

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Potomac Division, MER, NMRA
November 18, 2025 7:30 PM,

1. **Call to Order** at 739pm
 - a. **In attendance:** A Belida, M Brechbiel, G Cassidy, E Little, J Stanley, K Wilson , L Stoermer
2. **Adoption of the Agenda-** adopted as presented.
3. **Approval of Minutes of Past Meeting**
 - a. Minutes from prior meeting: accepted and passed without correction. October 2025
4. **Superintendent's Report** (Ernie Little)
 - a. **2025 Event Planning update** – (Ernie Little) Annual business meeting date adjusted and working on securing the Dranesville location.
 - b. **Web Master Report** (Ernie Little): updates and continued revisions to maintain current.
 - c. **2026 Elections Nomination Committee** (Ernie Little) established (Gionet, Sheron, Hutchins)
 - d. **Potomac Module Crew** (Ernie Little/Lee Stoermer)
 - i. Ernie and Lee presented information regarding this group, that they were displaying the NMRA and PD info on their banner promoting they were affiliated with PD/MER/NMRA. They are discussing within their organization as to the benefits of this, and that they decide not to become 100% club will then need to make correction to their banner.
5. **Senior Asst. Superintendent's Report** (Greg Cassidy)
 - a. **Incorporation status** (Greg Cassidy) Completed process successfully.
 - b. **EIN status** (Greg Cassidy). Completed as well, now on to non-profit efforts.
 - c. **Nonprofit efforts** (Greg Cassidy) Greg presented information on the process of non-profit status (501c3). Has begun processing the checklist, appears that we are on track for progressing this further. Will be working with Ernie and Lee and finalize this and submitting soon as this gets reviewed. There is a differentiation between not for profit and nonprofit that needs to be determined by IRS at submission.
6. **Flyer Editor/Publisher Report** (Alex Belida)

As supplied from Alex: This 60-page issue contains reports on our November 1st Joint Meet at Battlefield Baptist with the James River Division and the four layout tours that followed. There is also a report on Potomac Division members who attended the Mid-Eastern Region “*Philly Express*” Convention in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. The Joint Meet and MER reports have already been posted on our website. Importantly, we publish details of Potomac’s 2026 Board of Directors election, including key dates, and we call for candidates to step up. We also appeal for nominations for the annual Abrams Award. Our Meet the Member feature this issue profiles Ron King. And Mat Thompson, MMR remembers the late John Griffith, MMR. The Flyer Photo Layout Tour takes us to 1895 Nevada on my Eureka and South Pass Railroad. Lee Stoermer instructs us on how to make wire screen cloth. And Ken Wilson reports on the recent visits members made to the model railroads of Brian Sheron and John King. Finally, there’s our

Member's Choice Challenge with an interesting variety of submissions. That's it, except to note our February-March issue will focus on how Artificial Intelligence can be used in model railroading. If any of you have used it and are willing to explain how, please send details by January 5th.

7. **Asst. Superintendent's Report** (Ken Wilson): Ken reviewed the inventory Ernie shared about PD assets, noted about gathering layout tour signs that are outlying around at members homes still.

a. Ken notes that March 7, 2026, will be the next round of layout tours in the MD area that Greg has made strides in arranging.

8. **Paymaster's Report** (Jerry Stanley)

a. Update on Bank signatures. Has been completed by Ernie and Jerry to get those updated properly.

b. Changes in the bank account: Jerry presented information of his and Ernie's meeting at the bank. Monthly fee has been cancelled by the bank, was attributed to a simple update of the account status. They also reviewed the organization obtaining a Square device for mobile payments as well as a debit/credit card. Lee and Jerry will investigate possibly obtaining a PayPal account for the division to allow members to make convenient various payments for services/materials. Greg offered that zoom offers a 50% discount to non-profits, so that will be another cost savings.

9. **AP Coord.** (Martin Brechbiel) No report for this month.

10. Old/Unfinished Business

a. 2025 Fall Potomac/James River Joint Meet (all): Ernie presented info about the meet. Overall understands it went well. James River noted that they will not be attending for a Fall mini-con next year, due to the travel distance.

b. **Pizza box trains** (Jerry Stanley). Jerry presented information regarding this effort that one of the churches he is affiliated with is promoting.

c. **Donated books** (Ernie Little) Ernie picked up some, we sold some at the joint meet. Ernie has another batch of books that were donated that we will then make available.

d. **Donated buildings** (Ernie Little) Similar info as to the books; one box sold at Div meet, other box is vintage structures that we can offer at the next meet.

e. **Recruiting** (Ernie Little)

11. New Business

a. **Bylaw review** (Greg Cassidy). Greg has done some updating on the bylaws as they are currently presented. Suggests that we hold on presenting to the membership for approval of amendments until the non-profit designation is completed and would allow for one approval be completed instead of having to go through the amendment approval process twice.

b. **Train exhibit – Charles County Library** (Greg Cassidy) Greg shared info about this event proposal. They reached out asking for a display and possibly an operating train display, looking for participants.

- c. **NMRA rebranding** - (Ernie Little) Brief review by Ernie (and others) of the new logo and rebranding that is in progress.

- i. Ernie also reviewed the 'checklist' that superintendents are being asked to review these items for an annual report to Region/National. Side discussion about AP clinics that noted the Golden Spike award being one of the round robin hands on clinics to help get those that could get them approved or near so. Overall, it looks like we are accomplishing 80% or better.

12. Good of the Order

- a. Concerns/Questions. Greg shared a photo that was noted on nmra facebook about the Juniata shops
- b. Date, Time, and Place of next BOD meeting December 16, 2025, 7:30 PM.

13. Adjournment at 9pm