

# Thinking about running for an NMRA office?

The following material outlines what is involved when serving on our leadership team as a Director or Officer of the NMRA. What follows sets out some RECOMMENDATIONS for a potential candidate's consideration.

The National Model Railroad Association is organized as a corporation under the laws of the state of Ohio. As such, there are specific duties and responsibilities that must be carried out by the corporation. Those activities are assigned to the elected Directors, the elected President, the elected Vice-Presidents along with the appointed officers of the corporation as fiduciary duties.

As a Board member or as an Officer you will assume certain responsibilities to members, donors, consumers, staff, and many other stakeholders. You will accept legal and ethical responsibility to carry out the affairs of the corporation. However, please do understand that as a volunteer, no one expects you to be an expert in all aspects of running a non-profit organization. All that will be asked of you is **that you** apply the same skills and good judgement that you use in your daily activities for the benefit of the Association.

Seeking a national elected position is closely akin to submitting a job application. In response, the candidate should provide a detailed resume of educational and experience particulars that satisfy the expectations required and which speaks to the qualifications to execute the duties of the position. Potential candidates should be aware that our Directors are involved in developing policy and working with assorted projects while Officers handle administrative tasks. Thus, potential Director candidates should focus on indicating their experience and qualifications in developing policy within large, multi-million-dollar, non-profit corporations or other similar organizations, while potential Officer candidates should focus on their experience and qualifications in administration as these skills and experience are paramount. Beyond these types of experience, many of our members have extensive leadership experience in their professional lives which also provides the necessary skills. In the NMRA's case a willingness to be an active participating member of the Board or Officer to serve our members is of equal importance.

Submitting material about management experience, responsibilities and outcomes matched to the future needs of our NMRA is more important than how you are involved in model railroading. Model railroading experience is not critical, but the perspective is useful and has a role in decision-making. While earning recognition as an MMR is highly valued in the Association, there is no direct correlation between the modeling skills necessary for that achievement and service in the leadership team of Directors and

Officers. We need people who will dedicate time and effort beyond their modelling to make our Association thrive.

Preference is for candidates who have some non-profit and / or business experience along with some experience within our NMRA leadership ranks at the Division and Region levels. The latter can be taken as preparation for working at a higher level. Acknowledgement is made that when our Nominating Committee consider prospective candidate statements, it is realistic to note that such experience may offer no guarantee that a person will contribute, deliver or perform any better than a person without that experience. Similar or parallel experience and / or qualifications will be considered by our Nominating Committee which can consider the member with bags of common sense, great ideas and integrity but who does not appear to have the necessary experience on paper.

The duties of our Nominating Committee include functioning as more than a “rubber stamp”. The Committee’s roles can include “beating the bushes” while searching for qualified candidates when it perceived that such an effort is necessary. The basic duty of the Nominating Committee is to exercise its collective knowledge and judgement in nominating the best, most qualified slate of candidates available for each position. The Committee is not required to place into nomination every person whose name they receive. Those persons suggested to the Committee, but who are not selected for inclusion on the ballot still have the option of using the petition process provided for that purpose if they so desire.

- On the NMRA home page, click “Organization & Structure” at the bottom left of the page
- Click – “Executive Handbook”
- Click – “Executive Handbook (PDF)”
- Scroll down to - Article X, Section 10.1, - “Nominations, Balloting and Voting”

See Item 3 which is highlighted with a grey background.

Please resolve all questions regarding candidacy and submission of applications prior to the announced deadline.

If there are any questions regarding the duties and responsibilities of the Office for which you are applying or the service requirements of that officer, contact the NMRA Secretary at [secy@nmra.org](mailto:secy@nmra.org). OR

- On the NMRA home page, click “Organization & Structure” at the bottom left of the page
- Click – “Executive Handbook”
- Click – “Executive Handbook (PDF)”

- Scroll down to Article III, Section A, 3.1– "Officers and Directors"
- ALSO see Section D – "Officers", AND Section F – Board of Directors

Alternatively, you can contact a Board member or Officer to discuss the roles of the positions. You'll find their names and email addresses on the website by doing the following:

- On the NMRA home page, in the blue band near the top of the page,
- Click - "Contact"
- Scroll down to "The Officers Addresses" and click on the appropriate one, OR
- Scroll down to "The Board of Directors", and click on the appropriate one.

If there are any questions regarding submission of applications, resumes, or any other documentation appropriate to the application process please contact the Nominations Committee Chair at [nominations@nmra.org](mailto:nominations@nmra.org).