

By-Laws Thousand Lakes Region of the NMRA

Purpose

To promote greater fellowship among Model Railroaders, to advance the hobby of model railroading wherever possible and to do all things necessary for or incidental to the aforementioned purpose the following By-laws are hereby authorized and adopted.

1. Membership and Dues

- a. Any member of the National Model Railroad Association, Inc. shall be a member of the Thousand Lakes Region, Inc (TLR).
- b. Subscription to the TLR newsletter is voluntary and available to all TLR members upon application to the Treasurer and payment of the current subscription rate.
- c. The membership year shall be from 1 June to 31 May of the following year, except that new members applying for membership on or after 1 January shall be given a membership to 31 May of the following year.

2. Annual Convention

- a. Annual regional conventions or rallies may be held throughout the year as may be decided from time to time by the Board of Directors.
- b. A General Business meeting shall be held in conjunction with the Annual Convention.
- c. The entire cost of the Annual Convention shall be borne by the individuals attending; except that no assessment shall be made against a member attending only the General Business Meeting.
- d. The Annual Convention registration fee may include an allowance for operating costs of the Region not covered by Region dues as may be determined by the Board of Directors.
- e. Additional charges may also be levied for non-members of the Region as may be determined by the Board of Directors, except that a member's immediate family accompanying the member shall not be considered to be a non-member.
- f. Attendance at the Annual Convention shall be open to anyone paying the applicable registration fee, however, non-members shall not be admitted to the General Business Meeting nor be permitted to participate in any contest.

3. Officers

- a. The Officers of the Region shall consist of a Board of Directors composed of seven members chosen from the regular membership residing within the boundaries of the Region, elected at the General Business Meeting. As the boundaries of the Region pass through urban area, the whole urban area may be considered within the boundaries in so far as this restriction is concerned.
- b. The Board of Directors shall take office immediately following the meeting at which it was elected and shall select from its number a President, a Vice- President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Convention Director, a Contest Director, and a Public Relations Director.
- c. Each year four directors shall be elected, three to serve two years and the other to serve one year, as determined by their respective plurality of votes.

- d. Members of the Board of Directors may not serve more than five consecutive years.
- e. In the event of a vacancy in the Board of Directors by reason of a change in residence to outside the boundaries of the Region, resignation, incapacitation, or death of the incumbent; the Board of Directors shall name a successor who shall hold office for the balance of the term.

Revised 10/1/2005

By-Laws Thousand Lakes Region of the NMRA (Cont.)

4. Voting

Each member present at a business meeting shall be entitled to one vote. In the event of a tie, the incumbent Board of Directors shall determine the winner by majority vote.

5. Duties of Directors

The general management of the affairs of the Region shall be vested in the Board of Directors; however, the various officers shall be responsible for specific duties as follows:

a. President - The President shall:

- 1) Preside at all meetings of the Region and of the Board of Directors
- 2) Be an ex-officio member of all committees
- 3) Perform such other duties as, by custom, devolve upon a President or are conferred upon him by the Region or the Board of Directors

b. Vice-President - The Vice-President shall be:

- 1) The aid and assistant to the President and shall assume the duties of the President in his absence or at his request
- 2) The Chairman of the Advisory Council.

c. Secretary - The Secretary shall:

- 1) Be responsible for the administrative functions of the Region
- 2) Keep minutes of all Region meetings
- 3) Provide an agenda for all meetings
- 4) Notify members of meetings
- 5) Have charge of all correspondence
- 6) Be responsible for the maintenance and publication of the Administrative Manual
- 7) Be responsible for Region archives

d. Treasurer - The Treasurer shall:

- 1) Have charge of the Region finances.
- 2) Keep accurate records reflecting monies received, monies disbursed and balance on hand.

- 3) Collect all Region dues and revenues from any Region sponsored activity.
- 4) Ensure that the books are ready and available for audit.
- 5) Provide a report and financial statement at the General Business Meeting.

e. Convention Director - The Convention Director shall:

- 1) Be the representative of the President in working with the Convention Chairpersons.
- 2) Establish a convention schedule to ensure rotation throughout the Region.

f. Contest Director - The Contest Director shall:

- 1) Direct all Region contests in co-operation with the Convention Chairpersons and their committees

Revised 10/1/2005

By-Laws Thousand Lakes Region of the NMRA (cont.)

g. Public Relations Director - The Public Relations Director shall:

- 1) Welcome new members.
- 2) Induce former members to restore themselves to good standing.
- 3) Secure as much good publicity for the Region as possible.
- 4) Have executive responsibility for the publication of The Fusee.

6. Advisory Council

- a. Its purpose is to provide the Divisions with a voice in the affairs of the Region and to facilitate communication between the Region and the Divisions.
- b. Divisional Superintendents present at any TLR board meeting shall have voting rights at that meeting.

7. Divisional Organization

- a. Initially there shall be not less than three (3) nor more than five (5) Division Superintendents appointed by the Board of Directors to organize and implement divisions within their respective geographic areas.
- b. The President on the recommendation of the Vice-President shall appoint the first superintendent of a new division.
- c. A division shall elect or appoint its own officers at an initial organizational meeting. The superintendent of a division must be a member of the TLR and the NMRA..
- d. No act of the division or requirement of its by-laws shall conflict with the Constitution, By-laws, or other regulations of the Thousand Lakes Region or the National Model Railroad Association.

8. Standing Committees

The Board of Directors may appoint such Standing Committees as they deem necessary.

9. Priority

No act of the Region or requirement of these By-laws shall conflict with the Constitution, By-laws or other regulations of the N.M.R.A.

10. Reserve Fund

- a. There shall be a Reserve Fund to provide long-term financial stability for the Region.
- b. The Board of Directors may appropriate monies to this fund at any time.
- c. The Reserve Fund monies shall be invested in liquid, interest bearing deposits at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
- d. The Reserve Fund shall be kept separate from the general fund.
- e. Interest received is available to the general fund.
- f. To expend capital from the Reserve Fund shall require a two-thirds (2/3)-majority vote of the members voting at any General Business Meeting, or at any special meeting called for this purpose.
- g. Notice of Intent to expend capital must be published and distributed to all members prior to a vote taking place and the amount and purpose of the expenditure is to be stated.
- h. The fund capital shall be the total of the appropriations as set out in (b) less expenditures made as set out in (f).
- i. Reserve Fund annual reports shall include balance of deposits, reserve capital, and interest available to the general fund.

Revised 10/1/2005

By-Laws Thousand Lakes Region of the NMRA Cont.

11. Amendments

- a. Notice of Motion to amend the By-laws must be published and distributed to all members prior to a vote taking place, and said notice to contain the paragraph number(s), heading(s) and statement(s) of the wording of the proposed amendment(s).
- b. A two-thirds (2/3)-majority vote of the members voting at any General Business meeting, or at any special meeting called for this purpose, shall be required to amend these By-laws.

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