

2024 Nomination for National NMRA Eastern Director - John D. Doehring

Like many of you, I'm crazy about trains – and all things model railroading. Today I'm interested primarily on transition-era operations in eastern anthracite coal country, and in the past urban-harbor railroading around New York City – as well as the modern, high tonnage freights rumbling across the Union Pacific system. I am mostly an N-scale modular modeler (NTRAK and FreemoN), with a little collection of On30 stuff on the side. I really love operations, and prioritize operating sessions and events whenever I can. I'm working actively in the Achievement Program, with four certificates (Volunteer, Official, Author, and Chief Dispatcher) completed, and I'm currently building a FreemoN module set with the Civil and Electrical Engineer certificates in mind.

I've been an NMRA member and volunteer now for almost fifteen years. After a few introductory roles, I served as the Northeastern Region's newsletter editor for four years, and on my local Division (HUB-Boston) BoD for six. I was honored to be the NER's Vice President for a year, and then the Region President for six – right before I joined the National BoD in 2021. In my first three years with National, I have contributed to analyzing and presenting membership information and trends; creating a new draft strategic planning framework, 2030 vision, and proposed cultural field guide; outlining initial steps for a possible strategic fundraising and endowment initiative; and beginning the work of creating an all new "all scales" support and promotions group. I have traveled to and participated in several national and regional conventions, and many other non-NMRA events, and enjoy sharing with others my commitment and enthusiasm for the NMRA.

Professionally, I'm an independent management consultant – helping client firms and leaders to design and plan their own future; to grow and develop their business; and to elevate their operational results. Our advisory practice involves business strategy, leadership development, firm growth, and operations transformation – efforts that I believe are most relevant to the NMRA today. Beyond consulting, I speak professionally for clients and at association conventions and conferences, and I'm the author of the book *Fast Future! Ten Uber-Trends Changing Everything in Business and Our World*.

I see great value in the NMRA, and who and what we are together in community. Still, I believe we are today at a crossroads, with far too many members apathetic and disengaged. Too many ask if membership is even worth it – and wonder if they should renew. Our regions and divisions have many common challenges (sustainable funding, distance barriers, meetings logistics, communications, member recruiting and retention, education and programing). Most – both in regions and divisions, and also with individual modelers as well - would appreciate additional information, guidance, support, and help.

Now is our time. A time for change: for bolder vision, new ideas and programs, and action over words. I'd like to make the NMRA work better for everyone, and to share our love - for trains, yes, and also for one another.