

2006 CID Membership Survey Results (Continued from Page 4)

After careful review of the Data and these 10 findings the board distilled the information into 4 actionable items that we are now in the process of discussing how we might implement changes. The four areas that we will address this New Year are:

1. More and varied venues at shows and meets
2. Being better Teachers and giving more support.
3. More and better communications to all new members.
4. Better service to all of the geographic area contained within the CID.

To this end we are exploring the following ideas brainstormed at the December board meeting. All ideas may not be feasible, but there are several that the Board feels are worthy of detailed exploration.

1. **More and Varied venues**
 - a. **Current**—Train Shows, Public/family meets/shows, layout tours and trade shows like GTE, WGH etc. **In the Future**—Swap meets, Clinics only, bring & brag meets, short meets, monthly get-togethers, proto type rail tours, sponsor bus trips to meets, museums and train trips etc.
2. **Being better Teachers**
 - a. **Current**—Clinics at meets, KIT' program, Rusty Spike articles, Website articles, layout tours and modules at meets. **In the Future**—Cable TV show, clinics at other public settings, sign up for Indy Speakers bureau, network with library and other organizations, CID booth at shopping centers, create a CID help line, continue to update the CID web page—Tips, use the CIDList e-mail to answer questions.
3. **Communicating to all Members**
 - a. **Current**—Welcome letters to new Members, Rusty Spike news letter, CID website, CID List e-mail, meets/shows and the annual meeting. **In the Future**—Create a Membership directory, telephone call to all new members, establish a "Help Line"-website Q&A's, create Ambassadors in different geographical locations in the Division, print more Rusty Spikes for handouts, place a suggestion box at all meets and shows.
4. **Better Support for all Members in the CID Division**
 - a. **Current**—Due to the constraints of the CID board (limited manpower) it has been difficult to provide activities for individuals located in Kentucky and in south

western/western Indiana. Saying this we realize that we have an obligation to all of our members regardless of where they live. By creating Ambassadors at large and by you the members located in these areas, we can help to supply you with the venues and help to put on your own Clinics, meets and shows. We will be looking for volunteers to support this activity.

In summary, Michael Brestel your new NMRA President has been discussing in the pages of "Scale Rails" a shift back to the original mission of the NMRA, a mission of defining the Standards, insuring the conformance to those standards thus insuring that the products that we purchase from the Model Railroad Industry and use on our railroads are of the highest quality and reliable. He has indicated that the National NMRA was becoming a social organization. He is now in the process of turning this around putting a renewed emphasis on standards and conformance. This is what we need, someone to represent the Hobby of Model Railroading. This Survey brought to light that the CIDs mission is different. We are chartered with creating venues for our members that give you the opportunity to meet and greet your fellow members, discuss your model railroad interests, attend clinics, learn and meet new friends who are of like mind. What would it be like to be a Model Railroader locked into a closet, never to share your love and experiences of your hobby with others? No fun, right!

It is therefore the mission of your Division to create the opportunities for promoting the general hobby of Model Railroading to the public, learning, meeting new people, renewing old friendships and most importantly having fun through a variety of activities.

On behalf of the CID Board we want to thank you for being supportive of the Division and being Members of the NMRA--- It is all of you that puts the real meaning into the "Worlds Greatest Hobby". It is the people that make the Hobby not "things"!

One final note, the final Survey report is about 23 pages long, too long to include in this summary, however we will have a copy of the report with all of the detail at all of our meets and at the Regional convention at Muncie, In. April 20-22nd, 2007. Please ask us to show you the report. The final report is being sent to National and to Board of Directors of the Midwest Region.

A special thanks goes to Tom Fitzsimmons and Bob Lehnen for helping to compile and analyze all of the 2460 responses.

Thank you,

*Tom Cain,
Superintendent CID*

*Mike Nicoletti, Trainmaster
Chairman Survey Committee*