

Elections are upon us!

The Nominations Committee has developed a fine list of candidates for our Division Board of Directors. If you are a voting member, you will soon receive an email invitation to vote on line for the candidates of your choice. This year, the Vice Superintendent and two Director positions are up for election. As there is only one candidate for Vice Superintendent, Stu will be considered “elected by acclimation”, and no votes need be cast. (Never-the-less, his candidate statement is included below.) You will cast two votes for Directors, and the top two finishers will be elected.

Below you will find the statements of each of the candidates. Please take the time to review them to understand what each believes about the Division and how they will contribute towards its direction.

The Board of Directors wish to thank each of the candidates for volunteering their time to help make the 2nd Division a vibrant and enjoyable experience for all members, and we thank you for voting!

- *Richard Kurschner, editor pro-tem*

Candidate Statements

Stu Cato – Candidate for Vice Superintendent, Incumbent

History

I started in model railroading in grade school with the usual Lionel trains moved to scale “O” gauge then “HO” during High School. I am a member of the Catlin Gable School Model RR Club.

I attended the 2004 National NMRA convention in Seattle and joined NMRA in 2000. Shortly thereafter I attended my first PNR D2 regional meeting and have been active in D2 since then. I have been off and on the Board since then. I was active in putting on the 2007 regional convention and in the background providing help “as needed” for the 2008 convention. Other duties over the years have been coordinating layout tours and securing meeting space and serving on various committees.

Vision

I see D2 as a vehicle for people to be active in the hobby, meet fellow modelers and gain knowledge of what they may have learned on paper or monitor but now gain first hand. The division allows people to “network” with regard to their specific interests. The Assistant Super position can be either to help the Super and/or as a stepping stone to Super. I see the position as a help position and go to for the Super.

Bob Leatha – Candidate for Director



My name is Bob Leatha and I'm running for one of the open director positions for Division 2.

I am a Civil Engineering graduate from Washington State University. I retired in June 2004 from a career in Construction and Project Management. I have been an NMRA member since 2011 and located here in Division 2 (Hillsboro, OR) since October of 2016; Previously with Division 4 of the PNR.

I model the Great Northern in HO: Cascade Division – Everett to Wenatchee, WA in 1929 (Steam and Electrics). I have also been a member of the Great Northern Railway Historical Society since 2005.

I am a firm believer in monthly meets with clinic presentations and a supporter of the current trend of Meets in our Division. I have personally attended many clinics National, Regional and Monthly in both Division 2 & 4 and have gained a tremendous amount of knowledge and skills to support construction of my RR.

I'm convinced that everyone who joins our Organization has already some (many) developed skills in Model Railroading and is here to learn more about this great hobby, as well as to share their knowledge. Many are also interested establishing Friendships with fellow modelers to work on their RR or to support working with others on their layouts.

It is with the above premise that that I'm running to further the enjoyment and knowledge of our membership in Division 2.

I thank you for your support.

Dave Holden – Candidate for Director, Incumbent

I am a lifelong model railroader, and have been an NMRA member since 2005. My primary interests are operations and prototype modeling. I became active in the Second Division in 2013, when I was asked to serve as secretary on the Board of Directors. I was selected to fill a vacant board position at about the same time. I am currently serving as the Division's treasurer and as a board member.

For me, the most rewarding aspect of NMRA membership is the clinics at the Division, Regional, and National conventions. It's important that the Second Division provide the entire membership with the opportunity to access similar high quality programs, and I have had the privilege to help plan the logistics of several Division meets during my tenure on the board. I also served as Committee Chairman for the 2018 Pacific Northwest Regional Convention, which featured three days of clinics.

I would like to see increased opportunities for greater participation by the membership in Division events. The Fourth Division in the Puget Sound area claims to have a 60% participation rate, while the Second Division rarely achieves 20%. Part of this can be attributed to geography, as the Second Division covers a larger, more dispersed area. Despite this, the board must attempt to offer a compelling program that members will be willing to travel to.

I am also the president of the Willamette Model Railroad Club in Clackamas, OR, a prototype-based layout that was designed and built for operations. I have extensive experience dispatching several model railroads using track warrant control and time-table/train orders. If there is an operating layout with an opening for a dispatcher, I will usually try to mark up for it.

Fred Kaser – Candidate for Director, Incumbent

I have served as a director or officer in the Second Division for longer than I like to remember but my interest in helping the Second Division serve its members is still high. I have helped put on three regional conventions over the years. I believe that participating in division events is one of the best ways to make use of your NMRA membership and that one of the goals of the Division should be to have events on a regular basis.

Fred Kaser

John Sparrows – Candidate for Director



In the early seventies, a friend introduced me to the model railroading when the Portland, Oregon area had more hobby shops and fewer coffee shops than they have currently. I became part of the starting crew with SW Washington club in Vancouver for a few years when it was modular. Then life changed: marriage, children, and job. When the nationals came to Portland in 1994, I got back into the hobby and joined the NMRA. Years later, when visiting the Mt Hood Model Engineers (MHME) Club, I was handed an application and became a member. I'm now the media contact for the club. In 2007, I started working part time for the Hobbysmith, a shop that is 99% model railroading. In 2015 the nationals were again in Portland and I was involved with registration and transportation. For the

2018 NMRA Pacific Northwest Regional meet in Portland, with the gracious help from several members, I was contest chair. I am also a member of the GN Historical Society, which inspires what I run on the MHME's HO layout.

Having said all this, we, as the PNR 2nd Div., are part of the glue that helps to hold the hobby together. While much can be learned from the on-line railroad community, I believe people benefit more from in person interaction. I'm for bringing a variety of gatherings where we can share ideas with one another—perhaps a show and tell or what's neat gathering—for the novice as well as the seasoned modeler.

Larry Nunn – Candidate for Director



My name is Larry Nunn. I am running for one of the Director positions in 2nd Division.

I started out liking trains when I lived next door to the Salem Yard as a young child. I started in model railroading with the obligatory Lionel toy train in the basement as a kid. My next foray into model railroading was while stationed in the USAF in Japan. My roommate had a 4 x 8 plywood layout. I bought his engines, rolling stock, and some scratch-built buildings. I still have the locomotives and rolling stock.

My first layout was a small HO switching layout in our third bedroom. My landlord decided she needed the railroad room as a guest room for the grandkids. However, being the good landlord she is, she built me a 21' x 23' train room over the garage. I am now building a freelance HO layout based on the mid-Willamette Valley. I am also a member of a round-robin operating group.

I first joined the NMRA to support a national organization that developed and advocated for standards for the hobby. One of my first PNR activities was attending the WVX in 2006, where John and Harriet Sparrow talked me into volunteering to help with registration. I subsequently attended other regional conventions, and a national convention in Sacramento. I also attend division meets. During our last convention I was on the planning committee and helped out at the registration desk.

As a board member, I would like to help with continuing to invigorate the Division meets. They are vitally important to the life of the Division. I would also like to explore ways to involve more members from outside the Portland metro area; such as the coast and east of the Cascades.

Notes from the Caboose



This issue of the Semaphore is displaying the green flag since there will be another section coming soon. For those of you who could not meet the candidates at our April meeting, we wanted to get these statements to you just as soon as we could, plus we felt that adding any additional content would dilute their messages. So your editor decided to run the April issue in two sections. Coming shortly will be a report on the April meeting, and

any other hot topics we can find.

We hope you have enjoyed this issue of the Semaphore. And please do vote when your invitation arrives. Your vote will help shape your Division. Talk with you on the next run!

- *Richard Kurschner, editor pro-tem*