

Welcome to the June edition of 'Sidetracks Express' - a quick update newsletter to remind our membership of near-term events and important Division business – such as the upcoming BOD election.

Ron

Super's Corner

Greetings and Welcome Members

This is a short Sidetracks Express issue dedicated to two main happenings: election of four Board of Directors (BOD) members (see pages 2-4) and a Final Call – All Aboard announcement about our June 27 Electric Railroads and Coal Mines event that begins in Scranton (page 5).

As this issue is being prepared we are finalizing our September 12 all day program that will be held in Lancaster (details will be presented in the July Sidetracks) and starting to develop our two major fall open house events – the Blue Ridge Summit Mainline Hobby open house program set for September 19-20 and our November Division-wide three weekend open house extravaganza in support of National Model Railroad Month. We certainly can use some help with these projects – if you would like to lend a hand or have questions please email me at bschmitt@susquehannanmra.org or call me at 717-877-1810.

Please review the three hobby shop advertisements at the back of this newsletter and be sure to stop by and examine their great model railroad selections. All three shops are owned by highly experienced modelers and have friendly staffs that thoroughly enjoy model railroading. Please support them as they graciously support us and our great hobby!

I look forward to seeing you in Scranton on June 27th!



SUSQUEHANNA DIVISION 11 DIRECTOR VOTING

It's June which means it's time to elect four Division Board of Directors (BOD) members for the next two years: July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2017.

Ever wonder why we have elections every year? Good question - here's the straight skinny. Our Division by-laws establish a seven member BOD - three elected Officers (Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Chief Clerk), the Past Superintendent (until replaced by the next past Superintendent), and three at-large Directors. At-Large Directors are elected to a two year term in June of odd-numbered years and hold office from July 1 of that year to June 30 of the following second year. The three BOD Officers are elected to two year terms in even numbered years with our current officers serving the term July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2016. (Heads up – start thinking about running for the Superintendent position that will be vacant next year!) If the past Superintendent is unwilling or unable to be a BOD member, as in our current situation, a fourth Director is appointed by the Superintendent, with approval of the BOD, to fill that unexpired term. Because our past Superintendent vacated his Director position in late 2012, an interim Director was appointed in early 2013, and reelected to that vacant position in June 2013 thus our four Director positions being elected for the July 1, 2015 – Jun 30, 2017 term.

The five Director candidates and their bio-sketches are presented below in alphabetical order. Their email addresses are provided if you would like to contact them.

Restating the ballot guidance: **you can only vote for four of the five candidates.**

Director Candidate Bio-Sketches (in alphabetical order)

David Collison (dcollison@susquehannanmra.org):

My name is David Collison and I am running for reelection as a Division Director. I have been an active model railroader for what seems like forever. Before becoming a Division Director I served a two-year tour as President of the Ephrata Short Line Model Railroad Club. I am now focusing my club efforts on building our operations program. I enjoy all aspects of hand laying track and switches and building our club computer dispatch system. As a Division Director I recently managed our effort to purchase video, sound, and projection systems for playing back and recording our meetings. That system was successfully implemented at our February 2015 program in Mechanicsburg. My next major goal is to design a new and more user friendly website-based monthly and yearly calendar that will include pictures of member layouts and all planned events. I also want to help develop more local programs throughout our Division to include at least one major annual event in each of our Sub Divisions – East, Central, and Mountain. I believe my hobby experience and commitment to member interests has made me an effective member of our Division leadership team and therefore request your reelection vote.

Howard Oakes (hoakes@susquehannanmra.org):

I have been involved with model railroading since the 1970's and have been serving as a Director and Membership Chairman of Susquehanna Division 11 for several years. I receive the monthly membership list and contact each new member to welcome them to our activities. I also contact each member whose membership is about to expire and encourage them to remain a member and point out the benefits of belonging to the NMRA. Last year I undertook the effort to obtain the email addresses of each member since most of our correspondence is now done via email for expediency and cost reasons. As a Director I am also involved in the planning of our yearly calendar of events and served as the project officer for the Bowser and Weaver manufacturing tours last year. I am also secretary of an N scale group, operate monthly at a local HO scale layout, and help others build their model railroad empires. I ask for your vote as our Division continues to grow and has become more active. Every member's voice needs to be heard and our Division needs to continue developing more events in our outlying areas and thereby increase member involvement opportunities.

Lee Rainey (lrainey@susquehannanmra.org):

My name is Lee Rainey, and I currently serve as a Director of NMRA MER Susquehanna Division 11. I am seeking your vote for reelection. As a past Director, I have been active in helping to organize the November layout open houses, and will do the same this year. I also look forward to working with the Division leadership team on an upcoming regional convention. I've been a member of the NMRA continuously since 1989, and a member off and on since the 1960s. My personal modeling is in S, Sn3 and Sn2, and I plan to use my current layout to qualify for several achievement certificates. I also am very active in railroad preservation as the president of the Friends of the East Broad Top and hands-on leader of its Rockhill restoration crew.

Ron Smith (rsmith@susquehannanmra.org):

My name is Ron Smith and I am running for a position on the Board of Directors. Many of you already know me as the editor of *Susquehanna Sidetracks*, and may recall that I was a part-time employee of Mainline Hobby Supply for many years. I am an active N scale modeler and some of you have seen my layout on recent home layout tours sponsored by our Division. I am also a member of the Erie-Lackawanna Historical Society. My hobby goals are operations and re-creating prototypical railroad scenes on my layout. I am running for the BOD as I believe our Division can be an ambassador for the hobby through its meetings and events. I will work to continue our efforts to bring the membership interesting activities to attend throughout the year, as meetings / events held at the local level provide us the most value for our NMRA dues. I would appreciate your vote and your input.

David Tillman (davetill@ptd.net):

My name is Dave Tillman and I am running for Director. I am a semi-retired combustion engineer who works on large coal-fired utility boilers. I started model railroading at an early age with a Lionel set. After discovering girls, the trains were put away, but I returned to the hobby in 1985 and built the first of many HO layouts. Moving with the job I built layouts in Kirtland and Bellevue WA, Sacramento CA, Palmer Township PA, Temperance MI, and Forks Township in PA. All my layouts featured sources and uses of coal - power plants, steel mills, and other energy industries. I have been active at the national level and presented clinics on power plant and process industry modeling at the Milwaukee, Atlanta, and Cleveland conventions. I attended every convention since (and including) Milwaukee in 2010. I believe for the NMRA to grow regionally and nationally we must meet modelers where they are - typically in their basement or workshop. We also need to offer services for those who are not convention goers or contest enterers. We need to bring practical value to the everyday modeler. I live in Easton PA (part of our Eastern Sub Division), and I will be committed to developing more Division programs in our area.

NMRA SUSQUEHANNA DIVISION 11 (MER) 2015 DIRECTOR BALLOT

Your BOD has approved electronic (email) voting for this election cycle in addition to traditional USPS ballot mailing. You do not have to use the below ballot form – use whatever format works best for you. Send your ballot to Paul Tice, our Division Chief Clerk, at ptice@susquehannanmra.org or Paul Tice, c/o NMRA, 6710 Moul Road, Thomasville PA 17364-9447. Paul will confirm every received ballot with either an email or post card response based on your delivery mode. Deadline for **receipt** by either delivery method is June 22, 2015. Results will be presented in the July Sidetracks.

ONLY VOTE FOR

FOUR (4) CANDIDATES

- _____ David Collison
- _____ Howard Oakes
- _____ Lee Rainey
- _____ Ron Smith
- _____ David Tillman

Below Only To Notify Of Ballot Receipt

Your Name (print): _____

Email Address: _____

Home Address (if sent by USPS): _____

(Questions – call Barry Schmitt at 717-877-1810)

ALL ABOARD – LAST CALL: JUNE 27 ELECTRIC CITY AND COAL MINE TOURS

Only a few days remain to register for one of three Division tours that start in Scranton PA at Electric City on Saturday, June 27. That afternoon you can then visit one of two anthracite coal mines. Our tour at Electric city will be conducted by model railroaders and NMRA members from the New Jersey Division. During our hour long ride on "The Laurel Line" our expert guides will describe various former sights and how the railroad interacted with them. They will also describe the electric traction industry and how it relates to steam/diesel/electric railroading. Even if you are not into "trolleys," this tour will show the history of another aspect of prototype railroading. In the afternoon you can visit one of two anthracite coal mines to learn how those "black diamonds" got out of the ground and into the coal hopper cars we run on our model railroads. If you have not yet sent your registration and check, be sure to mail them by June 6th - there will be no "register at the door." For more event details and area map see pages 4-7 of your April Sidetracks Express at www.susquehannamra.org and then select the Susquehanna Sidetracks Newsletters link. You may use the below shortened registration form, but it **must be mailed** by June 6.

ELECTRIC CITY AND ANTHRACITE COAL MINE TOUR REGISTRATION

Name (print) _____

Address _____

Phone Contact _____ Email Contact _____

NMRA Member: Yes ___ Member # _____ Non-Member ___ Number in Party ___

SELECT FROM BELOW TOUR OPTIONS – ALL START AT 10:00AM SHARP

___ Tour 1: Electric City, Lackawanna County Coal & Museum – All in Scranton PA

Cost: NMRA Member and each Family member \$23 – Non-Members \$25

___ Tour 2: Electric City and Pioneer Tunnel Coal Mine – Scranton and Ashland PA

Cost: NMRA Member and each Family member \$24 – Non-Members \$26

___ Tour 3: Electric City Only – Scranton PA

Cost: NMRA Member and each Family member \$8 – Non-Members \$9

Send to: John Wissinger, c/o NMRA, 23 Thorndale Drive, Myerstown PA 17067

For more info contact John at jwissinger@susquehannamra.org or 717-628-1767.

Lehigh and Susquehanna Operations Weekend 7

LSOP7

Friday, October 2 and Saturday, October 3, 2015

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ALL ABOARD!

(Questions – contact Wayne Betty at wsb@susquehannamra.org or 717-653-9537)




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Open Houses the first weekend monthly Sept. th
April: Sat-Sun 2 – 4 PM. Ext times at Christmas

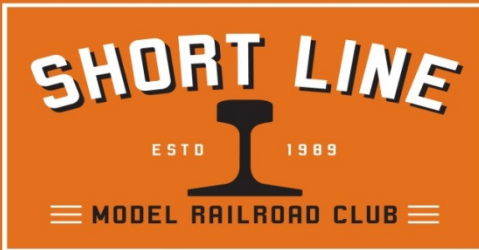
Masonic Village & Elizabethtown Model RR Club.
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Susquehanna Sidetracks

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If you wish to have the newsletter mailed to you, rather than having it sent via e-mail, you must subscribe.

Make checks payable to "Susquehanna Division 11"

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Telephone _____ NMRA # _____