

Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
Potomac Division, MER, NMRA
7:30 PM, October 21, 2025 (Revised)

- 1. Call to Order:** called to order at 732p
 - a.** in attendance: E Little, G Cassidy, L Stoermer, M Brechbiel, J Stanley.
Absent: K Wilson, A Belida, B Schultheiss.
- 2. Adoption of the Agenda-** agenda adopted with latest edition.
- 3. Approval of Minutes of Past Meeting**
 - a.** Minutes from prior meeting: September 2025 approved as corrected.
- 4. Superintendent's Report (Ernie Little)**
 - a.** 2025 Event Planning update – (Ernie Little)
 - b.** Web Master Report (Ernie Little). Website updated with several changes including event calendar and clinics.
 - c.** MER Superintendents Meeting: NMRA checks being sent out to paymasters, slightly late due to processing at Region; NMRA making signs with new logos, one to each Division; new logo on website to be formally announced in near future and on National website; new division in Roanoke area being formed (Appalachian Division with 5 clubs and 25 members currently); MER aiming for the 2030 National Convention in Baltimore to coincide with B&O 200th anniversary; looking for new business manager at Region and treasurer; Tidewater is hosting the 2026 MER at Holiday Inn VA Beach/ Norfolk hotel; new executive convention chair director has been appointed; discussion regarding the clinic program 'Modeling with the Masters' being used without proper permission - this topic will be further driven to National leadership as it conflicts with specific direction from National leadership on promoting the MMR program; 182 attended MER in Philly this last month, 15 from Potomac Division itself.
- 5. Senior Asst. Superintendent's Report (Greg Cassidy)**
 - a.** Nonprofit efforts – on hold until EIN is completed.
 - b.** Incorporation status – VA incorporation has been approved.
 - c.** EIN status – application has begun on this now that incorporation has been approved, and should be ready to be submitted in next couple days once a final response is determined (a 'description of products/services provided').
- 6. Flyer Editor/Publisher Report (Alex Belida)**

: The November Newsbrief will be ready in time for issue on November 1st – I just need to grab a photo at the MER Convention to plug into the main news segment. Because of Ernie's travel, I'll be relying on Bill to send it out via Mailchimp as a photo or PDF since Ernie won't be able to create a link in time.

The December-January Flyer is shaping up nicely, though I would hope for more than the four submissions so far for the Member's Choice Challenge in which you can submit anything you want that relates to model railroading. Come on Board members!

The issue will have the schedule for the 2026 Board elections plus an appeal for nominations for the Abrams award. I'm planning reports on both the MER convention and our Battlefield event, though I will need some help on the Battlefield layout tours. We also have an appreciation of the modeling of the late John Griffith from Mat Thompson. Our Meet the Member profile is from Ron King. Greg Cassidy takes us on a tour of my Eureka and South Pass RR layout, and Lee Stoermer shows us how to model wire screen cloth.

FYI our next Challenge for February-March will be for decals, dry transfers or anything you printed. I'll be looking for the unique, colorful and witty. The February-March issue will focus on Artificial Intelligence in model railroading with some projects members have done using it, and I'm still hoping for some more submissions. I can promise some great artwork with this issue.

- 7. Asst. Superintendent's Report (Ken Wilson) (sent via email in his absence)**
 - a. *We are set for having four layout tours following the Minicon.***
 - b. *I will purchase four dozen donuts for the Minicon.***
 - c. *I will bring the two coffee urns, and all the other stuff for coffee and tea. QUESTION: Should we have bottled water?***
 - d. *Unless we decide differently, the next layout tours should occur early in March. This time we'll go back to Maryland. Greg has done some great work connecting with willing hosts near him.***
 - e. *Ernie: Will you create thank you certificates for the four layout hosts for Nov. 1st? Thanks!***
- 8. Paymaster's Report (Jerry Stanley)**
 - a. Report provided, this month expenses exceed revenue (no revenue as NMRA rebate has yet to arrive). Account statement shared separately.**
- 9. AP Coord. (Martin Brechbiel) no report**
- 10. Old/Unfinished Business**
 - a. 2025 Fall Potomac/James River Mini-con.**
Ernie provided update on status of the Nov Mini-Con, Clinics updated, layout tours arranged: Ken getting refreshments, Lee has AV equipment, Ken handling registration, Lee handling swap meet table and gym, one additional clinic of LCC to be offered via a remote presenter.
- 11. New Business**

- a.** Bylaw review (Greg Cassidy): Greg has begun a review, a few items being noted that need updated, mostly small grammar or clerical items; there is a question about registration for clinic costs and refreshments versus attending the meeting there is not a cost; Division boundaries to be noted as “denoted as by the NMRA and Region”; including the incorporation and formal Name of the Division.
 - b.** Next Train shows (Jerry Stanley): division not attending next Chantilly show as lack of materials available from National. See if other options are available. It was noted the Dulles Expo center is being reduced in available convention size due to a significant portion being taken over as an Ikea store.
 - c.** Pizza box trains: Jerry: : looking for assistance in making these-Grace Bible Church; Battlefield Baptist Church is looking for assistance to make a lift up train table for their children’s area. Jerry to continue looking into this. No action taken as formally from Division.
 - d.** Donated books (Ernie Little): Ernie picked up and Lee will bring to meet to offer for sale. Many logging and narrow-gauge railroad books will be available. Pricing will be shared for preview prior to meet to make available presale of meet.
 - e.** Donated buildings (Ernie Little) Lee has them from Ernie and will bring to Mini-Con as a group sale lot. Older kits could be useful for base materials or a start-up set.
 - f.** Recruiting (Ernie Little): short discussion; revolved around needing promotional materials from National, supply of which is drying up so Division will need to get creative on how to share information to potential members.
 - g.** Email concerning Fall joint meet (Ernie Little): be cognizant of emails being sent to be more succinct and consistent with message, to reduce the over loading of emails and causing messages to be missed or diluted. Ernie noted that there were a series of emails being floated that repeated similar messages and changes that overlapped, causing some confusion.

12. Good of the Order

- a.** Concerns/Questions. none
 - b.** Date, Time, and Place of next BOD meeting November 18, 2025, 7:30 PM.

13. Adjournment at 835pm