

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

**Tuesday, March 17, 2026
Location: Zoom**

Meeting called to order by Burnell Breaker at 7:34 pm

Officers Present - Burnell Breaker (Superintendent) *, Robert Niedermann (Asst-Superintendent) *, David Rohr (Secretary, Chief Clerk) *, Tim Koch (Director At Large) * (joined 7:38 pm) David Mielke (Director At Large) (Train School) *

Chairs Present - Dennis Janssen (Asst Paymaster) *, Cindy Mielke (Owl Car) *,

Guests - None * = attended via zoom

Officers Not present - Paymaster – open position,

Minutes: No changes needed from the February meeting minutes, Bob N motioned, 2nd by Dave M, approved.

Paymaster Report: No changes noted from the February report, Bob N motioned, 2nd by Dave M, approved.
Good sales at the swap meets.
Report on the accounting system program – After extensive research, it was decided to stay with QuickBooks Online for \$378 per year. Other options were more too much more, between \$500+ / yr to \$1000 / mo.

Membership: Gary Hendrickson – Not Present – No report:

Clinics: Dave Nelson - not present, but submitted this report:
Ballots continue to trickle in but perhaps the inclusion of the ballot in the March Owl Car will generate more activity now that the deadline is getting close.

With two clinics scheduled for the May 2 meeting.
I am now looking for clinicians for the 2026-27 schedule.

AP Program: Dave Poquette - not present, but submitted this report:
In February, we had some more Achievement Program Awards given out.
Mark Willmering earned a Merit award for the 50' Queen Post Bridge as you saw in the previous issue of the Owl Car. In January, Keith Kohlman contacted me about having some of his buildings and modules judged for an AP Awards. I told him I'd be happy to help judge them. After some discussion about logistics, we determined that the judging would take place during the Mad City Train show in Madison. LaRoye Chisley offered to assist and I was able to recruit additional help from SCWD to assist with this huge request. Three hours later, we were able to award Keith 6 merit awards for structures and AP Awards for Structures, Scenery, Prototype Modeling, and Author! Congratulations to Mark and Keith for their hard work and great modeling skills! Keep up the momentum guys!
It's good to see people are actively pursuing the Achievement Program. Hopefully, this inspires more people to try it.

Layout Tours: Dave M – stated he has Dave Comma to be open for the May 2 meet. He is close to Tom's South Side Hobby. Limited parking in the area.

Owl Car: March issue was sent to members, another good issue. Dave M asked if we should start a classified section, buy / sell / trade. Agreed to go ahead.

Website: Jim Hebner – Not present, no report.

Train School: Dave M – Next event is tentative for January 25, 2027.
We can reserve the NB Library in October 2026

Model RR Retreat: Need a new location, need a place we can charge admission and vendors.
Possibly David R's church in Menomonee Falls, August 29, 2026. Will check this location after the meet on April 21.
Joe's operating event to be on Sept 19 > 21, 2026.

Facebook: Mike Slater – Not present, no report.
Need a reminder about the meet in Slinger.

Show Sale Schedule:

- Will sell at next season of Lionel Club's swap dates, with 3 tables each month. Need to sign up.
- Sell at the Metro club's show in Cedarburg, Ozaukee show April 12, 2026. Sign up completed for 2 tables.
- Also sign up for KMBS October Swap at Washington Co. Fair Park on October 11, 2026. Need 4 tables. Will get an additional table (3 + 1) to have Tim K sell next door and to help at the sale.

Old Business:

- **2026 election** – Will keep election information in Owl Car through April issue. Results to be announced at the May 2 annual meeting.

2026-2027 Schedule – Need to start planning so we have it ready for the May meeting.

August 29, 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 25, 2027 – Train School, New Berlin Public Library

February 20 & 21, 2027 – SCWD Mad City Train Show, Alliant Energy Center

March 20, 2027 – Meet, different location? CNWHS Joint Meet, New Berlin Public Library? Cudahy Library? Tippecanoe Library? Cudahy Depot? Bucyrus Museum?
When is Rockford show in 2027?

April 17, 2027 – Annual Meeting, Election Results, New Berlin Public Library

Gary Children's slide collection – Tim and Burnell picked up 27 carousel trays from Neal Michel. Mike S can scan (digitize) the slides. The Sawyer trays will be recycled.
Some trays can be used for a program at one of our meets.

DVD Sales – Mike Slater went through the DVD's and separated the local and special interest, modeling DVD's to keep. One box of DVD's was taken to the LRRC sale March 15.
We have a number of VHS tapes, with copy's on DVD. Decided to bundle them together, so we don't get in trouble with the copying police.

Storage Cleanout – Maybe in May, we should spend some time cleanout the storage unit. See what we can get rid of. Strip off the last 2 remaining layout sections for saleable items, and trash the wood. David R stated he is getting a dumpster for cleaning his storage, and will be placed in the rear of the LRRC Club's rear parking lot.

NEW BUSINESS:

Owl Car open rate for March was 59%, as it had info on the meet at Slinger.

Joint Summer Event with FVD, RRVD, SCWD looking to do a. Was thinking MLES. We sent them the dates that MLES will be open for the summer, no response yet.

“MLES Summer train rides - 12 noon > 4 pm, Sunday, June 28, July 26, Aug 16, Sept 13”
Or East Troy, Little `Merica, or Mid Continent.

National N Scale Show – Should we talk to them about WISE having a booth? (June 26, 27).
This will be at Crown Plaza S 13th St. Maybe Friday 12 noon till 4 pm & Saturday 9 > 4.
Will have manufactures and a small swap meet.

Annual meeting – May 2 – need minutes from 2025 annual meeting. Contest, Bring & Brag, one layout to visit. In the Community Room (big room).

IRM Hobby Shop sale – April 18 (Sat) Just the hobby shop will be open, no other buildings.

Dave P asked for reimbursement for postage – Dennis to send the check

Next Meeting:

Next BOD meeting is Wednesday, April 8 at 7:00 pm, via zoom.

After that, will be Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at 7:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm. Motioned by Bob N, 2nd by Tim K, approved.

Respectfully submitted by David A. Rohr, Chief Clerk.