

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

**Wednesday July 14, 2021  
Location: Virtual (via Zoom)**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Superintendent Slater

- BOD Present -** Burnell Breaker (Library), Harry Grieshaber (Trainfest office) (left at 8:34), Dennis Janssen (Treasurer, Paymaster), Steve Miazga (ex-Owl Car), Robert Niedermann (Contests), David Rohr (Secretary, Chief Clerk), Mike Slater (Superintendent)
- Chairs Present -** Jim Hebner (Chair - Website)
- Guests -** Bob McGeever (Midwest Region President)
- Absent -** Andy Breaker (Asst. Super), Gary Children (Achievement AP), John Hagen (Layouts & Owl Car), Mark Hintz (ex-Youth), Mark Willmering (Trainfest floor)
- Minutes -** Reviewed the June 9, 2021 minutes: B. Breaker motioned to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Niedermann. The motion carried unanimously.
- Paymaster -** Reports were submitted by Janssen to the BOD via email. Janssen reported he refunded the payments made for 2020 TrainFest booths, just over \$8k. The PNC Bank account has been closed (was used by Art Oseland for the bus trip), and merged into the main bank account. B. Breaker made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Niedermann. The motion carried unanimously.

**Committee Reports:**

- Membership:** Janssen stated there were 2 folks that passed away.
- Meets: (& Clinics).** Slater said all is ok for Breaker's church for the October 17 Meet. Start time will be 1:30 pm, as the church service ends at 12:30 pm.
- Layouts:** Hagen not present, Slater said that he is still working on a layout.
- Contests:** Awards still need to get picked up and distributed.  
(From June minutes...Janssen to get the Trainfest awards from Zieger. Miazga has three awards and will get them to Janssen. Janssen to also pick up contest stuff at Zieger's.)
- Grieshaber asked about the status on the Division's portable layout is still around in storage. No one has inquired about it. Slater is scrapping it out, and will sell the buildings, rolling stock, etc. at the next meet in Racine. Will post a notice in the Owl Car or email blast to buy these items from the layout. Will probably need 2 tables.  
Rohr mentioned that Jim Starosta's layout and items are for sale, house is being sold. See Ron Schlict. The pictures & info were sent to Slater for posting on Facebook.
- Video Library:** B. Breaker had no new updates. Slater stated there is no Library activity at the summer caboose events. Still have 2 boxes of videos for checkout at the Sturtevant museum this summer.
- Owl Car:** No Hagen on the call, hopefully all is ok.

**Facebook:** Slater posted that G. Brettschneider has passed away, Trainfest is canceled, & a E. Suydam history and Pacific Electric Clinic (had 92 views so far)

**Website:** Hebner said its still there.

**Bus Trips:** Rohr has the bus info from Art Oseland. Will transfer to Grieshaber when we meet in person next.

**Achievement:** No report from Children, not present. Miazga has requested that he has items to get judged.

**WISE Ops:** No report, Open Position. Joe Russ is planning an event in Fall, so we could do an event in Spring 2022.

**Trainfest:** Slater, Janssen and McGeever meet with a Trainfest vendor to see if it was possible to hold Trainfest, they offered some incentives, however it was not enough to warrant a change to hold Trainfest in 2021. Their offer may stand in 2022. More discussion will be needed.

Grieshaber stated we own the Trainfest name & logo for 10 years. How can we do a show in 2022? Slater stated we need to send invites to vendors sooner, the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in November 2021 (Nov 13?), so as to not confuse folks. Need to start sooner to than we did in 2021. Then send invites to layouts and historical groups in Jan/Feb 2022. SFP (State Fair Park) deposit & contract has been moved to 2022. SFP could have held us to the contract and could have been a \$70K – 80K hit.

Miazga asked about the volunteers from St. Johns. Grieshaber said they are a given (no problem).

The other venues could be WI Center, but parking is an issue. Future addition would increase total space would be 300K sq. ft. Slater was talking with Visit MKE a year ago, price (\$ sq. ft.) is about the same as SFP. But bathrooms are usually an extra cost.

Janssen asked who is going to be a co-chair for Trainfest with Slater. Looking for a person or two to do emails to the historical groups or clubs. Need to get more people involved.

In October, could have a pseudo – membership meeting, discuss future events, need volunteers.

We may have a person that wants to do some recording for a virtual train show. He is from Schultze School (in Racine??)

The average NMRA age is 68.

Slater to work on letter to division members, explain the issues, and asking for help. Send via email or snail mail. 22 members that don't have email, 123 that do.

Rohr asked about IM (Image Management) web maintenance cost. If we are keeping Trainfest going forward, IM is needed for minor website updates. We need more info on the ongoing costs. Current plan is a-la-carte, pay as needed.

Grieshaber left at 8:34.

**Old Business:** None presented

**New Business:** Slater stated we could do a possible promotion of area hobby shops. This could feature any specials, or to promote area club open houses, like NAPM, or LRRC. Promote this on WISE Div. Facebook. This could be a Trainfest type of event.

B. Breaker asked if Menard's to be an exhibitor or sponsor. Kalmbach promotes the Menards show, and displays at the Menard's show. We could contact John Menard or Robert Keller from Kalmbach.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned 8:45 pm. Motioned by B. Breaker, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Niedermann. All were in favor.

The next BOD meeting is Wednesday, August 11 at 7:00 PM in person & Zoom at the Milwaukee Lionel Railroad Club 2721 S. Calhoun Rd, New Berlin.

Future BOD meetings would be (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday) Sept 8 or Sept 15.

Respectfully submitted by David Rohr, Chief Clerk