

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Potomac Division, MER, NMRA 9AM, May 4, 2024 In-Person at Division Annual Meeting, Arcola VFD Annex, Sterling, VA.

- 1. Call to Order occurred: at 9AM : Little, Belida, Wilson, Stoermer, Stanley plus 14 Potomac Division members**
- 2. Adoption of the Agenda: approved prior to meeting**
- 3. Business Meeting:**

The business discussion focused on the Mid-East Region's (MER) recent request that Potomac consider hosting the 2025 MER Convention. The appeal followed the New Jersey Division's announcement that it was unable to host as originally planned due to its inability to locate an affordable hotel with the needed facilities.

MER Vice President Gary Brown participated in the discussion, answering questions on financial and other issues. Superintendent Ernie Little, MMR, informed the gathering that the Potomac Board felt it was impossible for the Division to step up for 2025 given the short time available to adequately prepare. (Carolina Piedmont, host of this year's MER Convention, has been working for three years to make the necessary arrangements.)

Asked for their views, most of the 19 members in attendance shared the Board's position and approved a resolution that the Division should inform the MER that Potomac is unable to host the 2025 Convention. The resolution recommended that the MER approach the Tidewater Division, scheduled to host the 2026 Convention, and ask if it would consider hosting in 2025, saying Potomac might then consider hosting in 2026.

The meeting heard the results of the 2024 Division elections. Ken Wilson was elected Assistant Superintendent and Jerry Stanley re-elected as Paymaster. They ran unopposed.

Superintendent Little announced that the recipient of this year's Abram's Award for outstanding service to the Division is Alex Belida, MMR. The citation accompanying the plaque cited his "*contributions and dedicated service to the Potomac Division and to model railroading.*"

Division Achievement Program Manager Martin Brechbiel presented a certificate to Greg Cassidy for Model Railroad Author.

Paymaster Jerry Stanley reported the Divisions's finances are in solid shape.

- 4. The meeting then ended at approx. 10AM and two clinics were held: Greg Cassidy on receiving his Golden Spike and Alex Belida on achieving the Motive Power certificate.**

- 5. Following the clinics, members dispersed for lunch at Noon and visits to two member layouts began at 1PM: Jim Rogers and John Whittaker.**
- 6. Date, Time, and Place of next BOD meeting: June 18 at 7:30 PM via Zoom**