

From the NMRA Regulations

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

1. All dues shall be paid in U.S. dollars, or their equivalent and shall be pursuant to a schedule of dues adopted by the Board of Directors for each category of membership, which shall be published in the Executive Handbook (EHB). There shall be following classes of membership for which the following rights and obligations apply:

A. **Member:** Any person interested in model railroading may become a member upon application to the Administration Department and payment of a sum as set forth in the EHB. This includes full rights of membership plus basic communication (NMRA Bulletin).

B. **Member plus Subscription(s):** Any person interested in model railroading may become a Member plus Subscription(s) upon application to the Administration Department and payment of a sum equal that as set out in the EHB. This includes full rights of membership plus basic communication (NMRA Bulletin) and subscription(s) selected.

B. **Sustaining Member:** Any person, association, corporation or other business organization interested in model railroading may become a Sustaining Member upon application to the Administration Department and payment of a minimum sum equal to two (2) times the annual dues for Member in addition to the costs of Subscription(s) added.

D. **Family Member:** The spouse or minor child of any member in good standing may become a Family Member upon application to the Administration Department and payment of the sum set forth in the EHB.

E. **Student Member:** Any person eighteen (18) years of age and under, and interested in model railroading may become a Student Member upon application to the Administration Department and payment of the sum set forth in the EHB. Additionally, any person between the ages of 19 (nineteen) & 25 (twenty-five), possessing a current valid student ID from an accredited institution, may also apply for Student Membership. A photocopy of a current valid student ID must be provided with the application and each annual renewal to obtain and maintain this membership classification. This class will include Subscription(s).

F. **Life Member:** Any person interested in model railroading may become a Standard Life Member upon application to the Administration Department and payment of an actuarial basis dues payment as on file at the Administration Department. Notwithstanding the requirement for the payment of dues, as recognition for meritorious service to the National Model Railroad Association, any person may be elected as an Honorary Life Member by vote of a majority of the Board of Directors and shall not be required to pay any additional dues. This includes full rights of membership plus basic communication (NMRA Bulletin).

G. **Life Member plus Life Subscription(s):** Any person interested in model railroading may become a Life Member plus Life Subscription(s) upon application to the Administration Department and payment of an actuarial basis dues payment as on file at the Administration Department.

H. **Patron Member:** Any member, association, corporation or other business organization interested in model railroading may become a Patron member upon application to the

Administration Department and payment of that sum set forth in the Executive Handbook. This class will include Subscription(s).

I. Corporate Member: Any manufacturer, retailer, wholesaler, or other person engaged in the business of model railroading may become a Corporate member of the NMRA upon application to the Administration Department and payment of the sum set forth in the Executive Handbook.

J. Legacy Member: Any member who is existing as a member as of July 1, 2002, in a classification of regular member of the national structure, but not a member of a region or in different classes of membership between National and Regional as of July 1, 2002, shall be authorized to continue as a Legacy Member, upon payment of the proportion of dues established by the Board of Directors as representing that necessary to sustain and support the national programs as delineated in these Regulations and in the executive handbook, but not any additional funds delineated and designed to support local, i.e., regional and divisional activities. Said Legacy Membership shall continue as long as said Legacy Member maintains his membership in a current state. If said membership lapses for any reason, said member shall not be allowed to re-apply as a Legacy Member and shall be required to join in any other category of membership.

Membership in and paying the requisite amount of dues in the class of membership above, shall enlist the member with the exception of the Legacy and Corporate member, at all levels of the NMRA organizational structure on both the national (or international) and local level in accordance with Article VIII, this Article and the EHB.

2. Membership Rights and Privileges:

A. All the above membership classes, including Honorary Life Member, but excluding Family members, shall include communications received from both the national and regional level, the exact nature and form of which communications is to be set forth in accordance with these Regulations and any policies adopted by the Board of Directors, in the Executive Handbook, provided further that Regional communications may vary depending upon the policies adopted by the Region.

B. Each member in the above classes, including Honorary Life member shall have the right to:

1. Receive a membership card as proof of membership and the class of membership, and be listed in all rosters for their class of membership.

2. Participate in all NMRA activities, including those administered through a region or division both including and other than the region or division in whose territory the member resides, but subject to the payments of any user fees otherwise imposed upon members of the region in which the activity is occurring, and meeting any other qualifications or conditions established by the region and/or NMRA.

3. Except for Family and Corporate membership the right to vote and run for an elective office in any region or division of which the member is a resident member, subject to meeting any qualifications and conditions established by the NMRA and, if applicable, by the region and/or division.

4. Participate in and benefit from programs at the national, regional and divisional level. However, certain costs of said programs may vary depending upon location and practicability of delivering the program to individual members. Nothing prevents the Board of Directors and/or the region or division from delivering said services or administering the program from charging a reasonable cost to those services where appropriate and where consistent with these Regulations and the Executive Handbook.

5. Obtaining merchandise or premiums offered exclusively to NMRA members at a discounted cost if said merchandise or premiums are also offered to the general public. Insofar as regions offer said merchandise or premiums, said shall be available to NMRA members in said region and, if the region desires, throughout the NMRA on the same terms. The level of NMRA offering the premium or merchandise should be responsible for the administration of the program and collection of any monies and accounting as well as delivery of the merchandise or premium.

6. Participate in contests under the following conditions. At the national level, any NMRA member in good standing shall be able to enter the contest in person or by proxy. The procedures for said national contest shall be set forth in the Executive Handbook. Any cost for participating in the national contest should be borne by the individual member and the Board of Directors through and with the education department shall set uniform standards for judging NMRA national contests. Regions must also offer judging pursuant to said uniform standards provided that regions can also create non-NMRA judging rules, including but not limited to additional categories of the contest beyond those utilized by national. Upon request, the national contest rules must be applied to contest entries for a legitimate national purpose; if the purpose is to insure compliance with the AP program, AP judging may be substituted by the region at its discretion. As for regional contests, a regional resident member can enter a regional contest by proxy or in person. Out of region NMRA members can enter only in person so as to prevent abuse of the contest process by allowing multiple entries in various regions by proxy.

7. To have access to programs offered externally through NMRA but not administered by NMRA and where offered, said program must be offered to all NMRA members otherwise qualifying for such programs. Nothing herein requires regional programs to conform to this provision.

8. To be protected by event liability insurance offered by national for qualifying NMRA events and regions should protect members by applying for liability insurance where that insurance is offered or applicable through the national organization.

9. To have access as a member to the Kalmbach Memorial Library and the Howell Day Model Railroad Museum and such other facilities as may be operated by or in affiliation with the NMRA, which benefit may be fee based, as further delineated by the Board of Directors.

10. To be considered for and receive recognition through special awards or special certificates as an earned right, and one not required that regions establish through independent regional recognition.

11. To petition and seek referendum of issues and decisions in accordance with the procedures and provisions that are set forth in these Regulations as adopted by the Board of Directors.

B. Each member, except those holding a family or corporate membership, shall have the privilege of seeking an elective office and holding elective or appointive office in the NMRA.

3. Membership, other than the Life Membership categories, shall be on a yearly basis and shall expire on the last day of the month at the end of the term in for which the dues were paid.

4. Dues

A. No additional dues shall be required for membership in a region or division for NMRA

members who reside in such region or division. For purposes of this article, a member has only one residence.

B. Additional costs may be charged for NMRA members who reside outside the geographic boundaries of a Region or Division, but wish to participate in or receive communications from said Region or Division. Nothing herein prevents a Region or Division from charging a subscription fee for its publications, or such other user fees for services provided the out of region member, at his or her request.

C. In lieu of dues paid by NMRA members residing within the territory of a region and one of its divisions, if any, each region shall receive from the NMRA an allocation from dues set forth below.

D. The allocation of dues shall be made pursuant to guidelines approved by the Board. The Board shall adopt an amount of the total dues for each class of membership representing the share between national and regional/divisional level. The allocation of dues shall also take intoaccount:

1. the number of resident members within each region and each division,
2. the number of nonresident members of each region and division,
3. any different levels of services to be provided to resident members as opposed to nonresident members, and
4. when dues payments for non-life members are received, except that no payment for more than one year at a time shall be made to a region for the region and, if applicable, a division where a non-life member pays five years dues at one time.

E. Such amount shall cover the region and division administration of all NMRA mandated programs and activities. Each region is responsible for transferring to each active division from the regions allocation of dues an amount which shall cover divisional administration of all NMRA mandated programs and activities, with the allocation being made pursuant to guidelines approved by the Board of Directors.

F. Any region or division may charge additional user or attendance fees necessary to cover the

expenses of region or division programs or activities.

G. The dues shall be indexed to a national index as specified by the Board of Directors and specifically the United States Consumer Price Index. The allocation and the index utilized by National in setting dues may only be changed in accordance with these Regulations.

H. The Board of Directors in accordance with the provisions in Article X, is authorized to change the dues amount charged based upon any change in the index with a single vote of the Board and nothing shall prevent the Board of Directors from approving dues on a cumulative basis, i.e., not on an annual basis, provided that the cumulative adjustment in dues does not exceed the cumulative changes in the index for the same period of time in which the adjustment in dues is sought.

I. Any adjustment in dues beyond that allowed by the index, that is beyond the change in index for the period of time in which the dues were last set, shall require two votes of the Board. Following the first and initial vote the proposed adjustment shall be publicized in the Bulletin for comment and shall not be effective until the second vote, taken at the next available meeting of the Board. The Board shall also solicit and receive input from the Regional Advisory Council and the membership concerning said adjustment beyond and above the index.

5. Region and Division Membership.

A. Each existing NMRA member except Legacy and Corporate members, shall be a member of the Region, if one exists, and of the Division, if one exists, **in whose territory the member resides, and have voting rights therein.**

B. Each new NMRA member shall become automatically a member of the Region, if one exists, and of the Division, if one exists, **in whose territory the member resides.**

C. Each NMRA member may join any other region or division other than one in whose territory the member resides **only upon:**

1. Application through the NMRA for membership in such region or division membership, and

2. Payment to the region or division for any publications or other out of pocket costs which such membership request entails.

3. Out of territory members of a region shall not be allowed to vote in either region or divisional elections, and shall not be allowed to run for regional or divisional office.

6. Regions are authorized to process membership applications and collect dues for the NMRA and in so doing, acts as an agent for the Board in the collection and accounting of dues. Regions may authorize Divisions to collect membership application and dues, but said application and dues shall be remitted to the Region for transmission to National. National shall maintain a uniform membership record, which shall be available through secure file for access by each regional organization and thereafter shared by Regions with Divisions pursuant to procedures and safeguards to be approved by the Board.