



NMRA Mid Central Region Annual Convention

May 17 – 20, 2018

West Chester, Ohio

The Mid Central Region cordially invites you to attend the *Cincinnati Express* 2018 MCR Convention hosted in the greater Cincinnati, Ohio area by Cincinnati Division 7. The convention will be held at the Cincinnati Marriott North hotel, located in the northern suburbs of Cincinnati. The hotel has recently completed an extensive renovation and remodeling of nearly all interior spaces, including meeting rooms, sleeping rooms, atrium, hallways, lobby and dining facilities. All convention activities within the hotel will be conveniently located on the same floor, and all parking is free!

The convention committee has planned activities to ensure you have a rewarding and enjoyable experience during your visit to our “Queen City”. The Convention runs from Thursday, May 17th through Sunday, May 20th. Registration and check-in **opens at 9:30 AM Thursday**, with **key activities beginning at noon on Thursday!** Yes, that is right, this will be nearly **four full days of fun** for everyone!

We are blessed to have an **abundance of quality layouts** in the Cincinnati area with 67 of the best available for your enjoyment at this convention. 35 of these layouts have been published, with 10 in *Model Railroader’s* annual *Great Model Railroads* magazine. Nearly all 67 layouts are new or improved since our 2003 MCR and 2005 NMRA conventions.

Two of these impressive layouts will be open Thursday afternoon for special **early bird layout visits**: Bob Lawson’s massive HO scale CNO&TP Div. of the Southern Ry, featuring numerous super detailed scenes and structures, and Larry Bonhaus’ large N scale PRR in a new location since our 2005 convention, featuring the famous Horseshoe Curve and other additions. Other layout events include 4 different **mini-bus tours to 12 premier layouts** (3 per tour), guest **operating sessions** each of the 4 days, general layout open houses each of the 4 days, a special Thursday dinner event at nearby **EnterTRAINment Junction**, and several scenicked layouts at the hotel.

We’ll also have **3 rail-oriented clinic rooms** (2 huge) packed full of **expert speakers**, including Gerry Leone HLM MMR, Lou Sassi, Hal Miller, W. Allen McClelland HLM MMR, Sam Swanson MMR, Rick Tipton, Charlie Getz HLM and many more. Train Control Systems (TCS) will have a special booth to install pre-purchased sound decoder kits for free. You’ll also not want to miss our 4 special **rail prototype and industry bus tours** and our 2 incredible **general interest bus tours**, including amazing “Steel Industries”, “Cincinnati Railfanning”, “American Sign Museum” and “Findlay Market” tours.

The convention attractions continue with fun and informative non-rail clinics, a ladies luncheon with cookie decorating, a delicious banquet with entertaining guest speaker Gerry Leone HLM MMR, a **huge White Elephant Sale** (bring your cast-offs), Company Store (new shirts, cars, etc.), full contest, large raffle, and much more!

Take a look at the following pages to see what we’ve prepared for you at the *Cincinnati Express* 2018 MCR NMRA Convention. We’re sure you’ll find it to be an enjoyable and rewarding trip filled with rare and educational offerings for everyone. It will provide the perfect time to renew old friendships and make new ones. We hope you’ll agree the *Cincinnati Express* promises to be a fun and inspiring four day event you will not want to miss.

Rick Crumrine
Convention Chair

John Burchnall
Convention Vice-Chair