

Hudson Berkshire Division State of the Division

Irwin D. Nathanson, President
21 January 2022

Agenda

- **Introducing the 2022 Leadership Team**
- **A brief history of the Hudson Berkshire Division**
- **Master Model Railroaders certified last year**
- **Activities: upcoming and possibilities**
- **The challenges**
- **Financial Report**
- **GTE Report**
- **News from NMRA National**
- **Closing remarks**



Leadership Team

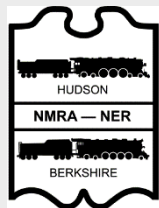
- **President:** Irwin D. Nathanson
- **Vice President:** Doug Dederick
- **Board Member:** James Lauser
- **Board Member:** John Valachovic *
- Benjamin Maggi: Treasurer
- Sarah Lauser: Recording Secretary
- James Lauser: GTE Chairman
- Mark Sklar: Editor, Form 19
- Bert Pflagl: Associate Editor, Form 19
- **Kevin Surman:** Achievement Program Chairman

Honorary Board Members:

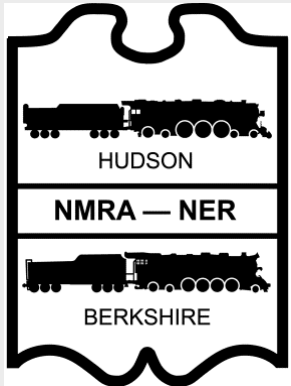
- Paul Hoffman *
- Greg Whittle *
- Artie Krass *

Red = elected by HBD membership
***** = past HBD Presidents
Blue = appointed by President
Green = appointed by NER AP Chairman

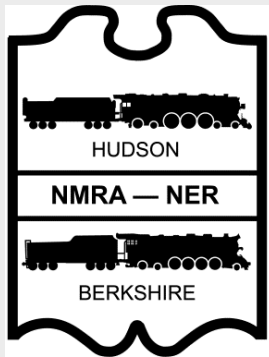
Who We Are



- Founded in December 1966 at Glen Wagner's house by a group of 14 model railroaders
- Original name: Hudson Mohawk Division
- Order Number 1 of the Form 19: December 1967
- Recognized as a Division of the NMRA: March 1968
- Name changed to the Hudson Berkshire Division: September 1968
- We have hosted *six* Northeast Regional Conventions!

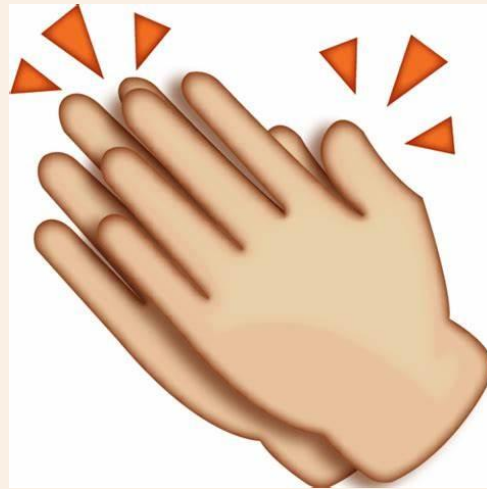
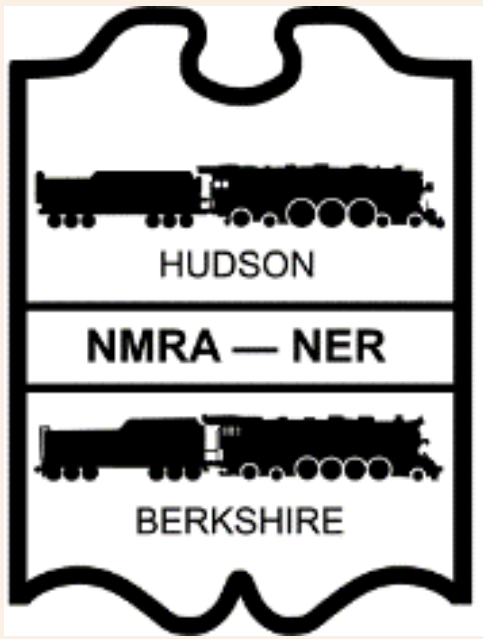


- December 2007: we enter a partnership with the Upstate Train Associates (UTA) to help run the Great Train Extravaganza (GTE). We are junior partners, receiving 25% of the net proceeds
- December 2008: we start our annual Toys for Tots fund drive. We deliver 51 train sets to some very happy kids
- August 2010: we achieve Tax Exempt recognition from the IRS as a 501c(4) Public Welfare organization
- December 2012: HBD consists of over 180 NMRA members (down to 130 today)
- December 2008: we become full GTE partners with UTA, providing the spark that turned this show into a true extravaganza with up to 5,000 visitors. Rich Smith becomes GTE Chairman, providing fantastic leadership for the next 10 years



- December 2018: We purchase ownership of GTE from UTA. James Lauser becomes GTE Chairman, partnering with his wife Sarah to run the show, with mentoring from Rich Smith
- 2020 brings the pandemic, events cancelled, others moved to remote/virtual format
- GTE 2020 cancelled due to COVID-19
- 2021 is Year 2 of the pandemic; some events carefully held in-person
- GTE 2021 brings us back to 2019 levels
- We continue to donate train sets to the Toys for Tots campaign every year
- We provide a discounted Bus Trip to the Amherst Railway Society train show each January (but not during COVID-19)
- The Form 19 has been in continuous publication for 52 years. December 2021 issue is order number 371. Mark Sklar and Bert Pflagl have done an outstanding job as Editors for many years!

New Master Model Railroaders



During 2021 the following HBD members achieved MMR status:

- Joe Kavanaugh
- Ken Nelson

For more information on the Achievement program, contact Kevin Shurman:

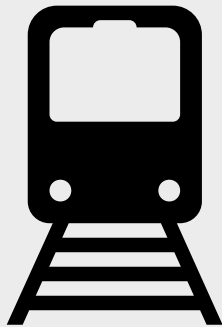
(518) 583-1383

spacity4@nycap.rr.com

Where Do We Go From Here?



- Continue to grow GTE
 - Recruit new vendors at Springfield Show
 - **More volunteers needed!**
- Continue/expand Toys for Tots
- Re-start the annual bus trip to Springfield as soon as the pandemic allows
- Enhance our social media presence
 - Facebook
 - Twitter
 - Others?
- Organize and arrange trips to railroad attractions (post-COVID)
 - Cooperstown RR?
 - Steamtown?
 - Mount Washington Cog Railway?
 - Exporail?
 - Elsewhere?
- Host another NER Convention?



- Plan joint activities with neighboring Divisions
 - Central New York
 - Others?
- Encourage/attract some of the “luminaires” of the hobby to present at our events
 - Tony Koester
 - Cody Grivno
 - Dick Elwell
 - Others?
- Re-build membership
- Retain *all* existing members
- Develop new and better member benefits
- Continue our stellar Form 19 newsletter
- Place greater emphasis on Achievement Program, including “Modeling With the Masters” hands-on clinics
- **Your ideas....**

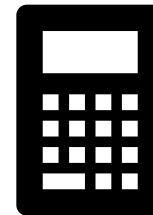
What Are The Challenges?

- How do we keep HBD viable during Year 3 of the pandemic?
- Is the National Organization changing fast enough to meet the demands of an aging/shrinking membership base?
 - HBD membership now down to 130
- Dues are too high – and rising!
- Recruiting the next generation of HBD leaders
 - This is Irwin's last year as President
- How can we make better use of NER support?
- How do we better integrate our geographically far-flung division???
- New layouts and activities...how do we avoid the trap of complacency and doing the “same old same old?”
- How do we better welcome and retain our new members?
- What can we do to improve Form 19 and web site content?

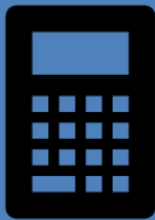


Treasurer's Report

- Through the careful budgeting of our Division's resources, we were able to use low cost or free technology to allow us to have remote and limited-contact in-person, meetings in 2021
- We were able to host the Great Train Extravaganza in 2021 after having to skip it in 2020, and it was successful enough to allow part of the proceeds to go back into our general fund (as well as allow for some retaining in the GTE account for next year's show)
- Toys for Tots: we donated 10 train sets in 2020 and another 13 train sets in 2021! (Thanks, as always, to J.P.'s Trains in Latham for their great support!)
- Newsletter: if you prefer to have the Form 19 in electronic format instead of paper, please let us know. It does save us some money.



Account Balances:



	Checking & Savings	Toys for Tots	GTE
Balance on 1/01/2021	\$7,910	\$820	\$4,739
Total Income	\$280	\$327	\$17,299 *
Total Expenses	\$1,350	\$1,055	\$5,560
Balance on 12/31/2021	\$6,840	\$92	\$16,478
Expenses still to be paid			\$7,000
GTE balance for 2022			\$9,478 *

* Includes \$548 donations for Toys for Tots

GTE: Chairman's Report

- 54 Vendors totaling 185 tables
- 15 Exhibitors totaling 55 tables
- 9 Layouts
- Guests:
 - ~ 1,700 adults
 - ~ 400 children
- Visitors about same level as 2019; tables down about 15%
- 386 adult and 139 children tickets sold online
- \$548 collected for Toys for Tots!
- *Preliminary* financials *
 - Expenses: \$12,550
 - Income: \$16,750
 - Profit: \$4,200

* Includes expenses being paid in 2022 and excludes the funds earmarked for Tft



GTE: Take- Aways

- We need new/more vendors!
- We were somewhat short of volunteers
- Advertising results based on visitor survey:
 - TV commercial didn't work
 - FaceBook was very productive
 - Plastic road signs were our biggest draw!
- Online sales were good
- Parking was an issue this year
- Vendors seemed very satisfied



GTE: We Need Your Help!

- As noted, we need new/more vendors!
- Volunteers needed to recruit new vendors during the Amherst Model Train Show in Springfield, MA 29-30 January
- We have Flyers and Guidelines to assist
- Please contact Irwin at (518) 668-9892 if you can help!



News From NMRA National

- Starting in April, *all* memberships will include digital issues of “NMRA Magazine”
- New dues structure starting in April:
 - Member with *digital* magazine: \$68 (If you currently subscribe to the print copy, this saves you \$14)
 - Member with *digital and print* magazine: \$92 (\$10 increase from 2021)
 - Student with digital magazine: \$40
 - Rail Pass (9 months) with digital magazine: \$19.95
 - Family member: \$10

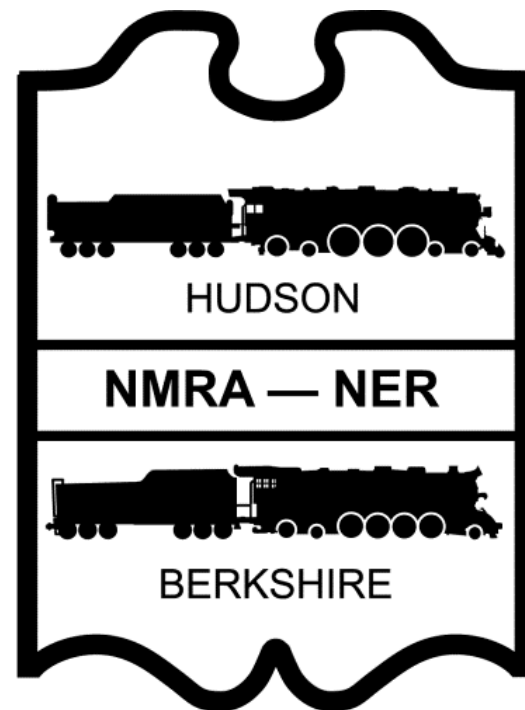
News From NMRA NER

- New NER web site:
www.nernmra.org
- Next NER Virtual Convention (NERx): 21 – 24 March 2022
<http://www.nerx.org/>
- Next NER Convention: Windsor, CT, 15 -18 September 2022

Now What?

- Consider how you can help *your* Division
- Volunteer for a committee or leadership post; two positions coming up for election in November:
 - President
 - Board Member
- Welcome every new member with open arms and attitudes
- If every member recruits just one friend, we will *double* our size and our access to layouts, ideas, friends and knowledge
- Bring your ideas! HBD needs fresh insights and paradigms
- *No one benefits from the “great idea” that is never shared*
- Consider giving a clinic, hosting a layout visit, or writing an article for the Form 19 or contributing some photos. All are welcome!





THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION AND INTEREST!!!
