

**Wisconsin Southeastern Division (WISE) of the NMRA
Annual Meeting**

Wednesday, March 22, 2025

Location: M&NW @ Oconomowoc Historical, WI & Zoom

Meeting called to order by Burnell Breaker at 2:58 pm

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

Chairs Present - Jim Hebner (Website), Gary Hendrickson (Membership), Dave Nelson (Clinics), Dave Poquette (AP)

Paymaster – open position

Guests - About 30 folks total attended.

* = attended via zoom

Officers Not present - **All Officers were present**

Minutes: Last Annual meeting minutes were from 2021. Felt it was irrelevant to discuss what happened 4 years ago.

Paymaster Report: Dennis J presented an overview financial status report. Our fiscal year runs Nov 1 > Oct 31. In years past, our annual expenses is \$10K to 12K. This prior to last year it was \$7,200, Last year \$ 4,300. The big expense is the storage space. Fortunately, we have had a number of train donations, and we have been raising funds by selling these items. We are in better financial position than a lot of other divisions. A year ago, income was \$2400, this year was \$13K.

Bob Sherman moved to approve, 2nd by unknown, approved the Financial Report.

Burnell introduced the current slate of officers and Chair committee

Membership: Gary Hendrickson – division has 121 members. A little down than a few years ago. This division's average age is 5 years older than any other. Reminder to apply for Grouper to pay for your dues. Key word is "Engage"

Owl Car: Cindy Mielke – Fantastic job on the Owl Car. Send any items to her.

Layout Tours: Dave Mielke – Layouts will be before the meets, we will try this format for the next few times.

Train School: Dave Mielke – New Berlin library is a great venue. Last event went very well. Need hands on training sessions.

AP Program: Dave Poquette – As of today, we have 2 MMR's in our ranks: Steve Miazga & Ray Meyers. We currently have 3 folks working on certificates: Mark Willmering has earned a Golden Spike Award. He has submitted a Statement of Qualifications for Volunteer and Dispatcher. Bryan Wichmann has submitted a Statement of Qualifications for Scenery and Dave Poquette has 5 certificates in progress.

Clinics: Dave Nelson – Looking to get summer travel log on trips member have taken. Any train events or conventions you attend, Remote clinics are possible.

Model RR Retreat Mike Slater – Not present, at the O Scale meet in Chicago. Send him any topic that to Mike. It was asked to "unpin" the 2022 Trainfest event as the first item on the FB page.

Website: Jim Hebner – Website is up to date.

.2025-2026 schedule – Have schedules available.

- Sept 13 Modelers Retreat – Kenosha (RPM)
- 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 – Slinger, or somewhere in that area.
- April 18 – NB Library - Annual Meeting & election results

Maybe visit the Cudahy Depot, Bucyrus Museum, and / or Cudahy Library, West Allis Library, West Milwaukee Library.

Trainfest 2024 -

Trainfest 2025 – National is managing, held at the Baird Center downtown Milwaukee. We have some issues from 2024 that we experienced, that we can make it better.

We are active again with the MWR approved in Nov 2024, the current Bylaws & Constitution are posted on the WISE Division website.

- Elections will be:
 - 2026 Election – Tim Koch's Director at Large position will be up for reelection.
 - 2027 Election – Superintendent, Asst. Superintendent and Dave Mielke's DaL positions will be up for reelection.

Dave Nelson motioned to keep the current slate of officers in place, until the next election cycle. Seconded by Jim Hebner, all approved.

Bring & Brag – bring your models to the meets, for show and tell. We have the space.

The April edition of the MWR Waybill is the last “Paper Only”. The future issues will be electronic only.

Next Meeting:

Next Annual meeting scheduled to be April 2026

Motion to adjourn by Dave Nelson, 2nd by John Ognenoff. Meeting adjourned at 3:47 pm

Respectfully submitted by David A. Rohr, Chief Clerk.