

MAY 2022

POTOMAC DIVISION NEWSBRIEF

NMRA President Gordy Robinson Attends Our Annual Meeting!



From his home in the Orkey Isles off the north coast of Scotland, NMRA President Gordy Robinson virtually joined our May 1st Division Annual Meeting. He said he is “working to make things better” at the NMRA. The big accomplishment so far has been launching the digital NMRA magazine with access to old issues now available online. (Continued next page)

What’s Coming Up?

Saturday May 14th, 2022,
Clinic 9AM

In Person – Martin Brechbiel AP **Master Builder - Cars** Workshop
Knights of Columbus Hall, Fairfax, Va.

Sunday May 15th, 2022,

Virtual Clinic 3PM
Gil Fuchs – Do it yourself
Keep alive devices

Board Elections & Abrams Award

Potomac Division members have re-elected Ernie Little, MMR, as Assistant Superintendent and Jerry Stanley as Paymaster for new two-year terms. Thanks to all who voted using eVoting overseen by the Mid-Eastern Region.



The winner of the first annual Abrams Award is Mat Thompson, MMR, the division’s Achievement Program Coordinator. The award, named after late Flyer Publisher and former Superintendent Marshall Abrams, honors a member who has made extraordinary contributions to our hobby. Congratulations Mat!

What’s Coming in the June-July Flyer?

Submissions for our **Water Features Challenge** are pouring in. If you haven’t sent in your photos and a brief description you have until May 10th to do so.

Other features include Modeling Your Hometown by Rich Steinmann, more Scratchbuilt Gondolas by Superintendent Martin Brechbiel, MMR, and Brian Sheron, MMR, shows How to Hide



Detectors. Plus we’ll have a report on a very successful Hobby Barn clinic on engine maintenance!



One other note: We're still looking for your donations of old NMRA and other model railroad magazines to hand out at train shows...along with volunteers who are willing to man the Potomac Division booth in an effort to sign up new members! Nick Kalis just sent us a note saying a BIG thank you is owed to PD Member Dr. Harvey Heiges of McLean, Virginia who donated five stacks of back issues of various model railroad magazines (along with five nice carrying bags.)

Please contact Paymaster Jerry Stanley if you have magazines to donate and if you're willing to volunteer to represent the Division at a future train show. He'll also take rolling stock donations for the youth train project we've provided to Battlefield Baptist Church, host of our November Joint Meets with James River.

Gordy Robinson (cont'd): Gordy said that since taking over as President, he has worked to restructure the various NMRA departments, seeking new volunteers to improve productivity and responsiveness. He said the next big project will be upgrading the NMRA website, and work is already underway but might not finish this year. He said another priority is improving the NMRA's education program. With the expanded use of virtual clinics and other gatherings during COVID, the NMRA is looking to expand and drive activities online – including a feature he described as the “NMRA Interchange” where members from a Division or a region or around the world can come together virtually. It could be up and running in August, he said.

He also said they are increasing NMRA National Board meetings from two to four times a year and he said department heads will now meet six times a year to develop more of a “business culture” so the organization can “deliver in a transparent way.”

He concluded by saying he wants the NMRA to “be like a university” so people will say they are proud to attend it.