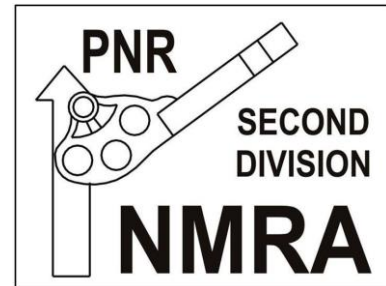


# The Semaphore

A publication of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division of the Pacific Northwest Region of the NMRA

## March, 2020



## Elections, version 2020

*Richard Kürschner, editor*

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 Superintendent and two Director positions are up for election. As there is only one candidate for Superintendent, **Jeff Shultz** will be considered “elected by acclimation”, and no votes need be cast. 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 for the position of Director. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Division a vibrant and enjoyable experience for all members, and we thank you for voting!

Please do continue reading beyond the statements as the Notes from the Caboose for some non-election information.

- *Richard Kürschner, editor*

## Candidate Statements

### Richard Kürschner – Candidate for Director, Incumbent



I've been playing with trains all my life but college, career, and family put my active modeling on hold until a few years back when the kids started to move out and a room became available for me to use to build a permanent layout. My layout is N scale, sometime during the Great Depression, and somewhere between the Mississippi and the west coast. I grew up reading the works of Frank Ellison and Bruce Chubb, so my interests tend towards operations. I also enjoy designing buildings for 3d printing and seeing what I can do with Arduinos.

I have been a member of the 2nd Division Board of Directors (BOD) and its secretary for two years. In that time I have focused on building an improved operational base for the Division. In my first year I led the committee to create a new set of bylaws to replace the woefully out of date (and generally ignored) version we had from the early 1990's. I am now working with the BOD to develop a Division Policy Manual that defines how the Board does its jobs. We want to make

our decisions once, set the processes down on paper, and avoid having to “reinvent the wheel every time”.

I am running again for a position on the board because I enjoy working with the other BOD members, I enjoy working with you, and I believe there is still work to do. The Policy Manual isn't finished yet, and there are still many processes that we need to improve such as member involvement and **member** outreach. I ask for your vote so that I can continue working to improve your NMRA experience. Thank you.

### **Larry Nunn – Candidate for Director**



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

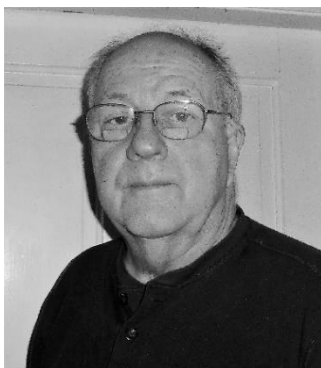
I started out liking trains when I lived next door to the Salem Yard as a young child. I started in model railroading with the obligatory Lionel toy train in the basement as a kid. My next foray into model railroading was while stationed in the USAF in Japan. My roommate had a 4 x 8 plywood layout. I 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.

### **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.

## Notes from the Caboose

*Richard Kürschner, editor*

This COVID-19 thing is really changing our landscape. More time for model railroading perhaps, but fewer opportunities to share in person. If you haven't heard, the PNR convention scheduled for April has been canceled. There is no word yet on the National Convention in St Louis this summer. We have our annual meeting still scheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup>; the BOD will review the situation in mid-April to make a final decision.

Jeff is looking into options for a video meet. Not sure yet how that might work out. Down Under they have started to do theirs that way simply because of how spread out they are. And I know folks in the US are trying it as well. We will keep you posted. There are certain things we must do at our "annual" meeting, mostly report outs and of course announce the election results. If nothing else this will be covered in The Semaphore.

The Boxcar Contest is still on! We don't know when we might get to show them off in a meet again, but there is nothing stopping you from working on yours. If you didn't get your boxcar shell, contact Jeff ( [jeff@2dpnr.org](mailto:jeff@2dpnr.org) ) or myself ( [secy@2dpnr.org](mailto:secy@2dpnr.org) ) to pick one (or three) up. While we won't mail them, you are welcome to come pick them up from our front porches, contactlessly. Jeff's in Stayton, I'm in Beaverton.

What did you think of having a software review in the last edition of The Semaphore? Hopefully that added to your enjoyment and knowledge. Do you have a tip or technique you want to share? (Yes, you do. Don't argue!) Write it up and send it to me. I'll be glad to edit it if you like. Since we are all stuck in our houses, send me some pictures of your layout, or your latest build, or heck, even your mascot! (That's mine on the right, mascot, not build...) I'll pull together a special issue and together we can keep everyone's spirits up!

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 Kürschner, editor*

