

Report for 4D/PNR

May 8, 2020

We have had a rather good year. Membership has held up at 484 and participation at events was particularly good. Our modular groups participated in many area trains shows, including Seattle Center, Tacoma History Museum, Puyallup, Monroe, Lynden, Maple Valley and MOHAI, the Museum of History and Industry.

Our finances are in excellent shape and we are seeing an increase in individuals stepping up to leadership roles.

Our Annual Meeting this year will be different, just like our PNR meeting – online on May 23. Our 2020 Golden Grab Iron Award will be presented as well as other special recognitions.

Current circumstances require us to shift methods, so clinics will be online for the foreseeable future. Our Modular groups and Clinics continue to grow with new participants and greater attendance. We recently approved sponsorship of a new Free MO HO modular group, the former Tacoma Northwest Club. Larry Sloan is the leader of this group. A new Hon3 Free MO group is being formed with modules already being started.

The future of large train shows is possibly in doubt right now, but most of us are using this time at home to really buckle down to model building and finishing those layout projects. I feel this new circumstance will bring about better communication amongst members. Already other regions are holding online clinics and reaching out across the country.

Finally, I want to add copy of a letter I recently sent regarding advantages of NMRA membership.

“Advantages of NMRA membership

We share. The NMRA is the one organization dedicated to sharing interest in model railroading.

We care about the future of the hobby by leading in the establishment of standards used by manufacturers and modelers. This has promoted a wide array of factory-built models as well as electronics used in the hobby.

We promote the hobby on a consistent basis to the public at train shows and museums. A great many of our members are volunteers in restoration and operation of historic railway equipment. The NMRA led in recently establishing a large permanent exhibit on model railroading at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento.

We educate one another and the public about railroads, their history and contribution to our economy. We also educate and promote safety around trains.

Membership comes with the NMRA magazine which contains information on activities locally and worldwide as well as articles on model building.

We have an array of local, regional, and national meetings to share experience in “how to” clinics, history and research on various rail operations.

We challenge each other in model building contests with awards for excellence. We learn from each other and many work together in construction and operation of home layouts.

We have a program called Master Model Railroader which requires completion of work in the major skills of model railroading. This is a challenging program and the MMR Award and Designation is a lot of work well respected in the hobby.

The 4th Division has a strong effort going with modular layouts in several scales. This a great way to meet and work with other model railroaders, to improve modeling skills and share the hobby with the public. *Camaraderie is the glue that keeps us active and strong. Model Railroading is fun.*

I invite you to join us.

Russ Segner, Superintendent 4D/PNR/NMRA”