

O Scale Central Board of Directors
Board Approved Minutes
February 15, 2023

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Vaughn at 8:32 pm EST using Zoom.

Roll Call

Officers present: D. Vaughn, E. Peterson, K. Nesper, and J. Norman

Directors present: N. Bulgarino, J. Barker, W. Horlacher, A. Oslapas, D. Schultz, and C. Wubbel

Advisors present: A. Askerberg, E. Bommer, B. Kjelland, R. Randall, S. Shippy, G. Wallace, and J. Wubbel

Members present: None

Adopt Agenda

Vaughn added an additional item of New Business to the agenda: a report from Skyler Shippy on Modular Groups and Club Activities. The revised agenda was adopted by acclamation.

Accept January 2023 Minutes

The minutes were accepted as presented.

Officer Reports

President. Vaughn acknowledged and thanked VP Peterson and Dan Dawdy for their continued efforts to transition to the new OSC website. He announced that in addition to coordinating OSC presence at the Chicago show in March, Director Schultz would coordinate OSC activities at the O Scale National Convention in June. Joe Barker was thanked for his on-going efforts to update and organize the membership records.

Vaughn noted that Skyler Shippy would spearhead OSC outreach to modular groups and clubs. He reiterated his intention to issue a challenge to the leadership team with a matching donation up to \$1000. Details to follow.

Vice-president. Report was sent to all board meeting participants. There were no questions or comments.

Secretary. Nothing to report.

Treasurer. Report was sent to all board meeting participants. There were no questions or comments.

Committee Reports

Marketing

Committee chair Norman announced that advertisements would also be placed in a sixth publication, Cowcatcher Magazine, a bi-monthly. Outreach ads will be placed in each issue of the bi-monthly publications (i.e, Narrow Gauge and Short Line Gazette and Cowcatcher) and bi-monthly in NMRA Bulletin and Railroad Model Craftsman. Advertisements more oriented to the O scale community will be placed in O Scale Resource and O Scale Trains.

Peterson emphasized the need for a co-chair because of the number of activities that need to be addresses under Marketing. He also noted the need to post marketing materials on the website for easy access by all members.

Membership

Committee chair Barker referred participants to the written report. He asked the board to adopt a policy regarding removing non-renewals from the active section of the website. Peterson proposed and Horlacher seconded a motion to set a 90 day limit. The motion was approved. Vaughn intends to contact non-renewals with whom he is personally familiar. Barker intends to contact by email former members who have fallen away in previous years.

Conventions

2023 March Show (Chicago IL)

Director Schultz announced that the hotel commitment was fulfilled which should guarantee and 2024 show. He is recruiting members to staff the OSC welcome table.

2023 National (Denver CO)

Convention chair Bob Kjelland reported that preparations are on-track.

Publications

Report was sent to all board meeting participants. There were no questions or comments.

Website

Report was sent to all board meeting participants. There were no questions or comments.

NMRA SIG

Report was sent to all board meeting participants. Peterson noted that he was not able to recruit NMRA-experienced judges for the March show. He added that OSC events will now be included on the NMRA international calendar.

OSC On-line

John Wubbel reported that the next sessions would be on February 18 and March 25. John, as the owner of All Nation, would be the featured speaker in February. Vaughn and Wubbel are trying to recruit Jarrett Haedrick, COO Atlas Model Railroad Co. to be the featured speaker in March.

Old Business

2023 Activities and Assignments. Vaughn introduced S. Shippy and the Outreach to Modular Groups and Clubs as an example of his plans for reinvigorating activities in 2023.

New Business

Outreach to Modular Groups and Clubs. Shippy recounted the steps that have been taken or are planned for improving the connection between OSC and O-scale groups and clubs. Vaughn, Peterson, and Shippy have drafted an introductory message that will be sent to the groups and clubs in the next week. Shippy has developed a spreadsheet with information about known groups and clubs that will be corrected and enlarged as new data is uncovered.

OS2R Product (and Services) Guide; Updates and Improvements. Vaughn asked all participants to read and reflect on the proposal was distributed shortly before the meeting. Since the guide is the OSC's most important program, it needs to be updated regularly. This would include identifying new suppliers, updating contact information and products/services offered, and removing suppliers who close. Vaughn suggested that OSC needs a point person to coordinate the research and updates, The organization could either use volunteers or pay people to glean vendors from magazines and the internet. Discussion will continue at the next board meeting.

Future Convention Planning and Format. Vaughn asked Past Official N Bulgarino to consider the future of O Scale National Conventions (OSNC), either in their current format or in some other format. Bulgarino thoroughly summarized the extensive report that was sent to the participants. While no decisions were made, Bulgarino did make three recommendations for future consideration: (1) OSC not solicit sponsorship for a convention in 2024 or 2025. (2) OSC will consider a proposal for a OSNC from an independent group if one should arise. (3) OSC carefully consider the benefits and consequences of participating in an OSNC.

Good and Welfare

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 14, 8:30 pm (EST)

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:22 pm.

O Scale Central Board of Directors Status Report

The purpose of this report is to provide timely status information to all OSC leaders on topics that do not require immediate action by the board of directors.

Meeting date: 2 15 2023

O Scale Central topic/activity: Vice President Report

Activities since last report:

I continue to work with Dan Dawdy to improve the OSC website with transfers, updates and additions.

I spent a lot of time trying to provide judges for the O Scale March Meet but was not successful. I have done some more judging locally and am comfortable leading NMRA criteria judging events if needed.

Discussions and contacts as part of the judging effort identified the need for better calendar schedule information exchange between OSC, other O scale events, and the NMRA National, Regional and Division organizations. Testing NMRA website calendar is in progress.

The communications with NMRA leadership and members were all positive and they want to work with OSC to further improve our activity coordination.

I discussed process improvement with OSC board members and advisers.

NMRA leadership expresses the same interest in marketing beyond the choir.

Planned activities and expected time required:

Continue calendar testing and evaluation. At present we need to post events on OSC, NMRA, and OSC Facebook calendars.

Assist improving Product Guide recruiting and updating.

Assist improving Membership processes and enable a searchable membership directory.

Is there any action by the board for your topic?

None

If so, what is proposed for discussion and/or approval?

O Scale Central Board of Directors

Status Report

The purpose of this report is to provide timely status information to all OSC leaders on topics that do not require immediate action by the board of directors.

O Scale Central Topic: Membership

Activities since last board meeting:

Membership: 150 (This number includes 45 people whose membership expired 12/31/22. OSC has 105 paid members as of 14 Feb 23.)

Renewals Since Last Report: 7

New Members Since Last Report: 5 (Three of the new members signed up at the Amherst show. All 3 had been former OSK members whose membership had lapsed for several years.)

Planned activities and expected time required:

1. I plan to draft a standard welcome to OSC email that will be sent to new members as they join this month.
2. The membership application and payment process is too complex. It needs to be streamlined. This is a 2023 project.
3. I need to work with Dan Dawdy to get a Membership email address that I can send from my home computer.
4. Draft a Membership Instruction Manual. This is a 2023 project.

Is there any action by the board for your Topic? Yes.

1. Decide when to remove the 45 people whose membership expired 12/31/22 from the membership roll.
2. Approve the welcome to OSC email once it is drafted.

If so, what is proposed for discussion and/or approval?

1. OSC has 45 whose membership expired 12/31/22. I need the board's decision about when to remove them from the OSC membership roll including access to the members only section of the OSC website.

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Editor's Report

Issue #5 of the *OSC Journal* was published shortly before the official publication date of January 15.

Issue #6 to be published on or about April 15, 2023, will contain a report on the Chicago meet among other items. Deadline for submissions is March 31 but earlier is much appreciated. I have some potential submissions. I will also need a good cover photo.

I know of no required board action. As usual, I appreciate the efforts of board members and advisors to continue pressing other members for submission.

O Scale Central Board of Directors Status Report

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Meeting date: 2 15 2023

sigs@nmra.org

O Scale Central topic/activity: Website

Activities since last report:

An update has been submitted for the NMRA website O Scale Central SIG listing. The OSC website spreadsheet has been updated and sent to Dan Dawdy

Planned activities and expected time required:

Update new and existing OSC website pages.

Support review of ways to improve review, updating and new Product Guide Listings.

Working with Algis Oslapas and Dan Dawdy to complete update of advisers and leadership website listings.

Once we complete the major part of the transfers, updates and additions requested I plan to focus on editorial reviews.

Is there any action by the board for your topic?

Assistance is needed to identify events to be listed on the OSC website “Upcoming Events”

Do we want to have a laptop available some of the time at O Scale March Meet OSC table?

If so, what is proposed for discussion and/or approval?

O Scale Central Board of Directors Status Report

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Meeting date: 2 15 2023

O Scale Central topic/activity: NMRA Special Interest Group

Activities since last report:

Working with NMRA Midwest Region we were unable to provide NMRA judges for the O Scale March Meet. Additional communications are expected to improve involvement with the NMRA membership.

Added O Scale Central information to the new Discord NMRA /Interchange channel for our SIG. This includes upcoming events.

With access to the O Scale Central and O Scale Kings Facebook pages I added some initial information, updated pictures, and event information. There are over 700 followers. Lots to learn.

Requested listing of 4 upcoming events on the NMRA international calendar.

Planned activities and expected time required:

Continue to support improved visibility of O Scale events within the NMRA calendars.

Work with O Scale National 2023 Convention to improve event visibility, agreement with NMRA for the convention and setup contest operation and judging when requested.

We need to start planning for NMRA National and Train Show 8/20-27/2023 Texas Express.

OSC needs to submit a OSC SIG article for the NMRA Magazine. Include request O scale 2 rail modelers contact OSC.

Is there any action by the board for your topic?

Assist finding NMRA members qualified or interested in learning about judging contests including the OSN Denver Convention using NMRA forms and criteria.

If so, what is proposed for discussion and/or approval?

None