

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

**Tuesday, January 14, 2026
Location: Zoom**

Meeting called to order by Burnell Breaker at 7:02 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 - Jim Hebner * (Website), Dennis Janssen (Asst Paymaster) *,
Cindy Mielke (Owl Car) *, Mike Slater * (Social Media) left at 7:50 pm.

Guests - None * = attended via zoom

Officers Not present - Paymaster – open position, Gary Hendrickson * (Membership),
Dave Nelson (Clinics) *

Minutes: No changes needed from the December meeting minutes,
Bob N motioned, 2nd by Tim K, approved.

Paymaster Report: No changes noted from the December report,
Bob N motioned, 2nd by Dave M, approved.

- Typical interest income was \$11/month on the money market, and since moving to a CD, it brought in \$90/ month of December. Great move.
- We wanted to replace Quick Books online with Zoho. But that has since disappeared. Will now try either Fresh Books, or xLeger.

Membership: Gary Hendrickson – Gary submitted the following report:

For December 2025:	Membership as of:
Members: 115	Dec `23: 135
30 days past due: 3	Dec `24: 125
Renewals: 11	Nov `25: 116
New members: 1	

Most recently we are averaging a decrease of 10 members per year, down 20, or 15% over past 2 years. Hypothetically, should this rate keep up, WISE will be down to nothing in 11 years!

Watchword 2026: Every WISE member should adopt the goal of inviting and obtaining a new member this year.

NB: I have talked with NMRA's Engagement head Lucy Dormont at Trainfest, and reached out to her twice since, once very recently. She remains unresponsive.

NMRA has had a video about general member recruitment on their website. If it's still there, I'd like to show at a meet sometime before long. I'll check how long it is.

Respectfully submitted, Gary Hendrickson

Clinics: Dave Nelson - not present, his report:

Because its Zoom presentations and YouTube presence seem to be thriving, I asked the Michiana Division's super. Greg Bueltmann, for his views on how their Division membership is holding up. Evidently appearances are deceiving because they are hurting too. Here is Greg's reply

Hi Dave,

We are experiencing a similar trend and have very few members who actually participate. Ron Christensen got together with some local folks in southeastern Michigan on Tuesday, both members and non-members, and it seemed to go well. We get very few at the traditional outings we hold and have trouble getting people to accept officer positions, etc. There's about five of us who keep it going and we are wondering if we'll be able to sustain it for very long. The Zoom calls and YouTube are

pretty healthy as you note and we do not restrict that in any way regarding membership. I see it as a service to the hobby that we all seem to enjoy. Good luck! Greg

AP Program: Dave Poquette - not present, submitted report:

My report is a summary of what happen in 2025:

* Bryan Wickman achieved an AP award in scenery.

* Mark Willmering achieved merit awards for his 50' bridge and a rail car float. He also achieved AP awards for Electrical, Volunteer, and Dispatch.

* Ray Meyer achieved an AP award for Motive Power as well as becoming a Master Model Railroader.

Layout Tours: Dave M – still looking for places to visit. Will likely be before each month's clinics. Possible layouts for March are KMBS, Tim Koch, Mark Diggerness, Bill Pfister, Dave, & Karl. May schedule a restaurant to meet at as well..

Owl Car: January issue was sent, another good issue.

Website: Jim Hebner – Needs Apr `25 > current (Dec `25) Owl Car. Now with new logo, branding, added 2 National convention logo & details. \$70 / year or month web charge. Normally is \$6 / mo. Jim will research.

Train School: Dave M – Need more advertising, maybe add to NB library website? Submit expenses to region youth reimbursement person. List topics / subjects.

Model RR Retreat: Need a new location, need a place we can charge admission and vendors. Possibly David R's church in Menomonee Falls. Need to pick a date, to schedule the venue.
Joe's operating event to be on Sept 19 > 21, 2026

Facebook: Mike Slater – Mike has been posting some pictures from Gary Children. Add David R to FB, for spell checking.

Show Sale Schedule:

- Will sell at 5 of the 6 Lionel Club's swap dates on Jan 18 & Mar 15, with 3 tables each month.
- Sell at the Metro club's show in Cedarburg, Ozaukee show April 12, 2026. Sign up completed for 3 tables. Will get an additional table to have Tim K sell next door and to help. Also, will have Jerry help.
- Also sign up for KMBS October Swap at Washington Co. Fair Park

Old Business

- **Trainfest 2025** – No new info on how the show went.
- **\$200 Matching fund** – Need ideas for this. May be for train school or RPM? Or a picnic @ MLES, or Little Amerika (Marshal, WI).
- **2025-2026 Meet schedule** –
 - Feb 21 & 22 – Mad City Train Show
 - March 21 – Slinger Depot – Can seat 40 > 45. Could get folks from WLD
 - May 2 – NB Library - Annual Meeting & election results.
- **2026 election** – Tim K's position would be on the ballot in spring `26. Dave Nelson, LaRoye Chisley and Dave Poquette will be on the Election Committee. So far only 4 ballots have been received. Need to be received by mid-April.

New Business:

- **Gary Children's Slides** – Neal Michael has the collection. Has about +10K slides. Mike S has been posting some on FB. Need some folks to visit Neal and sort thru them.
- **Delavan Train Show** – SCWD was contacted in bringing the Train School event to the show. SCWD sent the request to WISE. David R is on the Delevan committee. Will need more planning.

- **2026-2027 Schedule** – Need to start planning so we have it ready for the May meeting. My ideas.
 - **September 2026 – Model Railroad Retreat**, new location, date, use member retention grant from NMRA to offset cost of hall.
 - **October 17, 2026 – Meet, New Berlin Public Library**
 - **November 7 & 8, 2026 – Trainfest, Baird Center**
 - **December – no meet**
 - **January 9 or 23, 2027 – Train School, New Berlin Public Library.** We decided Feb 23 would be best, if it is available.
 - **February 2027 – SCWD Mad City Train Show, Alliant Energy Center (Feb 20 & 21)**
 - **March 20, 2027 – Meet**, different location? CNWHS Joint Meet, New Berlin Public Library? Maybe Cudahy Library, Cudahy Depot, Bucyrus Museum, Oconomowoc?
 - **April 17, 2027 – Annual Meeting, Election Results, New Berlin Public Library**
- **MWR Application for Youth Funds** – Model RR Retreat or Train School?

Next Meeting:

Next BOD meeting is Wednesday, February 11.at 7:00 pm, via zoom.

After that, will be March 17, 2026. (3rd Tuesday). May need to adjust for Church/Lent events.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm. Motioned by Dave M, 2nd by Tim K, approved.

Respectfully submitted by David A. Rohr, Chief Clerk.