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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **HMA MODEL RAILROAD INDUSTRY DIVISION COUNCIL ELECTS 2008-09 OFFICERS**

**July 25, 2008.** The Model Railroad Industry Division Council of the Hobby Manufacturers Association elected its 2008-09 officers during the National Train Show in Anaheim, CA on July 19, 2008.



Elected to serve his first term as Council President is Walter W. (Bud) Reece, Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Bachmann Trains (USA) in Philadelphia. Bud Reece has had a long and varied career in sales within the hobby industry. He attended High Point College, High Point, N.C., is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and Army National Guard with over seven years of service and he owned a Manufacturers Representative Agency out of Atlanta, Ga. He has held sales positions at Western Publishing Company, Tonka Toys, Estes Rockets/Hi-Flyer Kites, and others. In addition to serving on the Model Railroad Division Council and the HMA Board as a MRID representative, Reece is a Board Member of Gilda's Club (a counseling organization for person's living with Cancer) founded in honor of Gilda Radnor.



Elected as Vice President of the Council is Frank Ritota, President of Model Rectifier Corporation in Edison, NJ. Frank has been President of MRC since 1995 and has more than 30 years experience in the hobby industry. MRC is a company entrenched in the fields of plastics radio control, flight simulators, slot cars, and of course railroads. Frank currently serves as President of the HMA.



Gary Kamin, Purchasing Manager of Wm. K. Walthers, Inc. in Wisconsin was elected to his first term as Secretary/Treasurer of the MRID Council. He has been with Walthers since 1993 and has been involved in purchasing for almost 30 years. He is currently the HMA representative on the Trainfest Board. Gary was also recently elected to serve his first term on the MRID Council.



Fred Hill was also elected to his first term on the Council. He is the owner of The Original Whistle Stop, a Southern California hobby shop that specializes in model trains. The store was founded in 1951, purchased by Fred in 1976, after a career in commercial banking. He serves as the Chairman of the Board and Treasurer of the Corporation. In 1984, Fred he accepted a partnership in The Coach Yard, a model railroad manufacturing company, specializing in HO scale. Fred was elected to serve on the MRIA from 1996 to

2001, was a founding Director of the National Retail Hobby Stores Association and was the representative from NRHSA to the HMA Board.

Continuing on the HMA MRID Council are: Henry Carstens (Carstens Publications), Nancy Workman (SoundTraxx), Allen Pollock (Fun & Games II), Bill Giacci (Classic Metal Works), John Engstrom (Atheam Trains), and Terry Thompson (Kalmbach Publishing/Model Railroader as Immediate Past President.

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