

7th Division, PNR, NRMA Canada Secretary Report to Nov. 23 AGM

The Board continues to work on several items that it feels are valuable to members of the 7th Division, Pacific Northwest Region, NMRA Canada. Probably first and foremost is the 7th Div hosting the upcoming 2024 PNR Regional Convention, now known as Surrey Excursion 2024. This topic has been on the board agenda for most meetings up to now and continues to be an important item requiring the support of both the board and the general membership. You will likely hear more about this item in other reports presented at this AGM.

The Board continues to support the Railway Modellers Meet of BC, although it will be supplanted by Surrey Excursion 2024 in May of next year. One of the most tangible things the board has done to support RMMBC is to purchase a wi-fi capable PA system to be used at RMMBC for the clinics that are presented during the meet.

The Board also continues to try to solicit input and participation in various 7th Division activities throughout the year. This is being done through several mechanisms. One is to continue hosting an NMRA information booth at most of the model train shows hosted throughout the province including RMMBC, Squamish show, Victoria show, Cloverdale swap meet and VTEX. Another mechanism is the continued updating of the 7th Division website to keep members across the province informed about upcoming activities and events being hosted with regards to model train activities. This is an ongoing process as there is currently no appointed webmaster for the site and updates have been provided by the Superintendent in his spare time. We continue to seek an individual who would be willing to take on the role of webmaster for the 7th Division website. A third means by which the board tries to support the membership has been through the provision of online clinics on various model railroading topics. Although the schedule of online activities has been minimal this year we are looking at putting on a half-day or more series of clinics by the end of 2023 and the online clinic schedule may morph into something more consistent when an education coordinator (posting has been put on website and in Bulletin Board newsletter) has been found to assume that position. A fourth mechanism is the publication of the Bulletin Board newsletter on a quarterly or more basis to keep the membership informed about things going on within the Division. Another means has been through the use of Constant Contact email campaigns to make announcements about upcoming activities and events within the Division (such as AGM notices). While we have been fortunate to use a CC account of a member from another Division, that has currently ended and the Board has had to implement its own CC account recently to keep members in the loop. Our hope is that this account will be provided to all Divisions by the Pacific Northwest Region in the future so that the cost

does not need to be borne solely by 7th Division membership. As we are just getting used to maintaining our own CC account we appreciate the patience and support of the general membership when we don't always get the CC announcements as good as they could be; we are doing our best to continue to improve and provide accurate information to the membership. A new membership coordinator has been appointed to support the Board in maintaining an accurate count of new members and departing members so that information is only being sent to current 7th Division members. The board would like to thank Doug Hicks for stepping into this position to support us and the membership.

The Board also continues to update our bylaws to comply with legal requirements of the BC Societies Act to ensure our business is conducted legally within the province. To that end a special resolution will be voted on at this AGM to bring us in line with the requirements of the Societies Act.

On a sadder note the Board announced the passing of Dick Sutcliffe a couple of months ago. A long-time supporter of the 7th Division board and membership, many of the members likely had some kind of contact with Dick during his participation in 7th Division activities.

As always the Board desires to keep all members in the 7th Division feeling like they are included and their input is desired despite the vast size of our Divisional territory. Although we had started a survey towards the end of 2022, this task simply proved to be too onerous for the small number of people on the Board to complete so it was discontinued. Therefore we strongly urge the membership to consider ways in which they might be able to help out in 7th Division and to advise us of their willingness to volunteer for currently available volunteer positions posted on the 7th Division website and in the Bulletin Board newsletter and announcements throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Nussli
Secretary, 7th Division, Pacific Northwest Region, National Model Railroad Association
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