

# The 2024 Candidates for the Potomac Division Board of Directors & Voting Information

The Nominating Committee of **Mark Gionet** (Chair), **Paul Hutchins**, **Bill Demas** and **Brian Sheron** has submitted the following candidates for the positions of Assistant Superintendent and Paymaster on the Potomac Division Board of Directors. We thank these members for their willingness to serve on the Board. There were no other candidates.

## Ken Wilson, Candidate for Assistant Superintendent



I recently retired from Fairfax County Public Schools after 43+ years, mostly as a fire prevention and protection specialist and managing a theatre safety program. I'm an HO modeler with time now to build my 1944-era railroad and expand my service to the members of the Potomac Division. In addition to model trains, I'm a collector of railroad artifacts ranging from uniform buttons on up in size to a steam locomotive bell. However, I find buttons a bit small, and I barely have space for my one bell, so I tend to focus on the roughly 400 lanterns in my collection.

Why I am running:

I'm seeking votes from the membership to be elected as the Assistant Superintendent. I have served in this position since I was appointed in April 2023 to fill the vacancy created when Ernie Little became Superintendent.

Working with the Board of Directors has given me some insight on the relationship between the Potomac Division and the national NMRA leadership. For many years we all have been concerned with the dwindling number of members and the Board has worked hard to attract new members. We've had some success from our presence at train shows, and we picked up nine new members recently, mostly from Virginia areas that were not assigned to a division until now. That's good news for those folks and I'm sure they will be impressed with The Potomac Flyer, in-person and virtual clinics, and our MiniCon.

The bigger issue to me is how do we serve the several hundred existing members who do not participate? Working with Paul Hutchins, we are striving to expand the number and frequency of layout tours. Attendance has been down from the numbers before the pandemic, along with the willingness of modelers to host tours. There are so many railroads that have not been seen and I'm sure there are a great many members who have skills that could be shared through future clinics. I have presented three clinics

in the past few years and I can attest that it is a rewarding experience and much easier than I thought it would be.

If elected I would like to focus on rekindling participation from our current members by learning what they would like from the Potomac Division, and how the Board can help fulfill those needs.

## **Jerry Stanley, Candidate for Paymaster**



I am seeking re-election to the Potomac Division's Board of Directors as the Paymaster. This would be my third term. My duties as Paymaster have included the following tasks: receiving bank statements; making and verifying deposits; keeping track of and paying invoices; reporting the financial statement each month to the Potomac Division Board of Directors. My other Board duties include participating in monthly virtual meetings, reporting on the current financial status of the Division, helping to find clinicians for in-person and virtual clinics and developing the build and take schedule. I assisted with organizing the James River-Potomac Divisions joint meet and organized the NMRA

Potomac Division Greenberg train show presence. I hope to work to add more activities, continue to help the Board of Directors and create a bigger vision for our Division. I would appreciate your vote for Paymaster again. Thank you.

## **Here is the voting schedule:**

April 1, 2024 - The Potomac Flyer and emails from the Division will provide a list of candidates for office for the membership to consider. Ballots will be mailed out to those members without email addresses on record.

April 13, 2024 - eVoting will commence.

April 20, 2024 - eVoting will conclude; deadline for receipt of mailed ballots by the Nominations Committee.

April 27, 2024 - Candidates will be notified of election results.

May 21, 2024 - The new Board of Directors will meet.