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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HMA MODEL RAILROAD INDUSTRY DIVISION COUNCIL HONORS 2010 RECIPIENTS OF HALL OF FAME AND BOBBYE HALL AWARDS

July 23, 2010. Allen Pollock (Fun & Games II) and Gary Kamin (Wm. K. Walthers), Co-Chairs of the Awards Committee of the HMA Model Railroad Industry Division Council, presented 2010 recipients of the Hall of Fame and Bobbye Hall awards with their recognition plaques at the division's membership meeting during the 75th National Train Show in Milwaukee, WI on July 18, 2010.

“The HMA MRID Council was extremely pleased and excited to induct Jim Conway and Phil Walthers into the Model Railroad Industry Hall of Fame this year,” announced Pollock. “Both of these industry leaders have contributed their time, talents, and dedication to grow the model railroad segment of the hobby industry. They are well-deserving to be inducted into the HMA MRID Hall of Fame.”

The induction into the MRID Hall of Fame was an emotional event during the membership breakfast. Stacey Walthers-Naffah spoke for her father and thanked the Council and the Industry for their recognition of her father. She has recently joined the Walthers team and was grateful to see the leaders of the model railroad industry be recognized for their continuing contributions to the industry.

Hall of Fame

Phil Walthers – Wm. K. Walthers

With his nearly four-decade record of hard work, creativity, service, and most of all, integrity, Phil Walthers has earned a reputation as not only one of the most capable executives in our industry, but one of the most trusted. His tenure at Wm. K. Walthers, Inc. has been marked by a substantial expansion in the firm's line of products, including a

new track system, a new line of passenger equipment and limited-run trains, and the 2005 acquisition of Life-Like Products. Phil also led an expansion in the number of lines Walthers distributes, and he has helped many smaller firms grow by promoting and distributing their products via the Walthers catalog.

He has represented our industry ably, including service on the boards of the Model Railroad Industry Association and Radio Control Hobby Trade Association. Under his leadership Walthers has helped build awareness of our hobby by being a primary sponsor of the World's Greatest Hobby program and also of the PBS railroad program "Tracks Ahead." And while it is less well known, thanks to his modesty, Phil has compiled one of the most remarkable records of community service in the industry.

Throughout his career, Phil has consistently led by example in promoting the hobby, serving our industry, and introducing new products that have inspired model railroaders. It is for those reasons that he is nominated for election to our Hall Of Fame.

Jim Conway

In 1958-59 when Jim was 18 years old, he built a large HO train layout in the basement of his family home. He later found a part-time job at a local hobby shop in Chicago and his love for trains grew. He built hundreds of model freight car kits and sold them through local hobby shops and mail order. In 1960, Jim joined the NMRA and attended his first NMRA National Convention in Chicago. In 1962, Jim developed a line of kits called "Con-Cor Models." Among the first kits were USRA Boxcars and Billboard Reefers, Hon3 freight cars, and the "Airslide" Covered Hopper kit. Also in 1962, Jim organized a group of fellow model railroaders from Chicago and opened a new Model Train Hobby Shop on the West Side of Chicago.

During the 1960's and 70's, Jim grew his business under the name of Con-Cor. Con-Cor became the "N" Scale Rivarossi Agent in the USA starting in the mid-1970's. Jim also had a wholesale business under the name of JMC International

Bobbye Hall Award – John Tews

The 2010 Bobbye Hall award for distinguished service to the model railroad industry was presented to John Tews who is currently the general manager of the Trainfest consumer show in Milwaukee held every November. Under John's direction over the past 19 years, Trainfest has grown in attendance with over 22,000 model railroad enthusiasts attending the show each year.

John is also the Emeritus Director of the East Troy Railroad Museum and received the NMRA Certificate of Achievement award as an Association Official and Association Volunteer as well as the Master Model Railroader award May, 2002. John was a member of the Board of Directors of the WISE Division of NMRA and a WISE Division Superintendent for 5 years in the early 1990's.

John attended the Milwaukee School of Engineering and Valparaiso University for Civil Engineering. He worked for several years as a civil engineer for the Chicago and Northwestern Railway in Butler, WI as well as a Construction Project Manager for Wisconsin Electric Power Company from where he retired in 2006.

“John has worked extremely hard to make Trainfest a premier show in the model railroad industry and we thank him for his service and cooperation with the HMA MRID,” stated Gary Kamin, co-chair of the Awards Committee.

Also recognized for their service to the HMA MRID council and whose terms have expired were Bud Reece (Bachmann Trains), President of the Council from 2008-10 and John Engstrom (Atheam) who served from 2007-10. Both were presented with plaques recognizing their service to the MRID Council.

For more information on HMA and the Model Railroad Industry visit

www.hmahobby.org

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Photos with captions:



Jim Conway(Con-Cor) receives his Hall of Fame induction plaque from Allen Pollock, MRID Awards Committee Co-chair.



New MRID Hall of Fame Member Phil Walthers (Wm. K. Walthers).



2010 Bobby Hall Award Recipient John Tews with Gary Kamin (Wm. K. Walthers), MRID Awards Committee Co-chair.



Bud Reece (Bachmann Trains), outgoing President of the MRID Division Council is thanked for his service by new President Fred Hill (The Coach Yard) and HMA Board Member Frank Ritota (MRC).



John Engstrom (Athearn) is presented with his HMA MRID Division Council service plaque by Fred Hill.