



THE COUPLER

Official Bulletin of the Northeastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association

THE DISPATCHERS TOWER

There has been considerable activity since my last report to the membership, and I will give you the gist of them as briefly as possible. First of all, we attended the January Trustees meeting of the NMRA at Cleveland on Jan 17-18th. It was one of the best yet, with 9 Regions represented in person and all but two of the remainder by proxy. Many things were discussed, & considerable constructive action taken. A year book will again be published, altho finances dictate it will be on a limited scale, and some refinement including paid advertising to help carry the cost. Next year it is hoped that a complete book will again be possible.

Several items were cleared for appearance on this year's ballot: (1) Additional VP's to come from the different areas, (2) Increased NMRA dues to \$3.00, to meet increased costs and provide better service (inclusion of regional dues in this increase was voted down at the Portland Convention), (3) The choice of convention sites for 1954 and 1955, (4) the Nominating Committee's officer slate for 1954.

Favorable action was also taken on a proposal to change the annual membership basis from a calendar year to a full year's membership from the date of the application. The HO coupler situation was acted upon to the extent that a committee chairman was appointed, and it is our own Russ Houghton, who is now getting a committee organized to get under way at once. More details will be found elsewhere. Many other things were discussed, but inasmuch as they will be fully covered in THE BULLETIN, I'll not take up the space here to go over them.

On Jan 31-Feb 1st we held a meeting with the local Convention Committee at Syracuse together with NFR representatives. A most enjoyable and interesting Convention is in prospect, and the auction and the model contests should prove especially good. More details on these will be covered in THE COUPLER & THE BULLETIN. Arrangements have been made not only for movies, but for a showing of colored slides on the DREAMLINER which will alone be worth the cost of the Convention. Dont miss seeing them! We are doing our best to keep your expenses down in line with our previous Regional conventions.

While I have as yet nothing definite in the way of plans for the New Haven meeting in the Fall, we know that the group is already working on it; and Montreal is definitely planning an excellent good RR affair for next Spring. So save your pennies in anticipation for good times to come. And dont forget to set some of them aside for the National Convention at Toronto on Aug 22-23rd. You'll never find a more interesting national meeting as close to home for many years. So let's have a good NER representation present to enjoy this affair.

Your officers and committees have put in a lot of work, time and money into their efforts to provide a full, entertaining and instructive program this year, and all they ask is for you to show your appreciation by your attendance. You will certainly be well repaid at any meeting, and will miss a great deal by not being there. Be seeing you!

HEAR THE TRAIN BLOW

Down in the meadow, meadow so low,
Late in the evening, Hear the train blow;
Along the dark valley, Twinkles its light,
Whistle a-wailing, All thru the night.

Up on the mountain, Summit at last,
Heavily loaded, Hear the train blast;
There on the passes, Rising so high,
Watch the train climbing, Into the sky.

Winter and summer, Sunshine and rain,
Train to the city, And homeward again;
Middle of winter, Deep in the snow,
Rotaries thunder, Onward they go.

Far distant places, Where the trains go,
Chime whistle haunting, Train crew's "Hello";
Whistles that lure us, Out from our home,
O'er the horizon, Call us to roam.

Red boards and green ones, Twin iron rail,
Up with the highball, Carry the mail;
Days work completed, sun getting low,
Just time for supper- Hear the train blow.

STANLEY BRADLEY

REPORT FROM THE VEEP

By the time this issue of THE COUPLER reaches the homes of many model railroaders our total membership will already be close to last year's total. It is almost certain to pass the 400 mark in May.

This increase is due to two main factors. First, credit must be given to the 45 faithful committeemen who volunteered their services in mailing out over 1500 letters to NMRA members who had not been on our rolls. In a future issue we will name them all, along with their part in the drive. Secondly, letters to new 1952 members and those of '50 and '51 reminded them that they had not renewed, and of their needed support. Here again volunteer help was freely given, and the Kingston MR Club gave the V.P.'s a boost by providing the means of printing the "reminder" letters.

All suggestions regarding membership promotion are gladly received. Those who desire to help in the future are welcome to drop me a line. You are urged to send me the names and addresses of hobby shops that would be willing to display a counter show card to hold N.M.R.A and N.E.R application cards.
Ed Safford, Vice-Pres.

Annual Dues: National, \$2.00 * Region, \$1.00 * Total.....\$3.00

APPLICATION FOR N.E.R. MEMBERSHIP Dues \$1.00.
Mr. Irwin Lloyd, Sec-Treas., 11 Case St, Hartford, Conn.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

NMRA Member? _____ Your gage? _____