



# The Semaphore

April, 2021

A publication of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division of the Pacific Northwest Region of the NMRA

## **Elections are upon us!**

The Nominations Committee has developed a fine list of candidates for our Division Board of Directors. If you are a voting member, you will soon receive an email invitation to vote online for the candidates of your choice. If you have not received one by April 2nd, please notify [jeff@2dprn.org](mailto:jeff@2dprn.org).

Below you will find the statements of each of the candidates. Please take the time to review them to understand what each believes about the Division and how they will contribute towards its direction. This year, the Vice Superintendent and two Director positions are up for election. As there are only two candidates for the two Director positions, Bob and Larry will be considered “elected by acclamation”, and no votes need to be cast. (Never-the-less, their candidate statements are included below.) You will cast one vote for your choice for the Assistant Superintendent position.

The Board of Directors wish to thank each of the candidates for volunteering their time to help make the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division a vibrant and enjoyable experience for all members, and we thank you for voting!

And don't stop reading after the candidates' statements, the Notes from the caboose section has updates on our future meeting plans and a couple of other short items.

- Richard Kurschner, editor

## Candidate statements

### **Greg Baker - Candidate for Assistant Superintendent**

Hello everyone my name is Greg Baker and I am running for Assistant Superintendent of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division. I have been actively model railroading since 2000, but as long as I can remember I have been fascinated by trains. I mainly model in HO scale, with a focus on the SP&S and its operations in Oregon circa 1968. I am also in the process of converting a single car garage into a layout and studio space.

I currently live in Clackamas Oregon and work for a local transit agency. I grew up in Eugene OR where I started my Railroad career, then I moved to Kansas, then Oklahoma, then Idaho, then back to Oregon. All this moving, with the related work experience, has allowed me to learn a lot about different aspects of railroading and model railroading.



Although I am relatively new to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, I have tried to stay active in the NMRA at my various places of residence. When I have had the opportunity, I have served in a few different roles in various Divisions, holding the positions of Secretary, Assistant Superintendent, and Superintendent. I have seen some really great ideas and would be excited to share them with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division.

As the Assistant Superintendent I would support the Superintendent and assist in whatever way I can. I am also onboard to continue supporting a virtual version of our events, even when we can return to in person. I also believe that recruiting and retaining membership is an important part of Division, by working together to create good content,

consistent event schedules, and active participation, informing people why to join will be an easy. I ask for your vote, as I am deeply vested in increasing membership involvement and improving your NMRA experience. Thank you everyone!

## **Stu Cato – Candidate for Assistant Superintendent, Incumbent**

### **History**

I started in model railroading in grade school with the usual Lionel trains moved to scale “O” gauge then “HO” during High School. I have a very small home layout and enjoy participating in operating sessions.

I attended the 2004 National NMRA convention in Seattle and joined NMRA in 2000. Shortly thereafter I attended my first PNR D2 regional meeting and have been active in D2 since then. I have been off and on the Board since then. I was active in putting on the 2007 regional convention and in the background providing help “as needed” for the 2018 convention. Other duties over the years have been coordinating layout tours and securing meeting space and serving on various committees.

### **Vision**

I see D2 as a vehicle for people to be active in the hobby, meet fellow modelers and gain knowledge of what they may have learned on paper or monitor but now gain first hand. The division allows people to “network” with regard to their specific interests. The Assistant Super position can be either to help the Super and/or as a stepping stone to Super. I see the position as a help position and go to for the Super.

## **Bob Leatha - Candidate for Director, Incumbent**



My name is Bob Leatha and I am a Division 2 Board Member running for re-election.

I am a Civil Engineering graduate from Washington State University. I retired in June 2004 from a career in Construction and Project Management. I have been an NMRA member since 2011 and located here in Division 2 (Hillsboro, OR) since October of 2016; Previously with

Division 4 of the PNR.

I model the Great Northern in HO: Cascade Division – Everett to Wenatchee, WA in 1929 (Steam and Electrics). I have also been a member of the Great Northern Railway Historical Society since 2005.

As a current Board Member: I participated with other Board Members and Officers in the review and approval of our new Second Division Policy Manual; Chaired the 2020 Division Nominating Committee; was Member of the 2020 PNR Nominating Committee; Chaired our Division Financial Review Committee; and presented a clinic in 2019 on building Northwest Evergreen Trees to the Division membership.

I Continue to be enthusiastic about the future of our Division including the virtual presentations offered by our Division, the PNR and the National NMRA. It won't be long when we all can return to normal and continue with our physical meetings and conventions. However, I believe we have discovered that while resuming direct meetings, we should continue to provide a combination of meetings/virtual presentations to allow more members to participate in Division activities. I encourage all members to join with me to continue the improvement we are making to better our Division. Thank you for your support.

## **Larry Nunn - Candidate for Director**

My name is Larry Nunn. I live in Salem.

I want to serve on the division board because it is important to give back to the Division. Leadership of the Division periodically needs new members to replace members who retire or otherwise step away. New board members can bring new ideas, or at least new perspectives.



I model in HO. I am slowly building a freelance layout centered loosely on the Wye at Woodburn.

I started, like many others, as a kid with a Lionel train set on a plywood board in the basement. My next adventure in modeling was when I had a roommate who modeled in our barracks while serving in the USAF. When we both were transferred, I bought his layout and shipped it home. I still have the locomotives and rolling stock. My current adventure started when my daughter met a man and decided to marry him. He was a model railroader and I figured modeling was

something we could share; and so we do.

I joined the NMRA in 2003. I joined because I thought it important to support the organization that lobbied for and enacted the standards which govern our hobby. It was sometime later that I was introduced to the benefits of Regional and Divisional activities. I first volunteered to help as a worker bee with the regional convention in Wilsonville. I served on the 2018 Stumptown Express convention committee and volunteered on the registration desk. I currently serve as division membership chairman. Although there is not much to do during the pandemic.

One of my goals as a board member, once the pandemic restrictions are loosened, is to help the division regain the momentum we were experiencing prior to the pandemic.

## **Notes from the caboose**

It's been a while hasn't it?

Yep, the Division still exists and is still holding approximately quarterly virtual meets. These have been great, not just for the content, but for the way they have allowed some members who live way outside of the Portland/Vancouver/Salem area to attend their first meet! It is good to see new

faces Will we see *yours* at the next one?

The board is putting together a schedule for the new year. While we do want to get back to face to face meetings, our next one at least will still have to be virtual. After that, we are looking at ways to at least record the meetings for our distant members, and if possible, simulcast the meetings so that our distant members (and even those who aren't ready to attend in-person meetings yet), can interact live with our clinicians. Our previous virtual clinics can be found on our YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWMrJ-wg0pHqoke3px4F66g> .

Keep watching your inboxes for more information.

Speaking of clinicians, we could sure use you! If you've been modeling for much more than a few months, I'm sure you have learned something you can share with the rest of us. Whatever you are currently working on or have just finished, we'd love to hear about it. It really isn't hard to stand in front of the attendees and talk about what you love to do. It's not like you are giving a speech or anything, you're just taking part in a bull session with friends. Contact **Jeff Shultz** at [jeff@2dprn.org](mailto:jeff@2dprn.org) with your idea. And giving a clinic is an easy way to gain points towards your Author AP Certificate. (If you are REALLY scared of talking in front of us, then write it up and send it to ye old editor. Getting published in *The Semaphore* counts towards your Author certificate as well!)

For those of you into Administrivia, the 2nd Division now has a Policy Manual to cover much of what the Board of Directors does on a regular basis (that don't belong in the bylaws). In essence, we make the decision once, and we don't have to figure it out again, unless we find a better way to do it, thus simplifying our work and meetings. If you read the calls for nominations, you will have noted job descriptions for the Director and Assistant Superintendent positions. The Policy Manual is where you can find all of those descriptions and a lot more: If you are curious how we manage our records, or requirements for the Golden Semaphore award, or what the general process for an election is, check it out at [http://2dprn.org/html/division\\_docs.html](http://2dprn.org/html/division_docs.html) .

Speaking of the Golden Semaphore award, there is now a list of all known

recipients at [http://2dprn.org/html/golden\\_semaphore.html](http://2dprn.org/html/golden_semaphore.html)

We believe the list is incomplete. If you have more information, please send a note to Jeff Shultz. It is just hard to believe that there were no awards given between 1990 and 2016.

Have you ever stopped by the Yaquina Pacific Railroad Historical Society in Toledo, Oregon? It's just up the road from Newport on US 20 to Corvallis. They have a steam locomotive and a 44-tonner on display as well as a caboose and an RPO/Baggage car. The RPO/Baggage is set up as a museum and small research library. The caboose is fully restored and serves as their office and gift shop. Tom might be a member of the 1st Division, but he is still great to talk to, a font of information about the Oregon Pacific railroad and the Southern Pacific in Oregon. Plus, we got some great stories out of him about his time as an operator on John Allen's Gorre & Daphetid! Next time you are in Newport, drive the extra 7 miles to Toledo. You can find more information at <https://www.yaquinapacificrr.org/>.

Finally, we have some folks in the division who use dead rail, or power-on-board as it is sometimes called. Often this is done in Oversize and Grandiose scales. We thought we'd leave you with how we do it in N scale.

*Photo courtesy of Robert Hesselgrave*

We hope you have enjoyed this issue of the Semaphore. And please do vote when your invitation arrives. Your vote will help shape your Division. Talk with you on the next run!

- Richard Kurschner, editor

The 2nd Division is on Facebook  
at <https://www.facebook.com/PNR2ND>  
The 2nd Division YouTube

channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWMrJ-wg0pHqoke3px4F66g>

The 2nd Division website is located  
at <https://www.2dprn.org>

