



Thousand Lakes Region

National Model Railroad Association

# The FUSEE



Volume 57 Number 4

[www.thousandlakesregion.org](http://www.thousandlakesregion.org)

Summer 2011

## Dubuque entertains over 90 during convention

John Deere Works tour highlights Thousand Lakes Region three day event held downtown

by Gerry Miller, TLR president

An above-average turnout of 94 registrants enjoyed mostly dry weather during the annual convention last month. Road construction replaced torrential downpours (experienced in Winnipeg 2010) as the primary challenge to participants. This year's ala carte menu allowed choices for attendees to choose and enjoy events based on their interests.

The bus tour drew nearly 50 participants. They enjoyed informative plant tours of Eagle Window and Door, IEI barge loading, and finally the John Deere Dubuque Works.

Kevin Copey from William K. Walthers in Milwaukee shared insights on marketing products as well as the results of a customer survey showing demographic data on model train hobbyist and industry trends. His presentation entertained and informed guests during the traditional dessert social held prior to the board meeting Friday evening.

The convention included numerous clinics with plenty of variety. Saturday afternoon provided the only precipitation, a light rain during the Mississippi River boat cruise. Dave Thornton, NMRA vice president, also attended and provided NMRA news from the national organization perspective.

Dinner Saturday night featured a tasty meal followed by the Chinese auction.



A comprehensive riding tour of the John Deere plant capped Friday afternoon's industry visits

photo by Gerry Leone

Donations from numerous manufacturers plus additional purchases provided 75 items.

Ardi Carl, Bill Zimmermann, Alan Ford, Tom Ford, Don McGovern, Brian Prober, and Dick Klawitter of the Southeastern Division were instrumental in putting on the convention. It would not have taken place without their assistance. A hearty thanks to them for their help.

Likewise, I would like to thank my wife Peggy for her encouragement and advice that contributed greatly to a successful convention.

Thanks also to those of you who came to Dubuque and made it a success.



Tracy McKibben, Gerry Miller, Paul Gerry (seated) and John Hotvet, Jim Krekelberg, Paul Ullrich, and Jay Manning (standing) comprise the newly constituted TLR board for 2011-2012.

## View from the Cab

by TLR President Gerry Miller

### Are there any volunteers out there?

Another convention has come to a close. I hope everyone had a good time. The dual role I had this year as president and convention chair was taxing at times, but rewarding.

A challenge for our Region is the lack of clinicians. There are many talented TLR modelers who seem reluctant to present. They are reluctant to speak in front of a large gathering—they prefer to stay with a small group at division. I felt the same way doing my first clinic this year, being very nervous, especially with two master model railroaders present. It went off without a hitch, and I received positive feedback. A few of the attendees were surprised that I used spray cans instead of an air brush.

I have benefited from many modeling ideas during clinics and from articles in magazines. I greatly appreciate the **work these people have put into them. I'd hate to see where the hobby would be without this information being provided to modelers by modelers.** Our ideas from working on our layouts could make for a good clinic that just might help other modelers. You earn achievement program points too, which can lead to an extra \$50 when you earn your first certificate. If you get a contact from Jay

**Manning to do a clinic at next year's convention please give it serious thought.**

I would like to thank the manufacturers that donated to our Chinese auction: Woodland Scenics, RIX, Blair Line, Tomar, Micro Trains, Kalmbach and Carstens Publishing, Intermountain, Micro Engineering, Iwata Airbrush, Rib Side Cars, and Athearn. Without these items our auction would not have been a success.

I would also like to welcome our three new board members: Jim Krekelberg, Tracy McKibben, and John Hotvet. Have a wonderful summer.

## TLR is on Facebook!

by Tracy McKibben, TLR PR Director

**Everybody's doing it. NMRA National is doing it—several regions and divisions are doing it. Even I'm doing it. Now, TLR is doing it too.** I'm talking about Facebook, that place online where all the cool kids hang out. Don't know your "LOL" from your "idk"? Don't worry, neither do I, but that hasn't stopped me.

**Why a Facebook page? Doesn't the TLR already have a web page?** Yes it does, and this newsletter too. **The Facebook page isn't for the TLR, it's for you, the TLR members.** The existing web site and newsletter are one-way communications to you. The Facebook page is for you to communicate back to the leadership, with other members, and even non-members. **Photos, events, URL's, videos** — all can easily be shared by posting them on the Facebook page.

**Suppose you've spent all weekend working on a new structure, it's finished, you've taken lots of photos, and you're dying to show them to somebody.** You could email them off to a few people, the same people that you sent the last ones too. The Facebook page gives you a better way to share those photos, with a much wider audience, **and they'll be there forever, not lost when that email gets deleted.**

**If you're already a Facebook user, visit the page (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/NMRAThousandLakes-Region/219667108062906>) and click "Like". Not a Facebook user? Consider signing up.** Chances are that several of your friends and family already have—maybe even long-lost friends.

## 33rd Annual Spud Valley Hobby Show

Sunday,  
October 16, 2011  
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Admission: \$5  
(under 12 free with paid  
adult)

Ramada Plaza Suites  
Crystal Ballroom  
1635 42nd St. S.,  
Fargo, ND

For information, call Don, 701-234-9351

- ◆ 17th annual "Plastics on the Prairie" model contest
- ◆ Large and small operating model railroads
- ◆ Vendors selling farm toys, plastic models, model railroad items, die cast vehicles, old toys, railroad collectibles and more
- ◆ Door prizes—no need to be present to win
- ◆ Valley RC Flyers display their planes

## Burlington Northern Big



the prototype, including a Digitrax-controlled rotary beacon on top of the cab

**BN's SDCat – Burlington Northern's mechanical department in the 80's and 90's were notorious tinkerers, willing to experiment to get better results.** This combined with a hunger for higher horsepower locomotives gave birth to the idea of the **SDCat**. **BN's SDCat was a typical SD40-2, repowered with a 4200 (rumored) horsepower Caterpillar prime mover.** When it emerged from the West Burlington shops, it was the most powerful locomotive on the railroad. It remained that until the SD70MACs began arriving in 1994. A stock SD40-2 only had 3,000 HP as delivered.

Due to the increased need for cooling, a larger cooling system was needed. A radiator section from a wrecked SD45 provided enhanced cooling capacity. Other external modifications included snow shields and smoke lifters. Snow shields had not been used on BN units, although Great Northern staff had experimented with them prior to the 1970 merger.

My SDCat story began when I learned about the unit. I subsequently found that OMI had done a **brass version in HO Scale.** I've since seen a few come and go on EBay, but never could justify the money to buy one. Being a fan of offerings from

Kato in plastic, I set out to build my own. Since I knew I would be running the engine, and appreciate the smoothness of the Kato drive over the Overland drive.

I began by cutting the radiator section and dynamic brake blister off of the SD45. I also removed the area over the engine room doors and the entire radiator section of the SD40-2. The dynamic brake section from the SD45 was also shortened at this time. I patched all of this back together. No modifications were needed to the **locomotive's frame or side sills.**



### Project materials:

- Kato SD40-2 Shell, Chassis and handrail set
- Kato SD45 shell with cab only
- A-Line – brass cab sunshades
- Kadee underset shank couplers
- Details Associates – wire lift rings
- Details West: BN Style plow, MU Hoses (3 cluster for modern engines), Rotary Beacon (RB-106), snow shields and smoke lifters, air horn
- Miniatronics – 1.5v 30mA incandescent bulb
- Resistor - 360 Ohms (dropping resistor) and some heat shrink tubing to protect the solder joints
- Digitrax DH163P
- Polly S - BN Green
- Testors Acrylic – semi-gloss black
- 3M blue painters' masking tape**
- Microscale – BN Diesel decals

I added other details such as sunshades and MU hoses where they **wouldn't interfere with masking.**

I applied primer to the whole body and treated the handrails with plastic adhesion promoter (available at an auto body store). The I airbrushed the model BN Green, taped the



### Fusee deadlines for material (including ads )

Summer issue, published July (due to convention coverage)  
*Submissions due June 1*

Fall issue, published September  
*Submissions due August 1*

Winter issue, published December  
*Submissions due November 1*

Spring issue, published March  
*Submissions due February 1*

Questions? Give me a call at 605 767 9743 or email me at

*(continued from page three)*

engine for black. **IMPORTANT:** I used a toothpick to ensure the masking tape was snug against the seams. After painting the black, I removed the tape and applied the last of the detail parts and hand-painted them the same color as the area they were attached.

Then I applied the Microscale decals using Micro-Sol and Micro-Set. I used some micro brushes to paint the step edges white.

I used a Digitrax DH163P decoder to have a spare function to power the rotary beacon on the top of the cab. I drilled a hole in the cab offset slightly to allow the Kato light bar room. I then attached the bulb to the green wire (using the dropping resistor in-line. I soldered the other lead to the blue wire on the 8-pin plug. and secured the beacon to the bulb using a drop of white glue. I programmed the decoder, assigning function 1 to the green wire and setting the lighting effect to rotary beacon simulation using Decoder Pro.

My end result was far from perfect, but it didn't cost \$600 and probably runs better than its brass cousins. As a bonus, it came mostly from engines and parts I already had on hand.



Eric modified a Kato SD40-2 shell with a series of carefully made cuts and included detail parts to add realism to the model. See his SDCat in action on my YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/bn1510> or email him at [carlson@alliancecom.net](mailto:carlson@alliancecom.net)

**SIoux VALLEY MODEL ENGINEERS SOCIETY**  
 PRESENTS  
**TRAINS AT CHRISTMAS 2011**  
 SIoux FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA  
 WH LYON FAIRGROUNDS  
 EXPO BUILDING  
 Saturday November 19 - 10am - 5pm  
 Sunday November 20 - 11am - 4pm

Come see this premier model railroad event in South Dakota. We will have traveling layouts from the regional area. We will also have vendors on hand selling model and toy trains, as well as railroad videos, clothing and memorabilia.

Contact Wayne at 605-373-0222 or [svmes@sio.midco.net](mailto:svmes@sio.midco.net)  
<http://www.svmes.net>

## Achievement program update

by John R. Hotvet, MMR

My goodness. I almost feel over-worked with the recent deluge of Achievement Program certificate requests that have been submitted. Maybe it has something to do with the \$50 incentive for first time AP certificates that the TLR Board approved last fall.

Twenty AP certificates have been approved in the last six months, as follows:

Ron Einarson, Winnipeg, MB – Chief Dispatcher  
Dennis Rietze, Winnipeg, MB – Association Official  
Marlene Radunz, Spicer, MN – Association Volunteer  
Curtis Radunz, Willmar, MN – Association Volunteer  
Jean Radunz, Willmar, MN – Association Volunteer  
Samuel Sherman, Franklin, MN – Association Volunteer  
John Givan, Montevideo, MN – Association Volunteer  
Jon Bratt, Bird Island, MN – Association Volunteer  
Terry Davis, Hutchinson, MN – Association Volunteer  
Mike Kaufman, Garretson, SD – Association Volunteer  
Ron Peterson, Cherokee, IA – Association Volunteer  
Gerry Miller, Dubuque, IA – Association Official  
Ken Zieska, Plymouth, MN – Model Railroad Author  
Jerry Kellen, Lismore, MN – Association Volunteer  
Dale Hanna, Milford, IA – Association Volunteer  
Dennis Davids, Sibley, IA – Association Volunteer  
Doug Clarke, Spirit Lake, IA – Association Volunteer  
Paul Ullrich, Winnipeg, MB – Association Volunteer, Model Railroad Author  
Alan Saatkamp, Harrisburg, SD – Master Builder - Structures

Finally, three Golden Spikes were awarded recently to Terry Anderson, Harrisburg, SD; Paul Ullrich, Winnipeg, MB; and Dennis Rietze, Winnipeg, MB.

One more AP request is in process at National.

I would like to thank Terry Davis for his work with the MRVD and PLD. As a direct result of his efforts to determine who met eligibility requirements, 11 requests for the Association Volunteer were submitted.

This year is also the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Achievement Program. To date over 350 AP certificates and fourteen Master Model Railroaders have been awarded in the TLR. My predecessors in the region who served as AP Chair include Don McKinnon, Winnipeg, MB, Jock Oliphant, MMR, Winnipeg, MB, J.M. (Moe) Smith, MMR, Winnipeg MB, John Whitlock, MMR, St Paul, MN, and **Bob O'Brien**, MMR, Marshall, MN.

### More 1947 Empire Builder

New HO and N car sides for GN-CB&Q-SP&S 1947 Empire Builder & Western Star with full skirts are planned for 2012. 1947 GN RPO, "Pass" and "Glacier" sleepers and leg-rest coach are in stock. Reserve the 60-seat coach, lunch counter-dorm, and dining car. Check our website for specifics, reservation form, bulletin, and photos of models from our customers.

See our website, e-mail or write us for catalog with closeout-priced items, magazines, calendars, videos and books. Our brass sides are for GN, NP, SP&S, CB&Q, BN, MILW, UP, PRR, NYC, SP, C&NW, IC, RI, B&O, C&E, L&N, KCS, ERIE, ATSF, MP, CN, VIA & Amtrak. Use HO sides with TSP, Rivarossi, Con-Cor, ECW, Bachmann, Kato, Walthers, our HO Basic Body Kit, or in N the ALM core kits or plastic dome car overlays. Send 2-oz. S5AE for catalog and bulletin. Available through hobby shops or direct from us (\$4.50 for shipping, plus \$0.50 per body or core kit.) Add 6.875% MN sales tax for MN orders. Also check website for current information sheets, catalog, 1964-72 DVD, and CV trucks.  
[www.brasscarsides.com](http://www.brasscarsides.com)

Brass Car Sides, 715 S. 7th St.  
St. Peter, MN 56082-1435

### EDITOR'S APOLOGY

The last Fusee failed to credit frequent contributor Lester Breuer with his well-deserved designation as a MMR. Sorry Les!

# FAGAN'S HOBBIES

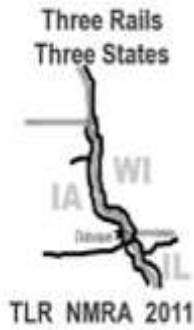
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Model, Photo, and Pass Contests  
(underlined indicates merit award)



1st place on-line structure and Jock Oliphant Craftsman-ship Award

Leo Appel  
CStPM&O  
Heron Lake Depot



Steam Locomotives  
1<sup>st</sup> Dave Roeder, MMR WG&F 2-6-2  
2<sup>nd</sup> Dave Roeder, MMR CB&Q 4-8-4  
3<sup>rd</sup> Dave Roeder, MMR Frisco 2-8-2



Caboose/Van  
1<sup>st</sup> Dave Roeder, MMR SG&N # 3  
2<sup>nd</sup> Dave Roeder, MMR Wabash  
3<sup>rd</sup> Dave Roeder, MMR BN # 10991



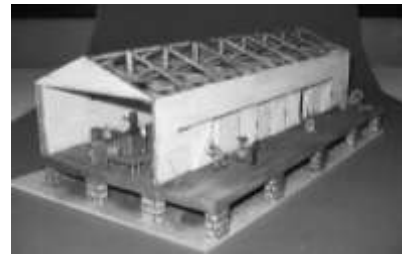
Structure Off-Line  
1<sup>st</sup> Gerry Leone, MMR Renay's Quilts  
2<sup>nd</sup> Dave Roeder, MMR Loon Lk Register



Diesel Locomotives  
1<sup>st</sup> Dave Roeder, MMR GM 44-tonner  
2<sup>nd</sup> Dave Roeder, MMR WG&F S-1



Non Revenue Cars  
1<sup>st</sup> Dave Roeder, MMR SG&N Bullion  
2<sup>nd</sup> Dave Roeder, MMR SLSF Crane



Structure On-Line  
1<sup>st</sup> Tracy McKibben Johnson Produce  
2<sup>nd</sup> Dave Roeder, MMR Interlock Tower



Freight Cars  
1<sup>st</sup> Ron Peterson UTLX Ethanol Tank  
2<sup>nd</sup> Dave Roeder, MMR BN Gondola  
3<sup>rd</sup> Dave Roeder, MMR, Adhesive Tank



Passenger Cars  
1<sup>st</sup> Ken Mosny SR&R Milk Car  
2<sup>nd</sup> Dave Roeder, MMR Business  
3<sup>rd</sup> Dave Roeder, MMR Coach



Display, Off-Line  
1<sup>st</sup> Bill Obenauf, Logging Camp  
Display, On-Line

**PASS CONTEST:**

1<sup>st</sup> Dave Roeder, MMR SG & N  
2<sup>nd</sup> Dave Roeder, MMR WG&F  
3<sup>rd</sup> Dave Roeder, MMR DSW

**PHOTO CONTEST: Model Color**

1<sup>st</sup> Gerry Leone, MMR Burning Late Night Oil  
2<sup>nd</sup> Frank Gerry CN Diesels by Lakeshore

**Prototype Color**

1<sup>st</sup> Gordy Miller UP 3985 Blue Earth  
2<sup>nd</sup> Larry Vanden Plas Steam /Prairie

Prototype Black and White 1<sup>st</sup> Larry Vanden Plas It's a Bird, It's a Plane

## Board of Directors minutes from meeting held Friday, May 21, 2011 in Dubuque

Present for the meeting in a voting capacity were Dave Hamilton, Gerry Leone, Gerry Miller, Paul Gerry, Paul Ullrich and Jay Manning. Present but in a non-voting capacity were Thomas Mauszycki, Alan Saatkamp, John Hotvet, Jay Davis, Doug Clarke, Terry Davis, Charles Durrenberger, Jim Krekelberg, Frank Gerry, Les Breuer, Tracy McKibben, and Terry Anderson. A special guest was also present in the person of Dave Thornton, an NMRA VP.

Call to order by President Gerry Miller was done at 8:10pm

**The president's report by Gerry Miller** was indicated that region membership was up and financials looked good. As a side note to the **president's report, Paul Ullrich** advised the board that the due to new requirements handed down by the NMRA, the Division Certifications of 100% membership compliance need to be updated. The appropriate paperwork will be provided to each division president to fill out and return so the TLR can remain compliant with full insurance.

Secretary Paul Gerry asked that the minutes from the previous board meeting be accepted as printed in the Fusee. Motion was seconded by Gerry Leone and had unanimous approval.

Treasurer Dave Hamilton reported that the Wells Fargo certificates of deposit that are due to be renewed have been transferred into a business savings account.

This provides the same amount of interest but reduces paperwork significantly. Overall financial health of the region is good with the regions bank balance growing. The Fusee costs are down thanks to a different printing company in Sioux Falls which saves the region money each issue. So far the region has paid out \$300 in its AP incentive program as six new first time Achievement Certificates have been awarded and five more are pending.

The public relations report was presented by Gerry Leone. The Fusee is going strong under **the new editor Alan Saatkamp. The "Three Rails, Three States" Dubuque convention promotional video** has been a great success with 520 views so far. Special thanks to Gerry Miller who supplied photos and videos for use. **Gerry's second two year term is complete** and he will be leaving the board to continue his efforts as National Communications Director for NMRA.

The Minnesota River Valley Division was presented by Terry Davis. The division continues to be very active, including a business meeting/elections that featured clinics by Terry Davis and Bruce Monroe and door prizes. A few major changes have taken place over the last year though. First, a change in the bylaws has allowed the board to shrink from 4 to 3 members by eliminating the assistant superintendent position. Secondly, the meetings will now shift from a once a month format to larger biannual events.

The Number 1 Northern Division report was presented by Paul Ullrich for Dennis Rietze. Big changes have been going on in the division since the last report. Based on a division wide

membership survey, the division will hold a mini-convention on Nov 5<sup>th</sup> this year along with starting up a modular group with the intention of showing it off at the convention. The modular group will be 100% NMRA based and will follow a single track Free-Mo design in HO scale.

The Dakota Southeastern Division report was presented by superintendent Alan Saatkamp. Division membership is increasing thanks to the division modular layout, a training tool for education as well as team-building. The layout has been displayed at a variety of venues during the past year. The annual open house attendance was significantly larger than usual thanks in part to a front page feature in the local newspaper. Bylaw changes were also put in voted and took effect which stagger the officer terms to alternate years for the Super and Chief Clerk.

The South Eastern Division report was presented by Gerry Miller. Overall the new division is doing well with a total of 13 members as of the convention date. Meeting locations have progressed from the back room in a pizza place **to individual members' homes for round robin building and operating nights.** Due to popular demand a spring train show in the Dubuque area is now in the works.

The Twin Cities Division report was made by Dave Hamilton. Overall things are still going strong and there is a new push for members to obtain AP Certificates over the next year.

The Prairie Lakes Division report was made by Doug Clarke. The spring and fall meets continue with the spring meet showcasing a large selection

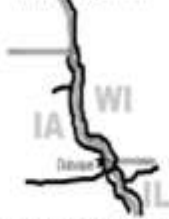
*(continued on page 9)*

## TrainToons

by Paul Ullrich



Three Rails  
Three States



TLR NMRA 2011

May 20-22, 2011



There was plenty of railfanning opportunity, including the former Milwaukee Road yard. (photo by Terry Davis)



Camera buffs aboard the Spirit of Dubuque were poised for action during the afternoon cruise which included lunch and plenty of sight-seeing on the Mississippi River (photo by Terry Davis)



Achievement Program and Contest Director John Hotvet presents Leo Appel with the Best in Show and Jock Oliphant awards Saturday night



Gerry Miller awarded **two President's** awards. Outgoing board members Gerry Leone (left) and Dave Hamilton (right) flank Gerry immediately after receiving their plaques for service to the Region President during the past 12 months.



Chinese auction prizes abounded (photo by Gerry Leone)

The Bob Dew Service award also went to Gerry Leone. Members of the board of directors voted on this during the fall board meeting held in Fargo. Only the President is privy to the winner until the name is announced at the spring convention. (photos by Alan Saatkamp unless otherwise indicated)



(continued from page 7)

of modules and both were well attended. The upcoming fall meet in Cherokee Iowa on Oct 1<sup>st</sup> of this year will mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the division. More information about this historic meet will be forthcoming at a later date.

The Achievement Program report was handed out to everyone by John Hotvet. The report stated that he was feeling overwhelmed by all the applications for the awards, and 20 AP certificates were awarded over the past six months. One is still in the approval stage. Special thanks to Terry Davis who motivated the MRVD and PLD members who had between them the requirements for 11 achievement program volunteer certificates. A group met to fill out the paperwork to qualify for the certificates. This also marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AP program. To date over 350 AP certificates have been awarded and 14 MMRs awarded in the TLR.

The Fusee report was presented by Alan Saatkamp. The number of article coming into be published has been gratifying. He also reminded attendees that regional publications count toward the AP Certificate for Author. His learning curve for Desktop Publisher and Photoshop has evened out somewhat.

The Historian report was presented by Tom Mauszycki. Nearly all of the old issues of The Fusee are stored in acid free storage boxes. Records (written, photographic and on DVD) have all been put in order and are safe. On a personal note Thomas put in a request for the board to find a successor for his position. Action on this was deferred until the fall board meeting. See General Membership minutes for more on this issue.

The NMRA report was a joint effort. Gerry Leone told attendees about National Model Railroaders' Month and then turned the floor over to Dave Thornton (a VP of the NMRA), a special guest at the meeting. Dave went on the say that the Diamond Club for the digitization of the files of the library in Chattanooga has been a huge success, and the scans are of high quality. With the current pricing, paying for one scan should pay for the next item to be scanned. The California State Railway Museum will have its official "carpet cutting" ceremony at the National Sacramento Convention for its display of the history of model railroading. Future plans include renovating part of the Southern Pacific's abandoned backshop across the tracks from the museum and using it as a pure model railroad showcase. The museum is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest vacation attraction site in the state of California which should expose millions of people to model railroading.

A motion to accept the divisional reports and staff reports of the region was made by Gerry Miller and seconded by Gerry Leone. A brief 2011 convention report was made by Gerry Miller. He stated there was a total of 94 registrants. Also, the John Deere plant was a quickly put together replacement for the cancelled chemical plant tour.

The 2012 convention report was made by Jay Manning regarding next year's meet in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The Jerstad conference

center is reserved and has a lot of excellent space for clinics, meals, and meetings. There's also an additional/motel nearby for those not among the first 40 registrants to book the Jerstad lodging rooms. Convention highlights being developed include a rock quarry and Ellis and Eastern backshop tour Friday and a tour of Midwest Railcar Repair Saturday. A railfan trip on the Dakota and Iowa RR is also a possibility. The Sertoma butterfly house and aquarium plus downtown Phillips Avenue SculptureWalk highlight the non-rail activities. Pricing for the convention including lodging (not yet announced) will be set to encourage people to attend.

The 2013 Convention report was made regarding the meet in the Twin Cities. The Hilton is booked as the convention site, and tours of Progressive Rail and the Minnesota Commercial shops are in the works. Clinics and layout tours are being finalized. It remains uncertain whether the event will be in tandem with the Scale Model Builders convention at this time.

First up in the new business was a humanitarian plea from Gerry Leone and the NMRA. The recent tornadoes through the Chattanooga area ripped apart NMRA employee Jenny Hendrick's house. Jenny works tirelessly at home office answering questions and generally making life easier for those who call in for help, and various regions have been making small donations to help Jenny rebuild. After a brief discussion about using funds for things outside the region and the precedent that might be set, a motion to donate money was made by Gerry Leone based on the fact that Jenny does so much for the NMRA as a whole and that the money is not to replace models but the home itself. Gerry Leone and Paul Ullrich voted in favour with the rest of the board abstaining. A motion to donate \$500 was made by Paul Ullrich and was seconded by Paul Gerry and had a unanimous approval.

Combining the Treasurer position with the Membership position was then put forward. Dave Hamilton stated that the positions were already "unofficially" combined and that he had been doing both jobs for his entire tenure. He just needed some clarification since his term was up and a new treasurer was to take over. The jobs have a very similar job description and it would be easier to merge them officially. As per the bylaws this type of change requires that the proposed bylaw change be published first in the Fusee and then voted on at the next General Members meeting (i.e. in Sioux Falls in 2012). A motion to combine the duties was made by Dave Hamilton and was seconded by Gerry Leone and received a unanimous approval.

A clarification was brought as to what happened if a sitting board member left before his term was up. Officially the President can formally appoint anyone as a temp until the next General Membership meeting.

Alan Saatkamp then made a request that Photoshop Elements be purchased for the Fusee editor as the program he's currently using on his son's computer will be leaving when his son moves out. Cost would be around \$60-\$70. Motion to reimburse purchase of the software was made by Gerry Miller, seconded by Gerry Leone, and received a unanimous approval.

A presentation was made by Alan Saatkamp on behalf of the DSED, in reference to the boards new grant initiative, for the purchase of a trailer to store and transport the DSED's modular layout at a cost of \$4500 (US). A plea was made by Alan in regards to the grant, of which he backed up his arguments with a well thought out and precise grant proposal. Highlights include that the grant would fit the criteria of promotion of the hobby as it would help the DESD bring the modular layout to more shows and thus expose it to more people. The layout is of high quality and growing every day and the locals that if would travel to are in vastly different locals within the region. Points that were brought up were answered succinctly and included the fact that the insurance of the driver of the car pulling the trailer would cover any damages that the trailer caused but not the contents of the trailer and that this would also absolve the Region of any liability connected with the trailer.

Also was the issue of what was to become of the trailer if the modular layout ceased to exist and this point was solved by adding a clause that any proceeds from the sale of the trailer or the title of the trailer would automatically revert back to the TLR Region and not the DSED. Maintenance and insurance would be handled by the DSED. Terry Davis asked why the next convention's proceeds could not pay for the trailer since it was occurring in Sioux Falls anyway. Jay Manning explained that the convention's purpose was to attract attendees and not make a huge profit, and pricing was going to reflect that when it came time to sign up for the convention next winter.

A motion to accept the grant request as written was then made by Paul Gerry and seconded by Gerry Leone. A ROLL CALL VOTE was made: Gerry Miller: aye, Dave Hamilton: aye, Paul Ullrich: aye, Paul Gerry: aye, Gerry Leone: aye, Jay Manning: abstain (due to conflict of interest). Motion passed.

Quickly following this was a motion to amend the grant guideline made by Gerry Miller. It was quickly decided to put a cap on any future grant requests. It was agreed upon that on a matching grant the ceiling would be at \$1500 (i.e. if the division pays \$900 then the TLR pays \$900) and that on a non-matching grant the ceiling would be at \$500. The DSED grant was immediately grandfathered in. A motion to accept was made by Dave Hamilton, seconded by Gerry Leone, and received a unanimous approval.

John Hotvet then brought up the fact that there were not enough trained judges at the convention and that he would be happy to do training clinics on how to judge.

A time limit on the AP grant was then discussed but was tabled until the fall board meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Ullrich at 10:42 pm, seconded by Gerry Leone, and approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Gerry  
Secretary



## General Membership

### Meeting Minutes May 22

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 by President Gerry Miller.

A motion to accept the combined reports and board minutes from the midyear meeting held in Fargo last fall was also approved.

Elections to fill the public relations director, treasurer, contest director, and secretary position were held. Nominations from the floor included John Hotvet, Jim Krekelberg, Paul Gerry, and Tracy McKibben. Since the number of nominations matched the number of open spots, action to accept the slate of nominations was passed unanimously.

Gerry Miller reported in the convention. Ninety four registrants included 33 spouses. Road construction replaced wet weather as the **challenge this year**. The "ala carte" format worked well. Forty six attendees enjoyed tours of Eagle Windows, IEl transloading facility and the John Deere plant. The dessert social featured a presentation by the VP of Marketing at Walthers, Kevin Copsey. NMRA VP Dave

Thornton also was on hand to bring greetings and report from national. Thanks to John Hotvet who stepped into the role of Contest Director, and to Fred Heaton and Ron Peterson who helped judge the contest. The banquet was successful. A special thanks to the members of the Southeastern Division who helped make the convention a successful event.

Jay Manning reviewed the 2012 convention plans as reported to the board and at dinner Saturday.

Dave Hamilton reviewed the 2013 Twin Cities convention as reported to the board Friday.

Tom Mauszycki rescinded his resignation as historian and would like assistance.

A motion to adjourn was made at 10:05 by Frank Gerry and seconded by Gerry Miller. The motion carried.

Results of the board caucus yielded: Paul Gerry stays as Secretary for two years as do John Hotvet as Contest Director, and Jim Krekelberg as Treasurer. Tracy McKibben serves a one year term as Public Relations Director.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Gerry, Secretary

## TLR Board puts parameters on Division grant requests

by Gerry Leone, MMR

Among the actions taken by the Thousand Lakes Region Board of Directors at its May 20 meeting was clarification of the terms for financial grants to Divisions. During the Fall 2010 meeting, the Board voted to replace the two-year-old Convention Attendance Grant with an omnibus financial grant to any Division in need of funds for promoting itself, the TLR, or the NMRA. However, the Board never set any limits or parameters on that new grant. In a unanimous decision, the Board agreed to these terms:

*Any Division may submit in writing to the TLR Board a request for funds to be used exclusively for promotion or member solicitation up to the sum of \$500.*

*In addition, the TLR will give the Division a matching grant of up to \$1,500. In this case, the Division must put up an equal sum of money from its own funds. For example, if the Division requests a matching grant for \$1,000 from the TLR, it must also put \$1,000 into the grant.*

As decided last Fall, the Division must then prove with receipts and other tangible evidence (e.g. printed pieces, photographs) that **it's spent the grant money for the purpose outlined in its initial request**. See details in the Fall 2010 *Fusee* (archived at [www.thousandlakesregion.org](http://www.thousandlakesregion.org)).

The TLR Division Grant is a tremendous opportunity for all TLR Divisions to get needed funds for self-promotion, membership solicitation, or a whole range of other activities which it would normally not be able to afford.

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All Aboard!

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# The Thousand Lakes Region of the NMRA

## Board of Directors   Department Chairs   Division Supers

**President**  
Gerry Miller  
1040 Hawkeye Dr.  
Dubuque, IA 52001  
563-557-9694  
millerg20@gmail.com

**Vice President**  
Paul Ullrich  
3 Gimli Place  
Winnipeg, MB  
R2R 2B8  
204-694-1061  
pullrich@mymts.net

**Secretary**  
Paul Gerry  
522 Luci Court  
Thunder Bay, ON  
Canada P7E 1H1  
pgerry@gmail.com

**Treasurer**  
Jim Krekelberg  
6305 W. Westminster Dr.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57106  
605-595-2634  
jkrekelberg@sio.midco.net

**Convention Director**  
Jay Manning  
7100 W. Stoney Creek St.  
Sioux Falls, SD 56106  
605-332-5337  
chessie@mindspring.com

**Public Relations**  
Tracy McKibben  
10925 Hyland Terrace  
Eden Prairie, MN 55331  
952-294-0830  
tracy.mckibben@gmail.com

**Contest Director**  
John Hotvet  
(see AP contact info)

**Membership & Handbook**  
Dave Hamilton  
18015 33rd Pl. N.  
Plymouth, MN 55447  
763-274-9120  
mzz64@yahoo.com

**Achievement Program**  
John Hotvet, MMR  
5100 Nicollet Ave. S.  
Minneapolis, MN 55419  
612-822-5788  
johntrain@aol.com

**Historian**  
Thomas Mauszycki, DDS, MMR  
1671 Valley View Dr.  
Winona, MN 55987  
507-454-3800  
tmauszycki@charter.net

**Webmaster**  
Dave Hamilton  
(see membership contact info)

**Fusee Editor**  
Alan Saatkamp  
902 Chestnut St.  
Harrisburg, SD 57032  
605-767-9743  
saatkamp@iw.net

**Dakota Southeastern**  
Alan Saatkamp  
(see editor contact info)

**Minnesota River Valley**  
Brian Wordes  
78103 200th St.  
Sacred Heart, MN 56285  
320-329-3869  
brigayle@rswb.coop

**No. 1 Northern**  
Dennis Rietze  
39 Shelagh Crescent  
Winnipeg MB  
Canada R2G 1Z6  
ritzkraks@mymts.net

**Prairie Lakes**  
Doug Clarke  
207 27th St.  
Spirit Lake, IA 51360  
712-236-1759  
dcraills@hotmail.com

**South Red River Valley**  
Jim Moore  
453 Oakland Ave. South  
Fargo, ND 58103  
701-293-7834  
jimraemoore@msn.com

**Southeastern**  
Tom Ford  
3971 Cora Dr.  
Dubuque, IA 52002  
563-557-3860  
trjr4@msn.com

**Twin Cities**  
Ron Bodin  
763-755-8408  
super@tcdnmra.org

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**My appreciation to this issue's Fusee contributors, including: Eric Carlson, Terry Davis, Paul Gerry, MMR Gerry Leone, Tracy McKibben, Gerry Miller, and Paul Ullrich. This issue wouldn't been complete without your input!**

**All advertising should be mailed to THE FUSEE editor as camera-ready artwork or electronic files (jpeg, tiff, gif, or EPS with outlined fonts). Payment must be enclosed and should be in U.S. funds, international money order, or by check drawn on U.S. banks. Questions? Contact the editor.**

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Commercial advertising from hobby shops, manufacturers, and businesses associated with a model railroading interest are accepted. Pike ads are for individual layouts, model railroad clubs, or other non-commercial groups. All ads can be run in a single issue at the rate of 35% of the annual rate.

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<u>Ad size (HxW)</u>	<u>Annual commercial rate</u>	<u>One time commercial rate</u>	<u>Annual pike ad rate</u>
<b>Full pg 9 5/8 x 7 1/8"</b>	<b>\$145.00</b>	<b>\$50.75</b>	<b>\$90.00</b>
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#### What's Inside?

Dubuque convention coverage

Build a BN SD 40-2 Big Green Cat

#### TLR's on Facebook

Achievement Program update

Board and membership meeting minutes

New TLR grant criteria

Check your expiration date!

**And... if you have questions (or a change of address) email Dave Hamilton at: [mzz64@yahoo.com](mailto:mzz64@yahoo.com)**

### Upcoming train shows and events in and near the region

Saturday 9/10 Dakota Southeastern Division fourth annual library clinics 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Ronning Library 3100 E. 49th Street Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Hands-on scenery making, highly scened N gauge layout, HO scale switching layout, and the DSED modular layout. Free. Check our website [www.dsed.svmes.net](http://www.dsed.svmes.net).

Saturday 9/24 Luce Line RR Club train show 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at McLeod County Fairgrounds in Hutchinson, Minnesota. Lots of operating layouts, large flea market, and popular vote model contest. Admission \$4.00, under 12 free. Tables \$18.00. Contact Mark Brown at 320-587-2279 or [mkbraun@hutchtel.net](mailto:mkbraun@hutchtel.net). Layouts wanted. Contact Zach Meyer at 320-587-8641 or [zachmeyer@hutchtel.net](mailto:zachmeyer@hutchtel.net).

Saturday 10/8 Dakota Southeastern Division sixth annual model train open house layout tour from noon to 5:00 p.m. Visit five homes (including one new layout) and the Sioux Valley Model Railroad Engineers club layout at the Sioux Empire Fairgrounds. All located in the greater Sioux Falls area. HO, N, and Z layouts included. Railpasses for \$5 (\$10 family) available that day from 10:00 a.m. at Hobbytown, 1007 W. 41st Street, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Sunday 10/16 33rd Annual Spud Valley from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Ramada Plaza Suites Crystal Ballroom, 1635 42nd St. S., Fargo, ND. **Seventeenth annual "Plastics on the Prairie" model contest, large and small operating model railroads,** vendors, door prizes, and Valley RC Flyers display of planes. Admission: \$5.00 (under 12 free with paid adult). For information, call Don, 701-234-9351.

Saturday 11/12 Granite City Train Show **from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the National Guard Armory, 1710 Veteran's Drive, St. Cloud, Minnesota.** Model and toy trains of all scales, accessories, books, videos, railroad collectibles, memorabilia, antique toys, hobby items and more. Operating displays. Admission \$5.00, kids 12 and under free. Call 320-255-0033 or visit [www.granitecitytrainshow.com](http://www.granitecitytrainshow.com). Email [edwardolson@cloudnet.com](mailto:edwardolson@cloudnet.com).

Saturday and Sunday 11/19, 11/20 Trains at Christmas at the W.H. Lyons Fairgrounds Expo Building, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Sponsored by the Sioux Valley Model Engineers Society. Saturday 10-5, Sunday 11-4. Contact Wayne at 605-373-0222 or [svmes@sio.midco.net](mailto:svmes@sio.midco.net). Visit <http://www.svmes.net>