The Lontern

Newsletter of the Western New York Division

Niagara Frontier Region - National Model Railroad Association

Volume 4 NOV - DEC 2024



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Please visit our website: www.wnydivisionnmra.com www.nmra.org

UPCOMING EVENTS:

O7 December 2024
Holiday Luncheon - 11 a.m.
Kiebzak's Restaurant
38 Crocker St., Sloan, NY

Division Meetings 2025:

18 January @ HDC

15 February @

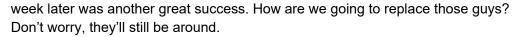
15 February @
Hamburg Fair Grounds
15 March @ HDC

From the Cab

Division,

I tend to think of September through June as prime time for modeling. Things got off to a great start in September with the Lakeshores '24 Convention in Rochester. It's not every day you see Otto Vondrak (editor of RailRoad Model Craftsman) and Tony Koester (columnist for Model Railroader) engaged in conversation. Our friends in the Lakeshore Division did a great job!

At our October meeting Andy MacVie had a look back at the forming of our Division four years ago and Frank Pastore's Western New York layout tour a



And before the new year comes around, the WNYRHS Train Show at the fair-grounds in Hamburg and our annual holiday luncheon.

Our January 18th Division meeting will feature two of our own members Bob Andrycha and Bob Scheib with their program 'The Railroads that served Akron and Newstead'. We will set aside time for Your Train of Thought...the floor is open to anything train or model related.

Are you lucky enough to have paid a visit to Spoonley The Train Man? I remember visiting once or twice with my dad and brothers. I just pulled out John Zach's book to read it again. During the early 1950's, Spoonley stocked every train in the Lionel and American Flyer catalogs. I know we shop differently today, and there are some advantages to that but, don't you just love spending time and digging through a hobby shop. We still have a few around Western New York and I'm sure they would appreciate your business this holiday season.

Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah! Bill Wiedenbeck, Superintendent





Photo and Images by Bill Wiedenbeck





Western New York Division Contact Info:

Elected:

Superintendent: Bill Wiedenbeck

Superintendent@wnydivisionnmra.com Radiobill@roadrunner.com

716-866-3732

Assistant Superintendent: Steve Cotten

Assistantsuperintendent@wnydivisionnmra.com 716-261-8231

Chief Clerk: Mike Grabecki

Pay Master: Tom McQuillen

Paymaster@wnydivisionnmra.com / 716-517-0155

Appointed:

Division Achievement Program Chairman:

Gary Reynolds, MMR

Gar2rey@gmail.com / 716-225-2269

Membership Chairman: Mike Grabecki

Mgrabecki@icloud.com / 716-261-8231

Elections Chairman: Ron Tober

rontober@gmail.com / 716-694-0875

Newsletter Editor: Gerry DiPaola

Editor@wnydivisionnmra.com / 716-545-1740

IT Director: Darby Marriott

DirectorIT@wnydivsionnmra.com / 469-815-5324

Webmaster: Andy MacVie

Andymacvie@roadrunner.com / 716-445-6805

Executive Board Members:

Ron Tober

rontober@gmail.com / 716-694-0875

Franke Pastore

frankcpastore@yahoo.com / 716-909-6898

Ron Kemp

rgkemp316@gmail.com / 716-990-9903

<u>Division Contact for 2028 NMRA National Convention:</u>

Andy MacVie

Andymacvie@roadrunner.com / 716-445-6805



NMRA and the Regions are not where the hobby works, it works locally. We are the NMRA. Come and join us!

The best part of being a member of the NMRA is the friends you meet along the way!



Why name this newsletter "The Lantern", because we are tired of being in the dark and we are signaling that we are going to make some changes.

From the Cabin Car

With winter finally upon us, I hope everyone is doing well and has planned their visits, work, or otherwise, to enjoy our hobby this season to the fullest! If getting out and braving the cold weather is your thing, check out upcoming events you



can enjoy on page 14...lots on the calendar in the first half of 2025! Working on your layout or helping others with their layout or project? Check out page 11 for Frank Pastore's latest contribution to The Lantern sharing his story on a recent basement layout expansion...great inspiration and a beautiful scene!

In this issue of The Lantern, we take note of a few changes for the WNY Division...notably our new Superintendent, Bill Wiedenback, and the newly elected leadership team. Please check out our updated WNY Division Contact Information on page 2 for the latest on "who's who" for the WNY Division. Other changes to The Lantern include a Division Upcoming Calendar and Events page, a newsletter Contributions and Publication Dates entry, and you'll notice our Division's Contacts page is now page 2 in the newsletter versus the last page in previous issues. Please don't hesitate to share your newsletter suggestions at: Editor@wnydivisionnmra.com

Finally, I'd like to share a few photos and briefly highlight my experience attending the Northeastern Regional NMRA Convention, Lakeshores '24, in Rochester this past September. For me, this was the first time I've attended an NMRA convention of any size. Thankfully, many of you have attended these events for years and helped me navigate everything from registration to attending clinics and the various outside events supporting the regional convention. I must say that, although I only attended some of the first day events, I thoroughly enjoyed talking not only with WNY Division members who attended, but also meet and speak



with some great folks outside our division. Thanks to all for sharing your knowledge, I look forward to attending future NMRA events with many of you and hopefully share my experiences and knowledge with future NMRA members!

Before closing, I want to thank our members who opened their layouts for tours in support of Lakeshores '24 this year. I was able to visit a few layouts in the Buffalo area and walked away with not only inspiration for my own future layout, but a better understanding of the tasks ahead which will be invaluable when planning the next steps towards building a layout. By coincidence, I happened to capture just two of our members receiving recognition from Lakeshores Division for their support, whether teaching a clinic, a layout tour, or both in September, congratulations to all who helped during NER's Lakeshores '24 convention ©







October 19, 2024 - Division Meeting at Discovery Center

On October 19th, the WNY Division of the NMRA held their monthly meeting at the Heritage Discovery Center. Superintendent Andy MacVie presented attendees with a the history and timeline of how the WNY Division of the Niagara Frontier Region of the NMRA came to be. Following Ron Tolber's (Election Chairman) formal announcement of election results (see page 2 for election results), Assistant Superintendent, Frank Pastore, swore in Bill Wiedenbeck as Superintendent and Tom McQuillen as Pay Master. A short business meeting was conducted by Superintendent Wiedenbeck, where Tom McQuillen confirmed our division is now formally registered as a 501(c) (3) organization with the state of New York and Frank Pastore updated the division on member name tags and a new apparel vendor (see page 19 for details and additional photos on page 5).









Photos by Frank Pastore

October 19, 2024 - Division Meeting (continued)



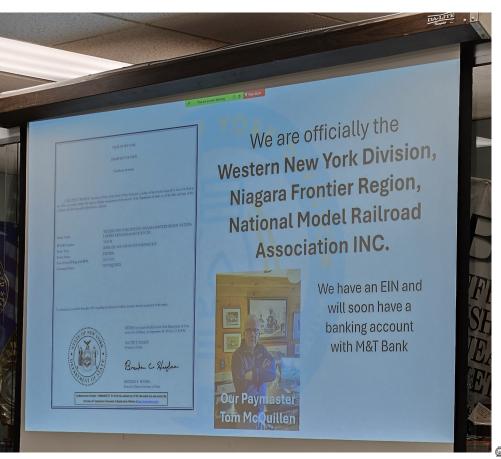


Photo by Gerry DiPaola

November 23/24, 2024 - Division Mtg. at Hamburg Train Show



Jayce (4) and Kellan (9) Marriott trying their hand at weathering using Pan Pastels. Jayce spots a car on

his way to completing his switching operations.



Photos by Darby Marriott



Superintendent, Bill Wiedenbeck swears in newly elected Assistant Superintendent (Steve Cotten) and Chief Clerk (Mike Grabecki).

Photo by Gerry DiPaola

Former WNY Division Superintendent Andy MacVie at the solder station during the turnout scratch building clinic and our friends with the Niagara Frontier Chapter of the International Plastic Modeler's Society sharing their latest accomplishments at the show.



WNY Division Membership Update

Steve Cotten is our Membership Chairman and does a great job at keeping us informed of not only new members when they join, but overall the health of the Division in terms of participation whether it be presentations or attendance. For the October 2024 recording period, Steve is reporting no major changes or updates to our 71 membership roster.

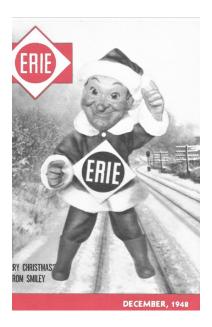


Image by Bill Wiedenbeck

Message from the Chief Clerk

I would first like thank Ron Kemp for recording the minutes from the October 18, 2024 member meeting. I was on vacation and unable to attend. I recorded the minutes from our November 23, 2024 meeting (WNYRHS Train Show) and will look to have those approved at an upcoming meeting. I am looking forward to serving the Division. As I work with the other elected leaders and board, I will transition into the Chief Clerks role. Bill Wiedenbeck, Steve Cotten and Tom McQuillen have been extremely helpful in this initial period.

My immediate focus will be on membership records, maintaining the written and legal records, corresponding with members and providing information in the Niagara Frontier Region Newsletter and NMRA Magazine "Club Car". Future summaries of meetings will be published in the "Lantern".

We are currently working with our Director of IT -Darby Marriott to get the leadership Division e-mail contacts activated. I can be reached by phone 716-649-8377 for any questions. If no answer, please leave a message with request and return phone number. Hope to see you at the Christmas Party!



Photo by Mike Grabecki

Thank you,
Mike Grabecki, Chief Clerk

AP REPORT

Gary Reynolds, MMR, our AP Manager, shares the latest on our AP Program!

This month's message to WNYNMRA members discusses the Achievement Program Association Volunteer Certificate.

I'd like to take this opportunity to discuss the Achievement Program (AP) Association Volunteer Certificate. Our division has awarded this certificate to several of our members over the past year. I also know that a few members would qualify or are coming close to qualifying once they complete the required paperwork.

I have one big piece of advice for anyone who plans to apply for an AP certificate. Please read the requirements on the NMRA website and please do not overthink or interpret what it says.

All that being said, I will try to review the requirements for you. I have eliminated all the requirements that I feel do not apply in most cases (national and regional work).

To qualify for the Association Volunteer certificate, you must accumulate sixty (60) certified time units (TUs). The TUs you receive for various types of service are listed below:

- Active as a Division Officer or Committee Manager 1 TU per month
- ullet Active satisfactory service as a Division Committee or Board Member 1/2 **TU per month**

So, what exactly constitutes a "committee"? Basically, just about any office or function except Divisional Superintendent (this is covered under Association Official). Most other officers in a Division are considered Committee Chairmen.

- Service as a Division Officer or Director (other than at the Regional level) 1 TU per month
- Newsletter Editors 1 TU per month (all newsletters must have at least 4 issues per year)
- Official judges at NMRA sponsored model contests (including non-rail) shall be given time units for such service at the contest only (not monthly), as a one-time service credit per contest as follows: Division Contest Judge 1 Time Unit
- Individuals (and their crews) who open their home or club layout for layout tours in conjunction with NMRA conventions or other NMRA sponsored events earn credit as follows for each day the layout is open for viewing:

Regional Event - 3 Time Units/day (6 TUs maximum per event)
Divisional Event - 3 Time Units/day (3 TUs maximum per event)

A live clinic that is presented more than once earns Association Volunteer credits for each additional (the first presentation is credited toward Author) presentation at the following schedule:
 Divisional Clinic - 1 Time Unit

You are required to complete a Record of Service (see sample form on next page) to track all of your hours. This may sound challenging, but you will be surprised how the hours add up. Remember your AP Chairman, that's me, is here to help!

Thank You, Gary

AP REPORT (continued)							
Sample Record of Service form:							
Member's Name:			NMRA #:		Exp:		
RECORD OF SERVICE							
POSITION HELD	FROM	ТО	LEVEL N - National R - Regional	POINTS/ MONTH	POINTS EARNED	VERIFIED BY	NMRA #
				TOTAL			

AP REPORT

At our October 19th meeting, Gary Reynolds, MMR, our AP Manager, announced he will be leading a 4-car Work Train build project in support of obtaining an AP Certificate. Initial details include construction of 2 flatcars and 2 gondolas followed by either a boom, kitchen, engineering, or bunk car. An initial build meeting is planned at Gary's home followed by several remote work sessions on your own (Mondays 12-3 p.m.). Materials of HO scale construction are estimated to be approximately \$50.

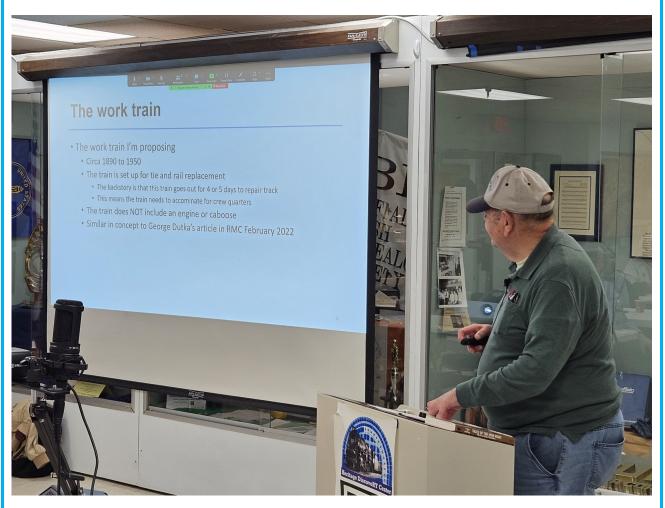


Photo by Gerry DiPaola

<u></u>

What's On Your Work Bench



As many WNY members know I have expanded my freelanced HO layout the Allegheny Central many times over the past 10 years. Each expansion was because of my desire to make the layout more interesting and improve operations.

(Before Photo)

This year's expansion is a 12' x 5' L shaped area in my sump pump, utility and storage section of my basement. The area behind the barn is where my stationary tub is located. Construction is open grid construction cantilevered from the studded wall with a plywood deck, cork roadbed, and code 83 flex track.





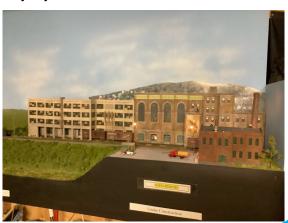
The expansion allowed me to connect two staging yards with two long passing sidings and crossover turnouts.

(After Photo)

Photos by Frank Pastore

As you can see from the photos, the scene depicts the fictional area of Shepardburg, WV with a few industries in the background. The two large industries in the rear were donation by Lakeshore's member Bruce Shepard, repurposed on my layout. Frank Pastore

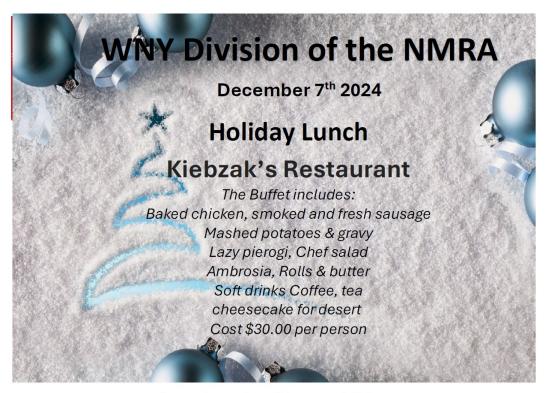




2024 Holiday Luncheon

Our Division Holiday Lunch takes place on Saturday December 7th at Kiebzak's Restaurant (flyer below). Hope you have your reservations and we'll see you there!

Bill Wiedenbeck, Superintendent



38 Crocker St. Sloan, NY 14212 Gather @ 11, lunch @ noon

Directions

Reservations and payment at our Division meeting Saturday October 19th @ the WNY Discovery Center. 10:30 am

Questions?

Contact Bill Wiedenbeck

Call: (716) 866-3732



Email: radiobill@roadrunner.com

In Memoriam

Some sad news to pass along, Western New York Division member and lifetime NMRA member, Doug Nagel has passed away. We extend our sympathy to his wife Barb and the entire Nagel family.



Douglas R. Nagel

Douglas R. Nagel passed away November 9, 2024 in Buffalo General Medical Center. Born May 15, 1951 in Lockport he was a son of Robert W. and Helen W. (Dence) Nagel. Doug graduated from Newfane Central School in 1969. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Ceramic Engineering from Alfred University in 1973. He worked in various engineering positions throughout his career. Doug was an avid model railroader and a longtime member of the Niagara Orleans Model Railroad Engineers. He made an operational HO scale model of the Somerset Railroad/Rotary car coal dumper, which won various modeling awards. Doug enjoyed attending NASCAR races with his son David, model train events, and vacationing with his wife Barbara.

Doug is survived by his wife Barbara (Richards) Nagel; son David (Nicole) Nagel; brother Barry (Nancy) Nagel; in-laws Robert (Diane) Richards and Kathleen (Dan Dombrowski) Richards; also seven nieces and nephews.

Bill Wiedenbeck, Superintendent @

Photo provide by Bill Wiedenbeck

Division Calendar & Up Coming Events

Dec. 7 Holiday Luncheon Kiebzak's Restaurant 38 Crocker St. Sloan 11 am

Dec. 14 & 15 Tiger Tracks Train Show & Salle at RIT

Jan. 12- The Great Batavia Train Show 9:30-3:30 Genesee Community College Batavia

Jan. 18- Division meeting 100 Lee St 10:30am. Division members Bob Andrycha and Bob Scheib will present "The History of railroads that served Akron & Newstead"

Jan. 26 & 27- Amherst Railroad Hobby Show, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Saturday | 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Sunday, West Springfield, MA

Feb. 8- 3D3Rx Virtual Meet with Lakeshore (NER) and Division 12 (MCR), more information soon

Feb. 15- W.N.Y.R.H.S. Train Show Hamburg Fairgrounds. Division Meeting at the show 10:30am

Mar. 15- Division Meeting 100 Lee St. 10:30am. Marty Biniasz with the James E. Strates Shows talks all things trains.

Apr. 12- Division meeting 100 Lee St., Buffalo 10:30 a.m., Topic TBA

May 17- Division meeting 100 Lee St. Buffalo 10:30 a.m., Topic TBA

June 21- Division meeting 100 Lee St., Buffalo 10:30 a.m., Topic TBA

July 14 to 19- NMRA 2025 National convention (incl. the National Train Show) in Novi, Michigan

2026- NMRA National convention in Chattanooga, Tennessee, dates TBA

Click here for NMRA National Conventions

Click here for NMRA Regional Conventions

Santa at the Depot

On Saturday, December 7th, Santa will appear at the Williamsville Lehigh Vally Depot from noon until 2 people. The depot is located at 86 South Longstreet in the Village of Williamsville, NY. Bring the kids to the free family event to meet Santa!

Get Paid For Your NMRA Activities

Dear Western New York Division member.

We're thrilled to share some exciting news, the National Model Railroad Association has teamed up with Grouper, a Medicare Advantage and Supplement plan benefit, to support your membership dues!

What Does This Mean for You? Starting now, members with an eligible health plan can enjoy all the benefits of National Model Railroad Association membership with more peace of mind.

If you have a qualifying Medicare Advantage or Medicare Supplement plan, Grouper will send you a check to cover your NMRA membership dues. Check Your Eligibility: Curious to know if you qualify?

We look forward to sharing more about how this partnership with Grouper is designed to enhance your model railroad experience and overall well-being.

If you have any immediate questions, feel free to contact Grouper at 833-906-1700.

Thank you,
Bill Wiedenbeck
Superintendent

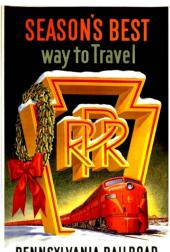
Links and Notes



Directions:

Get off the 190 at the Smith Street Exit and go south on Smith Street to South Park Ave. turn left and head east on South Park to Lee Street, then turn left on to Lee Street and 100 Lee is on the left side of the street.

Parking and an entrance are in the back of the building; however, a Handicap entrance is only available in the front of the building.



PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD

Use the QR Reader below to go to Western New York Division of the NMRA website. Yes fans we have our own webpage!



The Lantern Newsletter - Publication Dates for 2025

Our Lantern is published monthly and is a great place to learn and share information. Contributions welcome! Consider adding to our Lantern... by sending your ideas and articles to the editor, Gerry DiPaola, at:

Editor@wnydivisionnmra.com / 716-545-1740

Publication March 1st 2025 - Deadline for submissions is February 22th Publication June 1st 2025 - Deadline for submissions is May 25th Publication September 1st 2025 Deadline for submissions is August 25th Publication December 1st 2025 Deadline for submissions is November 24th

Thank you for your contributions!



Links and Notes

Good Reasons to keep your membership!

Click the below link for the most current information.

THREE BIG BENEFITS OF NMRA MEMBERSHIP:

15% OFF 25% OFF



Those are the discounts that manufacturers and hobby shops in our Partnership Program are giving us <u>right now</u>. Partners like Micro-Mark®. Model Rectifier Corporation®. Badger Airbrush®. Unreal Details®. Hot Wire Foam Factory®. Logic Rail™ Technologies. And over 30 more companies. It's savings that can actually pay for your membership!

And are you taking advantage of our <u>other</u> big benefits? Like 150+ national convention clinic videos. Or over 15 hours of "how-to" videos produced by the biggest names in model railroading videos. Or our directory of model railroad layouts all over the world that you can visit. The list goes on and on.

If you haven't visited www.nmra.org lately, you're missing out on some really great stuff. Starting with a boatload of discounts!





PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

NMRA members can log in at www.nmra.org and click on the Benefits tab to view the NMRA Partnership Program. Please patronize all of our partners for some fantastic discounts as an NMRA member!

*NScaleWorks

NScaleWorks offers N-scale scenery and rolling stock detail items, as well as custom designed and printed decals.

*Tichy Train Manufacturer of rolling stock and structure kits in N, HO, S, Group and O, as well as a wide array of detail & structural parts.

CatzPaw Innovations
Clever Models
Deluxe Materials
East Coast Circuits
Great Decals
Green Frog Productions
Hot Wire Foam Factory
Jason's Brass Poles
K.I.S.S. Method Inc
LARC Productions
Logic Rail Technologies
Micro-Mark
MinuteMan Scale Models

Modelers Decals & Paint
Model Railroad Benchwork
Model Train Catalogue
Motrak Models
MRC (Model Rectifier Corp)
OK Engines/Streamliners
Old West Scenery
Ram Track
RR-CirKits
Rusty Stumps
Scale Model Plans
Scalecoat Paint
Scenery Solutions

Showcase Miniatures
Team Track Models
The N Scale Architect
The Train Show, Inc.
Train Installations, LLC
Trainmaster TV/MRH Store
UGears
Unreal Details
USA Airbrush Supply/
Badger Airbrush
WiFi Model Railroad LLC

*Indicates newest Partner

60

NMRA Magazine

WNY NMRA Membership Info Pamphlet

Who We Are



The NMRA

The National Model Railroad Association (NMRA), an organization of model railroaders, advances the worldwide scale model railroading community through education and standards as well as advocacy and fellowship.

The Western New York Division

The Western New York Division (WNYD) is a division of the NMRA and consists of Erie and Niagara counties in Western New York State.



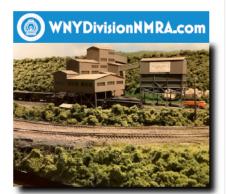
Western New York Division Fast Facts

- Organized in 2020
- · Approximately 65 members
- Consists of Erie and Niagara Counties
- The Division is within the Niagara Frontier Region of the NMRA
- The WNY Division hosts events monthly
- Events consist of clinics, model railroad operations, prototype tours, layout open houses, door prizes, and much more
- Events are located throughout the division
- The division publishes The Lantern newsletter, bimonthly
- Learn more at www.WNYDivisionNMRA.com



Photo Credits:

Jerry Jordak, Frank Pastore, Bob Maskrey



Welcome to the
National Model
Railroad Association's
Western New York Division



Contact us at Superintendent@WNYDivisionNMRA.com

Great Connections - Check Out These Links for Additional Information:

- NMRA Membership Information
- NMRA Beginners Guide
- NMRA 2025 National Convention in Novi, Michigan National

WNY NMRA Membership Info Pamphlet

Why Join the NMRA?

- Receive discounts from model railroad manufacturers that have partnered with the NMRA
- When you join the NMRA, you also receive automatic membership in the Niagara Frontier Region and the Western New York Division - Experience the fun and fellowship of getting together with other modelers... for help, advice & encouragement!



- Annual National & Regional conventions
 Clinics, layout and prototype tours, contests & much more
- The Western New York Division conducts monthly meets, consisting of clinics, layout operations, & more
- Download articles from other division newsletters highlighted in the NMRA Magazine
- The NMRA offers insurance coverage for club meets & shows - If your club is 100% NMRA, you qualify!

 Participate in the NMRA's Achievement Program - Take part to improve your modeling skills or go for "Master Model Railroader" certification



 The NMRA has the world's largest railroad library - Contains over 100,000 prototype photos, 6,000 books, over 50,000 modeling, prototype and historical magazines, and thousands of kit instructions



- The NMRA offers reduced rates on special insurance for your layout or collection
- . The NMRA offers free estate counseling

- Access to NMRA Standards & Data Sheets
- NMRA's Model Railroad Directory to contact other NMRA members in your area... or across the country
- Receive monthly digital national NMRA Magazine, bimonthly electronic NMRA eBulletin, monthly electronic NMRA Turntable, and bimonthly Western New York Division's The Lantern newsletter -All filled with NMRA news, modeling articles, tips and more.



 Watch pre-recorded clinics available on the NMRA website in the comfort of your home.



WNY Division Apparel

Thanks to Frank Pastore for his efforts working with area vendors for WNY Division name tags and apparel items. Please reach out to Frank directly if you have yet to either pay for and/or pick up a name tag. For apparel related offerings, please visit https://selectlinesports.com/collections/national-model-railroad-association-wny or use the QR Reader to the right to take you to the website (select Fan Cave, Team Stories, then National Model Railroad Association). Currently available are polos, sweatshirts, 1/4 zip top, and oxford shirts.

