

# NMRA BULLETIN

## DEPARTMENT & PROGRAM MANAGERS

Chief Administrative Officer —  
Jenny Hendricks  
P.O. Box 1328  
Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328  
O: 423-892-2846 Fax: 423-899-4869  
e-mail: [hq@nmra.org](mailto:hq@nmra.org)

Library - 423-892-2846 or [nmraops@nmra.org](mailto:nmraops@nmra.org)

Education Department Manager —  
Bruce De Young (HO, HO<sub>n3</sub>)  
West Milford, NJ 07480  
H: 973-697-8098 C: 201-803-9766  
e-mail: [educate@nmra.org](mailto:educate@nmra.org)

Howell Day Museum Committee Chair —  
Allen Pollock  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0243  
H: 573-619-8532  
e-mail: [museum@nmra.org](mailto:museum@nmra.org)

Information Technology Department —  
Ben Sevier  
San Diego, CA 92129-2219  
(858) 538-9863  
e-mail: [itmanager@nmra.org](mailto:itmanager@nmra.org)

Development & Fund Raising Department  
Manager — Alan Anderson  
West Jordan, UT 84088 H: 801-613-0801  
e-mail: [fund@nmra.org](mailto:fund@nmra.org)

Marketing Consultant  
Christina Ganzer Zambri  
Somerset, NJ 08873 H: 732-609-5221  
e-mail: [marketing@nmra.org](mailto:marketing@nmra.org)

Meetings and Trade Show Department  
Manager — Bob Amsler  
Saint Louis, MO 63111-2338  
H: 314-606-6118  
Fax: 314-754-2688  
e-mail: [conv@nmra.org](mailto:conv@nmra.org)

Publications Department Manager —  
Don Phillips  
Mason, OH 45040-2269  
H: 513 226-2233  
e-mail: [pubs@nmra.org](mailto:pubs@nmra.org)

Standards and Conformance Department  
Manager—Carl Smeigh  
Wesley Chapel, FL 33543  
H: 727-512-9729  
e-mail: [tech-chair@nmra.org](mailto:tech-chair@nmra.org)

**Have you changed your address or  
other membership information?**

**Notify Headquarters**

**e-mail: [hq@nmra.org](mailto:hq@nmra.org)**

**Phone: 423-892-2846 (8am–4pm ET)**

**Mail: P.O. Box 1328**

**Soddy Daisy TN 37384-1328**

## REGION PRESIDENTS

Australasian Region—Graham Young  
12 Hickory Court, Buderim QLD 4556  
H: 61 7 5479 0339 M: 61 418 364 375  
e-mail [president@nmra.org.au](mailto:president@nmra.org.au)

British Region—Charles Hendy  
39 Dartmouth Road  
Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 0DD  
United Kingdom +44 7940032509  
e-mail: [brprez@nmra.org](mailto:brprez@nmra.org)

European Region—Alain Kap, MMR® (HO,  
HO<sub>n3</sub>, On3/30)  
Kammerforststrasse 3a  
D-54439 SAARBURG, Germany  
Phone: +49 6581-603045  
Mobile: +352 691-325089  
e-mail: [erprez@nmra.org](mailto:erprez@nmra.org)

Lone Star Region— Chuck Lind, MMR®  
3680 CR 324, Navasota, TX 77868  
e-mail: [lsrprez@nmra.org](mailto:lsrprez@nmra.org)  
H: (979) 219-3305

Mid-Central Region—Robert Weinheimer  
MMR®  
398 Mount View Dr., Charleston, WV 25314  
H: (304) 343-1428 e-mail: [mcrprez@nmra.org](mailto:mcrprez@nmra.org)

Mid-Continent Region — Brad Slone MMR®  
PO Box 313, Dixon, MO 65459.  
H: 573 308 7144  
e-mail: [mcorprez@nmra.org](mailto:mcorprez@nmra.org)

Mid-Eastern Region— Kurt Thompson,  
MMR®  
350 Ternwing Drive, Arnold, MD 21012  
410-507-3671 (cell)  
e-mail: [merprez@nmra.org](mailto:merprez@nmra.org)

Midwest Region—Steve Studley  
5115 N Echo Bend, Bloomington IN 47404  
H: (812) 876-9726 e-mail: [mwrprez@nmra.org](mailto:mwrprez@nmra.org)

Niagara Frontier Region—Richard Hatton  
205 Country Lane, Stayner ON L0M 1S0  
705-428-9997 e-mail: [nfrprez@nmra.org](mailto:nfrprez@nmra.org)

North Central Region—Scott Kremer  
42490 Ravina Ct, Northville, MI 48168  
H: (734) 420-2314 e-mail: [ncrprez@nmra.org](mailto:ncrprez@nmra.org)

Northeastern Region—John Doehring  
34 Hadley Rd, Pepperell, MA 01463  
H: (978) 877-9148 e-mail: [nerprez@nmra.org](mailto:nerprez@nmra.org)

Pacific Coast Region—Chris Palermo  
230 Alberta Avenue, San Carlos, CA 94070  
H: (650) 208-3150 e-mail: [pcrprez@nmra.org](mailto:pcrprez@nmra.org)

Pacific Northwest Region—Kurt Laidlaw  
4517 Merry Ln W, University Place WA 98466  
H: (253) 495-8351 e-mail: [pnrprez@nmra.org](mailto:pnrprez@nmra.org)

Pacific Southwest Region—Gary Butts, MMR®  
5991 Kenwick Cir, Huntington Beach, CA  
92648  
H: (714) 842-4980 e-mail: [psrprez@nmra.org](mailto:psrprez@nmra.org)

Rocky Mountain Region—Denny Krausman,  
MMR®  
9609 Silver Hill Circle, Lone Tree, CO 80124  
H: (303) 880-1879. e-mail: [rnrprez@nmra.org](mailto:rnrprez@nmra.org)

Southeastern Region—Larry Burkholder  
206 Coyatee View, Loudon, TN 37774-2172  
H: (865) 408-9903 e-mail: [serprez@nmra.org](mailto:serprez@nmra.org)

Sunshine Region—David M Barron  
2125 Rickover Place, Winter Garden, FL 34787  
(407) 625-0309  
e-mail: [ssrprez@nmra.org](mailto:ssrprez@nmra.org)

Thousand Lakes Region— Jay Manning  
7100 Stoney Creek St, Sioux Falls, SD 57106  
e-mail: [tlrprez@nmra.org](mailto:tlrprez@nmra.org)

**Region Secretaries: send all  
changes in Region officer infor-  
mation to the NMRA Secretary:  
[secy@nmra.org](mailto:secy@nmra.org).**

rev 4/20/20

2020 NMRA National Convention Dates and National Train Show Reservations:  
**CANCELLED:** 2020—St. Louis, MO • July 12–18, 2020 • <http://www.gateway2020.org>  
Train Show Booth Reservations—Jenny Hendricks Registrar - P.O. Box 1328, Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328  
423-892-2846 • [ntsreg@nmra.org](mailto:ntsreg@nmra.org)  
• 2021—Santa Clara, CA • 2022—Birmingham, England

# NATIONAL CONVENTION CANCELLED NATIONAL TRAIN SHOW CANCELLED

As everyone is aware, the coronavirus has had a devastating impact around the world. It has caused the death of tens of thousands of people and that is not something to be trivialized.

The NMRA National convention, Gateway 2020, is scheduled to start on July 12, 2020, in St. Louis, Missouri. That being said, the local host group has determined they can no longer continue with the preparations and operation of the convention. Among the reasons for this decision is the fact that one key member is ill with COVID-19. The host group requests your prayers for him.

Additionally, some members of the local model railroad community have withdrawn their model railroads from the tours, based on their understandable and valid concerns about allowing persons in their homes who may have the COVID-19 virus. Even if the virus is well under control, that does not mean that everyone who attends the convention would be virus-free.

Robert Amsler, Manager of the Meetings and Trade Show Department has advised the Officers and the Board of Directors of this decision and the Officers and Directors fully support cancelling the convention. Neither the Gateway 2020 crew nor the NMRA made this decision in haste or without careful consideration of all involved. The cancellation is in the best interest of the NMRA members, their family members, and the NMRA. It is noteworthy the NMRA has never cancelled a convention before Gateway 2020 and that includes during World War II.

For those who have registered for the convention, the refund policy will be published as soon as possible at Gateway2020.org. We, the Gateway 2020 Committee, will need some time to make the necessary changes to the website to process the refunds.

Again, all involved regret this decision, but we trust that you will understand the necessity and reasoning behind the decision.



## ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

### NMRA AP CERTIFICATE REPORT

**MARCH 2020**

**GOLDEN SPIKE**

#### Northeastern Region

Stephen Ascolese, Staten Island, New York

#### Thousand Lakes Region

Don Westerfield, Dubuque, Iowa  
Bob Williams, Dyersville, Iowa

#### MASTER BUILDER - CARS

##### Northeastern Region

Rudolf Stovacek, Norfolk, Massachusetts

#### MASTER BUILDER - STRUCTURES

##### Mid-Central Region

Robert Kuchler, Louisville, Kentucky

#### Southeastern Region

David Rever, Marietta, Georgia

#### MASTER BUILDER - SCENERY

##### Rocky Mountain Region

Mike May, Durango, Colorado

#### MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER - CIVIL

##### Mid-Eastern Region

William Lyders, Gainesville, Georgia

#### Mid-West Region

Robert Knobbe, Glendale Heights, Illinois

Jon Zimmer, Elmhurst, Illinois

#### MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER - ELECTRICAL

##### Rocky Mountain Region

Martin Pirnat, Durango, Colorado

#### CHIEF DISPATCHER

##### Mid-Eastern Region

Mark Nieting, Chesapeake, Virginia

#### Mid-West Region

Robert Knobbe, Glendale Heights, Illinois

Jon Zimmer, Elmhurst, Illinois

#### Northeastern Region

Brenna Whitney, Derry, New Hampshire

#### ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL

##### Mid-Continent Region

7 Robert Amsler, Jr., St. Louis, Missouri

#### Southeastern Region

Mark McAllister, Chattanooga, Tennessee

#### ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER

##### North Central Region

James Marquardt, Fort Wayne, Indiana

##### Northeastern Region

Ernest Erickson, North Anson, Maine

##### Southeastern Region

Owen Maddux, Signal Mountain, Tennessee

Jim Norris, Decatur, Alabama

#### MODEL RAILROAD AUTHOR

##### Pacific Southwest Region

Morrie Fleishman, Corona, California

#### MASTER MODEL RAILROADER®

MMR® #653 Robert Kuchler, Louisville, Kentucky

AP QUESTIONS: If you have questions about the AP program or requirements, start with your local or Region AP manager.

If you still have questions, contact Frank Koch at [fjkoach@hotmail.com](mailto:fjkoach@hotmail.com)

If you prefer to write, contact Frank at 4769 Silverwood Drive, Batavia, OH 45103.

## PETE LEACH EARNS MMR® 649

My path to the hobby of model railroading started later in life than most folks. I spent my youth and early adulthood building plastic models of airplanes, spacecraft, and ships. Soon, plastic kits gave way to scratchbuilding scale models of boats and ships from wood. I was a lone wolf modeler, spending hours at my workbench trying to build a piece of reality in miniature.

I discovered model railroading in my late 20s (early 1980s) while browsing at a local hobby shop specializing in trains. I picked up a few N-scale items from the slightly used table and started what turned out to be a 40-year adventure!

My lone-wolf style carried over to my model railroading hobby. I was raising a family and working on building my professional career. I didn't want to spend my hobby resources (time and money) on clubs or organizations. I was enjoying building models and layouts (or at least partially built layouts!) for myself. I would share my modest results with family and close friends; none shared my interest in the hobby. The NMRA or its Achievement Program was not on my radar.

As my wife and I became empty-nesters several years ago, we decided to move to Houston, Texas, to be closer to our grown children. After settling into the new home, construction began on a new layout — a new scale (On30) with a new theme: the two-foot gauge Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Ry. While picking up some modeling supplies at one of the local hobby shops, I came across a notice of a home layout tour sponsored by the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club (a 100% NMRA Organization). I thought this would be interesting, so I grabbed a copy of the schedule.

Touring some of the local layouts introduced me to some modelers in the area. I was invited to join an informal group that met monthly for BBQ and clinics. I started attending and quickly found joy in the camaraderie in meeting, talking, and eating with local railroad enthusiasts. Eventually, a few of the members asked to see my layout. I was a little hesitant since it was still in the early construction phase, but relented. That event



turned into me hosting an open house for three days during the 2015 National Narrow Gauge Convention and having 100 people visit my partially finished layout. Some of the visitors turned out to be Bob Brown of the *Narrow Gauge & Shortline Gazette*, along with Charlie Getz and Bob Hayden. Bob asked me to submit an article on the operations of my layout for his magazine. I thought, *What? I'm a lone wolf!*

A group from the Great Lakes HOn30 Modular Group toured as well. They adopted me into their group and included me in their emails. This group builds Maine 2-foot themed modules and was very supportive of my efforts in On30. I started sharing some of my progress with them via email, and the feedback and encouragement have been essential to my growth in the hobby.

After the convention, I was asked to write an article about my layout for the San Jac club newsletter. *Okay*, I thought, *but I'm not a member*. I wrote the short article and joined the NMRA so I could join the San Jac club. Wow, in a few months, I was suddenly part of a lot of groups! What happened to this lone wolf?

Soon, some were asking if I was working on my AP Certificates. Honestly, I had thought the MMR® program was for really good modelers, and I didn't measure up. Besides, I was focusing on building my On30 version of the Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington in my 10x12 spare room.

Once again, encouragement from MMRs Chuck Lind, Barry Bogs, and GLHOn30 member Pete Magoun convinced me to work on getting my

Certificates. I started by entering a few models of rolling stock and structures into contests and earning some Merit Awards. I started writing a monthly column for our San Jac newsletter (*DERAIL*). In early 2017, I qualified for my AP in Prototype Modeling for the town of Albion on my layout, followed by Cars. A few months later, I received my AP for Author.

I spent much of 2018 scratchbuilding several structures needed for my layout. I entered a scratchbuilt waterline model of a lumber schooner into the contest at that year's Lonestar Regional Convention. Although I was nervous, bringing a ship model to a model railroad convention, the feedback was positive and ended up winning the Best in Show award! Who would have thought — a lone wolf winning Best in Show!

My journey continued into 2019 with plans to complete Scenery, Civil, and Electrical. I could see the finish line. I wanted to complete all work and submit paperwork by the end of the year. I would need every inch of my small layout, and then some, to qualify for the area (Scenery) and track (Civil) required. I built a 10x48-inch section in my garage, so I would have enough scenery and track to qualify. It included a three-way turnout scratchbuilt for my Civil and wired for my Electrical. My efforts were rewarded in early December when I earned the last three Certificates.

I was thrilled when I received the news the weekend before Christmas that I was awarded MMR® 649. Calls from Chuck Lind, LSR President, and my local mentor, Duane Richardson, the LSR



AP Chair, and Pete Magoun, NMRA President and strong supporter, made for a very merry Christmas! Although it was a journey I hadn't planned or even wanted, it was gratifying to know that my modeling peers considered my efforts worthy! But the best part of this journey

has been meeting so many new friends along the way. While the plaque hangs on the wall above my layout, I will enjoy the continued friendships even more. I hope to inspire and mentor others to take this journey. They will not be disappointed!

## Certificates Earned Pete Leach, MMR® 649

**Model Railroad Engineer - Civil**  
**Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical**  
**Master Builder – Cars**  
**Master Builder – Prototype Modeler**  
**Master Builder – Scenery**  
**Master Builder – Structures**  
**Model Railroad Author**

## MMR® EARNED

### CHRIS BROUGHTON EARNS MMR® 650

**L**ike many in our hobby, my introduction to model trains came in the form of a train set when I was a kid. First was a Marx O-27 set when I was maybe 4 years old, then later a Tyco HO set when I was about 8 or 9. My grandparents lived in my Dad's hometown of Pineville, Kentucky, which is on the Cumberland River and one of Louisville & Nashville's (now CSX) routes through coal country. When I'd hear the horn blow during visits there, I would run to the end of the street, climb up onto the concrete floodwall, and watch all those hopper cars roll by on the far side of the river. Train sets were fun, but I think my interest in the hobby is more deeply rooted in those memories of being perched atop the floodwall in Pineville.

Up until I was about 12, I never saw a model train run anywhere except on the living room carpet. On a trip to a lumber store with my dad, I saw a 4x4 HO layout being raffled off in the store. It was just a circle of track with basic scenery — grass, trees, a road, and buildings. Yet, I had never seen anything like it, and I was hooked! Not long after that, my dad, who was not a model railroader himself, began to encourage my interest in model railroading. He took me to hobby shops and to the home of one of his coworkers who was in the hobby to see his layout. It was a 4x8-foot layout with a 4x4-foot extension forming an "L," and it was the most elaborate thing I had ever seen! Seeing these two layouts and the support and encouragement of my dad sparked my imagination and gave me a glimpse of what was possible. Soon afterward, Dad built a 4x8 table for me to begin a layout of my own.

After discovering cars and girls later in my teenage years, I took a hiatus from the hobby, but always maintained an in-



terest in it. While in college in the late 1980s, I became enamored with the small size and space requirements of N-scale, which lured me back into model railroading again.

I began pursuing the hobby in earnest around 1999 and haven't stopped. My dad passed away that year, so it was no coincidence that I built an L&N/Pineville-themed layout for my first layout in a long time. After building a couple of other small N-scale layouts, I began building Free-Mo N modules with some friends in 2008. These modules eventually became the start of what is now my home layout that takes up a good portion of our basement.

One of my favorite aspects of the hobby is social. Some of my closest friends I met via local clubs, our Division 8 meetings, and our shared interest in model trains. That social aspect is also my favorite part of having a larger layout, hosting "Train Night" where friends and fellow modelers get together to run

trains, run ops, and enjoy the good-natured banter that friends share.

The NMRA is like most organizations in that what you get out of it is largely up to the individual. The Achievement Program is, in my opinion, a gold mine of opportunity to advance one's modeling skills. I'm a firm believer the best cure for intimidation in this hobby is experience.

Fulfilling some of the requirements for some AP awards occurs somewhat naturally while building a layout (wiring, scenery, etc.). However, other AP requirements challenge us to stretch ourselves and learn skills we might not have attempted in their absence.

With the plethora of model railroad products available in almost every scale, we may never feel the need for hand-laying turnouts and scratchbuilding freight cars, locomotives, or structures. Yet, by mastering these skills, even if only in the pursuit of an AP award or eventually MMR®, we grow and become more confident modelers for having had those

experiences. What used to be an intimidating endeavor becomes a little less so once we've done it. The benefit isn't the AP awards themselves; it's the experience and skill we gain as modelers in the process of working toward them.

We don't do this in a vacuum, either. We learn from each other by sharing our skills, talents, tips, and tricks we all pick up along the way. Be it from NMRA clinics, an article written or shared, or simply asking a fellow member or friend for ideas or guidance, our participation and engagement with each other within our hobby becomes a tide that lifts all boats and makes us all better modelers and perhaps better friends as well. I had no idea how to approach scratchbuilding freight cars until I saw Mark Norman's very well-done clinic on the subject. I might still be wrestling with scratchbuilding a locomotive had it not been for advice and suggestions from the late Jerry Ashley.

Joe Fields has answered so many questions I've had regarding AP requirements along the way and has easily judged more of my efforts than anyone (along with Mark Norman, Bob Johnson, and many others over the years). The expertise of Fred Soward and Russ Weis has been indispensable in helping me develop and refine operations on my layout, which has added yet another dimension of enjoyment of model railroading. Then there's my wife, Carol. I cannot adequately convey her seemingly limitless love and support for me and my hobby. I often joke (although, it's true!) that she saw all my model railroad "stuff" — tools, trains, layout, unfinished kits, etc. — and still said "yes" when I proposed to her more than eight years ago. I'll tell anyone who will listen that I most certainly won the "wife lottery."

If you're on the fence about pursuing an AP award or the MMR®, my advice is,

*"DO IT!"* Approach it like eating a steak — one bite (one requirement, one model, etc.) at a time. Ask fellow members for input and guidance. Look at what you've already done in your modeling or layout-building efforts and the Merit Awards for which they might qualify. It's not just modeling; there are AP categories for volunteerism, publication, dispatching, and so on. So, if you're an armchair modeler, there are opportunities for you, too. The longest journey begins with a single step. Take that step.

**Certificates Earned**  
**Chris Broughton, MMR® 650**  
**Master Builder – Scenery**  
**Model Railroad Engineer - Civil**  
**Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical**  
**Model Railroad Author**  
**Master Builder – Motive Power**  
**Master Builder – Car**  
**Master Builder – Structures**

## NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

### ANNOUNCING THE WINNERS OF THE 2020 PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR SERVICE TO THE DIVISION

By Gerry Leone, MMR®  
NMRA Vice President / Special Projects

For the past three years, "The President's Award for Service to the Division" has honored those volunteers who go out of their way to make their Division an energetic, welcoming group. Traditionally, the award winners were announced by the NMRA president at the National Convention's banquet. Although there won't be a convention or banquet this year, there are still 17 individuals who deserve to be honored for their invaluable contributions in 2019/2020.

If you're not familiar with "The President's Award for Service to the Division," it's designed to recognize those people who have contributed their time and energy to making their Division outstanding for all members. Each year, the NMRA National Board and Officers send a special request to Region Presidents, asking for nominees from their Region. Only one member from each Region is selected for this prestigious award.

Banquet or not, these are the devoted NMRA members who've earned a special place in the NMRA history of

2019/2020. We congratulate them and thank them for their above-the-call-of-duty volunteerism!

**Alan Harris (Northern Rivers Division)** has taken a portable layout to the far corners of the Australasian Region to help with membership recruitment. At times, these trips have taken him as far as 550 miles from home and involved him being away for up to five days at a time. During his time as Superintendent, his recruitment efforts doubled the size of his Division.

**Brian Moore (Devon and Cornwall Western Union Division)** has modeling skills that have helped dozens of potential modelers in the British Region see, understand, and join in the fun. He freely shares his know-how through innumerable articles and with anyone who has a question. His prototypically run Quisling, California, module has been an inspiration to fellow modelers and show-goers alike.

**Donna Orr (Division 3)** spent innumerable hours and unfailing energy working through red tape to get the Lone Star Region 501(c)(3) status. As Division Director, her novel approach to a convention has set the pattern for others that followed. Currently, she is also the co-chair for the upcoming NMRA National Convention in 2023.

**Larry Dehl (Turkey Creek Division)** has worked tirelessly in both his Division and Region to promote the hobby. Larry's a "go-to guy" when something needs to be done, and done right. In addition, his wit and warmth are always welcoming to new folks coming into the hobby in the Mid-Continent Region.

**Rick Uskert (Chesapeake Division)** has worn just about every hat there is to wear, from Director at Large, Assistant Superintendent, Superintendent, to webmaster. Rick is the current convention committee chairman for the Mid-Eastern Region's 2021 convention and can always be counted on to come up with new ways to approach issues or events.

**Bob Dawson (Division 8)** joined the Mid-Central Region and his Division in 1975 and hasn't missed a year yet. Over the last two decades, he's served as Train Show Chairman, Chairman of a Region Convention, Program Chairman, and Division Officer/Trustee. Currently, he's the newsletter editor, Division Secretary, and is constantly in demand by the Louisville Public Library System and area clubs to give presentations.

**Bob McGeever (South Central Wisconsin Division)** joined the NMRA and the Midwest Region ten years ago, and in that time, he's made a huge im-



pact on his Division by first becoming Clerk and then Superintendent. Bob not only volunteered his time at the Division's train show, he later became the show's chair. In addition, he's shared his vast modeling knowledge with new modelers through a wide range of clinics.

**Al Crisp, MMR® (Central Ontario Division)** helped found his Division's "Craftsman Corner" event and continued to attend and support it for 40 years until medical reasons forced him to stop. In 2008, he took his "Craftsman Corner" event to Milwaukee's Trainfest and continues to share advice and guidance both in person and through email to anyone in the Niagara Frontier Region.

**Mark Ellis (Motor City Division)** is a volunteer who's always willing to get involved and help without ever being asked. His focus is getting things done, and he's taken that philosophy to membership recruitment, where he's had a major impact bringing new members to both his Division and the North Central Region.

**Rich Breton (Seacoast Division)** has spent more than 36 years in the NMRA, the Northeastern Region, and with his Division, where he served as president for six years. During each year of his term, he organized and supervised four quarterly events. He was also in charge of layout tours and operating sessions during Regional conventions, as well as being a contest judge.

**Chip Meriam (Sierra Division)** serves as Superintendent of his Division and consistently organizes high-quality events with clinics, contests, and layout and proto tours. Although the Division occupies a huge area within the Pacific Coast Region, Chip has made service to all members a priority. He is also editor of the Region's newsletter and secretary of the Region's Board.

**Christopher Jones (1st Division)** began his service by helping his Division build a layout in the Museum at the Coos County Fairgrounds. He later became museum director, forming a train club and holding twice-annual train shows that help raise awareness of the hobby with the general public. He's served as his Division's Contest Chair for the past seven years and serves on the Pacific Northwest Region's convention committee.

**Don Fowler, MMR® (San Diego Division)** has used his leadership experience from 36 years in the San Diego Sheriff's Department to help guide members of his Division. He's been unselfish in his commitment to members and has served as chair or co-chair of many of the Pacific Southwest Region's conventions.

**John Emmot (Pikes Peak Division)** has been described as "the glue that held a Division's module group together." He inspired, assisted, and guided members with their modules, then managed to get the modules to train shows and events in the Rocky Mountain Region by agreeing to pull the trailer himself.

**Steve Prevette (Central Savannah River Division)** is widely regarded as the most knowledgeable person in his Division on operations, which helped ignite and inspire his small Division to become active once again. He recently stepped down as Division Superintendent, a post he held for many years. He also served as the Southeastern Region registrar despite extensive traveling for his job.

**Mark Lewalski (Western Division)** has been both treasurer and vice president of the Sunshine Region. He's done yeoman's service setting up bank ac-

counts, obtaining and maintaining IT services, being a webmaster, and procuring laptops. He re-established the Sunshine Region's email newsletter, which has helped all the Region's Divisions get the word out about upcoming events.

**Scott Nesbit (Dakota Southeastern Division)** has been the motivating force for the improvements that transformed his Division's traveling "Plywood Pacific" layout into one that's now museum-quality and averages eight outings per year throughout the Thousand Lakes Region. As a direct result of these shows, the Division has grown from a handful of members to more than 30.

There may not be a hearty round of applause for these 17 individuals at the National Convention banquet this year. But applause isn't why these members have done what they've done. They're in it for the joy of helping others and the satisfaction of making their Division one that members are proud to be a part of.

All of us in the NMRA salute these winners of the 2020 "President's Award for Service to the Division." Thank you for your time, your energy, and a job well done!

## Improve your modeling with a few sheets of paper.

That's exactly what happens when you participate in the National Model Railroad Association's Achievement Program. One Merit Award here, another there, and pretty soon you're on your way to becoming a Master Model Railroader. All the while learning and having a ton of fun.

The Achievement Program is modelers helping modelers become better modelers and get the most out of their hobby. And it's yet another benefit of NMRA membership.



Visit [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org). Then improve your skills. And your hobby.

**We make it even more fun.**

[www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org)  
4 2 3 - 8 9 2 - 2 8 4 6

