

2025 Candidate Statements for ADD, ALWWD and WDD

Candidates for Atlantic District Director

Alain Kap, MMR

My name is Alain Kap and I was born in Luxembourg in 1962. I am married and have three grown children and one grandson. Since 2001 I live in Germany with my wife Alice.

I studied business administration and for 30 years I worked in the Freight forwarding business, 25 years as a managing director. The last 10 years before retirement I worked as an accountant in a major Luxembourg paint manufacturing company.

In 1993 I joined the NMRA, after falling in love with American trains during a vacation trip to California. American outline trains are uncommon in Europe and so I was one of the few lone wolves over there. During the 1997 convention in Madison, WI, I encountered the Achievement Program. Meanwhile I also joined the European FREMO which had an American Modeling Section. There I met another NMRA member from Germany and the Netherlands, who also became MMRs later. Slowly my modeling skills improved and I was more confident in entering models for AP evaluation. To speed things up, I joined the British Region in 2003. I regularly attended their Region Conventions and earned my MMR in 2014. I did not stop there but wanted to earn the remaining certificates also. In November last year, I was awarded with the Prototype certificate, which was my 11th.

In 2015 I became the first President of the newly established European Region. Unfortunately, the European Region had no real success due to the geographic distances of their members. In 2022 I approached the British Region with the desire to merge with the European Region. This merger was approved by the Board and completed that same year. The European members are now united in the new European Division.

As a Luxembourger I grew up speaking at least three foreign languages beside Luxembourgish. So German, French, and later English and bits of Dutch and Spanish are my assets to communicate internationally. From my days as a Boy Scout leader, I am used to dealing with different nationalities and cultures and have had no problem approaching people. One of the concerns I encountered in speaking with potential members was, that they do not speak English and do not see how to take profit of all the benefits, although they model American prototype.

As the Atlantic Director I will give a European touch to the Board, with insights into European thinking and expectations. My multiple European language skills may be helpful in taking down these barriers. Thanks for your consideration.

Jonathan Small MMR

I joined the NMRA in 1986, having seen a small advertisement in Continental Modeller for the British Region Convention that year. After getting married in the US a few years previously I had developed a passion for modelling American trains, and wanted to meet and

learn from like-minded people. Since then I have attended many British Region Conventions and Meets, built my home layout and hosted operating sessions. I am a keen enthusiast for the Achievement Program, gaining my Golden Spike in 1999, and my MMR in 2021.

Having served in appointed officer roles over the years, I stood for British Region Vice President in 2019, and was President from 2021-2023. During my Presidency we merged with the former European Region, now a division of BR, developed a new website with many member services now online, stabilized our membership and made many improvements to modernise the Region. I was convention registrar for the highly successful BR Convention held near Crewe, Cheshire in 2022. As BR President I attended meetings of the NMRA Regional Advisory Council. From this experience I learned much about the NMRA, and I believe that to serve as Atlantic Director would be a natural progression for someone with my experience and record.

My working experiences can be of service to the NMRA: I am a professional musician, conductor and music teacher. I have played a leading performing role in one of the UK's premier symphony orchestras for the past 40 years, serving on the Board of Directors of the company, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society (a non-profit arts organisation with an 8-figure budget employing over 150 people) for over 9 years. I also teach at the Royal Northern College of Music, where I have been senior tutor on my instrument for 33 years. I am therefore very well-versed in the workings and challenges of non-profit and educational organizations. I have recently retired from the RLPO and will now have more time to devote to personal interests, including model railroading and the NMRA.

I have good communication skills, and I believe I can be of use to the NMRA as we seek to modernize our organization across the board; that I can make a contribution toward good governance in our NMRA, and to the pursuit of excellence in our hobby.

Jonathan Small MMR

July 2024

Candidate for At-Large World Wide Director

Martyn Jenkins

Since commencing my initial term with the NMRA Board of Directors, I have been involved in several projects aligned with bringing the NMRA into the online age. As a foundation member of NMRAx, I have played a key role in expanding the NMRA's presence on YouTube and transforming NMRA education to an online platform. These efforts reflect my passion for leveraging technology to enhance educational outreach and accessibility.

My involvement with the NMRA and my teaching role exemplify my commitment to innovation and education. I aim to inspire and guide the membership and the broader community, ensuring they are well-equipped to meet the demands of the ever changing hobby of model railroading with confidence and competence. My dedication to professional

development and continuous improvement drives me to seek and implement innovative methods to enhance the learning experience for all members.

Additional Information for Consideration:

1. **Leadership and Collaboration:** Throughout my tenure, I have demonstrated strong leadership and collaboration skills. I have effectively worked with diverse teams to achieve common goals, ensuring successful project outcomes. An example would be the implementation of the digital magazine. My experience on the NMRA Board of Directors has further honed my ability to lead initiatives and work collaboratively with others.
2. **Technological Proficiency:** My role in expanding the NMRA's online presence through NMRAx and YouTube highlights my technological proficiency. I am adept at utilizing various digital tools and platforms to enhance educational content and engage with a broader audience. This proficiency is crucial for continuing to modernize and expand NMRA's reach.
3. **Commitment to Education:** Education is at the heart of my professional life. My extensive experience as a teacher and my efforts to transform NMRA's educational resources to an online platform via google Classrooms underscore my commitment to providing high-quality, accessible education. I am dedicated to continuously improving and adapting educational methods to meet the evolving needs of members.
4. **Vision for the Future:** I envision a future where the NMRA continues to grow and adapt to the changing technological landscape. My goal is to ensure that the association remains relevant and continues to provide valuable resources and support to its members. I am committed to working towards this vision with innovative solutions and a forward-thinking approach.
5. **Passion for Model Railroading:** My passion for model railroading extends beyond my professional duties. I am an avid enthusiast and actively engage with the community. This passion drives my commitment to the NMRA and fuels my desire to contribute to its growth and success.

I am confident that my experience, skills, dedication and previous milestones make me a strong candidate for the NMRA Board of Directors. I humbly look forward to the opportunity to further contribute to the NMRA's mission and help lead the organization and it's membership into the future.

Martyn Jenkins

At Large Worldwide Director

Candidates for Western District Director

Lee Calkins

My name is Lee Calkins. I live in beautiful North Idaho. I have a wife and 4 kids. I model the Union Pacific and Milwaukee Road in Idaho in the 70s and 80s. I am a civil engineer by trade. I believe Families are essential in the grand scheme of things, and that reaching out to them about Model Railroading and the NMRA is key to sustaining and growth of the hobby and the organization.

I am seeking the Election of Western District Board Member for the NMRA.

My philosophy that I have shared for many years with the Free-moN community is "People are more important than trains". I believe that Family is of the highest importance and that bringing Families into model railroading is key to the Growth of Model Railroading. I also believe people need good "Family Friendly" activities, a place to connect with others in the hobby in a fun and enjoyable way. I consider myself a novice model railroader, as jack of no trades and master of even less, even though some of my friends tend to disagree.

I have many years of volunteer work in various capacities. I spent 5 years as a CubMaster, Scout Master and Committee Chair for a local Cub Scout and Boy Scout Troop. I have served the last 4 years as a member of the Free-moN Steering committee. I have spent 15 plus years in various leadership positions in my local church, Including time as the President of the Men's Organization, Family History Leader, Sunday School President, and 2 years as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

I currently serve as the Treasurer for the N-Rail Organization (nrail.org), the Education Chair for the Pacific

Northwest Region of the NMRA (pnr.nmra.org) and as the President of the N-scale Events Group a 100%

NMRA club (nscalemeet.info). I am the driving force and lead planner behind the Evanston N-Scale

Weekend held once every three years in Evanston WY. I spearheaded the Operation Road Show Free-moN Layout at the Grapevine 2023 NMRA Convention. In addition I planned and organized the 8,000 sf Free-moN layout and the 2019 Salt Lake City National Train Show.

Professionally I am a project manager of Civil Engineering Projects ranging from Big Box stores to little coffee shops and single houses to 800 unit subdivisions. I have a team of 3-8 people, depending on the project, that I coordinate with for plan production, submittals and meetings. I spend time working with clients, and jurisdictions to get construction plans drafted and approved. I oversee budgets and billing for the projects I manage ranging from \$5,000 to \$250,000.

I have spent a lot of time in the last several years campaigning for people to be kinder and more accepting of other modeling scales and modeling styles. The first Evanston WY Operations Weekend in 2021 was only Free-moN modules, with 56 people from 26 different

states. The 2024 Evanston Weekend, more commonly known as E24, had 3 layouts, 1 each from T-TRAK, NTRAK and Free-moN. We had 115 participants from 3 countries and 26 different states. I spent a significant amount of time between the 2 events rallying support and reaching out to people one on one to invite them to come and participate in the event.

If elected, my goal in the next 10-15 years will be to strive for the NMRA to be a more diverse organization in age and gender. As stated above I believe "People are more important than trains", I also believe the best way to reach people is one on one. I strive to do that in all scales of Model Railroading and just like I care for Free-moN. I look forward to sharing the joy and camaraderie of model railroading with more people as a representative of the NMRA.

"Come and See, Come and Play, Come and Learn, and Come and Stay"

Lowell Didas

I wish to submit Lowell Didas, MMR, as a candidate for Western District Director. Having recently completed two terms of Rocky Mountain Regional President has presented opportunities to grow our hobby by getting more involved in my District. While serving as RMR Pres, I was able to successfully solve a few of the Regions persistent problems, getting membership in divisions to take charge of their divisions by appointing division supers and getting them to find their own replacements. This was a big problem that took only a phone call. A visit to the division two months later to see the improvement followed by open communication by phone. I have the opportunity to travel often, within the western states, and have made friends in other regions. The NPR has had my attention even more since having a son move to Post Falls, Id. Have compared notes on division and region activities with Jeff Hermann, MMR, on numerous occasions, as he serves as Regional Pres. Having served in VFW as a Post Commander and District Commander, All-American awards in both, am familiar with 501-c3 as the VFW is a Congressional established organization and is an educational and service organization. Please consider Lowell Didas, MMR, as a candidate for Western District Director.

Lowell Didas, MMR

Bob Ginger

I engaged in N scale at the age of nine, having no idea I was embarking on my journey to my MMR decades later as an NMRA member. I am grateful for the great people I met through joining the NMRA and the MMR process who invited me in and are now close friends, advisors and coaches. These are the people who encouraged me to seek the position of NMRA Western District Director. With appreciation and a servant's attitude, I accept the challenge to seek election.

Professionally, my expertise is built on decades of engineering & operations at television stations, a national multi-office television production facility, system integration firms and manufacturing companies. Those capacities encompassed developing and managing system integration projects for broadcast, medical, government, educational and religious clients. I am currently an owner/principal of a technology company which provides media and control system hardware and software solutions for government projects across the U.S.

Throughout my career I have balanced a variety of engineering and management skills including fiscal planning, project and operation budgeting, system design & integration, product design & manufacturing, software development, technology and construction project management, problem solving, communication, and training to deliver successful results to customers.

I served on the Electronic Industries Association EIA-600 standards committee to develop networked control system topologies and protocols, the Arizona Technology Council to welcome entrepreneurial companies, Arizona Leadership Roundtable to develop technology policy statements for the governor's office, and have authored articles for industry publications.

I am a past Chairman of the Board of the Arizona Model Railroading Society, and president of the N scale division. I am now active in the NMRA coaching and evaluating for the AP program, presenting clinics nationally and locally, serving as Arizona Division Communications Chair / newsletter editor, hosting NMRA gatherings and ops sessions, and being part of Zoom groups. I am also published in model railroad magazines, newsletters, and catalogs. My greatest joy in the NMRA is meeting and working alongside others locally, online, or even jumping on airplanes to go visit them.

A lot of good things are happening in the NMRA, and this is a great time to further build on those successes. I believe the key to being a good leader is listening to the members in the organization and intentionally seeking to understand them and their concerns. I also believe in fostering a culture where people want to be involved in something that not only transforms them, but those around them to drive a strong future for the organization.

I hear comments, questions, ideas, and concerns during my conversations with other NMRA members. These are distilled into five topical categories I believe we should address for the benefit of all members. While I have a running list of ideas for these categories to bring to the table, they will understandably compete for consideration in the rest of NMRA leadership priorities.

- Identity: How can the NMRA lead and ensure relevancy in a rapidly changing hobby? What does inviting potential members in and engaging existing members look like? How to increase awareness of and involvement in SIGs to expand interests in the hobby?
- Partnerships: How can NMRA better partner with manufacturers, retailers, social media, podcasters, publications, and other groups, to draw in potential members, engage existing members, and to enrich the model railroading experience for all?

- Operations: How to structure and personalize digital communications and marketing to draw people in and provide clear, easy-to-use resources?
- Education: How to bolster the Achievement Program, Modeling with the Masters, clinics, and more to attract new members? What does education look like moving forward?
- Relationships: How can national NMRA resources better involve, support, and equip regions and divisions? How can we better show what fellowship through our hobby looks like?

My other complementary interests include history, home construction/remodeling, woodworking, writing, gardening/landscaping, marriage mentoring, and teaching communication classes as a certified ICP Couples Communication program instructor. I have also served in teaching and leadership positions in local churches and as a guest speaker/teacher at other churches in the country.

I view the Western District director as a position of service being responsible to all of you. Therefore, I humbly ask for your vote. Thank-you!

Mike Mackey

As a longtime model railroader, I procrastinated joining the NMRA, but once I joined, I quickly found out what I'd been missing. I've grown to know how important this organization is to cultivating the hobby and helping modelers grow to their highest potential. The relationships that I've made and the opportunities that I have been afforded through my membership have truly enriched my life, and for that I'm sincerely grateful.

Based on that, I have embedded myself into this organization as thoroughly and quickly as I could. I've served on multiple committees for the Lone Star Region. I have filled roles, as needed on 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2019 regional conventions. I accepted the responsibility of serving as co-chairman for the 2016 convention. I also assisted with recruiting booth for the NMRA at the National Sn3 Symposium held in Irving, Texas, in 2014. I worked for 4 ½ years on the organizing committee for the 2023 National Convention while serving on the international board of directors. Additionally, I was approached by Union Pacific Railroad to assist them as volunteer coordinator for their scheduled visits of locomotive 4014 to Fort Worth in 2022 and 2024. I was also requested to coordinate volunteers for their Family Days celebrations in 2023 and 2024.

My home HOn3 and HO layout, the Texas & St. Louis, is a prototypically correct precursor to the St. Louis & Southwestern (Cotton Belt). It's was on the 2018 Sn3 Symposium layout

tours in Dallas and the layout tour, as well as the OpSig tour for the 2023 National Convention in Dallas/Fort Worth.

I have served as regional membership co-chair, where I've enjoyed helping with membership drives and recruiting seminars at events around the region. I enjoy modeling competitions and have earned merit awards on multiple occasions. Those awards allowed me complete my MMR certification (#573). I am currently working to earn all 11 certificates, after completing 9 already.

I started the first of my own companies in 1979, and since then have founded four different firms in various fields. I believe this business skill, knowledge and experience is major asset to the NMRA.

Serving as a leader in other organizations, I have consistently assisted achieving set goals. My résumé includes being an Eagle Scout; president of the Palestine, Texas, Jaycees; president of the Dallas/Fort Worth Marine Aquarium Society; Master Model Railroader; Regional Membership Co-Chair, Director of Lone Star Region Division 1 for multiple terms, 2016 Lone Star Super Regional convention chair, recipient of the 2017 Lone Star Region President's Award for Outstanding Service; and service on the board of directors of three model railroad clubs. I was elected to the NMRA International Board of Directors for my first term in 2022.

It is my desire to serve our organization to an even greater extent. For that reason, I request your vote toward reelection to the office I currently hold. I welcome the opportunity to continue to serve this organization, and to provide strong leadership during my next term of office.