani, 206 Shady Dr., Station Rd, Hurley, NY 12443. 914-331-4218.

p. 11 ♦ Conference News

certainly possible to be a lone-wolf model railroader, I submit to all of you that it is far more fun to share our interests with others. I can also say that sharing modeling techniques can be a great deal of fun."

Besides the Regional Conventions, the Divisions which comprise the region have activity programs from three to six times a year. If you don't know who your local Division Rep is, contact the area Director (cf the BRASS page)