

**Wisconsin Southeastern Division (WISE) of the NMRA
Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday January 13, 2021

Location: Virtual (via Zoom)

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM by Superintendent Slater

BOD Present - Andy Breaker (Asst. Super), Burnell Breaker (Library),
Dennis Janssen (Treasurer, Paymaster),
David Rohr (Secretary, Chief Clerk), Mike Slater (Superintendent),

Chairs Present - None

Guests - Robert Frey (voice only)

Absent - Gary Children (Achievement AP), Andy Greco (WISE Ops),
Harry Grieshaber (joined for a few minutes prior to the call, then needed to
leave), John Hagen (Layouts) (voice only), Jim Hebner (Chair - Website),
Mark Hintz (ex-Youth), Steve Miazga (Owl Car), Art Oseland (Bus Trip),
Ted Zieger (Contest).

Minutes - Reviewed the December 9, 2020 minutes: Janssen motioned to approve,
2nd by B. Breaker. The motion carried unanimously.

Paymaster - Reports were submitted by Janssen to the BOD via email.
B. Breaker made a motion to accept the Treasurers Report, seconded by
Slater. The motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Slater stated no updates.

Meets: (& Clinics).

- Slater stated the next event will be January 17 WISE Div. Meet (via Zoom),
with a recorded clinic, one on steam locos, and another on JMRI clinic by
Frey, (Frey now has 2 clinics he can present.)

Layouts: Hagen not present, no report.

Contests: Zieger not present, no report.

Video Library: B. Breaker stated we have 29 new DVD's, from a donation to the Milw. Lionel
Railroad Club, that were on scenery, backdrops, etc. Also, a pine tree making
tool, with an instruction DVD. (Most of the raw materials ended up at the
Oconomowoc Historical Museum.) We should try to archive (copy) the tree
making DVD and put it in the library. Also, some DVDs from a big donation of
videos from a customer of Tom's Southside Trains.

Owl Car: Miazga not present. Slater stated from an email from Miazga that the deadline for
February 2021 Owl Car is January 24 by 5 pm. Actual deadline should be Jan
23. Would like more submitted articles, ideas could be track cleaning, loco
cleaning, Soldering tips, decaling tips. Could advertise this on the monthly zoom
meets.

Facebook: No report

Website: No report, Hebner not present

Bus Trips: No report, Oseland not present. No bus trips for this year.

Achievement: No report from Children, as he was not present.

WISE Ops: No report, Greco not present. no formal events,

Trainfest: Janssen sent possible TrainFest budget plan to the board, to see where things may be going. He stated that the SFP (fair park, Expo Hall) has now received "cleanliness accreditation". How will this affect the future shows, not sure. We have a lot of "at risk age group". Two possibilities this year: 1) Vendors are overwhelming interested to be "in-person". or 2) were they hurt so bad in the economy, that they are holding off on expenses. A number of vendors are 1 to 2 person operations, that can't afford to bring a large group (hotel, food, time, etc.)

We still have a number of folks that have not requested a refund of money to hold for pre-paid spots from 2020's Trainfest.

Advance sale tickets - No charge for tickets if we use SFP.
If we use a new venue, we would have to figure out how to get tickets, power.

We have about 350 badge holders that Ted has, and the lanyards, and t-shirts. We will probably need to get more of these. We may have more badge holders.

Trainfest express newsletter - ISSUU charge of \$1200, is actually \$117.50 per month for A. Weber mailing list database (10-month charge). Suggested to archive this database, and get it to Image Management, and keep a copy in a fire safe for safe keeping.

Could we only rent 2/3 of SFP exhibit hall? This could reduce the rent, tables/chair rental, decorator charges, utilities, cleaning, security.
Do we need wider aisles, fewer layouts, 15' to 20' aisles?

We should get as many vendors & manufactures as we can, with limited layouts, may have to be more selective for layouts. Layout may have to have 6 ft rope borders, where it was 2 ft before. N scale layouts will be hard to see at 6 ft away.

There was an article in Ohio that 60% of nursing home folks refused from getting the vaccine. (Anti-vaxers). So, this may be part of the mentality.

Will the building be available? No patients are using the hospital since Dec 20 or so. We should talk with SFP, to inquire in the smaller space cost.

Maybe add more curtains between more booths. This would add more costs. Or bigger booths at the old rate. Need Mark to join us for the next meeting. Janssen to contact SFP.

This is the last year of our negotiated contract, and need to re-negotiate the SFP rental fees.

The new SFP requirements may need more space, could it be reduced cost for more space, wider aisles.

Auto show is planned for May 2021

Motion by Rohr to archive the monthly Trainfest email distribution list of \$117.50 / month, and stop the monthly expense. Seconded by Slater, all approved.

Floor plan printing costs – lots of preliminary large format prints were done in 2019. Spent \$163 in 2018, \$ 800 in 2019. Slater can do these at work, (D or E size), his boss said OK.

Do we want to invite Madison to participate? How many of our group would head to Madison to help them, and how many would do both days?

The Madison show breaks even on floor space and vendors and layout displays. Their company store is the profit/bonus, were most of the items sold are donated or consignments to the division. This is what runs their division for the year.

The WISE div company store has 4 to 6 Samsung tablets to demonstrate the Bridger trains or take credit card payments, and the Bridger trains, could be for sale. Also have the layout in storage with buildings, modules, woodland scenic module layout kit, Walthers buildings, make & take kits. need to post on eBay.

Need to ask SFP some questions – Need Mark Willmering to look at floor plan, and adjust as needed.

Communication with SFP as to what dates we have reserved in the future. If you give up a date, someone could steal the date. Or flipping with Madison, do Nov, then Feb, then don't do another show till Nov the following year. You don't have the rhythm of a show on the same weekend at the same place every year.

Old Business:

- Need certificates for Trainfest – X
- Trainfest trademark has been renewed

New Business:

Slater stated the next round of elections in April will be: Superintendent for 2 years, Asst. Super for 2 yrs., Oseland for 3 years, Zieger for 3 years, Miazga's term is actually up in April 2022. We could suspend the Owl Car if no one volunteers, and just do email blasts as needed.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned 8:15 pm. Motioned by B. Breaker, 2nd by Jansen, all were in favor.

The next meeting is Wednesday, February 10 at 7:00 PM, via Virtual "Zoom". This will be to prep for the February 21 virtual meet.

The following BOD meetings, March 10 before the March 21 virtual meet. (2nd Wednesday).

Respectfully submitted by David Rohr, Chief Clerk