



The FUSEEE



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www.thousandlakesregion.org

Summer 2012

We Rock and Rolled in Sioux Falls

Over 100 (104 to be exact) model train fans and their spouses descended upon Sioux Falls May 18-20, helping make Rails to the Rocks an enjoyable and memorable weekend. Blessed with mild and dry weather when it mattered, an excellent conference facility at the Jerstad Good Samaritan Society Retreat Center, and good and plentiful food, the Thousand Lakes Region convention had all the makings for a top-notch experience.

The icing on the cake included a host of events and contributions by dozens of participants. Numerous talented clinicians (including three from the Mid-continent Region) shared their knowledge from morning to night during the 14 clinics. An unofficial record 166 item Chinese auction items (see below commentary on the length of this event) offered nearly everyone a chance to take something home Saturday night. Friday night's raffle gave many of our out of town guests a memento from their visit, and no one complained for lack of quality (or quantity of) the catered meals.

TrainToons

by Paul Ullrich



photo by Richard Dahl

The Jerstad Center great room also provided guest speakers a comfortable venue. Model Railroader Magazine Associate Editor Cody Grivno regaled the audience with a look at upcoming projects. A night later, Pete Magoun MMR, the Central District Director, offered critique of convention clinics and his perspective from the national organization.

Four prototype tours of Sioux Falls' rail-served industries also highlighted the weekend. Concrete Materials transloading facility on East Rice Street, the Ellis and Eastern engine house, and bus ride into Sioux Falls quarry, narrated by Concrete Materials staff kept guests engaged and clicking away with their cameras. The next morning, Midwest Railcar Repair likewise provided an in-depth first hand look at the repair, inspection, and paint shops on its impressive site in Corson. Following lunch, over 80 train fans boarded three ex-Milwaukee Road cabooses in Dell Rapids and rode to the railroad bridge to and over Sioux Falls (see above) where photo ops abounded. Four more guests, the Friday night raffle winners, had great views from the front of the train while riding in the pair of GP 50 cabs.

Railfan spouses enjoyed several nonrail tour options, including EROS data center, St. Paul's Cathedral, SculptureWalk, and the Sertoma Butterfly House and Purdy Marine Cove.

Layout tours to a dozen sites followed Sunday morning's general membership meeting, giving guests the chance to see local modelers' efforts. Our DSED members thank you for making Rails to the Rocks 2012 successful.



View from the Cab

by TLR President Gerry Miller

Rails to the Rocks Did Rock!

I had a great time this year in Sioux Falls. Being a Milwaukee Road fan and riding in a Milwaukee Road caboose was one of the many highlights of this year's convention. Standing on a trestle overlooking the falls wasn't bad either! Hats off to the DSED on doing a great job on this year's convention. A big thank you to all of our volunteers who served as clinicians and judges. It's nice to see so many of our members share their knowledge of modeling. Sharing information is what this organization is all about. After all this is the world's greatest hobby.

Next year's convention in the Twin Cities is coming together nicely. There are over 20 layouts tours and 15 clinics planned thus far. Convention headquarters is near the Mall Of America, which offers a nice attraction for the ladies to enjoy.

The TLR is looking for a 2014 convention host. This is a great way to show off your home town. You can also earn AP points towards the volunteer certificate. If interested, please contact convention director Jay Manning.

Tom Mauszycki DDS MMR has been the TLR historian for many years. Tom has decided to retire from this position. On behalf of the TLR Board of Directors and me, thank you Tom for your many years of devotion to the TLR. Good luck in all of your future endeavors. I would like to welcome Jim Bernier who will be taking over as the TLR historian. Jim's contact information is listed on page 11.

Have a fun and safe summer. I hope to see some of you in Grand Rapids at the National Convention.



34th Annual Spud Valley Hobby Show

Sunday, October 21, 2012
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Admission: \$5.50
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paid adult)

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For information, call Don, 701-234-9351

FRom the EDitor (FRED)

By Alan Saatkamp, Fusee editor

Rails to the Rocks 2012 is history. Jay Manning, Jim Krekelberg, and I spent many hours these past 12 months (Jay keeps reminding me we actually began working on plans the year prior) organizing activities, venues, and events. This spring, when it came time for our DSED members to step up, they did, as did many spouses who donated time, registered guests, transported folks, and supported the team from effort behind the scenes.

We've completed thanking (electronically) our guests and obtaining feedback for a debriefing (which will have taken place by the time you read this). We will capture, while the ideas are still fresh, the essence of this convention—what we did well and what we can do better next time around in five or six years.

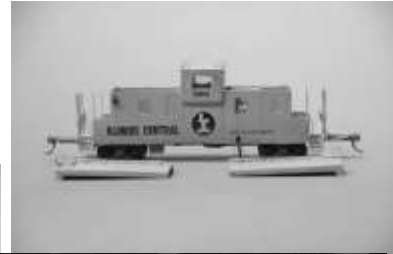
A special thanks to DSED photographer Richard Dahl. He allowed me to focus on other areas of the convention by fulfilling my duties as a photographer. Also a special word of appreciation to our newest DSED member, Wes Garcia, who put his experience and eagle eye to work evaluating the contest photo competition.

Welcome to our newest advertiser. Mac Loco Works is a Midwest, family owned full service model railroad dealer, offering DCC/Sound installation in HO, N, O, S and G scales. They also design and build home, club, or module layouts. Mac Loco Works is an authorized dealership for Walthers and can order from any of their catalogs and other manufacturers. Their ad is on page 11.





Thanks to our contest judges—acting contest chair Fred Headon MMR; Les Breuer MMR; Gerry Miller; Dave Hamilton; Ron Peterson; and Ryan Moats MMR, from the Mid-Continent Region. A special thanks to Wes Garcia for his leadership in evaluating the numerous photo entries.



Gerry Leone,



Model Contest Awards

Caboose

1st Illinois Central #9508 Ron Peterson
2nd DMIR No. C-5 Tracy McKibben

Locomotives, Diesel and Other

1st Minneapolis and St. Louis Gas-electric GE-35 John Hotvet
2nd Davenport gas-mechanical In On30 scale Mike Engler

Freight Cars

1st LGEX 52' gon #2037 Alan Saatkamp
2nd TCVR 65' gon #901 Alan Saatkamp
3rd CMHX 65' gon #65008 Alan Saatkamp

Non-Revenue

1st CN Superintendent's car #91201 Fred Headon MMR
2nd MOW flanger, Blackhawk And Bitterroot Pass RR Larry Diehl

Structures On-line

1st Blackhawk & Central City RR water tank at Central City Ryan Moats MMR
2nd Blackhawk & Central City RR water tank at Forks Creek Ryan Moats MMR
3rd Blackhawk & Central City RR water tank at Beaver Brook Ryan Moats MMR

Display On-line

1st Logging Camp Mike Engler
2nd Mercantile Dry Goods And Distribution Eduardo Romo

Display Off-line

Mine Car and Repair Shed Eduardo Romo

Photo Contest Awards

Black and White Prototype Print

1st No. 2719 at Duluth Gerry Miller
2nd No. 1300 TC Streetcar Gerry Miller
3rd Empire Builder, viewed head-on Dennis Mills

Color Prototype

1st Hurry up and complete the Switching Richard Dahl
2nd Tennessee Valley 4-6-0 Paul Gerry
3rd Switching at Two Harbors Gerry Miller

Color Model

1st Doodlebug at Westcott Station Gerry Leone MMR
2nd Sawmill Mike Engler
3rd An O-scale layout Louis Seibel

Best in Show

No. 28 outside of Eureka Gerry Leone MMR



Best in Show and Jock Oliphant Award
Ogden Scrapyard & Locomotive Repair in On30 Mike Engler

All photos by Richard Dahl (unless otherwise noted).

Clockwise:

Illinois Central 9508, Ron Peterson
Grandma's Flower Garden, Diane Vos
Logging Camp, Mike Engler
LGEX gon #3027, Alan Saatkamp
Blackhawk and Central RR water tower, Ryan Moats MMR
Mine Car and Repair Shed, Eduardo Romo
CN Superintendent's Car #91201, Fred Headon MMR

Arts and Crafts

Needlework

1st Table runner, Grandma's Flower Garden Diane Vos
2nd Table runner, Tulip Time Diane Vos
3rd "Batik" purse Diane Vos

Railroadiana

1st Tote bag with railroad emblems Jane Carlson
2nd Pillow case with railway cars, locomotives, and emblems Jane Carlson
3rd Tote bag with railway cars and locomotives Jane Carlson

Congratulations to all the winners!

Everyone agrees—Rails to the Rocks 2012 was a smash hit



Photo by Richard Dahl

Friday proto tours



Above and center photo by Gerry Miller



Directly above photos by Gerry Leone MMR

Friday afternoon got the ball rolling with prototype tours of the Sioux Falls quarry; Ellis and Eastern engine house, which included the GP38 #47; the Concrete Materials transloading facility on Rice street as well as switching at both locations.



Back at the Jerstad

The Jerstad Center stayed busy all weekend. Fourteen clinics offered a wide choice of topics, including those by Larry Diehl (upper left) and Gerry Miller (lower left). The dining area provided a great view and comfortable venue to enjoy tasty and plentiful dinners. Model Railroader Magazine Associate Editor Cody Grivno reminisced about his TLR Youth Modeler of the Year award (at age 14) with a couple pictures from the past during his presentation (upper right). DSED members Jim Krekelberg and Eric Wollan delighted winners of the door prize raffle (right). Dedicated judges, including MMRs Lester “Les” Breuer and Fred Headon shown above, reviewed the contest entries.

Above photos by Gerry Leone MMR



Saturday proto tour & train ride



Photo by Richard Dahl



Photo by Paul



Photo by Gerry Leone MMR



Midwest Railcar Repair CEO David Smook ensured that his knowledgeable staff led comprehensive inside and out tours of Midwest Railcar Repair Saturday morning. Cab ride raffle winners, including Ron Peterson shown above, found the GP50 cab rides a highlight of the weekend. Here the train riders are pictured alongside one of the two GP50 locomotives prior to departure from Dell Rapids with pulling three cabooses filled with over 80 (seat)cushioned passengers.

Sunday general membership meeting

Sunday afternoon home layout tours



Photo by Richard Dahl

The final day began with the general membership meeting. All six Board of Directors were re-elected. Convention director Jay Manning (foreground), Paul Ullrich, and Tracy McKibben will serve two year terms, while president Gerry Miller will serve a one year term. Their contact information is on page 11. Front and center during the entire convention was Richard Dahl, whose photos documented the event from start to finish. Jim Krekelberg's N scale layout (right) was among the dozen model railroads available to visit and view. NMRA Central District Director Pete Magoun MMR takes a closer look at Alan Saatkamp's HO scale layout (left) in Harrisburg Above photos by Gerry Leone MMR unless otherwise indicated

Thousand Lakes honors contributions and achievements during Saturday evening awards banquet and program



TLR President Gerry Miller stayed busy during the awards ceremony following dinner. He presented Paul Ullrich with the **President's award for service in support of the region during the past year.** Paul's wife (and photographer) Marg expressed dismay that Paul hadn't shared the good news—which he didn't know until his name was called.



Gerry also presented the Bob Dew service award, voted on by the board members last fall, for five or more notable years of service to the region, either as a board member and/or Fusee editor. Dave Hamilton was the co-recipient this year, along with Bill Taylor, who was unable to attend this year's convention held at the Jerstad Center on the Good Samaritan Soci-



In what could be described as a pattern over the past several years, Mike Engler again earned the best-in-show Jock Oliphant award for his Ogden Scrapyard and Locomotive Repair on line display, modeled in On30. Mike's model scored 109 of a possible 125 points. Acting contest chair Fred Headon made the presentation.

photos by Richard Dahl

New and Commissioned Sets

More new HO & N brass sides for the GN 1950 *International* and *Red River Streamliners* are planned for 2012-13 if we receive enough reservations. Also, you may commission a new item for as little as \$350-400 for 4 HO or 7 N sets. See our website for details. Most discontinued sets may be obtained by special order with modest minimums.

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Minutes from the Board of Directors meeting on May 18, 2012 in Sioux Falls, SD

Present in a voting capacity were Gerry Miller, Paul Gerry, Paul Ullrich, Tracy McKibben, Jim Krekelberg and Jay Manning. Present in a non-voting capacity were Pete Magoun MMR (Central Division Director, NMRA); Dave Hamilton; Dennis Reitze; Mike Engler; Jim Bernier; Gerry Leone MMR; Alan Saatkamp; Jay Davis; Louis Seibel; and Frank Gerry.

The meeting was called to order by President Gerry Miller at 8:30 pm. A warm welcome to representatives from the NMRA national, Pete Magoun MMR, Central Division Director, and Gerry Leone MMR, Communications Director, and a quick around the table individual introductions started off the meeting.

The 2013 Convention Report for the Minneapolis Convention was made by Mike Engler since he had other obligations to fulfill that evening. The convention will be held at the Mall of America Best Western, which is adjacent the Mall of America and on the Minneapolis light rail system route. The convention will focus on modeling rather than prototype tours. There is at present no bus tour set up although a tour of the Progressive Rail facility is under negotiations as well as a complete schedule with possible guide for the light rail and Minnesota Northstar trips. On the modeling side there are currently 26 home layouts on tap for viewing on a self guided tour basis. The layouts may be open Friday, Saturday and Sunday for viewing. There are also 14-15 clinics spread over the convention as well.

The Secretary's report was made by Paul Gerry. A motion to accept the minutes of the St. Louis Park board of directors meeting as printed in the Fusee was made by Tracy McKibben and seconded by Jay Manning. The vote was unanimous in favour of the motion.

The Treasurer's report was made by Jim Krekelberg. One savings account was closed and converted to a CD to avoid service charges. The major expense was the matching grant made to the Twin Cities Division for the purchase of audiovisual equipment to aid in the delivery of clinics. \$150 was paid out in the Achievement Award bounty program. The DSED grant was actually more than the division needed for the trailer, and the excess funds were returned to the region. Overall the financial health of the region is still strong. A motion to accept the Treas-

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urer's report was made by Paul Gerry and Seconded by Tracy McKibben. The vote was unanimous in favour of the motion.

The President's report was made by Gerry Miller. Overall the TLR is doing well both financially, in membership, and in involvement. The plea for additional judges has been answered but more are needed. **It's a great way to find out exactly how the contest room operates and what it takes to make a contest ready or AP worthy model.** More clinicians are needed to impart their wisdom to the rest of us. If anybody has an idea for a clinic or wants to present a clinic they are encouraged to come forward. Financially the region is well off and membership has been holding steady over the last year. The Public Relations report was made by **Tracy McKibben.** The TLR Facebook's page is still up and running although not many people are posting to it. Anyone with interesting train or model related photos are encouraged to join and post.

The Achievement Program report was made by Dave Hamilton on behalf of John Hotvet MMR who is attending his son's wedding this weekend. Five AP certificates were awarded over the last six months. They were to Jeremy Dummier, Chief Dispatcher; Paul Ullrich, Association Official; Art Hill, Association Volunteer and Master Builder – Scenery; and Tracy McKibben, Model Railroad Author. Bob Gretillat also received a Golden Spike.

The Convention Chair report will be presented later by Jay Manning as part of the overall 2012 convention report.

Louis Seibel, a Midcontinent Region member and editor of the Caboose Kibitzer asked to speak. He reports that there will be an increased effort to promote the **TLR's events in the Kibitzer and the Midcontinent's events in The Fusee in an effort to help out each individual regions attendance at said events.** On that note, the Turkey Creek Division is having its annual Train Show July 14th in Overland Park, Kansas. The show will include model and photo contests, layout tours, a swap meet, and model railroad clinics.

The Prairie Lakes Division report was made by newly elected superintendent Jay Davis. The PLD had their annual meet in Mason City at the end of April. It was a great success with clinics, vendors and the **group's modular layout on display.** There were also two great home layout tours for the members as well as a chance to see **"Lyon", a working replica of a Virginia and Truckee 2-6-0.** Special thanks to the North Iowa Modular Club who helped **coordinate the meet.** The PLD's Fall meet will be held in Everly, Iowa on Sat, Oct 13

at the Hap Ketelson Community Center. The meet will feature vendors, operating layouts, clinics, layout tours and the spring business meeting.

The Number 1 Northern Division report was presented by Dennis Reitze. A meet was held back in November that was well attended with 1/3 of active members participating. After the meet, the division decided to form a Free-Mo Club (#1 Northern Free-mo Club) and the building of various Free-Mo modules has already started with the hopes that enough of them are finished for a show in the Fall. The Division also continues to work with the local Winnipeg Model Railroaders Club to manage a monthly model contest with a \$15 gift certificate for a local hobby shop being the prize.

The Minnesota River Valley report was presented by Paul Ullrich on behalf of Brian Wordes. The MRVD continues to have two scheduled meets a year for the membership and the work at the Montevideo Railroad museum layout continues. Operating sessions on some of the members' layouts have started as well. **The Divisions newsletter, "The Waybill",** continues to be published 3-4 times a year thanks to Curt and Jean Radunz.

The Dakota Southeastern Division report was presented by Alan Saatkamp. A very busy year by the division due to the **planning and execution of this year's Convention** and the use of the trailer provided for by the TLR grant to bring the clubs modular layout to various shows. The trailer had its modular loading racks made and installed by a DSED member, Eric Wollan. The trailer made its debut at the Ronning Library last September. The surplus of the grant money has been returned to the TLR and the trailer now resides at the Sioux Empire Fairgrounds when not in use. The support of the TLR in awarding the funding for the trailer is greatly appreciated. The sixth annual fall open house was a success but not at the level of previous years. The biggest public event was the Ronning Library open house with over 350 guests viewing the club layout as well as a portable N gauge layout, a Lionel O gauge layout, hands on diorama building activities, and switching cars on a portable HO layout. Membership is holding steady in **the mid 20's.** **Superintendent Saatkamp** will not seek re-election but will continue on as Fusee editor next year.

The Southeastern Division report was presented by Gerry Miller. The Division has started round robin building sessions **on the members' layouts.** The membership has been holding steady at around 15 people. Members of the division went to
(continued on page 8)

(continued from page 7)

Trainfest last year and are planning on helping with a charity train show this year.

The Twin Cities Division report was presented by Dave Hamilton on behalf of Ken Zieska. The division members continue to meet at the Jackson Street Roundhouse. The division continues its hands on clinics for its members and the public (who pay a fee), on various topics ranging from laser kit building, casting and staining mountains, weathering freight cars and how to incorporate scenic blocks in out layout design. These clinics have been greatly added with the addition of new audio/video equipment that allows the clinics to be projected onto an overhead screen for all to see. The purchase of the audio/visual equipment was made possible in part by a matching grant by the TLR that was approved last fall. The A/V equipment also allows the clinics to be taped and replayed later at future events. Future events are also in the works. **The division's main task in the following year will be the planning of the upcoming 2013 Convention in Minneapolis.**

The Historian's report was presented by Jim Bernier, our new Historian. All historical documents have been forwarded from outgoing Historian Tom Mauszycki and are being kept in a climate controlled room. **Next year's project will be to research how much it will be to start the digital scanning of this material.**

The Fusee report was presented by Alan Saatkamp. Turnaround time at the printer is still a concern, but the final delivery date is still close to the promised one. The mass mailing of the spring issue continues to advertise the convention and the electronic version will go out at the same time as the hard copy. Otherwise the electronic version will be released one issue behind the hard copy so that subscribers can have their copies before non-subscribers. There is a steady flow of pictures and articles, but divisions are asked to provide events so that they can be publicized. The Fusee continues as a self-sustaining entity due to subscribers, lower printing costs, and sold advertising.

The National report was made by Gerry Leone MMR. A new webmaster for the NMRA website has been named so the backlog of things to do should be sorted out over the next few months and new content to the **members' only section will be added** regularly which will include old issues

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of Scale Rails/NMRA.ORG. Marketing director applications are being reviewed at this time. The Grand Rapids National Convention promises to be a great one with many layout tours and clinics to choose from. A new promotional Banner **measuring 7'-3" that can be customised for each Region and individual division** is in the works and currently features our very own Dennis Reitze.

OLD BUSINESS

A preliminary 2012 Convention report was made by Jay Manning. Overall the convention was a success with 102 registered participants. The overall number of women participating was down this year.

The DSED trailer grant as mentioned above was more than needed. Of the \$4500 in the grant, only about \$3900 was needed. The balance was returned to the TLR. The Twin Cities Audio/Visual grant was fully used and matched by the division in the purchase of the needed equipment. The equipment is being used at every meeting and members are learning its uses.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

Special guest Pete Magoun MMR, Central Division Director of the NMRA, filled in **for Mike Brestel who couldn't make it.** Pete was at the convention to represent the National Board members and be a target for questions, issues, and comments directed at the NMRA head office. Pete greatly enjoyed the convention and advised the DSED to work on the modular layout in public to attract interest. He is from Travers City, Michigan and attending the National Convention in Grand Rapids. He believes in the NMRA and wants to give back to an organization that has given him so much. Pete models a HO scale

1954 protofreelance layout as well as a HOon30 module.

NEW BUSINESS

The site for the 2014 Convention is still open, to be determined during the fall board meeting. Superintendants will be contacted to see if they can host. Anyone interested in hosting is encouraged to contact a board member.

Alan Saatkamp asked for guidance on when the electronic version should be released. It was decided to leave as is.

The TLR has new boundaries using County Lines instead of Zip Codes, affecting two people in Iowa. This is due to many local post offices shutting down. No word on Canadian boundary changes.

Discussion on continuing the Grant program resulted in a unanimous vote in favour. The Grant Program is being used **for the Region's and hobby's betterment.**

Secretary Paul Gerry requested and received approval to purchase a new transport case to house the notes/minutes/reports.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 10:12pm by Tracy McKibben and was seconded by Paul Ullrich. The vote was unanimous in favour of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Gerry, secretary



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Achievement Program Update
By John Hotvet MMR

Five AP certificates were awarded in the last six months, as follow:

- Jeremy Dummler, Golden Valley, MN – Chief Dispatcher
- Paul Ullrich, Winnipeg, MB – Association Official
- Art Hill, New Brighton, MN – Association Volunteer, Master Builder – Scenery
- Tracy McKibben, Eden Prairie, MN – Model Railroad Author

Paperwork for one AP certificate was in process prior to the convention in Sioux Falls, and four more AP certificate requests have been forwarded to National for further processing.

Twenty Merit Awards were awarded for models entered in the model contest at Sioux Falls or evaluated outside the contest room.

Finally, one Golden Spike was awarded recently, to Bob Gretillat, Mason City, IA.

The Fusee wants you!

Actually, The Fusee wants your photos, ideas, stories, drawings, and other material to share with fellow subscribers. Check how many different authors and photographers contributed to this issue—their names are listed each month on page 11.

Being an occasional fellow author of model railroad subjects, I know the anticipation that we develop after taking time to **write and submit material**. We'd like to see it in print asap. This convention issue is a bit of an exception as far as space constraints. Please bear with me.

I'll do my best to see that your newsworthy articles are published within an issue or two of receipt. Contact me with your questions and ideas. My email and phone are on page 11.

Thank you for your support!
Thank you for advertising in The Fusee: Brass Car Sides, Fagan's Hobbies, Granite City Train Show, Mac Loco Works, Spud Valley Hobby Show, and Trains at Christmas. We appreciate it greatly.

Ron Einarson completes fifth year as NMRA Canada President
Ron Einarson, long-time member and leader, announced the end of his tenure as NMRA Canada President late last month. Thanks to Ron for his service to our hobby.

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Minutes from the May 20, 2012 Thousand Lakes Region General Membership Meeting held in Sioux Falls, SD

Board members present were Paul Ullrich, Paul Gerry, Gerry Miller, Jim Krekelberg, Tracy McKibben, and Jay Manning. There were 32 members of the general membership present as well. The meeting was called to order at 9:01 am on May 20th, 2012 by President Gerry Miller.

The meeting started with reports from the board members, division heads and region officials concerning their respective areas of responsibility. Jay Manning added to the Convention Chairs report from the BOD meeting with the idea of putting together a **"Lessons Learned" book for future Convention Chairs** and a big Thank You to his team of DSED members and their support staff (i.e. wives) that made the convention the success that it was. Les Breuer MMR made a motion to accept the combined reports of the board, and Tom Ford seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. The minutes from the last board meeting held in St. Louis Park, MN last September was presented to the membership for approval. Duane Durr made a motion to approve the minutes as printed in the Fusee with Les Breuer MMR seconding it. The motion passed unanimously.

Next was a proposal to change the time of the General Membership Meeting to either an earlier time on Sunday or to either Saturday or Friday depending on what the convention schedule is. This would be so that layout tours could begin earlier than the traditional Noon start time. Alan Saatkamp made a motion to move up the General Membership Meeting to 8am from 9am on the Sunday of any given convention. Frank Gerry seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Les Breuer MMR made a motion to

thank Jay Manning and the DSED for a very fine convention. The motion was seconded by Gerry Leone MMR. The motion passed unanimously.

Dave Hamilton then presented the 2013 Convention report. The Convention to be held at the Best Western of Mall of America in Minneapolis, MN will have over 25 layouts on display and will concentrate on clinics rather than prototype activities although a few prototype tours are still in the works (i.e. Jackson Street Roundhouse and Friends of the 261 steam locomotive). There will also be operating sessions on various layouts to those who are interested.

Gerry Miller presented the 2014 Convention report which consisted of saying there was no specified location for this convention yet. Jay Manning will continue on as Convention Director and will be in contact with each division regarding locations for the 2014 convention.

Paul Gerry then presented for debate the concept that increased activities at conventions on Fridays made it harder for working members and members who wanted to bring children (kids or grandkids) to the convention as it requires taking the Thursday as well as the Friday off of work/school. Different solution which included two tiered registration for those who would make the Friday events and those who would not, pay as you go pricing for the activities and move everything to the Memorial Day weekend. The point that although recruiting younger new members is needed for the growth **of the hobby, it is the "Baby Boomer" generation that attends most of these events and have the disposable income to spend on these events and they don't mind the all day Friday, Saturday, Sunday concept.** Overall no agreement was reached at this time except to leave it in the hands of each convention chair to run their convention as they see fit.

Next was the election of board members. Jay Manning, Paul Ullrich, Tracy McKibben and Gerry Miller were up for re-election. No new candidates were presented or came forward at the meeting. A motion to nominate the members as presented was made by Alan Saatkamp and seconded by Fred Headon MMR. The motion passed unanimously. A motion to then cast a unanimous ballot in favour of the nominated was made by Duane Durr and was seconded by Frank Gerry. The motion passed unanimously. The newly re-elected members determined in caucus to continue on with their current positions. Jay, Paul, and Tracy were elected to two year terms with Gerry taking a one year term.

Louis Seibel then explained the upcoming Turkey Creek Annual Train Show and Regional Show occurring July 13-14, 2012 in Overland Park, Kansas.

Dennis Reitze then made a request on behalf of the Number 1 Northern for the board to consider the allowing of the new NMRA promotional banner to be **purchased for the division.** The division's next show is before the Fall BOD meeting, hence the early request. Gerry Miller made a request to the Board members that the TLR should purchase one of these banners (with Dennis Reitze on it by the way) for each division to help promote themselves and the NMRA. Paul Ullrich made the motion, and Jay Manning seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to adjourn was made by Les Breuer, MMR and seconded by Gerry Leone MMR. The motion passed unanimously. The General Membership meeting closed at 10:07am.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Gerry, secretary



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My appreciation to this issue's Fusee contributors: Richard Dahl; the three Gerrys—Paul Gerry, Gerry Leone MMR, Gerry Miller; and Paul Ullrich. Their contributions make The Fusee an enjoyable experience to edit and compile.

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Region Roundup

Railroad related events this summer and early fall around the TLR and nearby

Saturday and Sunday July 7 and 8 Prairie Village Railroad Days near Madison, SD. Located on Highways 34 and 81, two miles west of town. Train rides, steam locomotive touring, model train layouts, and more. Adults \$12, children 12 and under \$7.

Saturday July 14 Annual Turkey Creek Train Show and Regional Show in Overland Park, KS. 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Shawnee Mission North High School. Layout tours from 3:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Contests, awards, display layouts, layout tours, swap tables, railroad groups, clinics, For information contact Robert Jefferis at jeffbobj@everestkc.net or call 913 631 4441.

Saturday July 21st Railroad Show, Flea Market, and Swap Meet. Copeland Park, La Crosse, WI. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission \$5, children under 12 free. For more info: <http://www.4000foundation.com>

Saturday September 15 DSED Ronning Library annual clinics. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Ronning Library, Sioux Falls. Admission free. Hands on scenery clinics for kids, DSED modular layout, N scale mountain scenery layout, and a switching layout for the kids to operate.

Saturday September 22nd Luce Line Railroad Club Flea Market and Train Show at the Hutchinson Fairgrounds, Hutchinson, MN 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission: \$4.00—kids under 12 free. Lots of vendors and layouts to see. Hourly door prizes and also popular vote model contest. For tables contact: Mark at 320 587 2279. For layouts contact Zack at 320 587 8641

Saturday October 13 Prairie Lakes Division Fall meet in Everly, Iowa. Hap Keelson Community Center is the site. Meet features popular vote model contest, clinics, raffles, and operating layout, and home layout tours. More info in the Fall issue of The Fusee.