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smdnmra.org

From the Desk of the Superintendent:

By Bob Johnson

This edition of the *Wheel Report* will be the last issue for the 2024 / 2025 program year. As of this writing there are no suggestions / plans for a summer activity but we remain open to the possibility if a viable opportunity presents itself.

This is also my last communication with the membership of the SMD as your Superintendent. I have held this position for the past three years and as I noted last month I will be handing over the reigns of the SMD to Dan Mulhearn for the 2025 – 2026 program year. Thanks to Dan for stepping up to assume the position of Superintendent.

I have mixed feelings about my tenure. We have had some success in rebuilding the SMD's membership following the steep decline associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. While this is good for the Division, I am somewhat disappointed with the failure of the general membership to participate in our regular monthly meetings. I have seen a number of new faces at our meetings, but these have only served to offset the loss of older members who are no longer participating for various reasons. Overall, meeting attendance has been fairly stable but I was hoping to see it grow. I am sure that Superintendent Dan will continue the membership recruiting programs that we have established over the past year.

I was very disappointed by the attendance at the April Mini-Con. We had a good turnout in terms of presenters and modular layout groups, but the public did not respond this year. Publicity was pretty much the same as in past years but for some reason the turnout was the lowest it has been since we restarted the Mini-Con after the pandemic hiatus. Regardless, a big "Thank You" to Grant B for again taking the lead this year and all of the rest of you who helped run the event and / or make presentations.

May Meeting:

The last meeting of the program year will be held Sunday, 18 May (3rd Sunday). The May meeting is always pushed out a week to avoid a conflict with Mother's Day. The host of the May meeting will be your new Superintendent, Dan Mulhearn.

As usual the meeting will start at 2:00 PM. On the other hand, the venue will be somewhat unusual.

Dan is a resident of the Quincy Village senior living center. The village has an extensive model railroad complex. Dan says that that is the reason he decided to move there and he has arranged for us to visit the complex this month.

Dan has provided the following description of the Winter Building complex.

We have four layout rooms. Room one is a large fully sceniced HO layout. Room two is a large Lionel layout. Room three has N gauge, HO and a German Village. Room four is an HO layout with a helix going up over the aisle and down the other side.

The address to use to reach the village is 6596 Orphanage Road, Waynesboro, PA. That is the main office location of Quincy Village and the Winter Building is on the opposite side of the campus. Heading west on Orphanage Road from PA Route 997, pass the Quincy Post Office and the Wesley House apartment house, both to right or north side. Turn right onto Otterbein Rd (the first road after coming off 997). Make the first right and park in front of the Winter Building.

There is a railroad crossing sign and an outdoor layout in front of the building.

Looking forward to having a good turnout for the last meeting of the year.

Reminder:

SMD membership meetings are always the 2nd Sunday of the month at 2PM. The only exceptions are for April, when the Mini-Con replaces our business meeting, and in May, which will take place one week later, on the 3rd Sunday.

Please consider hosting a meeting sometime during the 2025 - 2026 program year. Email southmountaindiv@gmail.com. We try to avoid back-to-back repeat visits so if you have never hosted, or it has been a year or so since you did, give it a thought.

Dan will be looking for volunteers to host the 2025 / 2026 monthly meetings of the Division. Ideally he would prefer volunteers that have not hosted in the past year. That being said – if there is a shortfall we will be willing to do a repeat visit. Start thinking about it now and let Dan or myself know if you are willing to host by the start of August.

2025 / 2026 Officials:

New officer elections were held at the March meeting. As previously mentioned Dan Mulhearn is taking over as Superintendent in July and Ray Price is the official Clerk / Paymaster. We are still looking for someone to take on the Clerk's (secretary) position. Since this is an elected position you need to live within the boundaries of the SMD to officially hold this position. That being said – if one of our many unofficial members (NMRA members living outside of the SMD area) would consider "assisting" Ray in the Clerk's position please let me know ASAP.

In addition, we need a number of volunteers to serve in "appointed" positions (especially *Wheel Report* Editor). A listing of the primary positions, along with a description of the associated duties, was published in the [December Wheel Report](#) and on our [web site](#).



Renew On Line:

You can renew your NMRA membership on line at the following link;
<https://www.nmra.org/store/membership>

Remember that your national membership automatically includes membership in both the Mid-East Region and the South Mountain Division and you will receive the NMRA Bulletin electronically on a regular basis. Membership is a requirement for insurance purposes but guests can attend one or two meetings without joining. There is also a trial membership category available at a reduced cost.

SMD Officers and Officials:

Superintendent:	Bob Johnson
Clerk:	Alex Polimeni
Paymaster:	Ray Price
Webmaster/Digital Assets Manager:	Tom Fedor
Wheel Report Editor/Publisher:	Bob Johnson
Wheel Report Contributing Editor:	Alex Polimeni
Division Achievement Program Coordinator:	Jane Clarke
Mini-Con Coordinator:	Grant Berry