

MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting of NMRA Canada

Monday, August 24, 2015

Portland, OR (as part of the National NMRA Convention)

- 1) Call to Order: 1900 by NMRA Canada President Clark Kooning , MMR.
- 2) Introductions were made around the room for the 16 attendees – see attached list.
- 3) The Chair offered a brief identification of each member of the current NMRA Canada Executive.
- 4) It was noted that Executive meetings are being held using SKYPE to discuss association business.
- 5) A new Office Manager – Steve Wood - will take over fully by the end of September, 2105 after having been trained by Clark Kooning. He is aware of, and will handle memberships (registering people and printing, laminating and mailing of membership cards) currently done by Clark.
- 6) Membership numbers continue a slow but steady increase primarily through signing on of 100% clubs with one or two clubs per month joining.
- 7) Loss of membership is primarily due to inability to afford the cost, illness, death and leaving the hobby.
- 8) Primary complaint of new members “No one contacted me when I joined.”; this aspect will be a key part of the National Committee on Retention and Recruiting to be chaired by Jack Hamilton, MMR.
- 9) Communication within NMRA Canada:
 - a. SKYPE podcasts have been successful with approximately 50 involved with the first one; similar numbers have participated for subsequent ones. NMRA Canada business discussions are limited to the first 20 minutes; then model railroading is the only topic for the next three to four hours.
 - b. A Canadian “eBulletin” will be re-instated.
 - c. NMRA Canada bags with advertising from Canadian vendors will soon be available. Current vendors are Rapido Trains, Sylvan Models, Credit Valley Hobby Shop based on a \$350 contribution each to fund the project. There is a desire to add a western example to the vendors.
- 10) NMRA Canada is currently in a financially stable state with:
 - a. approximately \$5000 in cash on hand,
 - b. \$2800 in our PayPal account.
 - c. No outstanding expenses exist.
 - d. NMRA Canada has been affected negatively in a major way given the lower value of the Canadian dollar against the United States dollar as we pay Headquarters in United States dollars for their services. The current relationship between the Canadian and United States dollars will necessitate a membership fee increase in the very near future.
- 11) Clark Kooning will resign effective midnight, Wednesday, August 26 to become the National NMRA Vice-President – Administration. Steve McMullen, currently NMRA Canada Vice-President will become President of NMRA Canada. The remainder of the Executive will remain in their positions. A new Vice-President for NMRA Canada will be necessary and a search for this person has begun.
- 12) Web-site - continues to be up-dated by Clark and Fred Headon with very slow progress. A volunteer to handle this would be appreciated.
- 13) Corporations Canada has mandated a re-filing for all not-for-profit associations.
 - a. Steve Stark (first NMRA Canada President and a lawyer by profession) has voluntarily created our new documents. These papers are currently being processed by the federal government of Canada.
 - b. With completion of the re-filing, our by-laws will be posted on our web-site.
- 14) MOTION: A Motion to approve NMRA Canada’s by-laws was made by Selwyn Morris, seconded by Ed Molenkamp. Approval was by a unanimous vote of attendees.
- 15) Question: re: NMRA insurance program :
 - a. information requested by Larry Selby (PNR) regarding BC’s requests for coverage as high as \$5 million. Apparently it is only within the province of BC that such a high request is made for train shows.

- b. An alternate process has been tried within the NER by the Maritime Association of Model Railroaders where they purchased local coverage for less cost than through the NMRA program.
 - c. "Supertrain" (Calgary) has \$5 million coverage, after Calgary asked for \$2 million.
- 16) The NFR successfully petitioned the National Board of Directors to move the Alleghany Division to its preferred United States-based Region.
- 17) The National Board of Director's meeting has assigned priority to a trio of fOCI in the upcoming year;
- a. Retention and Recruiting of members
 - b. Education opportunities for our members
 - c. Communication/marketing to promote the NMRA.
- 18) MOTION to Adjourn – Ed Molenkamp at 1958.

Respectively Submitted

Fred Headon, MMR (volunteer on-site Secretary).