

New Directions in NMRA Education
Tom Miller Education Manager NMRA MCR

Educational planning for our MCR and NMRA has gained considerable attention during the pandemic. The Education Department of NMRA has generated three new documents focused on NMRA educational efforts at the regional and division levels.

The first document is a Short Range Action Plan **LRP 2019-001** which has the goal of making the NMRA “the **international leader** in education and fellowship concerning scale model railroading.” The objective of this goal is that each NMRA region will establish and maintain an Education Committee. This Education Committee for each region will establish education programs with the guidance of the NMRA Education Department Manager.

The national NMRA Education Department along with Regional Presidents and Regional Education Committees will revise NMRA organizational documentation by December 2020. **Each NMRA region is to establish a Regional Education Committee by March 2021.**

The second document is a Long Range Action Plan **LRP 2019-002** which is under the direction of **NMRA EduTRAIN Committee Chair** at the national level. It has as its goal that NMRA will standardize educational activities with the objective that each region will submit not fewer **than two clinics** each year for inclusion in the EduTRAIN Program from its divisional membership.

It is the responsibility of the **NMRA EduTRAIN Committee Chair** to establish and publish the appropriate **criteria** for preparation and submission of **EduTRAIN clinics**. The Regional Education Committee Chairs will **solicit, review, and transmit** to national no fewer than **two** properly prepared and acceptable clinics each year. The Regional Education Committee shall be responsible for initial review of clinics proposed to national to ensure compliance with basic preparation requirements.

Once approved and submitted from the regional level, the **NMRA EduTRAIN Committee Chair** will complete the review and approval process for each submitted clinic and publish those clinics on the web page. The **NMRA EduTRAIN Committee Chair** shall record and advise the author of an EduTRAIN Clinic of the special **Achievement Program Author Certificate** credit received for their work.

The third document is the Long Range Action Plan LRP 2019-003 which pertains to **Modeling with the Masters** (MWTM) and the MWTM as the **Lead Instructor**. The **Modeling with the Masters Lead Instructor** will coordinate with Region Education Committee Chairs **soliciting candidates** for **MWTM Instructors**. The NMRA MWTM Lead Instructor shall complete the certification of at least **two MMRs as MWTM**

Instructors in each Region. When a Region has two certified MWTM Instructors, the Region shall schedule and conduct at least one MWTM Clinic in the Region each year. The **Region Education Committee Chair** shall be responsible to identify future candidates for certification to maintain at least two certified MWTM instructors in the Region. The **Modeling with the Masters Instructor certification** should be published by **December 2020** and the **Modeling with the Masters Instructors certified by June 2021**.

Our NMRA MCR response was to immediately address this directive and select a chair and create a committee in advance of the March 2021 deadline. After consultation with Bob Weinheimer, Tom Miller MCR Education Manager appointed **Steve Zapytowski** MMR Division 1 as **Chair of the MCR Education Committee**. Then in consultation with Tom Miller, **Steve Zapytowski MMR** formed the committee with the following membership **Fred Soward, Dennis Vaccaro, Jim Whipple and Kenton Colvin** all educators. Our MCR Education Committee is: (1) examining the **existing Edutrain clinics** posted on the NMRA website, (2) reviewing **MCR clinics** that may or be adapted to meet the coming guidelines for Edutrain clinics, and (3) make contact with national pertaining their developing **Edutrain curriculum**.

Tom Miller

MCR Education Manager

National Model Railroad Association