

## **Rick Coble**

I am Rick Coble and am running for re-election as Vice President.

When I began my first term in 2021, many of us had not been able to attend an in-person NMRA event, participate in a face-to-face operating session, or visit a hobby shop for over a year. The hobby continued to thrive as enterprising members began hosting meetings and other events online. Members who previously were unable to attend events could participate more fully.

We took what we learned from our members and introduced products and services suited for hobbyists in an increasingly digital world. NMRA Magazine and old editions of Scale Rails and the Bulletin can be enjoyed from your computer and smartphone. The NMRA Interchange and an enhanced social media presence allows you to connect with other members 24/7.

Our existing programs continue to thrive. We have seen a resurgence of volunteers in the Standards & Conformance Department, and the Achievement Program is stronger than ever, with more certificates earned in 2023 than in any previous year.

Your national leadership team is spending time meeting you, listening to your concerns, and working to find solutions.

Even with our recent successes, I believe that we must continue to modernize the NMRA, adding benefits that will appeal to new and younger members, while remaining true to our core values of education, standards, and fellowship.

I joined the NMRA in 2001 and by the end of that year, I found that being involved in division activities increased my enjoyment of the hobby. I have chaired or served on a number of division and region committees and have served as secretary of my division and region and am the previous past national secretary.

Outside of the hobby, my professional life included computer system operations, managing a customer service team for an online public records firm, product development, and operations management. I feel that my work experiences have served me well as Vice President.

The NMRA President is the official spokesperson and representative of the NMRA. The first duty of the Vice President is to aid and assist the President in any way possible. Whether it is working with you, your division and region leaders, or other members of the national team, I will do this to the best of my abilities.

I welcome the opportunity to serve another three years as your Vice President. Thank you for your consideration.