



The Yardmaster

Southwestern Michigan Division



November 2021

Website: www.ncr-div9.com

Division 9 Officers

Superintendent	- Garry Johnson	elecsprk@gmail.com
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Paymaster	- Bruce Nichols	bruce_nichols09@comcast.net
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Trustee	- Casey Bartman	Casey@GR-MI.com

The Yardmaster is the newsletter published monthly by Division 9, North Central Region of the National Model Railroad Association.

Submissions: Please send articles, news items, inquiries, photos and comments to the Editor of **The Yardmaster**, **Dave Vinci** dj.vinci@frontier.com, **by the 1st of the month** for inclusion in the current month's edition.

Editor's Comments

Greetings from your newsletter editor. If any of you would like to try your hand at creating an article for the newsletter, please try and write one. It can be of any size or maybe just a photo of your latest project. How about a tip that you think other modelers could benefit from? This newsletter will only be as informative and entertaining as you, the membership, make it.

Achievement Program

To see the requirements for AP awards see the NMRA website, or talk about the program, contact our Division AP coordinator, Dorman Wilson at N8YNW@charter.net

November Membership Meeting

Upcoming Schedule – information provided by Rich Mahaney

- November 20th - Colonial Kitchen – Two Zoom Sessions (Layout Tour and making miniature people & animals)
- December 18th - Colonial Kitchen – Zoom session with clinic presentation by Doug Harding on Meat Packing

The November 2021 membership meeting will be **Saturday, November 20th** at **The Colonial Kitchen Pancake House**, 330 N. Drake Rd., Kalamazoo. The back room is reserved beginning at **nine o'clock** for informal breakfast. The Colonial Kitchen is in the same building as AT&T and Art Van's Pure Sleep on the east side of Drake Road in the block south of Main Street. The restaurant faces south in that building.

We will begin with an informal breakfast (on your own) with meeting to follow at **ten thirty o'clock**.

Rev. Douglas Harding, Iowa native, wife Linda. We have no children, but three cats live with us. We enjoy traveling, having been to all 50 states and several countries.



Hobbies include model railroading, photography, reading, computers, carpentry/repairs, woodworking, and improving homes.

A published author and photographer, primarily in "Railroad Model Craftsmen" plus other hobby publications. Requested speaker at model train conventions around the country, known best for my clinics on Meat Packing, Livestock and other food industries. A past officer in the National Model Railroad Association. I received my MMR #676, earlier this year. Certificates Earned: Author, Volunteer, Officer, Electrical, Structures, Civil, Scenery, and Cars. Dispatcher is in the works. I am currently serving on the LDSIG Board.

Unlike many, I didn't grow up with trains. I got my first train while in Seminary. I was quickly influenced by model railroads and model railroaders to build a layout, one designed so it could be moved. Today I have a large HO layout, that was, moved to its final home this past summer. My career has brought forth many moves, and retirement brings what we hope is the last. The new basement is 28x50, it will just hold my layout. I hope to have it up, running and hosting op sessions by Christmas. Op Sessions with 10-20 people were being held almost monthly until Covid hit. With the Covid shut down, I made some videos of the layout. Watching this one will give you a real feel for what I have created in my basement: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cyRMqJSS4vU>



**November Meeting Clinic:
Meat Packing Plants: Prototype and Model**

A look at the Meat Packing industry, its history and a variety of plants using photos, Sanborn and railroad maps, and interviews. There will be a special focus on the Decker & Son's Meat Plant in Mason City, Iowa and how the author modeled Decker's in HO scale. Handouts will be provided.



The handouts should be included with the email that this issue is sent. **Meat Packing Clinic handout 2012.pdf**.

We will post it on the website also. www.ncr-div9.com

November: Meat Packing Clinic Handout 2012.pdf

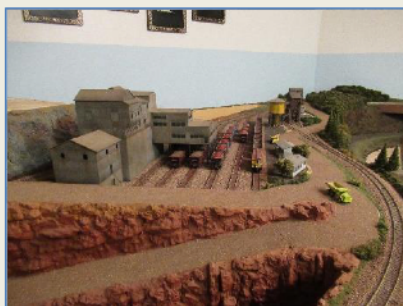
**December Meeting Clinic:
Operations of Meat Packing Plants and Meat Traffic**

A two part clinic: First an explanation of Operations "How did railroads work meat plants?" This includes a listing of commodities and cars that move in and out of meat plants and the special paperwork for the reefer moves. Second will be a look at meat trains and meat traffic, "What happened to that reefer after it left?" This will include samples of meat train Train Orders, comments from dispatchers, etc. We will study the railroad operations of the Decker & Son's Meat Plant using car cards with a special insert. Handouts will be provided.

December: Meat Trains Handout 2012.pdf

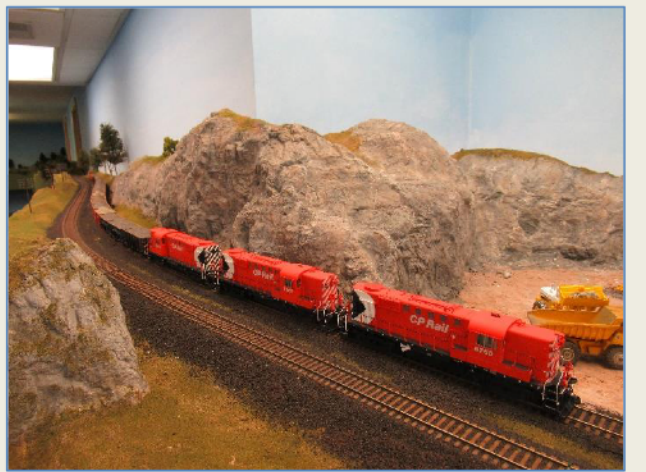
Membership Meeting Minutes

5 members of Division 9 toured two interesting layouts on Oct 16th, one was new St Johns, MI, the other layout was in Haslett, MI. Photos by Rich Mahaney.



The iron ore hauling layout of Dave and Rob Venzke is a "club size" layout under construction by this father and son team.

Photos by Rich Mahaney



The other layout is a CP layout in southern Ontario and is owned and operated by Tom Weaver. This layout had wonderful scenery and a great operation plan. Division 9 members were invited to attend a future operating session on a date to be selected.

Everybody that attended these layout tours got lots of layout ideas and photos. It was a great Saturday of layout tours!

North Central Region Division Nine **Proposed By-Law Amendments**

There are several mostly minor changes to our bylaws. The following is a brief overview of these proposals that we will vote on at the November meeting.

- **Article II – Membership 2.1** – recognizes changes made by NMRA in allowing persons living outside the boundaries of a division to be a member of that division.
- Changes 9 to Nine where necessary to be more consistent
- **Article IV – Division Business 4.3** is a major rewrite of voting rules allowing for both in-person and real-time virtual members to vote
- **Article IV – Division Business 4.10 Donations.** Requires the Paymaster to provide sufficient details to the Scribe for all donations of \$100 or more so the Scribe can issue a thank you note to the donor.
- **Article IV – Division Business 4.13.1** Clarifies that 3/4 of the board members are required to approve a dissolution of the organization.
- **Article V Officers – 5.5.2.a** Removes the responsibility of the Assistant Superintendent to maintain the membership registry. This information is supplied to the Division by the NCR.
- **5.5.2.c** – allows the Assistant Superintendent to conduct board meetings at the request of the Superintendent even though the Superintendent is present.

The following pages (Page 5 thru Page 10) show the proposed changes to the By-laws written in red:

**Amended by NCR Division 9 BOD on June 1, 2014
and Amended Section 5.7 in September 2016**

**Bylaws
Division Nine
North Central Region
National Model Railroad Association, Inc.**

ARTICLE I – NAME AND PURPOSE

- 1.1 This organization shall be known as Division Nine, of the North Central Region (NCR) of the National Model Railroad Association, Inc. (NMRA), and is established in accordance with their constitutions.
- 1.2 As a sub-chapter of the NMRA, Division Nine shall be included under the 501(c)(3)(a non-profit, tax deductible status) issued to the NMRA by the Internal Revenue Service.
- 1.3 The purposes of Division Nine are: (a) to further the purpose of the NCR and NMRA as set forth in their constitutions. (b) To further the hobby through education and shared modeling

practices, and the interchange of ideas among individual model railroader and club organizations within the divisional area.

1.4 No part of the net earnings of the Division shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, officers, or other private persons, except that the Division shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purpose set forth herein.

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

2.1 Any person who is a member in good standing of the NMRA and lives within the area of the North Central Region served by Division Nine, **or any member living outside the Division Nine boundaries that is granted approval from the NMRA to transfer into Division Nine**, may be a regular member of this organization and be entitled to participate in all activities and elections of the Division.

2.2 The served area of Division Nine shall be Southwestern Michigan, comprising the counties of Branch, Calhoun, Hillsdale, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren.

2.3 Guests and non-members may be allowed to attend meetings as observers or speakers, in furtherance of Division Nine goals and purposes. Guests or non-members may not vote or hold office in Division Nine. Guests are limited to attend three Division activities per calendar year.

2.4 Membership shall not be denied to any person on the basis of race, religion, gender, political belief, or other protected group as prescribed by law.

ARTICLE III – DISCIPLINE

3.1 All members, including Board members, shall be subject to the same standards and penalties.

3.2 Members who by their actions and behaviors become disruptive to the purposes of Division 9 can be refused attendance at Division **9 Nine** activities by the Division 9 Board of Directors.

3.3 It is the policy of this Division to, whenever possible, initiate corrective measures before resorting to more serious steps to include probation, censure, removal from office (in the instance of a Board member) up to and including termination of membership in the Division, at the discretion of the Board of Directors

3.4 All disciplinary actions will be held in a closed meeting with only the Board of Directors, the accused present, with witnesses in attendance only to testify.

3.5 All records of disciplinary meetings are sealed and may not be released to anyone outside the Board of Directors, except to the accused and to the NCR Board if requested.

ARTICLE IV – DIVISION BUSINESS

4.1 Meeting of the Division shall fall under one of the following types.

4.1.1 Annual Meetings – September

Setting of the annual budget

Election and Installation of Directors

Open to all members and visitors

4.1.2 Additional meetings may be called by the Superintendent as necessary.

4.1.3 Closed door planning and strategy meetings of the Board of Directors. Plans prepared may not be acted upon until presented to and approved by the general membership.

4.1.4 Emergency Board of Director Meetings.

May be held and action taken without prior notification to the general membership in a situation where immediate action must be taken on behalf of the Division or its membership, provided that full disclosure is made to the membership at the next regular meeting.

- a. Valid only when attended by at least two thirds of the Board of Directors
- b. All members of the Board of Directors must receive prior notice of the meeting.

4.2 Notice of meetings shall be mailed, either via the U.S. Postal Service or via e-mail to all regular members. Notification shall be received by the members no less than eleven days, nor more than ninety days prior to the meeting.

~~4.3 NCR Division Nine of the NMRA shall not permit, nor recognize proxy nor absentee votes.~~

4.3 Board Member Elections

4.3.1 Voting Rules

4.3.1.1 Eligible Voters - Each member of NMRA NCR Division Nine in good standing, as of the annual election of Board Members, has the right to vote, whether in-person or virtual real-time. Proxies nor absentee voting is not permitted.

4.3.1.2 Nominating Committee –

- Consists of Board Members that are not up for election in the current year.
- Responsibilities
 - Develop a slate of candidates for each Board Position that is up for election.
 - Provide the slate of candidates to the Scribe to provide this list to the general membership at least 30 days prior to the date of the election.
 - Ask for additional nominees from the floor.
 - Distribute ballots
 - Prepare list of Virtual Real-Time voters
 - Count the votes
 - Announce the winners.
 - Turn over the voting documentation, including votes to the Scribe for archiving.

4.3.1.3 In-person Voting

- Each member in good standing will be given a paper ballot with a list of nominees for each position. Members will make their choices and hand in their ballot to the nominating committee.

4.3.1.4 Virtual Real-Time Voting – Each member intending to vote real-time virtually. Virtual Real-time Voting Process allows members to cast their votes by sending a text or email to a member of the nominating committee at the start of the voting process.

4.4 Conflict of Interest

4.4.1 Any member, whether on the Board or not, must publicly identify any involvement with any company or agency that is making a presentation to the Division, or is in any way seeking to do business with the Division.

4.4.2 Any member involved in such conflict of interest may speak to the proposal, but must refrain from voting on the issue.

4.5 All regular members in good standing shall be entitled to vote.

4.6 All matters, except where specified elsewhere in this document, shall be decided by simple majority vote of the of members present.

4.7 Acquisition of real and personal property by the Division.

4.7.1 The acquisition of property may be authorized at any meeting provided said expenditure does not exceed the budget set at the annual meeting.

4.8 Holding personal property by the Division

4.8.1 The Pay Master shall cause each non-consumable item purchased to be marked and inventoried.

4.9 Disposal of Real and Personal Property

4.9.1 The board may authorize the disposal of damaged or obsolete property in a manner consistent with local disposal regulations.

4.10 Donations

4.10.1 Unless otherwise designated, all donations received by the Division shall become the property of the Division general fund.

4.10.2 Receipts – Non-anonymous donations / grants of any size shall receive a receipt showing the full name and mailing address of the Division, and the exact amount of funds donated. In the event of a non-cash donation, a similar receipt describing the property without a value amount shall be issued. It shall be the responsibility of the donor to obtain an independent valuation for their tax purposes.

4.10.3 Letter of Appreciation. Donations / grants over \$100 shall also receive a letter of appreciation from the Division. **Paymaster is responsible to provide sufficient details to the Scribe (Name, address, amount & date of donation) so the subject letter can be issued on a timely basis.**

4.11 Special Funds. The Board of Directors, at their discretion may establish funding accounts for special project and request donations from the membership and outside sources to achieve the goal for which special fund was created.

4.12 Standing Committees

4.12.1 The Board of Directors may establish those standing committees they deem necessary to assist the Board in conducting the business of the Division.

4.12.2 Each elected Director may appoint volunteers from the membership to assist them in the performance of their duties.

4.12.3 Ad Hoc committees. Division members may form informal associations for the purpose for researching and preparing presentations for consideration at a regular meeting. No prior Board approval is required for these committees provided they do not invoke the name or reputation of the Division in their inquiries.

4.13 In the event of the dissolution of NCR Division Nine, after payment of all outstanding debts, all property and monies will be forwarded to the NCR.

4.13.1 Dissolution will be upon successful vote by a three fourths majority **of the Board Members** by secret ballot.

Article V – Officers

5.1 All officers and directors shall be elected from the Division Nine general membership in good standing.

5.2 Election of the Officers and Board of Directors shall be at the annual meeting held each September except for the initial election to be held at the organization meeting.

5.3 The term of office of officers and directors shall be two years.

5.3.1 To provide for continuity of leadership the Board shall serve on a rotating term.

5.3.1.1 Upon adoption of these by laws a special election shall be held for all officers.

The inaugural Superintendent, Scribe, and one Trustee shall hold office for two years.

The Inaugural Assistant Superintendent, Paymaster, and one Trustee shall hold office for one year.

5.4 The Board of Directors shall consist of no fewer than three members. In addition to the Directors herein listed the Board of Directors may, at the Board's Discretion, create additional Director's positions, either temporary or permanent to fulfill the Division's evolving needs. These positions shall be filled by the general Division membership at a special election.

5.5 The Board of Directors shall consist of

5.5.1 Superintendent

a. shall be responsible for the administrative and business functions of the Division.

b. shall serve as liaison to the NCR, the NMRA, and other NCR divisions, modeling clubs, museums, and the non-modeling members of the community. As said liaison, shall work with the Scribe in publishing information about the Division.

c. the Superintendent shall be the only one authorized to make public statements without the approval of the Board.

d. shall serve as legal compliance officer, ensuring Division compliance with all Federal, State, Municipal, NMRA and NCR laws, rules and regulations.

e. shall serve as chair of Division functions, conducting all meetings in adherence with The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure, Fourth Edition.

5.5.2 Assistant Superintendent

~~a. shall oversee the membership registry of the Division, validating membership qualifications.~~

b. shall design, plan and execute Division activities

c. shall conduct official Division functions in the absence, **or by special request** of the Superintendent, conducting meetings in adherence to The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure, Fourth Edition.

5.5.3 Scribe

a. shall take and distribute meeting minutes.

b. shall maintain an archive of all official records for the Division.

c. shall work with the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent in preparing and distributing information to the general membership, other Divisions, NCR, the general public, and others as needed.

d. shall provide information on candidates for the available Directorships to the general membership no less than thirty days prior to the election.

e. shall notify members of meetings and activities

f. shall maintain the membership list for the Division

5.5.4 Paymaster

a. shall oversee financial business of the Division, to include, but not limited to, collection of monies, distribution of monies as approved by the Board.

b. shall maintain the financial records of the Division.

c. shall ensure all financial reporting paperwork is filed with State, Municipal, and Federal agencies as required by law.

d. in the event that the Division needs a checking account, the treasurer shall establish such account, and each check must be signed by the Paymaster and the Superintendent to be valid. One additional Director shall be on the account to sign checks in the event that either the Superintendent or Paymaster is unable to sign a required check.

5.5.5 Trustees – Two Trustees will serve on the Board of Directors

a. shall serve as representative at large on behalf of the membership

b. shall assist any other Director as needed

5.6 In the event that an elected Director must withdraw from any office, the Superintendent with the approval of the Board may appoint a replacement until the next annual meeting.

5.7 **Deleted (Scribe Note: This was previously deleted. Eliminated the clause regarding term limits)**

5.8 Terms of office for officers and directors shall run from the date of the election.

5.9 In the event that an election is delayed, terms of office of existing offices and board members are extended to the date that the election is completed.

ARTICLE VI – AMENDING THE BYLAWS

Amendments to these bylaws may take two forms:

6.1 MINOR CHANGES

6.1.1 Changes to the bylaws to comply with State, Municipal or Federal Laws, rules or regulations may be made by the Board of Directors without notification to the general membership, provided that the changes are published at the next business meeting and included in the minutes of said meeting.

6.2 ALL OTHER CHANGES

6.2.1 Motions to change the bylaws must be presented in printed form and include:

- a. The exact wording of the section of the bylaws that will be changed.
- b. The exact wording of the newly proposed section.

6.2.2 A motion to change the bylaws must be made and seconded and the presented form read out loud to the membership.

6.2.3 Following the discussion of the issue, the Superintendent shall call for a vote.

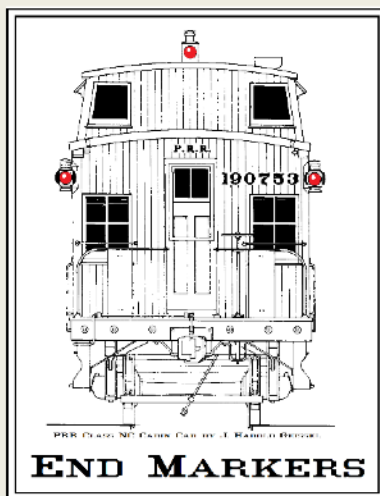
- a. A two thirds majority of those voting is required to pass the amendment.

ARTICLE VII- RATIFICATION

7.1 The bylaws will be considered as passed with a two thirds vote of the membership at a pre-announced meeting for this purpose.

7.2 The ratifying meeting will then conduct an election of a Board of Directors for the Division. This shall not be construed to indicate that the ratifying members are prohibited to submit their name for office.

7.3 The elected Board will then authorize the acceptance with their signatures.



We are sad to report that our friend, member and Paymaster **Bruce Nichols**, passed away on November 7th, 2021.

When I think of him, I remember his bringing good humor to meetings, ops sessions, events, and collecting loose change donations to our treasury. He will be sorely missed.

Bruce was always quick with a kind word. The first person to talk to me at my first Division meeting was Bruce. He was simply a good guy. I'll miss him. – Casey Bartman

Bruce was special. Enjoyed conversations with him. Sorely missed. – Garry Johnson

On-line Obituary may be found here:

[Bruce Mason Nichols Obituary \(2021\) | Three Rivers, Michigan \(echovita.com\)](#)

Prototype Photos

Here are some photos of the prototype railroads that run (or ran) through the counties covered by Division 9. Those railroads (in no particular order) include: Grand Rapids & Indiana; Pennsylvania; Michigan Central; New York Central; Penn Central; Pere Marquette; Chesapeake & Ohio; Grand Trunk; Canadian National; Conrail; Norfolk Southern; Amtrak; Chicago, Kalamazoo and Saginaw; Grand Elk; etc.

So if you have some photos you've taken or have permission to submit for publication, please send scans of them to your editor for inclusion in our Prototype photo section. If you need help with this, contact Your editor.



CN EB passing through Marcellus, MI 10/29/2021

Rich Mahaney photo



CN EB passing through Schoolcraft, MI 10/29/2021

Rich Mahaney photo



Grand Elk Northbound south of Schoolcraft, MI 10/29/2021

Rich Mahaney photo



Grand Elk NB at CN crossing in Schoolcraft Mi. 10/29/2021

Rich Mahaney photo

Division 9 Calendar for November 2021

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Div 9 BOD meeting 2:00pm w/zoom	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Div 9 Meeting w/Zoom
21	22	23	24	25 Thanks- giving	26	27
28	29	30				

Division 9 Calendar for December 2021

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Div 9 Meeting w/Zoom
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Merry Christmas
26	27	28	29	30	31	