



**2009
ELECTION
BALLOT**

Candidates for NMRA President

Mike Brestel

Mike is 57, joined the NMRA in 1967, and has been NMRA President since July, 2006. He is a life-long resident of Cincinnati, where he has been in the hobby business since 1969. His wife, Mary, is a department manager with the Cincinnati Public Library. His daughter, Rebecca, is 20 and a college student. Mike says: "When I first ran for this office in 2006, I said, 'we cannot do business as we have for 70 years and expect to survive. It is no longer enough simply to be the NMRA. We cannot ignore the vast changes in the hobby, and in society itself, that have occurred over the last few years. The message to us is simple: we change, or we die. 'Business as usual' and 'what did we do last year?' will not suffice."

I did not know how prophetic those words would be, as recent turmoil in the national and international economy, as well as the hobby, have placed unprecedented demands on our finances and organization. I am still committed to doing what is necessary to ensure not only the survival, but also the prosperity of the NMRA.

Over the past two-and-a-half years I have written each month about our successes, challenges, and failures. Space constraints do not allow me

to mention them again here, but they are on my mind continually as I carry out the daily work of my office.

Over the past two years I have worked with a great team of volunteers. Our team is equipped to meet the challenges we face. We have made significant progress in recent years, and I am confident that we can continue, despite the unforeseen problems presented by the current economic climate.

While I ask for your vote to allow our team to continue, I am convinced that the key to the NMRA's future is in all our hands, as together we contribute our efforts, our willing spirit, and our desire to spread the joy of fellowship and the love of trains that have made the NMRA a great organization.

There have been successes and failures in the past, and there will continue to be challenges in the future. Together, we can meet those challenges. I look forward to working to preserve what's great about our past, to fix what's wrong with what we're doing now, and to meet the future as a vital, effective, and growing organization.

Eric Dervinis

It has been my pleasure to serve the NMRA at every level over the last twenty years. In 1988, I volunteered for Valley Forge Express (VFX), the 1993 NMRA national convention. Soon I found myself on the VFX board as the Clerk. Many innovations flowed out of the VFX convention which continue to this day.

For two years (1994 - 1996) I served as Philadelphia Division Clerk Paymaster. Next was four years as Mid-Eastern Region Secretary, which coincided with Co-Chairing the 1998 MER convention. In 2000, I was elected to the national board as MER Trustee. After serving four years, I continued on as Chair of the Long Range Plan (LRP) Implementation Committee.

Professionally, I worked in the Consumer Products industry for 29 years. My experience includes sales, managing 100 employees, national accounts and training.

For the first time, you are presented with a team that has worked together: Eric Dervinis for President and Ray deBlieck for Vice President. Eric and Ray bring a broad range of NMRA and professional experience to this ticket. We were both members of the NMRA Long Range Planning (LRP) Committee.

Eric and Ray are an experienced team and know how to work together. This will eliminate the learning curve each new administration goes through.

Via both of our statements, you can read about our primary objectives. The NMRA can be the premier hobby organization and we will work together to achieve that goal for you.

Members almost always ask the same question: What do I get for my dues or donations sent to the NMRA? Our wonderful volunteers toil for thousands of hours each year, however the NMRA must buy some goods and services. Members want to know that their dollars are spent carefully, prudently and in ways to enhance their enjoyment.

The board and administration must establish clear financial objectives which are measured / analyzed on a regular basis. Our goal is to publish periodic financial reports for the membership and the board. Then the board can implement fund raising, better manage costs and build an endowment for the future.

We congratulate the board and officers for the work completed towards the goals of the LRP since 2001. Eric and Ray would be honored to receive your vote for President / Vice President and in return deliver on the Goals of the LRP. For more information we invite you to visit: "<http://www.ericandray.org/>" \o "<http://www.ericandray.org/>" www.ericandray.org.

Candidates for NMRA Vice President

Ray deBlieck

My name is Ray deBlieck. I am a candidate for NMRA Vice President. My first NMRA volunteer experience was the 1987 PCR convention. Since that time, I have worked on five other regional conventions, chairing in 1990 and 1994. I also served as PCR Convention Department chair for 13 years. I chaired the 2000 NMRA national convention and worked for five years in the NMRA Convention Department.

I have also served in elected positions on the PCR Board of Directors, and was PCR President from 1999 thru 2003. Then from 2001 through 2007, I served as a member of the NMRA board of Directors. During my tenure on the NMRA board, I served on several committees including Long Range Planning and the Long Range Plan Implementation. Those were the committees that first wrote, and then worked on implementation plans for, the new NMRA Regulations, which was adopted in 2004.

Eric Dervinis and I are running for NMRA President and Vice President as a team. We served together as members of several committees when on the NMRA Board. That time spent working together, plus our varied business experience offers to the NMRA a solid background in both business, and within the NMRA.

The Long Range Plan was a huge step for the NMRA. But, it was only a first step. Five years later, a number of recommendations from the Long Range Plan committees have not been fully addressed, we feel there remains unfinished business.

It is not good enough to be satisfied that membership is not shrinking. We need to work harder on organization growth. Convention attendance is less than half of what it was eight years ago, while several other hobby events have grown by leaps and bounds. We feel that NMRA needs to strengthen our working relationship with outside groups. Groups such as recognized SIGs, historical societies, scale specific groups, and all sorts of other hobby groups. Some of NMRA's greatest growth potential, as well as increased convention attendance, can be realized through developing better relationships with other organizations. An additional area where NMRA needs to improve is in our use of technology. We do have online systems, but we need to improve the overall efficiency in our use of technology, as well as in our overall business systems.

For more info about how we plan to approach the future of NMRA, please go to our web site - "<http://www.ericandray.org/>" \o "<http://www.ericandray.org/>"

Allen Pollock

I have been a member of NMRA since 1970, holding many offices within the MCoR, as well as NMRA, serving as president 1996-2000. I have also been the Industry Liaison for the past 20 years, working first with MRA, and now the Hobby Manufacturer's Association. I am currently on the HMA Model Railroad Industry Division board of directors, having served as the division vice president for the past two years. I thought I was retired from NMRA, but agreed to step into the position of VP again at the request of the Board of Directors upon the resignation of the VP. I am also serving on the Museum Committee.

I am running for another term as VP primarily at the urging of President Brestel, to provide support to him for the final term he is seeking as President, and to work toward the betterment of the NMRA. It has been my pleasure and honor to serve the association for so many years, especially this past two with Mike. During my final term as president, the membership overwhelmingly approved the drastic changes in the organizational struc-

ture, and we continue to align our organization with those changes as well as the changing nature of our hobby today. I will work to see the completion of the review and implementation of our convention model, to maintain the success of the annual convention and bring it closer to more of our membership, both in terms of physical location as well as financially, and to include other hobby factions and organizations that share our interests. I will work to also be more aggressive in membership recruitment and retention to ensure the viability of our organization, work with the development department to increase our non-dues revenue, and be involved with the development of the Museum. In general, my interest is to make the association more meaningful to our current and potential members, as well as working closely with the industry to accomplish common goals. I thank you for your past support, and look forward to working with you to continue the viability of the NMRA.

Candidates for NMRA At-Large North American District Director

Charlie Getz

I have been a member of the NMRA since 1969, and was honored a few years back to become an Honorary Life Member. Fortunately for our fiscal accounts, this had no impact as I already was a Life Member of the organization! I am a strong believer in the NMRA and joined the organization because I felt it was assisting the hobby. I became a model railroader at Christmas 1961 with the gift of an HO Mantua General locomotive and passenger cars. Switched to HO narrow gauge in 1968 and previously had modeled in HO and N. Now, interested in On3 and HOn3.

I was the last Western Vice President of the NMRA, and was on the Board of Trustees for a number of terms. I have also served as PCR President and am now asking for your support for my last term on the Board of Directors. I was honored to be the author of the sweeping changes made

to the NMRA Constitution/Regulations and hope to continue working to implement all of the changes which the membership has supported. A high priority for the upcoming term would be to complete those changes and also to complete the reexamination of our convention model to ensure that our conventions are both cost effective and keep pace with a changing model railroad hobby. I am also active on the Museum Committee and hope to work to get our gallery exhibit open at the California State Railroad Museum, as well as secure a permanent home for our museum before the end of this upcoming term. I thank you for your support and am very excited about the future of the NMRA and our hobby.

Candidates for NMRA Eastern District Board of Directors

John Roberts

John has been a member of the NMRA since 1962 and is a Master Model Railroader. A resident of Williamsburg, VA, he is a Director of Property Risk Control Services for an international insurance brokerage and consulting firm.

John was born in Chicago in 1947 and is a Civil Engineer by education. He and his wife, Suzie, have two grown children and two granddaughters. John has served as Cincinnati Division 7 Superintendent, Mid-Central Region Vice President for eight years, and MCR President and Trustee for four years, National Vice President for six years, and served two years as National President prior to Mike Brestel. John is currently building the O-Scale version of his railroad, the Blue Ridge & Southern, in a layout room over the garage. He has had numerous articles and photos published in the Bulletin and other magazines and books, and has consulted with several manufacturers on the design of structure models.

John is a national photo and model contest winner, has been photo editor of the annual calendar project the last seven years, has served as a judge for many years on every level of the NMRA, and is a member of the C & O and WM Historical Societies.

John says – “I plan to continue working closely with officers, staff and all department heads to push our programs forward and to assist regions and

divisions with strategic “grass roots” efforts. The challenges of an economic downturn, an aging membership, and fractionalization within our hobby continue to drive the need for fresh ideas, tough fiscal responsibility and creative thinking.

Our efforts to improve the NMRA’s relationship with the model railroad industry and other hobby organizations must continue. I will also continue to push for further improvements to “Scale Rails” but only with your support and contributions will be become the “standard bearer” that we all desire.

I have been an effective leader at the division, region, and national levels and will continue to press for success. The NMRA is at a critical crossroad in its history and the decisions enacted on in the future will allow us to remain a viable and vibrant organization.

My business expertise and recent service at the national level gives me the background to identify problems and to act decisively to correct them. If I am elected, I will do my best to deal with these challenges and build on the strong foundation laid by those who have preceded us. Thank you for your support.”

Candidates for NMRA Pacific District Board of Directors

Peter Jensen

The Pacific District is unique with members of diverse cultures across many countries from Asia, the Middle East and the South Pacific, the one thing that draws us together is our interest and love of trains. It is important that all of these members feel part of, and enjoy, the benefits of the greater NMRA community.

My personal background: I have been a railway modeler since receiving a Hornby O Gauge train at age 4 and have made model railways a lifetime hobby and passion. My modeling interests cover modern freelanced HO, and US narrow gauge in Fn3.

I hold an MBA in Information Innovation and feel I have shown that I have the required business skills and acumen developed over more than 30 years in business. I now operate a family business.

Australasian Region Activity: I have been a member of the NMRA for more than 15 years and have served the Australasian Region (AR) in the following roles: Region Treasurer for over four years, Ordinary AR committee member, 6 AR Convention Committees (chair of 4), Treasurer on the AR 2009 25th Anniversary convention, Founding Convener of the AR Operations SIG; As a member of the AR Committee, I have written the region's Convention Handbook and Executive Handbook.

Pacific District Director Activity: The NMRA has interesting challenges confronting the organization at this time. Issues such as the recent DCC legal challenges, and the specialization of the hobby which is being reflected in our limited growth as an organization and the decline in attendance at our National Conventions.

My key activities have included: Online Registration for the National Convention

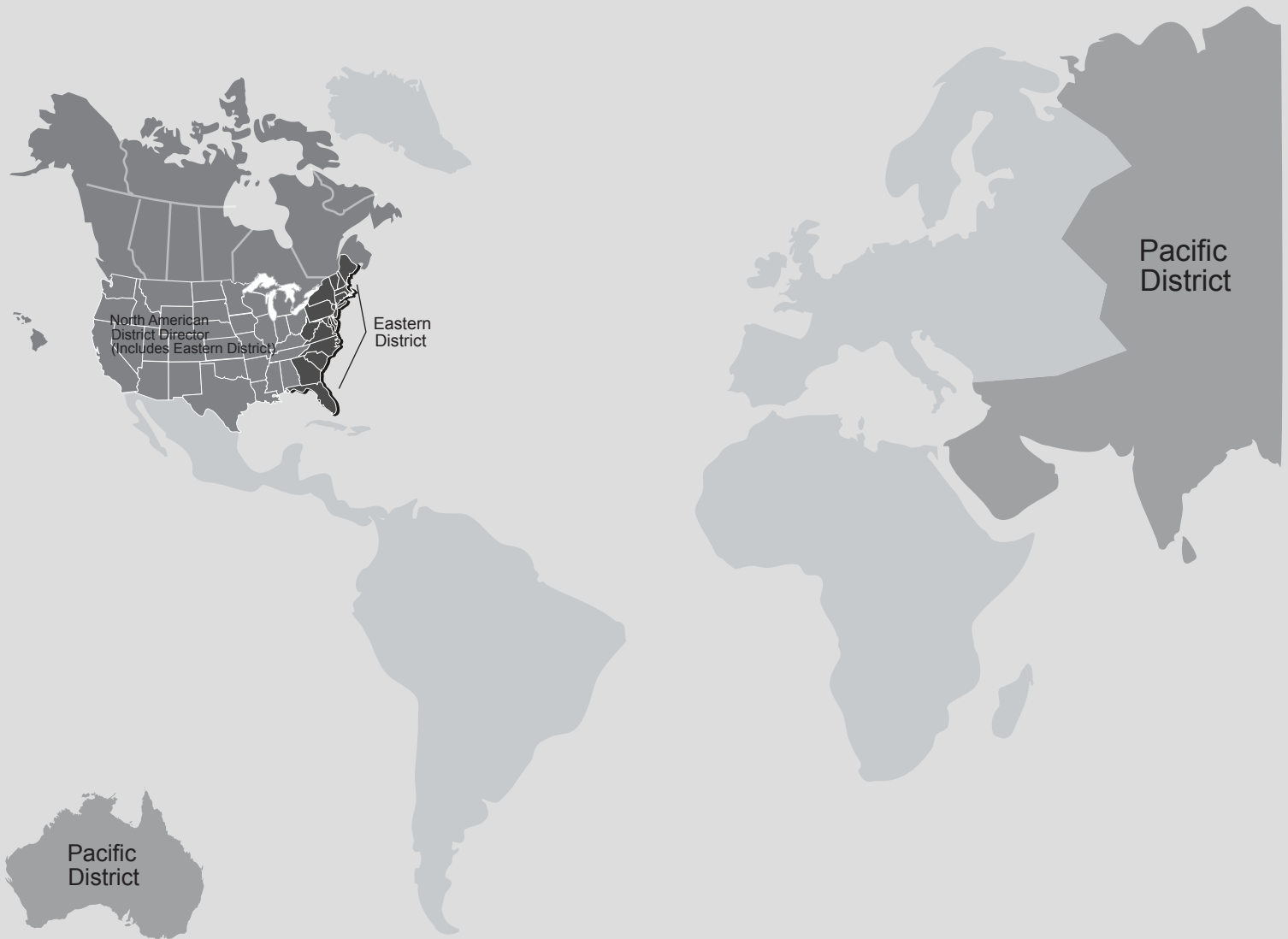
Chair of the BOD's Convention Committee looking at ways to expand the acceptance of the conventions. The committee is conducting a survey across the hobby to report at the next mid-year meeting. Several far-reaching recommendations have already been accepted.

Appointed Lead Director of the Board At this time, we need committed leadership within the organisation that will successfully grow the NMRA. I have the interest, time, experience and drive to fulfil this role for the benefit of all members within the NMRA and the Pacific District, and look forward to a second term.

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Guide to NMRA Voting Districts



Each member is entitled to vote for directors based upon their residence. To determine how many directors you will vote for, use these maps and the instructions included with the ballot. These maps are a guide only. The ballot instructions contain detailed descriptions of voting areas.

NMRA (All Current Membership)

President & Vice President

NMRA Eastern District

Eastern District Director

NMRA Pacific District

Pacific District Director

At-Large North American Director (USA, Canada)

NMRA Director