

NMRA Los Angeles Division – Meeting Minutes

Key Outcomes

- Jeff Smith elected **Superintendent**; Nick elected to **combined Chief Clerk/Paymaster (Secretary-Treasurer)** role per division bylaws.
- 2026 Membership Banquet tentatively scheduled for **March 13, 2026**; plan to invite **Craig Walker** as guest speaker.
- **Quarterly Open House** scheduled for **June 27**, hosted at Chuck's home, with potential coordination with **Mark Schoenberger's County Line Rail** group.
- LA Division will host the **2028 PSR Regional Convention**; volunteer lead still needed.

Decisions Made

- **Banquet Date:** March 13, 2026 (avoids Easter/Palm Sunday conflicts).
- **Storage Renewal:** Approved 6-month extension; Vic to request nonprofit discount.
- **Banquet Pricing:** \$25 per person remains appropriate (actual cost \$26.11 with tax/tip).
- **Division Branding:** Official NMRA color for LA Division will be **red**.
- **Member Outreach:** Future event invitations will be sent as **individual emails**, not group newsletters.

Pending Confirmation

- **Treasurer Role:** Kevin believes he remains treasurer; bylaws assign combined secretary-treasurer role to Nick. John (elections chair) must provide official results.
- **Logo Rollout:** Kevin Speedy agreed to produce updated logos for all four divisions; none issued yet.
- **June Open House Coordination:** Chuck to confirm with Mark Schoenberger and Vic regarding combined June 27 event.

Financial Items

- **Banquet Proceeds:** Jeff holds cash; deposit pending clarification of treasurer responsibilities.
- **Reimbursement:** Jeff requires reimbursement for banquet expenses charged to personal card; receipt already submitted via email to the group.

- **Donation Acknowledgment:** RailMaster Hobbies donated ~\$300 in door prizes; tax acknowledgment letter needed.
- **Storage Cost:** Approximately \$300 for 6-month renewal due around the 25th of next month.

Action Items

- **Jeff's Wife:** Reserve March 13, 2026 banquet date at Cerritos restaurant.
- **Vic:**
 - Email John, Kevin, and Nick to clarify election results and officer responsibilities.
 - Renew storage for 6 months and request nonprofit discount.
- **Chuck:** Email Mark Schoenberger (cc Vic) to propose combined June 27 open house.
- **Nick (via Vic):** Provide text messages for Sam and other board members.
- **Jeff:**
 - Contact convention booking agent (via Pat) for 2028 PSR convention planning.
 - Apply for insurance for October 3 LA Area Prototype Modelers meet.
 - Publish newsletter request for 2028 convention volunteer lead.
 - Send AI-generated meeting transcript to Nick for official minutes.

2028 PSR Convention Planning

- **Format:** 3–4 day event (Thu evening–Sun morning), similar to National Narrow Gauge conventions.
- **Location Requirements:**
 - Must be within LA Division boundaries (LA or Ventura County).
 - Target hotel rate slightly above \$100.
 - Must include adequate convention facilities.
- **Date Constraints:** Avoid Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, National Narrow Gauge Convention (September), and 2028 Olympics (July–August).
- **Potential Venues:** DoubleTree in Diamond Bar; hotels along the A-Line for transit access.

- **Special Event Idea:** Sunday morning pre-opening access to Knott's Berry Farm train (Jeff has contacts).
- **Leadership:** Jeff can advise but cannot lead.

Membership Banquet Review

- **Attendance:** 31 total, including guest speaker Paul Ellis; higher LA Division turnout than previous year.
- **Financials:** \$725 collected; \$705 spent; net +\$20.
- **Speaker Feedback:** Paul Ellis's presentation well-received; strong industry insight.
- **Personal Invitations:** At least 2 attendees came due to direct invitations; one store customer confirmed receiving invite.
- **Photography:** Minimal photos taken despite volunteer photographer from Cajon Division.
- **Venue Performance:** Cerritos restaurant provided excellent service; no deposit required due to established relationship.

Quarterly Open Houses

- **Q2 (June 27):** Chuck's layout (Pomona area), with possible coordination with County Line Rail group and Bruce Hendrick's layout in Brea (10–15 minutes away).
- **Backup Option:** Slim Gauge Guild Open House (June 7 & 9).
- **Planning Benefit:** 3-month lead time supports effective promotion via Nick's flyers.

Regional Context

- **County Line Rail Group:** Organized by Mark Schoenberger; includes 7–8 southeast LA County modelers.
- **Coffee Meetups:** Tuesday morning gatherings in Claremont organized by Charlie Hepley.
- **Southern California S Gaugers :** Holds conventions in Anaheim; previously secured Knott's Berry Farm back shop access.

Board Composition Notes

- **Officer Structure:** Director (Vic), Superintendent (Jeff), Secretary-Treasurer (combined unless split).

- **Voting:** Each officer has a full vote; if secretary and treasurer roles are split, each receives half vote.
- **Quorum:** Two officers (Vic and Jeff) constitute a quorum.

Next Meeting

May 17 (moved from May 10 due to Mother's Day).