

Mid-Continent Railway Historical Society, Inc.

Members Discussion Board Guidelines

Last revised 1-19-2022

Mission Statement

The Member's Discussion Board (hereinafter referred to as Discussion Board) is a moderated discussion board for the exchange of relevant, fact-based, information and ideas about Mid-Continent Railway Museum (MCRM). All kinds of inquiries regarding information on ongoing projects, exchanging ideas, news, and what is happening at Mid-Continent are welcome.

Guidelines

- The Discussion Board's primary purpose is to facilitate the exchange of information, advice, and suggestions, not to serve as a forum for debate.
- The Discussion Board requires all posters to adhere to a high standard of courtesy and civility. Polite, constructive criticisms, and polite responses to same, are acceptable. Insulting or inflammatory language; attempts to chill discussion; and personal, ad hominem, attacks on other posters are all prohibited. Please note that this standard is inherently subjective, and is considerably more restrictive than the standards on many other forums. Some people may not find it possible to express their full views and stay within this guideline. Other people may have legitimate philosophical objections to posting under inherently subjective moderation. In either case, we must respectfully ask them to express their views in other forums than this one.
- Defining what constitutes uncourteous, uncivil, or unconstructive speech, and deciding when continued discussion of a subject is no longer constructive, shall be within the sole discretion of the moderators of this Discussion Board. They may choose to issue a back-channel warning to the poster, may delete posts without warning, or may close threads to new posts without notice.
- All posts to the Discussion Board must have the real name of the member posting the message. Only members in good standing shall be allowed to post to this Discussion Board.
- No profanity. There will be zero tolerance for this, and posts containing profanity will be deleted on sight.
- While discussions and questions about what is happening at MCRM are welcomed, endless banter about "what might have been" and "how thing should have been" are discouraged because of its circular nature.
- The Board of Directors of MCRM has the final say on all posting to the Discussion Board. The Board of Directors of MCRM reserves the right to limit and/or permanently revoke the posting capability of any member to the Discussion Board who violates these guidelines.

Moderating Guidelines

If there is a post that does not meet the above stated Guidelines, the Moderators may engage in the following actions in moderating the Discussion Board:

- Direct contact with the member who posted the inappropriate message
- Locking the thread permanently or for a defined period of time

- Removing the post or thread. Removed posts shall be stored for one week to facilitate review. The Moderator who locked or removed a post/thread shall provide an explanation to the poster via email when the post/thread is removed.
- Removing the offensive portion of the message if by doing so the message still makes sense. The moderator will never add to a post, only delete portions. The moderator will include a note on the Discussion Board saying the post was moderated. The poster will be notified if a part of the post has been deleted, and will be offered the chance to delete the post if they disagree with the moderator's action.
- If a moderator believes that a poster is not abiding by the guidelines, said moderator may request that the MCRM Board of Directors review the status of the posting member.

Controversial Topics

From time to time, topics will inspire controversy among the members. In moderating such discussions, moderators will focus primarily on facilitating the continued polite exchange of fact-based information within the scope of the mission statement. Posts that the moderator believes may incite further discussion and /or debate away from the stated focus shall be subject to immediate modification. Controversial posts and discussions on topics identified in the stated focus shall be allowed if they comply with the terms set forth in the above Guidelines.

Appeals Process

Any poster who has had his/her post moderated is welcomed to inquire further about the reasoning behind the moderating action. However, the following course of action **MUST** be followed: The poster must contact the moderator who made the decision to moderate and obtain the reasoning behind the decision. If the poster remains unsatisfied, he may request the moderator to refer the matter to the MCRM Board of Directors for review. Upon receiving a request for review, the Board of Directors, at the next schedule meeting, shall appoint one board member to review the matter. The board member shall determine if the moderator properly followed the above guidelines and moderating guidelines in making the decision to moderate the post. If the board member determines that the moderator followed the guidelines, the moderator's decision shall stand. If the board member determines that the moderator did not follow the guideline, the post shall be reinstated. The decision of the board member reviewing the matter will be final.

Current Moderators

Pat Weeden	pweeden@weedengraphics.com
Jeffrey Lentz	jlentz@midcontinent.org