

## **Report from the Vice President.**

Now into my second year as your vice president, I have learned more fully the nature of the responsibilities of the position. I have had opportunity to visit directly and electronically with the various division presidents and have had conversations regarding the betterment of modeling at the region and division levels. I am confident that the current state of the Pacific Northwest Region is in good hands. This is not only due to your president, Kurt Laidlaw, but to the great assistance and support we receive from others in the region in positions that are not so obvious. I receive assistance from the office manager, always in a timely fashion, and also from the region Achievement Program director, which is a position I hold in my local division. Those assistances do not go unnoticed and with that, thank you all.

I, along with many, would have never considered modeling and gathering at a distance as we are now given the necessities of our response to the pandemic. I have been distanced from my regular Monday night pirates but in trade for that I have had much more bench time and accomplished many things that had been dormant for a very long time. I hope you also are getting your modeling time in the new order of things.

Regarding the specific role of the vice president, I have continued the monthly e-mail reminder letter process for those members who are about to expire in the current month and then also a similar letter to those members who might have lapsed for thirty to sixty days. In that lapsed letter I am also asking for responses from those members as to why they are backing away from their relationship with the NMRA. In most cases the replies have been aging out issues or shifting modeling interests. As yet I have had no one unload on me as to how we have monumentally failed them. I suppose that has occurred but no one has said as much.

Having not smelled any boiling tar or found sacks of feathers, I sense nothing that would argue against this tack of reminding members of pending expirations. It may be that there will never be an empirical way of measuring our effectiveness. However, doing nothing is not an option. Like much of education, we may never know how much mud we are sticking to the wall. Around the country, in most clubs, churches, and fraternal organizations, we are seeing a declining interest in being a member of any organizations. Studies and theories abound as to why this is occurring. I have no new wisdom to add to this uncertainty. We might discover that holding our own over the next years maybe as good as we can get.

I have tried to be consistent in my contributions of original content writing to our regional newsletter, *Switchlist*. To that end I have submitted articles from my position as your vice president as well as additional material that the editor may choose to include in the various issues.

If there is something that the regional board (this includes division presidents) would like me to consider adding to what I am currently doing (this may be dangerous!), please let me know.

It is a privilege to serve as your vice president. I hope to continue in this role for the benefit of our region and the hobby.

Thank you  
Bob Parrish MMR  
VP PNR