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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HMA GENERAL HOBBY DIVISION ELECTS TWO NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS AND OFFICERS FOR 2008-09

July 30, 2008. The General Hobby Division of the Hobby Manufacturers Association elected two new council members in July and also elected its new Council officers for 2008-09.



Mike Lucero, National Sales Manager of Hornby America (Fife, WA) and John Smith, National Sales Manager –Hobby Division of Iwata-Medea in Portland, OR were elected by division members to

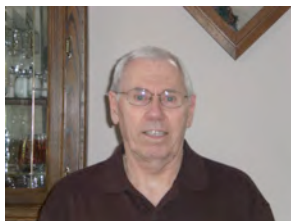
replace Al Thumler and Bill Stine whose terms had expired.



Lucero is charged with the marketing and development of a range of Hornby hobby products.

“I work constantly with other HMA members in different countries to help promote growth in the US. My number one goal is to promote and introduce the hobby industry to more children in our country. I am an avid railroad, RC, rockets, plastic, die cast, and slot car modeler and nothing gave me more pleasure as a kid.”

Smith’s career in sales, sales management and marketing span more than three decades in the art, craft and hobby industries. He has had a successful work history with experience in all aspects of sales, marketing and distribution to retail/wholesale sectors, as well as OEM accounts in a myriad of markets related to art, craft and hobby products.



Elected to leadership positions in the General Hobby Division Council are Alan Iwig, National Sales Manager for Excel Hobby Blades in Auburn, WA and Ed Rogala, Senior Sales Manager for Midwest Products, Hobart, IN. Iwig was elected President of the Council and Rogala was elected Vice President for terms beginning July 1, 2008.

Both Iwig and Rogala have extensive experience in the hobby industry. “HMA has provided me with a great opportunity to work with dealers, distributors and manufacturers to promote and inform the trade on the growth and excitement of the hobby industry,” said Iwig. I am very enthusiastic with the direction the HMA has set its sights on for not only making the hobby industry better than ever, but also reaching hobbyist of all ages.”



Rogala of Midwest Products Company has been a lifetime modeler who has spent his entire working career employed in the hobby industry. His current position as Senior Sales Manager at Midwest allows him to see how different yet alike our industry is to other industries Midwest serves. Ed is "The Hobby Guy" and is currently the chair of the HMA Show Committee.

The General Hobby Division has grown dramatically in two years from less than 40 members to over 70 this year. Continuing to serve on the General Hobby Division Council are: Abby Robey (Xuron Corp.), Hall Miller (Kalmbach Publishing), and Gerald Voight (Hawkeye's Hobbies). Robey and Bill Stine (Quest Aerospace) continue to serve on the HMA Board of Directors as representatives from the General Hobby Division.

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