# Alleghany Western Division

# Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2018

Call to order

Brad White called to order the regular meeting of the membership of Division 12, MCR, NMRA at 11:15 AM on June 9, 2018 at the North Gale Street Picnic area in Westfield, NY.

Roll call

Dave Ellis conducted a roll call by providing a sign-in sheet

The following members were present: Harriet Beckman, Dick Bradley, Tim Clint, Dale Desser, Larry Dodge, Wendy Dodge, David Ellis, Lee Farnsworth, Diane Farnsworth, Ray Goetz, Jason Graves, Al Hartick, Mike Hauk, Chris Mincemoyer, Doug Sandmeyer, Roger Schulenberg, and Brad White.

A number of members of the Conewango Switch Tenders and the Independent Railroaders were present to attend the picnic and train watching that followed the meeting.

A quorum (at least 10 members) was established with 17 members present

Announcements/Reports

* Superintendent’s Report: Brad W. pointed out that we need additional members to step up to fill some necessary job openings. One is a newsletter editor. Our clerk, treasurer, and web-master is currently filling the role with the help of his wife. Another, and currently unfilled position, is someone to handle publicity. As we grow, we will need someone to get the word out to the public about upcoming events where the public is included. Brad also mentioned having someone else take over the role of web-master and asked Dave E. to share what is involved. After rambling on about the website, Dave suggested that the most helpful thing would be for members to contribute content for the website. Brad also mentioned that we will need someone to take on keeping a “company store.”
* **Achievement Program:** Mike H. shared a bit of what he learned at the regional convention and suggested that he would share more about how the contests were judged and how to prepare for them at a later meeting or newsletter article.
* **Treasurer’s Report:** Dave E. mentioned that we are now officially a 501(c)(3) non- profit organization. He shared some information about fundraising activities that we could do that he gleaned from an IRS publication: fundraising activities conducted by volunteers or where donated merchandise is sold as well as activities conducted for the convenience of members. In response to a question from a member, he suggested that we could sell things that were not donated as long as the items for sale relate directly to our stated purposes.
* Jefferson Historical Society Train Show: Division 12 has been invited to participate at this one-day train show on Saturday, July 21, 2018 in Jefferson Ohio. Our T-Trak Committee has agreed to have this show as the goal for our first T-Trak layout setup.
* Upcoming meetings: As well as going through the upcoming schedule, Brad W. pointed out that several details in our upcoming schedule have been finalized or changed: The Division 12 membership meeting on September 8th: will be at 1:00 at the Salamanca Railroad Museum, in NY. The Division 12 membership meetings in July and August will need to adjust their starting times to 10:00 AM due to the Cambridge Springs Trolley Station being open to the public on Saturday afternoons during the summer.
* Business for the good of the order

**Jason G. brought up a desire for the division to do more to foster model railroad operations.** As an action step he volunteered to become the “Operations Coordinator.” Dave E. expressed interest and offered to help facilitate by adding an “Operations” page to our website.

**Ray G.** **brought up his desire to have meetings start with the Pledge of Allegiance.** After discussing his rationale (status as veteran and sense of patriotism) and reaffirming that he is a member in good standing, he proposed a motion that he be allowed to lead the Pledge of Allegiance before membership meetings. Larry D. seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Several officers brought up points to consider: We are not a government-sponsored organization, officers had not seen the pledge at other NMRA meetings, our purpose is educational specific to model and prototype railroads, and our issues with receiving our IRS status had to do with straying from our purpose. At one point the discussion was tabled for a train to pass through. Before a vote on the motion was held, Larry D. proposed a motion to table discussion and the vote until a later meeting so that more of the membership could be involved in the decision. The motion was seconded by Dale D. The motion to table discussion and vote passed with a simple majority of eight yeas to seven nays. An action step was that Larry would get together with Ray to write something up to share with the membership in the *Builder’s Plate* newsletter.

Adjournment

Brad White adjourned the meeting at 12:10 PM.

Minutes submitted by: David Ellis (Clerk/Treasurer)

Minutes approved by: