

National Model Railroad Association 2006 Ballot — Candidate Statements

For President

Mike Brestel

Mike is 54, joined the NMRA in 1967, and has served for the last two years as NMRA Vice President. He served four years as MCR President and was the MCR National Trustee from 1993 until 2004. During his time as a trustee he served a member of the Finance Committee and as National Nominating Committee Chair and Long-Range Planning Committee Chair.

He continues to be active in his division and region, and has served for over 30 years as a regional and national photo and model contest judge, and is active in the Achievement Program.

Mike is a life-long resident of Cincinnati, where he has been in the retail hobby business since 1965. He has owned his own business since 1976. His wife, Mary, is Head of the Science and Technology Department of the Public Library of Cincinnati. His daughter, Rebecca, is 17 and a high school junior.

In addition to his work for the NMRA, Mike has also served several other Ohio non-profit corporations as Director, President, and Treasurer. As a result he is quite familiar with Ohio non-profit corporation practice (the NMRA is an Ohio non-profit corporation).

Mike says:

In my statement written for the 2004 election, I asserted the following:

It is no longer enough simply to be the NMRA. We cannot ignore the vast changes in the hobby, and in society itself, that have occurred over the last few years. The message to us is simple: we change, or we die. "Business as usual"

and "what did we do last year?" will not suffice.

I am fully committed to doing what is necessary to ensure not only the survival, but also the prosperity of the NMRA. We need to... give more value for membership at every level of the organization, better coordinate our efforts between levels, get very serious about recruitment and retention of members, deal creatively with perennial money-losers such as the library, the office building, and the magazine, update the database into something that is both accurate and useful, learn to use the Internet more effectively, redefine and improve our relationships with non-US members and regions, honor our volunteers and support their efforts, and beef up our performance in the standards area. We need to find ways to work with the many SIGs and other rail-oriented groups that have grown in recent years, often at the NMRA's expense. We need to support and expand our ground-breaking efforts in DCC, and we need to continue our cooperation with the international model railroad hobby and with model railroad manufacturers. We need to do all this while preserving what has made the NMRA the world's leading model railroad organization.

Due to the efforts of our staff and our many, many committed volunteers at every level of the organization, we have made significant progress in all the areas I delineated two years ago. We still have much to do, but those who have worked so hard to bring us this far deserve our gratitude and support.

If I am elected, I promise to continue working with you to fix what's wrong with our current organization, to preserve what's great about our past, and, with you, to aspire to meet the future as a vital, effective, and growing organization.

For Pacific District

Peter Jensen

I am honoured to be standing as a candidate for the position of Pacific Director of the NMRA.

I have been a railway modeler since receiving a Hornby O Gauge train at age 4 and have made model railways a lifetime hobby and passion. My interests now lie in modeling current HO and Fn3 garden railways.

I have been a member of the NMRA for more than 12 years and have served the Australasian Region in the following roles:

Australian Region Treasurer for over four years;

6 Region Convention Committees (Chair for the last 4 conventions);

Founding Convener of the Operations SIG;

I hold an MBA in Information Technology. I feel I have the business skills

and acumen, the interest and drive to fulfill this role for the benefit of all members within the region.

The Pacific district is unique with members of diverse cultures across many countries from Asia, the Middle East and the south Pacific. Besides our obvious geographic obstacles, we also have our cultural and language differences. The one thing that draws us together is our interest and love of trains. It is important that all of these members feel part of, and enjoys, the benefits of the greater NMRA community.

I support the new constitution and the new directions that the changes have brought to our organisation. I see these changes as the catalyst for growth of the organisation and the hobby, and through these changes, the NMRA can stay relevant in this age of competing interests.

Model Railways are a hobby, a lifetime hobby for most of us. It should be, and must be fun.

Thank you ... "Model Railroading is fun".

For At-Large North America

Charlie Getz

I am running for the post of Director at Large, North America. I currently hold that post and seek a full 3 year term. In the past, it has been my honor to serve the NMRA as the last Western Vice President, Trustee for the Pacific Coast Region (PCR) as well as PCR President. I was responsible for the drafting of the Regulations which were passed by NMRA membership and implemented this past year.

At our first BOD meeting under the new Regulations, I was impressed by the professionalism and accomplishments of our new Board. The Board works well together. We were able to adopt a balanced budget without a dues increase. We paid off the most recent mortgage on our headquarters' building,

which mortgage was used to fund needed library improvements. We also put into place a mechanism to completely repay and fund our life account. We are in the process of reinvigorating our standards and conformance programs and instituting a new consumer protection program. We are monitoring important developments in industry and ensuring that manufacturers will be able to continue producing model railroad projects without legal entanglements.

The new regulations have reinvigorated our organization. As single dues are instituted and Regions and Divisions adjust with National to the new structure, I am convinced that our organization will strengthen and grow. There are challenges to face. The importance of our Regions and Divisions cannot be overstated. If elected, I will work closely with the other Board members and all of

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our Departments and Officers to continue to emphasize the relevance of the NMRA to model railroading today, and the importance of providing services at the local level. I will continue to work toward increased consumer protection. I will work toward the goal of improving the "modeling" part of model railroading and insure a dues increase covers only cost of living expenses, not

somebody's pet project. As Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, I will continue to plan for the future of model railroading, not be captured by the ghosts of our past.

I ask for the opportunity to further implement the Regulations which you adopted and to re-shape the NMRA to meet the challenges of this new century. We have the right team in place, and I ask for your support and vote to keep the process moving forward.

For Vice President

Bob Gangwish

Bob has been a Florida resident since 1947 and has a lifelong commitment to our state. His working life was spent in government service with both the US Army and with Dade County in human resources (a.k.a. Personnel).

He joined Sunshine Region and NMRA in 1976, becoming Life Member of both in 2000. His serious model railroading efforts began in 1974. Bob's service to the hobby began when he served as a member and officer of the South Florida Society of Model Engineers in Miami. Bob has served as an officer of the Sebring Model Railroad Club, Inc., the Lake Wales Model Railroad Club and the Ridge Model Railroad Club.

Bob's SSR service began with helping on the Spring '97 SSR/NMRA Convention. He was Region Secretary April 1998 to January 2002, and editor of the Region Journal Box publication since October 1998. He currently is the Region President and served as Region Trustee from 2002 until 2005 when the Trustee positions were dropped. Bob was SSR Proxy to the 1999 NMRA Mid-Year

Board Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, as well as the NMRA Board meetings since elected, so he has first-hand knowledge of the organization. He is currently serving as Assistant to the NMRA Secretary and member of some of the BOD committees

Bob sez:

In running for NMRA Vice-President, my objective is to continue to serve the NMRA and all its members. Having been involved with National's Long Range Plan and the subsequent Regulations and implementation, I think these actions will help the organization as well the members. There is still work to be done and I would like to continue involvement in developing and implementing changes that I believe can make a positive contribution to the organization in dealing with the future of the NMRA, our financial matters and communications with the membership. I want to encourage more participation by members in Region and National activities.

Your vote is an expression of your desires and interest in NMRA, and a critical benefit of membership. Whether or not you vote for me, please be sure to vote in the upcoming election.

For Vice President

Dave Liesse

The NMRA Vice President is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Association. This includes activities of the home office as well as those of the various departments. I believe my background is ideal for filling this role. In the pay-for-work field, I am currently the Quality Manager for a software company. Additionally, I have held a number of leadership positions in the NMRA and other volunteer organizations. NMRA positions have included a number of committee chairmanships, division Chief Clerk and Assistant Superintendent, region Treasurer, Trustee, and national Secretary.

I further believe it is important that I have been interacting with the national staffs – paid and volunteer – for a number of years, in both official and unofficial capacities. I already have a good working relationship with the administrative and library staffs and the various department heads. This can only prove beneficial in the Vice President role.

The NMRA is facing two major issues: retaining its relevancy in the model railroading community and improving its internal operations. Our membership has been declining for several years, and these two issues appear to be major contributors to the decline.

As participants in the hobby continue to specialize more and more, and to view the NMRA as an HO-centric organization of rivet counters, we face an uphill climb to educate non-members regarding who we are and what we do. There are efforts underway to position the NMRA as an umbrella organization, and as the information source for all things model railroading. Through greater cooperation with the other groups, we can fulfill the educational portion of our mission and serve greater numbers of individuals. I fully support such efforts, and will work to be sure we don't do anything to burn bridges or construct high walls.

Internally, we have been known to have our problems. We have had our share of dysfunctional departments, less-than-efficient home office operations, and attitudes of regions/divisions vs. national. Things have been improving steadily in the past few years, and my goal is to assist this process to the extent of my abilities. We currently have top-notch staffs both in the home office and in the departments, and the incoming Vice President's role will be to draw out the best possible performance from all involved.

I believe wholeheartedly in the future of the NMRA and in my ability to meet the challenges facing the incoming Vice President. I appreciate your vote of confidence.

For Eastern District

Paul Allard

As an active model railroader, I am very interested in the long-term growth and success of the NMRA. I started modeling in 1975 and was a founding member of the Northwestern Vermont Model Railroading Society. I joined the NMRA in 1988 and became the Northeastern Region's Achievement Program Manager in 1995. I was the NER Trustee in 2003 and earned Master Model Railroader in 2005. I continue to work on both my home and the NW VT club layouts.

Today's ever rising cost of model railroading and our personal time limitations provide strong competition to NMRA membership. To grow, the NMRA must provide Excellent Membership Value.

We have many strong programs but many members say that our key strength is the NMRA Standards. The Standards are important. We can all see

the importance of NMRA Standards, most recently the DCC standards. Without diminishing the importance of the standards, I believe the "Key Membership Benefit" is educational access to NMRA members with their extensive model railroading and prototype practice knowledge.

At our core, we are a non-profit educational organization. Today, the NMRA is restructured. It has reduced cost and improved efficiency. It is time to focus our energy on the educational value that is provided to each and every member. If you have attended either a National or a Regional Convention, you have enjoyed access to in depth, technical clinics that address all aspects of our hobby. Unfortunately, less than 20% of us attend the conventions. I am sure that more than 50% of the members attend at least one Division event each year. We need to drive access to our Educational Benefit down to the Division

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Level. One approach is to provide easy access to printed or recorded programs. We need to make the NMRA a gigantic magnet that draws in Model Railroaders, the center of "Model Railroad Activity". A place where both experienced and novice model railroaders get answers to their technical questions or help with

For Eastern District

Kevin Feeney

I joined the new Board of Directors in July for a one year term and am now running for reelection to a full three-year term.

I'm interesting in revitalizing the NMRA and moving the organization in new directions. I like to see the NMRA be the umbrella organization for the scale specific and other model railroad groups

I'm working to establishing a mechanism for identifying and sharing best practices at the division level. Unfortunately, headquarters does not track the head of each division.

I'm working to redirect the editorial policy of Scale Rails and to consider the use of other media in communicating with our members.

I'm working to reduce the cost of attending the annual convention, and suggested a member discount for those that just attend the National Train Show.

I think we need to find another way to fund the Library, such as affiliation with a major railroad museum.

In terms of NMRA involvement: member since 1985, presented over 25

their projects. We need to become a "More Friendly and Helpful NMRA". We can make progress in this area through improved educational support for our divisions so they can better serve the local member. The Divisions are key to the long-term health of the NMRA.

I ask for your commitment to improve membership benefits at the local level.

clinics at division, region & national levels, attended each annual convention since 1985, attended over 30 regional conventions in 7 different regions), life member, personally started a totally new division (Metro North) and served as director and/or superintendent for more than 5 years, hold AP certificates as Author & Volunteer, co-chaired two NER conventions (including the very successful one in October 2005), served one year (1996-1997) as assistant to the NMRA Treasurer, modular coordinator for Valley Forge Express (1993), and an active participant in three divisions (Metro North, NJ and Philadelphia).

I model in HO and am interested in the IC, ICG, GM&O and C&EI. I belong to several railroad historical societies and the NRHS, I am working on a new layout which will be located in my second home in Philadelphia, and open for visits during Independence Junction 2006.

I have 30 years of accounting/finance experience (CPA, CMA) with master degrees in Accounting and Information Systems. I also hold a doctorate in Accounting and my dissertation was written on railroad annual reports. I am the only person on the current Board of Directors with this type of professional experience, and serve as the Board's representative to the Finance Committee. I previously served three years on the Board of Directors of another national not-for-profit organization.

Ballot Issues

Three amendments to the Regulations have been approved by the Board of Directors and now require membership approval to implement. Two involve the same paragraph (Article X, Paragraph 4) but are independent of each other and will be voted on separately. Vote Yes or No for each amendment; a 2/3 majority of votes cast is required for adoption. The reason each amendment was proposed is shown after the issue.

Issue 1: Non-US Nominations by Petition

Modify Article X, Paragraph 4 by inserting the italicized text:

Any group of 60 members, no more than 30 members from any one region, may petition the NMRA to nominate an additional candidate for President or Vice President or Director (*Eastern, Western, Central, and the two At-Large*) from the appropriate district or for the at-large positions. *Nominations by petition for the Atlantic, Pacific, and NMRA Canada Directors will contain the names of at least 60 members residing in those areas.* Such nominating petitions shall be submitted to the Secretary on or by June 15th of the year preceding an election year and otherwise meet the qualifications set forth in these Regulations and shall be accompanied by a summary of qualifications of the candidate not to exceed 200 words. The name of any such candidate so submitted and the summary shall be printed on the ballot.

Rationale: Because of the disparate membership in the Atlantic and Pacific Districts (most members live within the single region included in each district), the Board felt it was logistically unreasonable to enforce the 30-member limit. For Canada, the same logic holds, except that more than one region is included in Canada.

Issue 2: Dates and Candidate Statements

Modify Article X, Paragraph 4 as follows [see Issue #1 for original language]:

- Replace the words "on or by June 15th of the year preceding an election year" with "in accordance with the schedule specified in the Executive

Handbook."

- Move the schedule to the Executive Handbook and change the date to September 15th.

- Change the size of the candidate statement from 200 to 400 words.

Rationale: The procedure for submitting petitions is not being changed, and will remain in the Regulations. The schedule is being changed to be in accordance with all other dates pertaining to nominations, which are published in the Executive Handbook rather than the Regulations. Moving the dates to the EHB (which will be posted on the NMRA web site) allows the dates to be changed as required without having to go to a full vote of the membership. Only the dates are affected, not the petition procedure.

Changing the candidate statement to 400 words brings it into agreement with all other candidate statements.

Issue #3: Application of Dues Rebates to Regions **Replace existing Article IV, Paragraph 4, Section E**

Such amount shall cover the region and division administration of all NMRA mandated programs and activities. Each region is responsible for transferring to each active division from the region's allocation of dues an amount which shall cover divisional administration of all NMRA mandated programs and activities, with the allocation being made pursuant to guidelines approved by the Board of Directors.

with improved text

The region and division shall apply the amount remitted for administration of NMRA mandated programs and activities. Each region shall transfer to each active division from the region's allocation of dues an amount which shall cover divisional administration of NMRA mandated programs and activities, with the allocation being made pursuant to guidelines approved by the Board of Directors.

Rationale: Improved wording, with same intent.

National Model Railroad Association 2006 Ballot

Instructions:

For each office for which you are eligible to vote (see below), mark the box next to the candidate of your choice. For each amendment to the Regulations, mark the box next to the response of your choice.

Members are eligible to vote for each office as follows:

President: all members entitled to vote.

Vice President: all members entitled to vote.

Issues: all members entitled to vote.

Eastern District: residents of Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia.

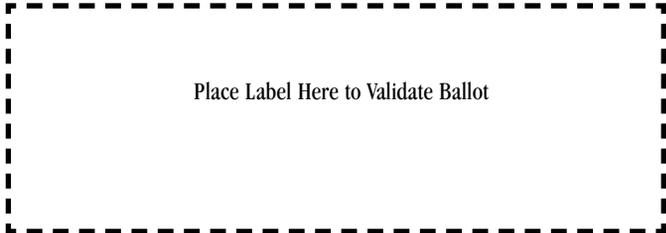
Pacific District: residents of Asia (including the Middle East), Australia, Indian Ocean islands, New Zealand, and Pacific islands.

At-Large North America: residents of the fifty United States and Canada.

You must take the peel-off label from your magazine and place it in the outlined space. This is solely to allow the ballot committee to determine the validity of your vote; votes are not tracked by individual.

Ballots must be postmarked no later than 10 May 2006 and received no later than 15 May 2006. Return your ballot to the following address:

NMRA Ballot Committee, c/o Fred Henize, PMB 95, 2405 Essington Road
Joliet, IL 60435, USA



President
<input type="checkbox"/> Mike Brestel
<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in: _____

Eastern District
<input type="checkbox"/> Paul Allard
<input type="checkbox"/> Kevin Feeney
<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in: _____

Vice President
<input type="checkbox"/> Dave Liesse
<input type="checkbox"/> Bob Gangwish
<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in: _____

Pacific District
<input type="checkbox"/> Peter Jensen
<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in: _____

At-Large North America
<input type="checkbox"/> Charlie Getz
<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in: _____

Issue #1 — Non-US Nominations by Petition
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> No

Issue #2 — Dates and Candidate Statements
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> No

Issue #3 — Application of Dues Rebates
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> No

To vote you may either remove this page, or provide a photocopy. However, in either case, you must affix the mailing label to the ballot which you cast. Photocopies of mailing labels will not be accepted.