

O Scale Central Board of Directors  
Board Approved Minutes  
July 11, 2023

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Vaughn at 8:34 pm EDT using Zoom.

Roll Call

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

Directors present: N. Bulgarino, J. Barker, W. Horlacher, and C. Wubbel

Advisors present: B. Kjelland, P. Hanson, R. Randall, S. Shippy, and J. Wubbel

Members present: None

Adopt Agenda

The agenda was adopted by acclamation after Vice President Peterson asked that Director Cathy Wubbel and Advisor Rich Randall be added to the Product/Services Guide Report.

Accept May 2023 Minutes

The minutes were accepted.

Officer Reports

President. Vaughn thanked those who were deeply involved the O Scale National Convention citing convention co-chair Bob Kjelland, Vice President Peterson (administration plus contest judging), Past Official Bulgarino (web site), Advisor Paul Hansen (clinics), and Advisor Skyler Shippy and Dick Thomlinson (modular layout). Vaughn prepared an article on the convention for the next issue of The Coupler. A motion authorizing the expenditure of up to \$500 for public relations events at the convention was approved without dissent. Vaughn also noted the efforts of Treasurer Norman and Secretary Nesper in effectively managing the financial and administrative functions of the organization.

Vice-president. Peterson reported that plans are taking shape for the OSC's presence at the NMRA National Convention in August. There will be a table display in the SIG Room; Vaughn and Peterson will be leading clinics; and there are at least two O scale layouts open for visitors.

Treasurer. A report was sent to all board meeting participants.

Committee Reports

Marketing. Nothing to report.

Membership

In his written and oral reports to all board meeting participants, Director Barker noted that the most recent new members are former OSC or OSK members. We are not yet reaching truly "new" modelers.

Publications

In Advisor Askerberg's absence, Vaughn reported the next issue of The Coupler should go out on schedule.

Website. A report was sent to all board meeting participants.

NMRA SIG. A report was sent to all board meeting participants.

#### OSC On-line

Advisor John Wubbel is looking to implement a link between the OSC web site and the OSC You Tube channel. The board discussed moving the OSC On-line sessions to a week night since attendance on summer Saturday afternoons has dropped significantly. The next session will be a forum for discussion of the future of national gatherings, e.g., the O Scale National Convention, in response to significant internet discussion. Brad Sowl, who started one of the discussions, will be invited to participate.

#### Modular Groups and Clubs Initiative

Advisor Shippy reported a 20-25% response to his first emailing to groups and clubs on the OSC website. Many were updates to the information on the OSC website. He will launch a second effort in September after the summer lull.

Product/Services Guide – Updates and Improvements. Nothing to report.

#### 2023 O Scale National Convention

Co-chair Kjelland reported that the host committee is still negotiating with the hotel regarding the liability for the unbooked rooms.

#### Old Business

None.

#### New Business

O Scale Hall of Fame (George Wallace)

Advisor Wallace was unable to attend the meeting.

#### OSC Future Direction (Initial Discussion)

Vaughn introduced this topic by noting that many OSC programs had been set aside to focus on the 2023 OSNC. He challenged board participants to think seriously about the priority of the current programs; personal participation in those programs; new areas of activity; and activities that should be dropped. He intends to schedule conversations with each board participant in the coming weeks to get their thoughts and commitments for the second half of 2023.

Vaughn tasked Past Official Bulgarino with leading the board participants in a discussion of the future direction of the OSC. Bulgarino provided an analytical framework for addressing the questions of what does the OS2R hobby need and how can OSC help meet those needs? Bulgarino suggested that OSC could be the coordinator and mediator between three groups: OS2R product and service suppliers; OS2R clubs, groups, and shows; and OS2R hobbyists. The goal is to preserve OS2R as a viable hobby. More research and thought is needed to identify specific OS2R needs and develop viable OSC responses.

#### Good and Welfare

In response to the release of O scale trucks by Kadee, Peterson is making inquiries into having more O scale products submitted for standards conformance evaluations by the NMRA.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 8, 8:30 pm (EDT)

#### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 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.

### **O Scale Central Topic: Membership**

#### **Activities since last board meeting:**

Membership: 160 paid memberships as of 11 July 2023.

2022 Renewals Since Last Report: 4

New Members Since Last Report: 11

1. We aren't attracting new "new members" to OSC. For example, Jerry Jones of Ravenna, OH just joined. Jerry wasn't listed in the OSC "All Time Membership" data base. He was listed in both the WooCommerce and PHP data bases. This means that he was a former OSK member sometime in the past and has rejoined.

Some "new members" are duplicates. Wit & Wisdom Models just joined OSC. Therefore, David Vaughn has both a personal and professional membership.

It is wonderful that OSC is attracting former OSK members. We need, however, find a way to recruit totally new people. The only way that I can think of doing this is by attending and recruiting at all scale events, inviting people to operate on home OS2R layouts, and recruiting members of OS2R clubs.

#### **Planned activities and expected time required:**

1. I am emailing a standard welcome to OSC email to all new and renewing members.
2. The membership application and payment process is too complex. It needs to be streamlined. This is a 2023 project.
3. Draft a Membership Instruction Manual. This is a 2023 project.

**Is there any action by the board for your Topic? No.**

**If so, what is proposed for discussion and/or approval? None.**

## **O Scale Central Board of Directors Status Report**

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**Meeting date: 7 11 2023**

**O Scale Central topic/activity: OSC Website**

**Activities since last report:**

Started making additional website updates.  
Listed some of the topics for updates and additions

**Planned activities and expected time required:**

Finish update OSNC history page  
Update and make recent additions to Hall of Fame  
Update and correct Advisor listing  
Add events to calendar: SW Meet, Strasburg, Danville w/O&S

Major topics

- Review website activity-What level of support is justified?
- Improve and simplify Membership records and processes
- Membership Directory
- Product Guide process for additions and updates
- Module group listing
- Module construction details

General Review of content. Add date when last reviewed or updated.

On Line Facebook and other locations are related. Promote OSC

**Is there any action by the board for your topic?**

I need topic information resource people:  
Missing information for OSNC  
Hall of Fame listing additions  
Reviewer of Event information and look out for additions.

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

**What level of Website activity is justified and supported?**

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**Meeting date: 7 11 2023**

**O Scale Central topic/activity: NMRA SIG**

**Activities since last report:**

- Continue to add O Scale Events to NMRA.org Calendar
- Requested and have space plan for space at Denver NMRA National
- Supporting the O and S scale activities during 11/18/2023 Danville, IN
- Assisted with Kadee truck launch
- Established contact for Modular Layout Std's and RP's

**Planned activities and expected time required:**

- Lead OSC presence at NMRA National
- Assist with Modular communications about construction details
- Possible NMRA review of current track and equipment for compliance

**Is there any action by the board for your topic? Future?**

- What level will O Scale be involved in NMRA Regional and Division events?
- NMRA NCR Fort Wayne Rails 10/19-22/2023?
- NMRA MWR Danville Train Show 11/18/2023?
- NMRA MWR 2024 Convention?
- NMRA National Convention 8/4-11/2024 Long Beach, and 2025 Novi, MI
- What level of O Scale activity w/NMRA events?
- What level of O Scale activity w/Standards and Technical work?

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

**Denver 2023 Post Convention Message**  
**From: David Vaughn, OSC President**  
**To: OSC Board and Advisors**  
**June 26, 2023**

The dust is settling from OSNC Denver 2023. Thanks to everybody involved for their help. To single out volunteers risks leaving someone out. Suffice it that, as a result of a lot of work by a number of people, the Convention was competently presented: the clinics were great; the layout tours were well-received; the model contest was credible; the trading hall was filled to capacity with tables, with lots of stuff and good prices; and the opportunities to socialize were well scheduled and presented. The folks who attended consistently report having had a good time. As they say in the movie business, it was an artistic success.

The financial outcome for the Convention is not yet clear. The Convention met its marks in terms of table rentals and food and beverage, but fell short on registration revenues; and the hotel has charged the LLC for a claimed room night shortfall. At best, the Convention will break even financially. The Denver Committee will have discussions with the hotel. OSC will help and support that effort. However, OSC is not financially liable for the Convention. At our July Zoom meeting, I will ask the Board to approve a bartender's fee of \$202.50 for the Friday evening social (similar function to Chicago sponsored by OSC but different cost structure) and half of the coffee service of \$245.70. OSC was identified by a sign as co-sponsor of the coffee. Those expenditures are the sole financial charges. They are after the fact, so the vote will be to ratify payment of the obligations.

Attendance at the Convention was low, on the order of 110 registrants (plus spouses). Many factors contributed to the low attendance. It is not possible to isolate any single cause. Long distance travel time and cost, high hotel costs, returning to the same venue as two years ago, late start on publicity, lingering Covid reluctance and just lack of motivation to make the extra effort may have all contributed to the low attendance. As Yogi Berra said, when the fans aren't coming to the ballpark, there is nothing you can do to stop them.

O Scale Kings/Central has historically designated local committees to sponsor and put on the Nationals. Consistent with that tradition, a group of people in Denver volunteered to sponsor the 2021 OSNC and set up a separate LLC to put it on. The structure was based on the 2018 Rockville National Convention. The Committee ran into difficulties, including Covid and leadership turnover. Several of us from OSC worked actively with the local committee to bring off the Convention.

Because of the various constraints, the Denver Committee was unable to do many of the things it had planned for 2021. After that Convention, the Denver Committee volunteered to put on another National for what became 2023. The Committee got off to a slow start. Downside risks were not fully apparent until it was too late to cancel the Convention. Several of us worked to support the Local Committee because we thought it important to the Scale that the Convention be credible and well-received. The effort worked, up to the point described.

A National Convention happens when a local committee volunteers to put one on. OSC supports, but has not, does not and did not sponsor national conventions, including 2021 and 2023. Looking forward, I am not aware of any local committee formed or formable to put on a future national convention. Given the challenging environment and economic and organizational risks, it is unlikely that any local committee will come forward for next year (it is already late for such an initiative). Bottom line: there

is no national convention planned. There is no appetite within OSC for such an event.

There is a consensus that the effort required to put on the national convention is far in excess of the result. It was a painful experience for the local committee leadership as well as others. The necessity for extensive involvement on the part of OSC leadership has meant that other OSC programs have suffered. We will need to take time to assess how to otherwise use our resources and carry out our mission. Everyone's input will be needed. We will set aside time at the next Board meeting (July 11, 9:00p.m. eastern on Zoom) and perhaps at meetings thereafter to figure out where to go and how to get there.

That said, there has been some very preliminary discussion online about a convention at Strasburg in conjunction with the Show. It is far too early to determine whether a project can move forward. If implemented, it would likely have a different structure than past national conventions - which is certainly worth discussion.