

# THE TIMETABLE



## THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ILLINOIS VALLEY DIVISION

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

Volume 45, No. 1, January 17, 2026

WEBSITE: [nmra-ivd.org](http://nmra-ivd.org)



### FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Where did the year go? I hope each and every one of you had a very happy holiday season and I hope 2026 is just as happy and prosperous for you and your families! But now, with 2025 in the rear view mirror, it's time to turn our focus to what's ahead. The New Year marks the beginning of some big changes at the NMRA and for the hobby in general. Welcome to the official kickoff of the NMRA's Vision 2035 initiative; a plan dedicated to the growth and enjoyment of every facet of the model railroad community through continuing maintenance of technical specifications across the hobby, representing the interests of model railroaders at every opportunity, fostering a welcoming environment for new and existing members that grows the hobby, and providing resources and instructions to help members improve their skills and their enjoyment of the hobby. The plan is built on four key objectives: Drive membership growth to 100,000 members by our 100th anniversary in 2035, increase overall member enjoyment and satisfaction, accelerate the NMRA's influence and leadership within the industry, and ensure the success and sustainability of the organization by modernizing operations and securing the necessary resources for long term vitality and sustainability. In the last half of 2025, the NMRA laid the foundation for this ambitious plan through investments in IT, member engagement, marketing, and at trade shows. In November the rebrand of the new NMRA logo was announced along with a plan of action for the Region and Division leaders to standardize its usage. Checklists and follow-up procedures have been developed to assist Regional and Division Boards in effectively managing their areas of responsibility, increasing member skill growth, building up organization membership, and increasing public outreach and visibility. These guidelines will become

front and center focus items in 2026 as the details are worked out and official copies distributed to the Regional and Division officers. It is my sincere wish that 2026 will be not only be a year of positive and successful changes for the NMRA as an organization, but also for each member of the Illinois Valley Division as we strive to improve our modeling skills and demonstrate our dedication to the promotion of the hobby through social engagement with others.

Gary Baker

IVD Superintendent

**Our next IVD meet with be elections. The offices up for re-election are listed in this Timetable. If you would like to run or hold office, please let this be known. This is your organization. Please step up because we need your talent, ability and energy in the IVD.**

## DIVISION OFFICERS



SUPERINTENDENT (2026)  
Gary Baker  
309-264-6797  
[afpgary@mac.com](mailto:afpgary@mac.com)



ASST. SUPERINTENDENT (2027)  
AP CHAIRPERSON  
Minton Dings, MMR@  
(309)-241-4504  
[greenriverbranch1957@gmail.com](mailto:greenriverbranch1957@gmail.com)



CHIEF CLERK (2026)  
Randy Sommer  
(309)274-4563  
[chief.clerk@nmra-ivd.org](mailto:chief.clerk@nmra-ivd.org)



PAYMASTER (2027)  
Jeff Deasy  
217-836-0223  
[paymaster@nmra-ivd.org](mailto:paymaster@nmra-ivd.org)

### TRAINMASTERS



District 1—Peoria & Tazewell Counties  
(2027)  
Russ Smith  
309-255-2058  
[district1@nmra-ivd.org](mailto:district1@nmra-ivd.org)

To Be  
Appointed

DISTRICT 2 - Grundy, Livingston, McLean  
and Woodford Co.



DISTRICT 3 - Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall,  
Putnam and Stark Co.(2027)  
David Hawkey  
(309)274-6150  
[district3@nmra-ivd.org](mailto:district3@nmra-ivd.org)



DISTRICT 4 - Fulton, Henry, Knox, Rock  
Island and  
Warren Co.(2026)  
Larry Nelson  
(309)789-6447  
[district4@nmra-ivd.org](mailto:district4@nmra-ivd.org)



DISTRICT 5 - Adams, Brown, Cass,  
Logan, Mason, McDonough, Menard,  
Morgan, Pike Sangamon, Schuyler and  
Scott Co. (2027)  
Thomas Ose  
(217)483-4368  
[district5@nmra-ivd.org](mailto:district5@nmra-ivd.org)

Year listed with title indicates the end of present term.

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Contact editor at [greenriverbranch1957@gmail.com](mailto:greenriverbranch1957@gmail.com)

## Upcoming 2026 IVD Meetings

### Membership Meetings:

Unless noted otherwise, meetings are held on the third Saturday of January, March, May, September and November at a branch of the Peoria Public Library, Peoria. Doors open at 12 noon for a time of fellowship. A \$3.00 donation is welcomed by members which qualifies each donor participation in the door prize drawing.

### JANUARY MEETING

The division has been invited to meet once again in the meeting room of the Chatham Railroad Museum, 100 North State Street, Chatham, Illinois. Doors open at 12 noon and the meeting at 1:00 pm. See the map on the last page of this newsletter.

### Board of Directors Meetings:

The next Board of Directors Meeting, will be Monday February 16, 2026, 6:30 pm by ZOOM. Members who wish to attend need to contact Gary Baker, Superintendent, at the email address listed to the left of this page to receive the ZOOM invitation.

## 2026 Popular Vote Contests

**January:**  
**Scenery, any season**  
**Photos of prototype**  
**railroading**

March  
Scratchbuilding, any category  
Kitbash, any category

May  
Freight Cars  
Dioramas—On Line

September  
Passenger Cars  
Dioramas—On Line

November  
Water Scenes  
Dioramas—Off Line

Each year the Illinois Valley Division elects half of its Board of Directors to serve two year terms. In 2024 the offices of Superintendent, Chief Clerk and Trainmasters for District 2 and 4 are to be elected.

Members of the division are encouraged to stand for election for one of the offices. Although there is a Nominations Committee, individuals may run for an office by declaring the fact by submitting a simple statement of the fact to the Assistant Superintendent, who is the Nominations Chairperson, and submitting a picture and biographical statement to the editor of the newsletter, the TIMETABLE. Presently, the Editor and Nominations Chair is the same person.

Send the statement of intention, the biographical statement and picture to:

Michael Shockley, Editor

IVD TIMETABLE

1107 S. Apache Lane, Peoria, Illinois 61607

email subject title: IVD election

**Job Descriptions of Officers to be Elected in 2026:**

What follows is a somewhat abbreviated list of the duties of the officers and trainmasters to be elected. See the division by-laws for a complete description.

**Superintendent:**

1. Shall prepare the agenda for and preside over all meetings of the Division and the Board of Directors.
2. Shall sign the minutes of all business and Board meetings after the proper bodies have approved them.
3. Shall see to it that all resolutions passed at meetings are carried out and that all sections of the Constitution and its by-laws are enforced.
4. Shall coordinate the work and efforts of all Officers and Trainmasters of the Division.
5. Shall be an ex officio member of all committees.
6. Shall provide for representation of the Division on the Midwest Region Board of Directors, either by personal attendance at Region Board meetings, by written proxy sent to the Secretary of the Midwest Region, or by appointment of a voting member of the Division to serve as Division representative to the Region Board of Directors. While serving on the Region Board of Directors, the Superintendent or designated appointee will respect the directives and wishes of the majority of the Division Board on matters of importance to the well being of the Division. It is the responsibility of the Region Board member to appraise the Division Board on such matters.
7. Shall have the power to appoint up to five additional Trainmasters for service on special committees, subject to Board approval.
8. Shall have the power to act in emergency situations in place of any Division Officer who is unable to perform his/her duties, such action to last only until the Board can meet to make interim arrangements.

**Chief Clerk:**

1. Shall keep a permanent record or copy of all minutes of Board and business meetings.
2. Shall compile a complete and up-to-date list of the names and addresses of all voting members.
3. Shall report all communications received by him/her to the Division.
4. Shall perform all such secretarial duties as provided for in the constitution and by-laws and as may be assigned by the Board from time to time.

**Trainmaster (Districts 2 and 4):**

*District 2 Trainmaster represents members from Grundy, Livingston, McLean and Woodford Counties.*

*District 4 Trainmaster represents members from Fulton, Henry, Knox, Mercer, Rock Island and Warren Counties.*

1. Each shall be elected to represent the members of the respective areas of the Division on the Board. Not more than one Trainmaster shall be elected from each district, however, each district or area shall elect a Trainmaster, regardless of the number of Officers or appointees from that area. If, for any reason, no one wishes to run for Trainmaster of a given area, then the Superintendent may appoint a member from that area to serve as Trainmaster, with all powers and rights of an elected Trainmaster. If no one within an area will accept an appointment, the Superintendent will appoint a Trainmaster-at-Large to represent that area, with all powers and rights of an elected Trainmaster.
2. The District Trainmaster shall be responsible to co-ordinate the place of the meeting, clinics and lay-outs on tour for the annual meeting in their district. The trainmaster may appoint a member(s) to assist in the planning for the meet. The trainmaster may request the assistance of the Superintendent or other officers for resources available to complete the plans for the meet. The trainmaster shall report to the Superintendent the plans for the meet.

## CORRUGATED TIN ROOFS

BY LARRY NELSON

How many times has this happened to you? You are in the middle of a project, and you don't have the materials you need to finish the project. My supply of building materials is often better than the nearest hobby shop's. However, I still find myself running short of things needed to complete my current project. I do a lot of scratch building and sometimes find that it will take a lot more lumber, windows, shingles, paint, styrene, or whatever than I had originally thought. On this current project it was corrugated roofing material. I thought I had plenty to do this little roof. Ha! Ha! When I checked my supply I only had enough left to cover about two thirds of my roof. We were in the middle of a pandemic, and the nearest hobby shop is about a two hundred mile round trip away. What do I do? It's time to get creative.

I read an article written by John Allen many years ago, which has stuck with me all of these years. The article was about how to make things you can't buy or weren't readily available. He talked about breaking the job down into manageable jobs that could be accomplished with the materials and tools that you had on hand. If you have been around model railroading very long, you have probably seen his work that was accomplished during an era when instant gratification didn't exist. I think reading that article has done more to help me with my modeling skills than any other thing.



Well, I needed (or wanted) some corrugated tin for my roof. I could change my plans and put a tarpaper roof on the building. I could have also put shingles on the roof, but I wanted a tin roof. In my vast stock of supplies I had some Evergreen styrene corrugated roofing. That is a nice product, and I have used it many times on other projects. However, I wanted the look of individual tin sheets. I could maybe do a believable job of painting the roof to look like individual sheets, but I wanted this structure to sit near the front of my layout. What could I use to get my desired look? I immediately thought about using the Evergreen corrugated sheet as a template to form some tin. I had some .005 mm brass on hand so I cut scale eight feet wide pieces and proceeded to burnish them with a half inch wide piece of basswood on the styrene form. It worked pretty well, but I could tell that I wasn't going to have enough brass to finish the job. I thought about using an aluminum pop can. That probably would have worked, but before trying that I spotted a roll of heavy duty aluminum foil lying nearby. I tore off a small piece and tried burnishing it. It worked easily, and the ribs gave it an unexpected amount of strength. Eureka!!!! I then set about cutting some eight scale feet pieces to start forming. Bad news, the foil started tearing as I tried to cut it. Time for a sharp blade!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Once I had a new blade (I thought the old one was pretty sharp) things went much better. I did the cutting on a clean self healing cutting mat. Then, using a metal straight edge and a low cutting angle, the foil cut like butter. I proceeded to form the foil by burnishing it over the styrene form. The strips were already cut a scale



eight feet wide, but I preferred to keep the strips longer (about 4 or 5 inches) for easier handling during burnishing. I could cut them to the proper width after burnishing. To keep the corrugations running square as I burnished them, I taped one end of the strip to the styrene and held the other end with my free hand. This kept the grooves running straight and yet allowed the foil to move as the grooves were being formed. This is much easier than it sounds. I cut several strips and then cut those down into pieces a scale 3 feet wide. Cut more than you think you will need. Each sheet will overlap the sheet next to it as you apply them to the roof. I had to go back and make more sheets to finish the second side of the roof. My next challenge was to figure out how attach them to the roof. Most glues don't work real well when gluing metal to wood. The ones that will work are expensive and hard to work with. I opted to use double sided tape. Worked great and is dirt cheap. Of course, I only had enough tape left on my roll to do my first row of tin. After I got back from the store, I finished the rest of the roof.

I now had this beautiful shiny corrugated tin roof on my building. Not very realistic!!!! Time to get out the paints. Aluminum foil is not the easiest surface to paint. I sprayed the entire roof with a coat of Testors Dullcoat to make a better surface to paint. I left that to dry over night. From this point on you can use oil paints or acrylics to color the roof. I like to use acrylics for several reasons. They are cheap. For a ten dollar bill and some change you can get around twenty different colors in the craft paint department at your local WalMart or Hobby Lobby. They mix and clean up with water. I painted the roof using washes of several different colors. I started with a wash of rust color over the entire roof. Washes applied properly are transparent. If yours aren't, try adding a little more water. This allows the tin to show through. I allow the first wash to dry thoroughly. If you try to paint over it with washes of second and third colors too soon, you will wash off the first base coat. Try highlighting the seams and where the top sheets overlap the lower sheet with a dark gray or burnt umber. Using an almost dry brush, streak these colors down the panels. Keep all of these washes transparent. Apply the highlights randomly. Let everything dry. Take a break and come back later. You will see things that need a little touch here or there unless you are really good or blind. The more layers you apply the better and more believable the roof will look. When you are satisfied with the look, you can apply a final coat of dullcoat or just leave it alone. If you want to add some final weathering with pastel chalk, you should probably coat it with dullcoat to provide some tooth to the surface for the chalk to adhere to. I found this method fun and very realistic. Build something, and show me the results.

## DUELING DIORAMAS !!.....

Enter the IVD's "Dueling Dioramas" contest for a chance to win this highly detailed Design Preservation Models Gold Kit "Emery Lane" which consists of 2 Victorian houses with molded-in details and over 90 white metal castings including picket fences, a motorcycle, lawn mower, trellis, clothesline, clothes, and MORE!....

The rules are simple: Build an online or offline diorama in HO scale for any era, not to exceed 144 square inches in size. Any physical dimensions are acceptable as long as the total area modeled does not exceed 144 square inches. For instance, a creative modeler might consider building the diorama on a 13-1/2 inch diameter circle which would just sneak in under the limit at 143.2 square inches.

The deadline for the contest is March 21, 2026 at the regular IVD meet in Peoria. There are no forms to fill out, just bring your entry for display at the meet. All contestants must be current IVD members and the winner will be chosen by popular vote of those attending the meet.

So now that we're all indoors for the Winter, let's make good use of the time and get busy building what could be the winning entry! Good Luck !!....

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Take a stroll down Emery Lane. Smell the fresh cut grass, run a stick along the picket fence and wave to Elsie as she brings in her wash. Watch your neighborhood come to life with two separate plastic Victorian houses with molded-in architectural details and over 90 white metal castings including motorcycle, lawn mower, trellis and many more.

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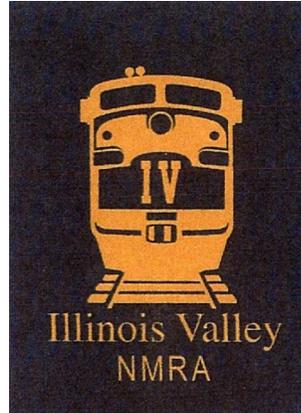
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**DPM GOLD** DETAILED EDITION  
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**2 VICTORIAN HOUSES**

# IVD NMRA APPAREL 2026

For some time there has been a request for the availability of IVD green T-shirts and other apparel. The previous outlet for these items could be acquired through the Locker Room in Spring Valley, Illinois. When contacted, they could not find the patterns to



make the shirts. Therefore the IVD BoD looked into possible providers min the Peoria area and looked into a new logo for the shirts. A provider in Washington was chosen and a new logo was picked after a long, long discussion. After these decisions were made, the pattern produced and paid for and a few shirts made, the Locker Room reported that they had found their patterns. Therefore,

members who wish to order the older logo style can still get them through the Locker Room. The new shirts are dark green with a bright yellow logo.



## **Short Sleeve Shirts**

\$32.70 Regular Sizes  
\$34.88 Extended Sizes  
(sizes 2X and larger)



## **Long Sleeve Shirts**

\$37.06 Regular Sizes  
\$39.24 Extended Sizes  
( sizes 2X and larger)

**ORDER FROM:** Team Works, 2168 Washington Road, Washington, IL 309-745-9924, Cell: 309-712-1494, email [art@teamworks2003.com](mailto:art@teamworks2003.com).

Orders can be done anytime, no minimum order. Russ Smith can pick up and bring to meeting if you wish.

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## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MODEL RAILROADERS

**Great Midwest Train Show**, Sunday, January 4, 2026, February 1, March 1, April 12, May 3, June 7, August 2, September 13, October 4, November 1, December 6. DuPage County Fair Grounds, 2015 Manchester Road, Wheaton, Illinois. The show is scheduled for the first Sunday of each month of 2025 (except no show in July), 9 am to 3 pm. Admission \$8, online \$7, and children under 11 free. Free parking and handicapped accessible.

**Illinois Valley Division Meet**, Saturday, January 17, 2026 1:00 pm to 3:15 pm, Chatham Railroad Museum Doors open at 12:15 \$3 donation accepted.

**ICC Train Fair** Sunday February 15, 2026 10 AM-3 PM. Admission \$3.

**2026 Galesburg Scale Train Show**, stay tuned!

**NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION**, [nmra2026.org](http://nmra2026.org). Scenic City Express, Chattanooga Marriott Downtown/Convention Center, Chattanooga, TN, July 27-August 2, 2026.

**2026 Midwest Region Convention**. There will be no region convention since the National Convention will be held in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

**34th Annual Rail Fair**, Saturday, July 18, 2026, Onalaska Omni Center, 255 Riders Club Road, Onalaska, Wisconsin, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Admission \$8.00, children under 12 free with an adult.

**The Great Tri State Rail Sale**, Saturday, January 24, 2026, 9 AM to 3 PM at The La Crosse Center, 2nd & Pearl Streets, LaCrosse, Wisconsin. \$8 admission. Under 12 free with adult.

**2026 Annual Train Show & Sap Meet**, Saturday, January 31, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and Sunday, February 1, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm 2026, Berndes Center, Jones County Fairgrounds, 766 N. Maple Street, Monticello, Iowa. Admission \$5.00, under 12 free w/adult.

**Great Train Show**, Indiana State Fairgrounds, Indianapolis IN February 7-8, 2026 10AM to 4PM [www.greattrainshow.com](http://www.greattrainshow.com)

**Southern Illinois Model Train Meet** February 7, 2026, 9AM to 3PM, The Pavillion, Marion, Illinois

# MAINLINE

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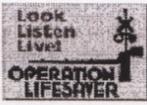
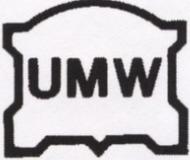
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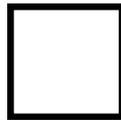
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 phone: 309-353-8877  
 Gary: [afpgary@comcast.net](mailto:afpgary@comcast.net)  
 Cullen: [cmb3998@comcast.net](mailto:cmb3998@comcast.net)

**March Meet of the IVD**  
 North Branch Peoria Library  
 3001 West Grand Avenue  
 Behind Menard's.  
 March 15, 2026  
 1-4 PM

James F. Wise, MMR, 3207 N. Sheridan, Peoria, IL 61604  
  
 (309)231-9425 [jameswise1234@comcast.net](mailto:jameswise1234@comcast.net)

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Michael Shockley  
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**January 17, 2026**

Illinois Valley Division of the NMRA

**Division Meeting**

Chatham Railroad Museum

100 N State St, Chatham, IL 62629

Meet will be from 1-4 PM. Doors open at noon.

**Contests:**

- Scenery any season
- Photos of Prototype Railroad

