

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

**Wednesday, February 12, 2025
Location: Zoom (~~Lionel Railroad Club~~)**

Meeting called to order by Burnell Breaker at 7:01 pm

Officers Present - Burnell Breaker (Superintendent) *, Robert Niedermann (Asst-Superintendent) *, David Rohr (Secretary, Chief Clerk) *, Tim Koch (Director At Large) *
David Mielke (Director At Large) (Train School) *

Chairs Present - Gary Hendrickson (Membership) *,
Cindy Mielke (Owl Car) *, Mike Slater (Facebook) (joined at 7:06 pm) *,

Guests - None

* = attended via zoom

Officers Not present - Paymaster – open position

Minutes: No changes needed from the January meeting minutes, approved.

Paymaster Report: No changes noted from the January report, approved.

Membership: Gary Hendrickson – Nothing new to report, working on renewals.

Clinics: Dave Nelson stated we have 2 clinics for programs for the February 22 Meet.
Ken Thompson on making closer to scale wheels, and maybe another.
Mark Willmering had to back out for this month.
Need to advertise these on Facebook.

AP Program: No Report from Dave Poquette.

Layout Tours: Dave Mielke stated he is looking for layouts. An option could be to have NAPM (North American Prototype Modelers) maybe prior to a meet. 10 am > 12:30.

Owl Car: February issue was sent Feb 1, another good issue.
Deadline for March is February 15.
Per Dennis Jansen via Constant Contact data, the Open Rate of the email is 64%, click rate on the Owl car link is 28%. A slight improvement from last month, but still sad with very few actually open the link (if the data is correct).

Website: Jim Hebner – No report, as Jim is out town.

Train School: Dave M stated we will do 1 > 3 pm next year, as most of the crowd was gone between 3 > 4 pm. But it's best to advertise it is 1 > 4, and expect it to be slow for the last hour. Most everyone agreed to attend again. It will again be at the New Berlin Library.

Model RR Retreat: We have a date of Sept 13, 2025, at Dave M's church in Kenosha.
Burnell will make some save the date flyers for Madison show.

February 22 Meet: New Berlin Library – maybe 2 clinics (see above)

Show Schedule:
March 16 – LRRRC Swap (WISE Meet March 22 in Oconomowoc)
April 13 – Metro Club Swap – Cedarburg

Old Business

- **Zieger Estate** - Nothing new to report.
- **Trainfest 2025** – November 1 & 2, downtown Baird Center. The Baird Center is less expensive than SFP, and Gordy likes the downtown location with many hotels (and skywalk), nearby for out of town visitors. Stacy Walthers-Naffah is also a big fan of downtown / Baird Center. We discussed feedback from Tom at Southside Trains. We have a number of suggestions to make 2025 show better. National is making process.
- **\$200 matching funds program.** Will have to think what we can use it for in 2025.
- **2025-2026 Schedule of Events** – thinking ahead - Model RR Retreat at Kenosha at St. Paul's Lutheran in Sept, Train school in Jan 2026 at New Berlin Library. Meets at the New Berlin Library on Oct 18, March 21, 2026 at another location if we can locate a location, and April 18 at New Berlin Library (Annual Meeting and Elections). The Madison Mad-City show is Feb 21 & 22. Maybe a member trip? Slinger Historical Depot, need a meeting location.
- **2025-2026 schedule** – (in another format)
 - Sept 13 Modelers Retreat – Kenosha
 - Oct 18 – NB Library
 - Nov 1 & 2 – Trainfest – Baird Center
 - Jan 10, 2026 – NB Library – Train School
 - Feb 21 & 22 – Mad City Train Show
 - March 21 – NB Library or Slinger, or ?
 - April 18 – NB Library - Annual Meeting & election results
 - Schedule the library now for Oct 2025, and the 2026 dates can be scheduled after Oct 2025.
- **John Hagen donation** – Nothing new to report.

New Business:

- Burnell is asking if we authorize to have Dennis Janssen (Asst Paymaster) could have a credit card to pay Division expenses. Bob N motioned, 2nd by Dave M, all approved.
- Terminating the use of Trainfest.com email addresses. Because we do not run TrainFest anymore, and National is now in charge. Do we setup WiseDivision.org emails or use our personal emails.
- Elections –
 - 2026 – Tim's Director at Large position will be up for re-election. Tim would be eligible to run.
 - 2027 – Superintendent, Asst Superintendent, and Dave Mielke's Director at Large position.
 - The Clerk, Paymaster, and Assistant Paymaster positions are appointed.
- The division posted support for Lucy Dormont (NMRA Social Media head), which Joe Russ was not happy about.

Next Meeting:

Next BOD meeting is Wednesday, March 12.

Meeting to be held at the Lionel Club in New Berlin at 7 pm or via zoom.

After that, will be Wednesday, April 9.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by David A. Rohr, Chief Clerk.