

POTOMAC DIVISION ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

Article and Photos by Alex Belida MMR, Flyer Editor

The Potomac Division held its Annual Meeting on May 23rd at the Dranesville Government Center in McLean, Virginia with over 30 members and guests attending. Superintendent Ernie Little announced the results of the 2026 Division Board of Directors election with Jerry Stanley (photo left below) taking over as Assistant Superintendent and Ken Wilson (photo right below), who had held that post, taking Jerry's previous position as Paymaster.



Superintendent Little also announced the recipients of this year's Abrams Award, given to a member or members in recognition of their contributions to the Potomac Division and to model railroading. Greg Cassidy, Lee Stoermer, and Gary Mason shared the award for their work on getting Potomac incorporated and receiving non-profit status.



From left to right below: Gary Mason, Ernie Little, Greg Cassidy, Lee Stoermer



Following Officer reports on matters like the recent Division layout survey and the acquisition of new speakers for use at in-person meets, Achievement Program Coordinator **Martin Brechbiel** had a record number of certificates to present, including **Bill Lyders** ([photo below](#)) plaque for becoming Master Model Railroader #819 after completing his Master Builder-Cars requirements.



Other recipients of AP certificates were **Ernie Little** for his service as a Model Railroad Official, **Ken Wilson** for Association Volunteer, **Steve Jackson** for Model Railroad Author, and **Jeff Jordan** for Master Builder-Structures ([see article on p39](#)).

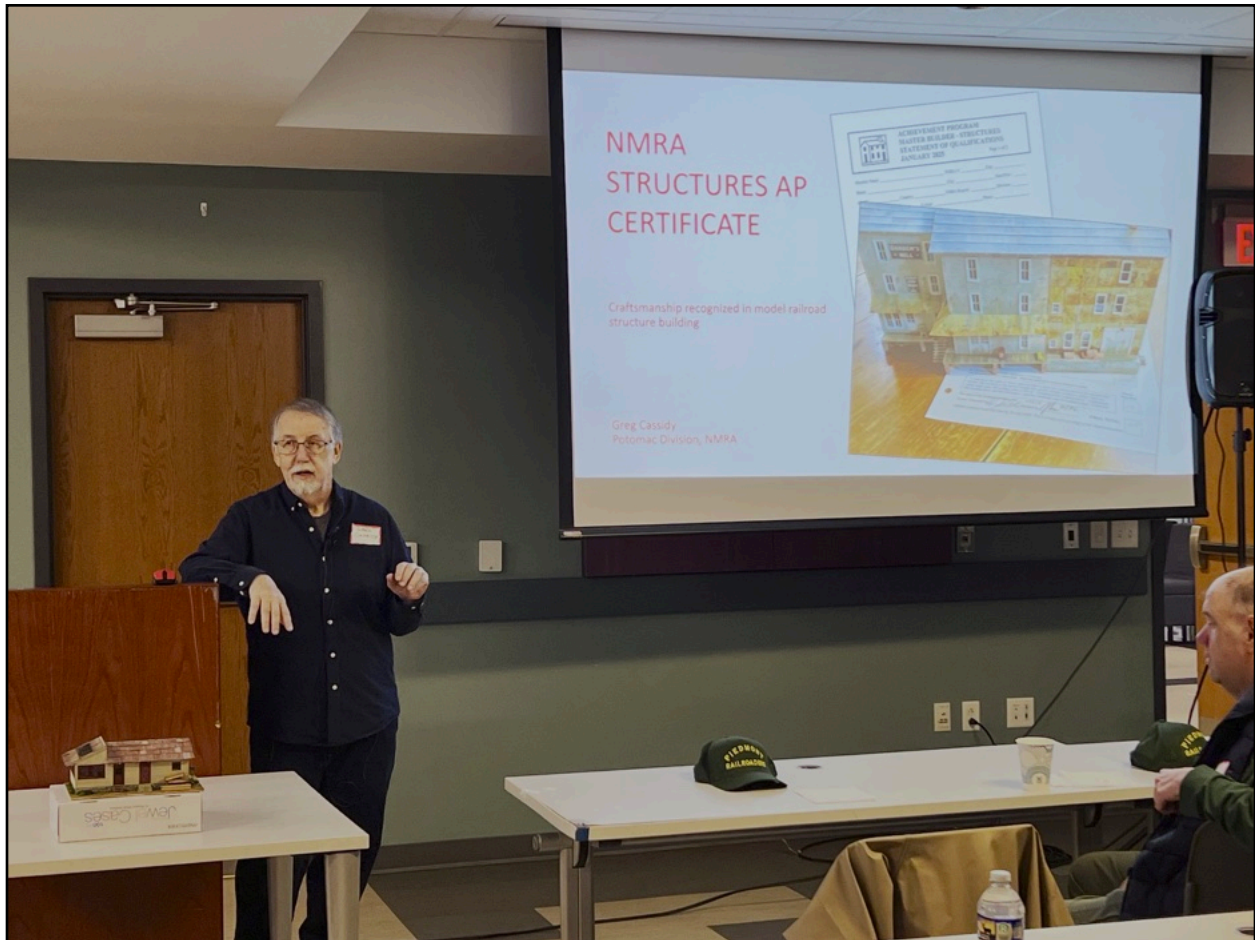


Above: Ernie Little
Below: Steve Jackson

Ken Wilson
Jeff Jordan



Following the AP presentations, there were two clinics in the Division’s series on the NMRA’s Achievement Program categories. Senior Assistant Superintendent **Greg Cassidy** discussed the requirements for the Master Builder-Structures certificate.



After a short donut break, Division Clerk **Lee Stoermer** presented his clinic on earning the Master Builder-Scenery certificate.

The participants then broke off for lunch, which consisted of various sandwich offerings, plus assorted snacks and drinks.

During the break, the audience was treated to a lifetime of railfanning and model railroading reminiscences by **Dean Mellander MMR**. His stories went back to when he was a mere two years old and was found wandering along railroad tracks near his home. He displayed a faded newspaper clipping with a photo of himself and his rescuer.



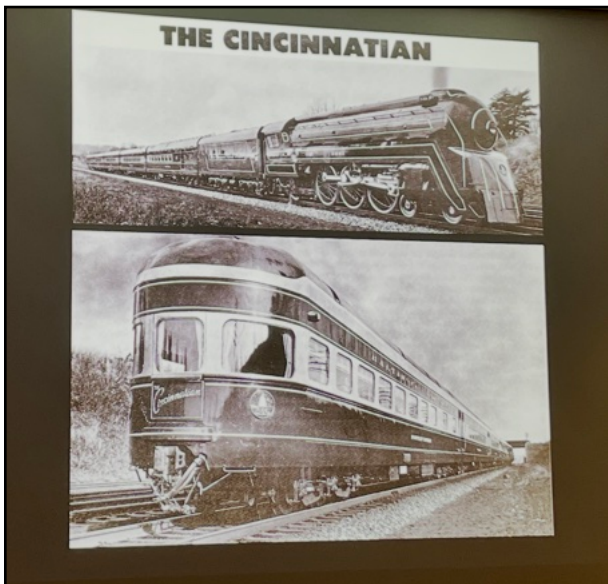
Dean Mellander MMR #68



The final clinic of the day was presented by Nick Bulgarino (photo left) who traced the history of the *Cincinnatian*, the B&O's service, launched in 1947, to carry passengers from Baltimore to Cincinnati. The train used special dedicated equipment, including streamlined engines and cars. But it was unsuccessful and short-lived due to lack of passengers.

Nick, a O scale modeler, displayed his models of a *Cincinnatian* engine and passenger car. He explained in detail his use of *dead rail*,

substituting battery power instead of track power to operate the engine and also to power the lighting in the cars through connectors he fabricated.



Organizers and attendees alike agreed it was one of the Potomac Division's most successful meets, with excellent clinics and good food in an attractive venue with an excellent location.

Potomac will hold another meet at the Dranesville Government Center Community Room in August. That meet will feature two more of the Division's Achievement Program clinics: Motive Power and Electrical.

