

The Pie Card

Volume 60, November 2026, Number 1

Division 8, Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association



MID CENTRAL
REGION



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

By Ron Ellison

It's New Year's Day! Before we leave 2025, a few items from December:

1. We donated \$1,000 dollars to the Kentucky Railroad Museum. A reminder that the KRM became an NMRA Sustaining Member in 2024.
2. We donated \$500 each to the K & I Model Railroad Club and the Southern Indiana Railroad Club, our two 100% NMRA Clubs. Those two clubs make up about 45% of our membership.
3. Member Kent Westphal was awarded the 2025 Silver Spike at the Christmas Party. Kent always raises his hand to volunteer. Congratulations Kent! And thank you for volunteering! See photos in this edition of *The Pie Card*.
4. And thank you to Darcy Elliott and Russ Weis for making all the arrangements for the Christmas Party at the Corner Café. And to Fred Soward for putting together the 2025 Year in Review program after dinner. It was epic! Another nice Division 8 Christmas Party was enjoyed by all who attended.

TIME TABLE

Jan 17, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom.

Feb 21, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom.

Mar 7, Division 7 Flea Market & Trade Show

Mar 14, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom.

Mar 21, Sat 10AM-3PM, Div 8 Train Show and Sale, Safin Center, Holy Family Parish.

Apr 18, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom.

And now, Happy New Year! OK 2026, show us what you got!

Right around the corner is the Spring Train Show & Sale March 21, 2026. And as always, we need your help to put on the show. So, make sure the date is in your calendar and plan to volunteer to help at a Membership Meeting or volunteer with your club or with one of the layouts. Want to volunteer right now? Send us a message - division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com or text (502) 653-5381. The fall Train Show & Sale is November 14, 2026.

But before that is the Amherst Railroad Hobby Show, the largest railroad-themed trade show in America, January 24 - 25, 2026, in Springfield, Massachusetts. The two days before the Show feature clinics from 8 to 5 each day. More information here - [Amherst Railroad Hobby Show](#).

And then we have the NMRA 2026 events. Coming up in early June, the Mid Central Region Convention, Whistle Stop Dayton, June 4 - 7, 2026. You'll find information about the Convention in every edition of *The Pie Card* until June. And then July 27 - August 2, 2026, the NMRA National Convention, Scenic City Express, in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The Convention website is here - [2026 NMRA National Convention](#). It's around 300 miles to Chattanooga – an easy drive. And then Trainfest 2026 is confirmed for November 7 - 8, 2026, back in its usual spot at the Baird Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a massive model railroading event with displays, vendors, and activities for all ages. Save the date. The website is not yet updated for 2026.

Some of these 2026 dates are conveniently located in the Timetable on the [Division 8 Website](#) under *Timetable*. Other events can be found on the [NMRA Calendar](#). And of course, there is the [Division 8 Groups.io Calendar](#) which includes the ZOOM links to our events. And if you joined Groups.io, we send you reminders of our events including links and maps. If you would like to become a part of Groups.io, request an invitation by emailing division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com or text (502) 653-5381.

So much to do in 2026. And there's more coming. So, stay tuned.

JANUARY 2026 CHARLIE KEELING HYBRID MODEL CONTEST

By Barry Christensen, Contest Chairman

January	Freight cars
February	Non-steam motive power
March	Structures
April	Passenger cars
May	Cabooses
June	Open loads
July	NO CONTEST
August	MOW equipment
September	Photos (model) and photos (prototype)
October	Steam locomotives
November	Displays (no size limit)
December	Highway vehicles

For December, the 2025-2026 Charlie Keeling Hybrid Model Contest was an all-virtual contest due to having the Division 8 Christmas Party rather than a meeting. There were six entries in the highway vehicles category, with some impressive and inspiring modeling efforts on display.

Honorable mention goes to Ed Brennan for "Keep on Truckin'," to Bob Frankrone for "Orange Truck, Rail Equipped," and to Bob Kuchler for "Oldsmobile from 'A Christmas Story'."

Third place goes to Craig Hatter for "Krispy Kreme FORD F850 Box Truck." Second place goes to John Helton for his "Handy Andy." First place goes to Randall Griggs for his "'Madame Queen,' 1950 Studebaker 2-Ton Flatbed/Stake Rack Bee Truck." Congratulations go to each of our highway vehicle modelers!

The revised point totals are now: Ed Brennan and Bob Frankrone with 13 each; Steve Lasher with 10; Randy Griggs with 8; Craig Hatter with 7; Russ Weis with 5; Al Goodman, Scott Griggs, and John Helton with 4 each; Bob Kuchler with 3; Chris Broughton and John Gillespie with 2 each; and Sean Britt and Eric Waggoner with 1 each.

The January Contest is **FREIGHT CARS**

We will send out a reminder but below are some of the Contest dates for January:

- January 3rd - First day to submit entries
- January 10th - Last day to submit entries
- January 15th - Members will receive the Contest Ballot
- January 15th & 16th - Voting in the Contest Ballot ends @ 10:00 PM on the 16th

(continued to column 2)



JANUARY MEETING INFORMATION

The January Division 8 meeting is 2 PM **Saturday January 17, 2026**, at the Jeffersontown Library, 10635 Watterson Trail, Louisville, KY 40299. To maintain the security of the meeting, the Zoom connection information will be sent directly to members by email about a week prior to the meeting and will not be published online.

CONTEST (continued from column 1)

- January 17th - Winners announced at the General Meeting - 1st, 2nd and 3rd
- February 7th - First day to submit February contest entries, **NON-STEAM MOTIVE POWER** (Diesel, Electric, Gasoline)

If you need more information, go here - <http://div8-mcr-nmra.org/site/html/contest.html>.

To enter the January Contest, use the **Contest Entry Form** on the Division 8 website here → [Contest](#) and just follow the simple instructions included in the form.

Contest dates will also be listed in the Groups.io Calendar. And as always if you have questions, comments, or need help, email division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com

We will publish the Contest timeline dates each month in **The Pie Card**.

See contest photos beginning on page 3.

MEMBER WELFARE

By Mike Berry Member Welfare Chairman

Member Welfare has been too busy this past month! Those hospitalized included John Helton, David Burris, Robin White, and most recently, Ramona Johnson. Thanks to those members that kept us posted on all the activity. The Member Welfare fund for this fiscal year includes a \$100 anonymous donation.

DECEMBER CHARLIE KELLING MODEL CONTEST (photos by the modelers)

**FIRST PLACE (left)**

Randy Griggs' S-scale "Madam Queen", 1950 Studebaker 2-Ton Flatbed/Stake Rack Bee Truck. Randy's dad was a beekeeper most of his life and the model is based on his truck.

Randy said he found that the DINKY '50's vintage STUDEBAKER diecast Gasoline Tanker cab would meet his requirements. He removed the cab from the tanker body using a razor saw. He detailed the back end of the cab. He used a chassis from an AHL flatbed/stake rack model and modified it so it would fit. He then scratch-built the flatbed stake rack with various Plastruct items and modeled the stake racks from photos of his dad's truck.

SECOND PLACE (right)

John Helton's HO Scale "Handy Andy."

John began with a Woodland Scenics Chevy Truck. He disassembled, stripped and repainted the cab bed and lightened up the interior. Changed out the driver figure for two others and added details from Preiser and Pola. The rack and its parts came from the Woodland Scenics Sign Slinger's truck. The wheels and tires came from the same truck. He made a set of side mirrors made from small sewing pins.

**THIRD PLACE (left)**

Craig Hatter's HO Scale "Krispy Kreme FORD F850 Box Truck."

Craig's model began with a plain white Athearn truck. Turn signals were placed in the correct location on the front of the fenders, factory mirrors were replaced with metal versions from Plano, and the Krispy Kreme graphics are from Graphics on Demand. They are ultra thin vinyl and are easily applied and burnished onto the model.

DECEMBER CHARLIE KELLING MODEL CONTEST *(continued from page 3)*



HONORABLE MENTION (left)

Bob Kuchler's MMR N-Scale Oldsmobile from "A Christmas Story."

Bob built this from a two-part resin kit from Brian Fedoroff. He painted the body dark metallic blue and the chassis flat black. Taillights painted red and trim painted chrome. The windows were created with canopy glue.

HONORABLE MENTION (right)

Ed Brennan's MMR HO Scale "Keep on Truckin'."

He began with two 1950's era white metal kits. The crisp, detailed lettering on the trailer really caught his eye. He added a fresh coat of paint on the cab and trailer roof, and installed styrene sheeting for the windows.



HONORABLE MENTION (left)

Bob Frankrone's HO Scale "Orange Rail Equipped Truck."

This is an out-of-the-box model

2025 DIVISION 8 CHRISTMAS PARTY

Photos by Barbara Soward unless noted otherwise

The 2025 Division 8 Christmas Party was held on Saturday December 6, at the Corner Café Restaurant.



Attendance was 50 which included members, family members and guests.



Left: Fred Soward MMR explained how to use the “gizmo’s” he had brought for everyone. They were used to temporarily close open snap top beverage cans. He made them on his 3-D printer.

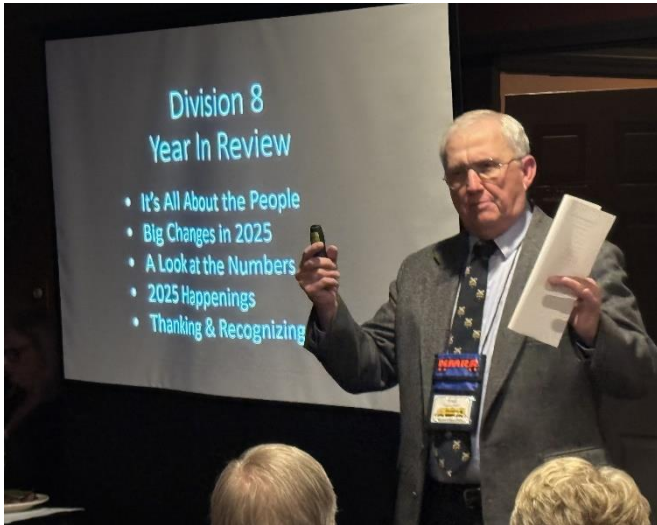
Right: Superintendent Ron Ellison welcoming everyone.



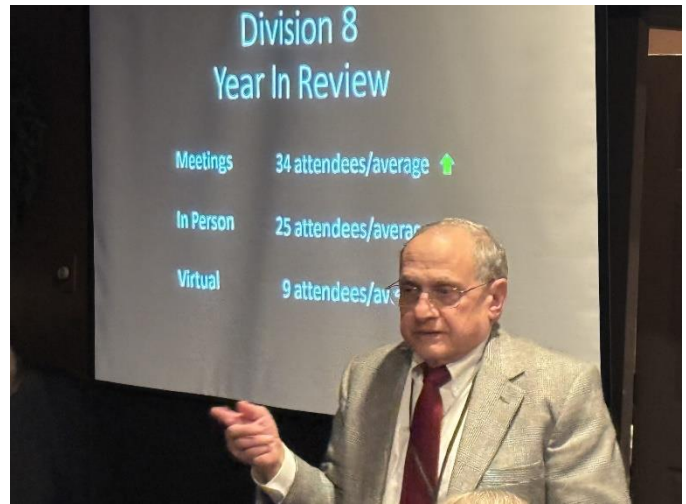
Left: After dinner, Rick Maloney MMR (right) presented the Silver Spike Award to this year’s recipient, Kent Westphal (left).
The *Silver Spike* is awarded for “Recognition of Exemplary Service To The NMRA, MCR, and Division 8. “

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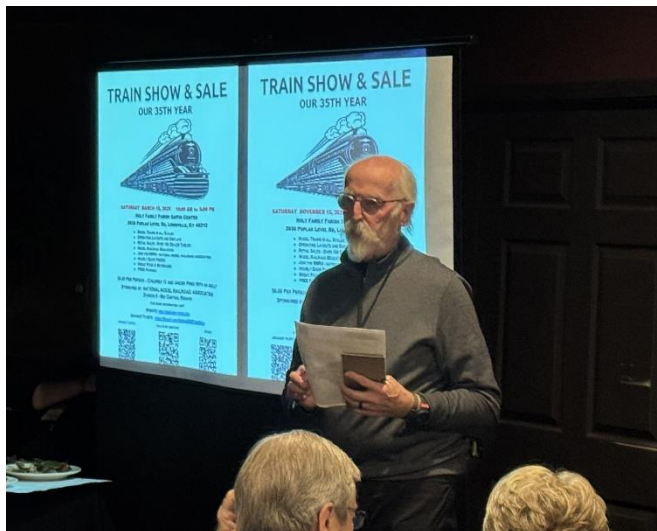
2025 DIVISION 8 CHRISTMAS PARTY (continued from page 5)



Left: Fred opened up the “Year in Review” portion of the program. Pictures of some of the other presenters follow.



Right: Russ Weis reviewed our 2025 meetings.



Left: Ron “wearing his Train Show and Sale Director’s hat,” talked about, what else, the Train Show and Sale.



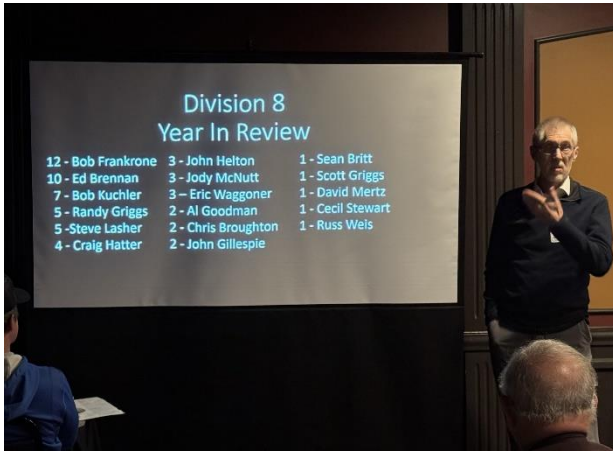
Above: Stan White, Membership Director, reporting on the 2025 Picnic at the Blue Grass Railroad Museum.



Left: Darcy Elliot talking about Division 8 attendees at the Amherst Model Train Club Hobby Show.

(continued on page 7)

2025 DIVISION 8 CHRISTMAS PARTY (continued from page 6)



Left: Charlie Keeling Model Contest Director Barry Christensen reviewed the 2025 contests.



Right: Member Welfare Director Mike Berry reviewed member hospitalizations including "Fallen Flags", members who have passed away over the year.



Left: Achievement Program Director, Mark Norman MMR reviewed member's accomplishments over the year.

Right:
Assistant Superintendent Fred Soward MMR presented Ron Ellison with a Certificate of Achievement – Association Official earned in recognition of his service to Division 8 as Superintendent.



FROM THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

By Fred Soward MMR®, Division 8 Assistant Superintendent

Welcome to 2026 and a whole new year of model railroading.

December, of course, was the Division 8 Christmas Party Gala. Good times, good food, and good visiting with all y'all who attended. I was able to enjoy a couple of holiday lunches and dinners with other model and prototype railroad groups. I attended a local operating session, hosted "mini" operating sessions and visits on our layout, and helped with open houses at NMRA member home layouts. There was a bit of 3D printing and if you attended the Division 8 Christmas Party Gala, I hope you've made use of your door prize(s).

There was a whole lot of NMRA volunteer work at the National level and even more for Division 8. As I'm writing this column, Rob Toler and I are finalizing plans to have the new Division 8 website rolled out in the first two weeks of the new year. And, finally, a little bit of progress on the layout, but far less than I'd've liked to have accomplished in December.

Every December I establish my goals for the new year. For this column that means what I want to accomplish in my model railroad hobby. While I was doing that, I realized once again that there just isn't time available for me to do everything I've signed up to do as well as everything I'd like to accomplish in the hobby, especially on our basement model railroad layout. So, for that reason, I'm going to intentionally cut back on some volunteer things in 2026. Stay tuned. More on that next month as I start offering up volunteer opportunities for some of y'all.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Stan White Membership Relations Chairman

As of the last report received from the Mid Central Region, we have 155 active members. We had seven 9 renewals: Ed Brennan, Chris Broughton, Michael Dowell, Bob Frankrone, Mike Gillespie, Randall Griggs, Kenneth Sharp, Rick Williams, and Donald Heath. There were six expired members: Herman and Alexander Weir, Wes Gardner, Rodney Taylor, Steve Blanford, and Tim Gahlinger. The Division gained nine new members: Blair Butler, Charles Elrod, Arthur Elrod, Richard Francoeur and Family, Jeffery Knott, Derik Longhorn, Tom Payette, and Webb Daymon.

FROM THE PIE CARD EDITOR

Many members post pictures of their models and layouts on Facebook and in Groups.io. Give some thought to sending material to *The Pie Card*. *The Pie Card* is sent monthly to all members, and to other Divisions and Regions within in NMRA, and contacts throughout the world. Preferred format for articles is a word document or an email. Please do not send PDF's. Photos should be in Jpeg, TIFF, or PNG formats. Photos with articles can be sent separately or embedded in a document. Please email your photos and articles to: dawsobl@aol.com. Thanks, Bob Dawson, Editor, *The Pie Card*.

DIVISION 8 IS CELEBRATING 60 YEARS.

By Bob Dawson

This year Division 8 is celebrating 60 years since its founding in 1966. Division 8 had its origin at a Mid Central Region Convention in 1966. Colonel Johnnie Reid was asked to organize a Division in the Louisville area. It was noted there were enough NMRA members to warrant one.

Johnnie met with friends and fellow model railroads Charley Williams, Dwight Swayze and Chet Miles to hammer out their plan. A mailing list was supplied by the Region and post cards were mailed to all NMRA in the area announcing a meeting location and time to discuss the forming of a Division. The meeting was held at the home of Chet Miles. Johnnie later said he was amazed at the number of people who showed up.

The Division soon became fact, and Johnnie Reid was elected its first superintendent in June of 1966.



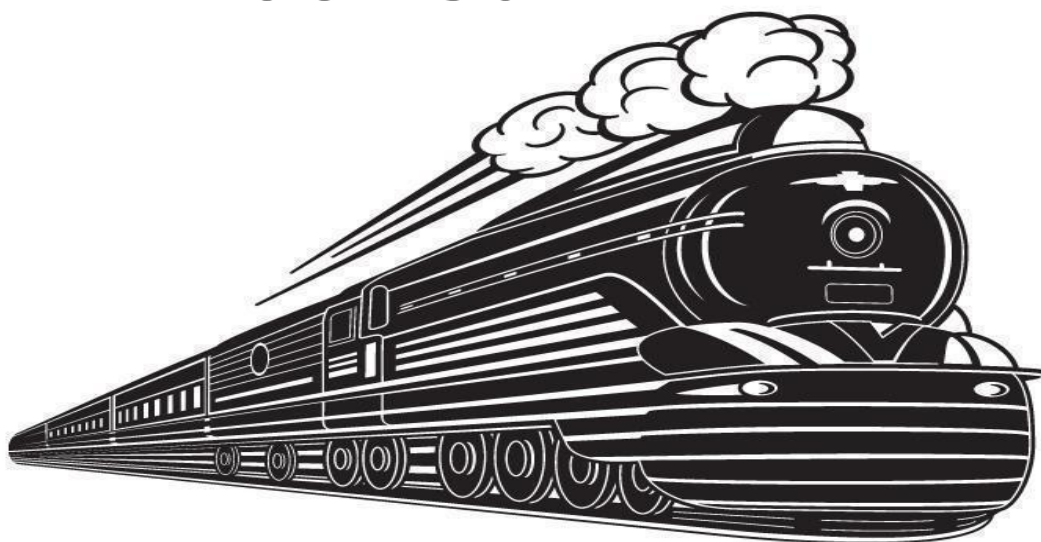
Left:

Johnnie Reid

Photo by Charlie Keeling

TRAIN SHOW & SALE

OUR 36TH YEAR



SATURDAY MARCH 21, 2026 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

HOLY FAMILY PARISH SAFFIN CENTER

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DIVISION 8 - MID CENTRAL REGION

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

WEBSITE: <http://div8-mcr-nmra.org>

ADVANCE TICKETS: <https://tinyurl.com/Spring2026TrainShow>

ADVANCE TICKETS



DEALER INFORMATION



WEBSITE



Whistle Stop Dayton MID-CENTRAL REGION CONVENTION



June 4 - 7, 2026
DAYTON, OHIO



**Layout Tours and Op Sessions
Model Contest, /Celebration, Displays,
Clinics, Self-Guided Tours, Consignment Sales & Banquet**

**Clinics
Held in
Three
Rooms**

Clinics Morning, Afternoon and Evening

Topics include: Prototype and Models that Followed,
Growing Up with the V & O plus Dayton & Troy Electric Railroad

Model Contests/Celebration:
Models Judged by AP

Company Store: Will be offering Convention Cars

Self-Guided Local Attractions:

Rail Tours, Non-rail Activities, including area Museums and Historical sites

Layout Tours & OP Sessions: Self Guided Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Evening Displays: T-Trak

Consignment Sales: Sell your excess items



Bauquet Speake: Otto M. Vondrak

Clinic Topic

The Impact of Allen McClelland's
Virginia & Ohio

Banquet Topic:

90 Years of the RMC History



For More Information and Reservations

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Code



Host Hotel - Marriott University of Dayton



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HO Scale

Model Railroad Detail Parts

Rick Geerts - Owner

Shop the Online Store

[R & J Details](http://R&JDetails.com)



VISIT
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VOLUNTEER
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MEMBER

[KENTUCKY RAILWAY MUSEUM](http://KentuckyRailwayMuseum.org)

THE DEPOT RAILROAD MUSEUM

Part of the John Hay Center
206 S College Ave

Salem, IN 47167

(812) 883-1884

CLICK FOR HOURS & MORE INFORMATION

[The Depot Railroad Museum](http://TheDepotRailroadMuseum.org)

OFFICERS

Superintendent:	Ron Ellison
Asst. Supt:	Fred Soward
Clerk:	Rick Maloney
Treasurer:	Mike Berry

TRUSTEES

Stan White
Darcy Elliott
Russ Weis

COMMITTEE DIRECTORS

Achievement Program	Mark Norman
Contests	Barry Christensen
Tool Room Manager	Mike Berry
Member Relations	Stan White
Member Welfare	Mike Berry
Media	Ron Ellison
Meetings & Programs	Russ Weis
Pie Card	Bob Dawson
Train Show and Sale	Ron Ellison
T-Trak	Bruce DeMaeyer
Webmaster	Fred Soward

MID CENTRAL REGION OFFICERS

President:	Jerry Doyle
Vice-president:	Frank Trocchia
Secretary:	Bruce DeMaeyer
Treasurer:	Barbara Soward

To contact a Division 8 board member or committee director call or text (502) 653-5371 and tell us your needs. We'll get back to you. To contact Division 8 or any board member or committee director by email use - division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com

THE PIE CARD

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Please address all correspondence to Bob Dawson, Editor, 7305 Ticonderoga Dr., Louisville, KY 40214, or email: dawsobl@aol.com.

Deadline for submission of articles is the 20th day of the previous month. The Pie Card goes to press by the first of each month. Photos are preferred to be a JPEG format. Documents should be submitted as a Word or similar format. No PDF's please.

DIVISION 8 COMPANY STORE IS TEMPORARILY CLOSED

The Company Store is closed. Not only are we on holiday but if you have not heard, there is a new NMRA logo. The Division 8 logo will also be changing to be co-branded with the NMRA logo. The Company Store is currently working with our vendor to develop the new designs. And there will be some new items along with all the current items with the NEW logo. As soon as new items are available, we will update the Company Store link and let you know.