

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

**Thursday January 17, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Treasurer Janssen

**Present -** A. Breaker, B. Breaker, Hintz, Jaglinski, Janssen, Miazga, Slater  
**Absent -** Children, Hebner, Kofroth, Oseland, Russ, Sherman

**Motion -** Dennis Janssen made a motion to elect Mike Slater as acting Superintendent to serve the remaining term vacated by Joe Russ. Miazga and Hintz seconded. The motion carried unanimously and Mike Slater took over running the meeting.

**Financial -** Reports were submitted to the BOD via email. Jaglinski made a motion to accept, Miazga seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**Minutes -** There were no additions or corrections. Miazga made a motion to accept, Jaglinski seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**Committee Reports:**

**Meets:** Steve Miazga will contact Harry Evans regarding the March 17<sup>th</sup> meet at the Oconomowoc Area Historical Society about the clinic topics for publication in the Owl Car.

**Contests:** No Report

**Owl Car:** Steve Miazga requested that the BOD save any appropriate articles they have for Owl Car fill in. Any articles for the February publication need to be in by January 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Youth Grp:** The youth group has two new members and one 18-year-old has aged out of the group. That youth has become a member of the Gandy Dancers. Mark Hintz also stated that some of the Gandy Dancers members would like to make modules to run with the Youth Group and participate in Trainfest. All thought that was a great idea. Janssen then made a motion to purchase Rail Pass membership in the NMRA for any youth who ages out of the Youth Group at 18. Miazga seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Video:** Burnell Breaker reported that 4 DVDs were signed out at this meet.

**Membership:** We had a discussion about our membership list. It was decided that it should be accessible by various members of the BOD. Janssen said that it was, and he would send the information on how to access it to those who need it. Jaglinski then said that we should have a non-member list as well in the hopes to attract new members. He said that he had several names from the last meet and several youth who have participated in the "Run a Home Layout" program. He was then tasked to make a spreadsheet to forward to both Janssen and Slater. Jaglinski also mentioned that the Master List in our Virtual Response data base had over 400 email addresses. He then suggested that we send an email to those addresses to clarify the database and get responses for potential

members. He was tasked to submit the email wording for approval and then to send out the email.

**Achievement:** No Report

**Bus Trips:** No Report

**On Line:** No Report

**Trainfest: Tasks assigned are in bold**

Our wrap up/kick off Trainfest meeting was held on January 17<sup>th</sup> at Ken's home and all were in attendance except Rob Prox and the Mercury Staff. Mercury was requested not to attend the meeting.

Dennis Janssen, our treasurer, presented the financial results of the 2018 show. We showed a profit of \$28,000. In addition, he prepared a budget for 2019 which reflected approximately the same budget we used in 2018. Show attendance for 2018 was up 6% from 2017 with 16658 paid and 1450 volunteers and exhibitors for a grand total of 18108. Social media continues to play an increasing part in increased attendance.

Ken then said that he had met with Mercury and they agreed on a budget of \$140,000 for their services. This is a slight decrease over last year's amount of \$141,350.

Ken then discussed the future of Trainfest past our 50<sup>th</sup> year which will occur in 2021 with Green Bay & Western RR as the celebrated railroad. All members of the committee said they would continue on as long as they could if I remained chairperson. Ken stated that everyone's efforts were much appreciated and that he could not run Trainfest without his great committee. **Based on what people said Steve Miazga, Mike Carlson and Jeff Marker were tasked with trying to find new historical societies to work with to continue the "Celebrate a RR" program.**

The next topic was getting private WIFI services at SFP during the show. Dennis budgeted \$2000 in this endeavor. Ken has spoken with Spectrum who provides the internet to SFP and we can get a coaxial connection with 5 IPs for around \$200 plus the cost of WIFI routers so we will be proceeding with this. The password protected WIFI service will be offered to exhibitors for \$25 during the show as an alternative to phone lines and the public internet.

The next topic was ticket pricing for the 2019 show. We agreed upon the following:

ON LINE		AT THE GATE
Adult Prime Access	\$17.00	Not Available
Adult Prime Access + Sunday	\$22.00	Not Available
Adult 1 Day	\$12.00	\$16.00 (\$1.00 increase)
Adult 2 Day	\$17.00	Not Available
Kids 1 Day (4-12)	\$4.00	\$6.00 (\$2.00 increase on line, \$1.00 increase at the gate)
Kids 2 Day (4-12)	\$6.00	Not Available
NMRA 1 Day	\$10.00	Not Available
NMRA 2 Day	\$15.00	Not Available
Military & Veterans	Not Avail	\$8.50 (\$1.00 increase also include youth leaders in uniform)

Hobby shops will sell tickets at the ON LINE pricing. They will sell both one day and two-day tickets. If someone purchases a two-day ticket, they will be given two one day tickets.

We reviewed a proposal from SFP for online tickets and decided it is less expensive to process with Mercury. The \$3.00 transaction fee will continue to be split \$2.00 for Mercury and \$1.00 for Trainfest. State Fair wanted \$2.50 per transaction with nothing coming to TF. They have also increased the printed ticket price by 50% from \$0.10 to \$0.15 per ticket. A proposal from Randy Bachman of Train Show, Inc. was requested by Ken and passed on to Dennis for his review. In Ken's opinion it is a far cry from what we receive from Mercury. Also, in that light Ken asked Mercury to account for all of the donated time they provide Trainfest this year. That totaled \$52,000 unbilled time. Remember that includes all the time their staff provides Trainfest during the show managing the Kidz Zone. What other advertising agency will do that??

The next topic were TF computer files. We now have the Trainfest Name Badge file, the Volunteer Master List, the Trainfest Spreadsheet and the Volunteer Schedule set up in the cloud by Mercury with access granted to those who will be using them. **We still need to get the Jr. Engineer file set up. Rob Prox needs to send that file to Mercury as soon as possible. Both Ken and Rob will have access to that file.**

Harry Grieshaber will be handling the office and will work with Bob Henderson on the transition. We need two solid people in the office in addition to our committee. We discussed the number of volunteer shirts we had in stock and how many we should get made. We also discussed that we will be cutting down on the number of posters, padded fliers and rack cards we will be printing. **Ted was instructed to order 3000 name badge labels.**

Our new committee member, Dave Nelson, will be handling the volunteers. We should try to contact the volunteers as early as we can so that we can mail them a parking pass for each day they will be working as a Thank You. Each volunteer should also have the red shirt. **Dave and Ken need to review the Volunteer Schedule format before we start assignments.** It would be great if Dave can be in the office for the entire show to help out.

Mercury made a suggestion to consolidate all CC transactions through Square thinking it would help Dennis with the management of this area. He declined and we will stay with PayPal for store and ticket on line sales.

Skip Meracle requested that we have 4 clinic signs instead of two this year. The additional signs will be placed at the stairs and outside the clinic rooms. He also requested two HO scale train sets for use in a beginner's clinic. He would like one from Bachman and one from Walthers if possible. We decided that will not have a HO trainset give away for the Jr Engineer program going forward.

In a later discussion **Mike Carlson agreed to handle contacting Pumpkin Farms and other family venues.** We will provide a popup display and they will sell tickets at the event at our ON LINE pricing including the \$3.00 handling fee per transaction that they will keep as an incentive to participate in promoting Trainfest.

Mercury will now handle all the interaction with the Hotels we contract with for room rates and ticket packages. They will deliver the tickets instead of TF staff.

#### **Mercury to do list:**

Change pricing on 2018 plaque to \$4.00 and pin to \$3.00

Make sure we have 5 general pop up banners for use at Pumpkin Farms and other venues. Ken has one for MLES.

Change on line ticket pricing.

Change TF show times. Saturday – Prime Access Ticket Holders 8:00 AM, Public show 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Sunday No Prime Access entry, Public show 9:00 AM – **4:00 PM**

Print 4 Clinic signs

Get two trainsets for the beginner's clinic

Send out emails to Jr Engineers level 2 or higher regarding the “operate a home layout” program in February.

**New Business:**

**BOD Dinner:** No report

**April Meet:** Date changed to 4/28/19 to avoid Easter Weekend

**Locations:** We are spending \$450 per meet at the Four Points Sheraton. Burnell Breaker offered a possible location of his church in Racine. Sundays are OK but we may have to change meet times. We would need to make a donation for the space. Mike Slater said the Sturtevant Town Hall is also available. Ken Jaglinski reminded the group that the Lake Park Pavilion is also available at no cost. It was mentioned that we should have the meets in various sites geographically throughout the division. BOD members should continue to look for locations where we can reduce or expense and still have adequate space for future meets. It was also mentioned that we need to find someone to take care of getting our meets publicized in the local newspapers.

**Asst. Super.** Mike Slater made a motion to appoint Andy Breaker as Assistant Superintendent to fill the open position until elections can be held. Mark Hintz made the motion to approve and Steve Miazga seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**Contests:** Mike Slater made a motion to appoint Ted Ziegler to the BOD filling his term which ends in 2021 as Contest Chair. Ken Jaglinski seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**WISE Ops:** Ken Jaglinski made a motion to accept Andy Greco, a new member of the division, a chairman to run the WISE Division operating events. Dennis Janssen seconded it and the motion carried unanimously. The WISE Division will offer both a Spring and Fall event.

**Elections:** Dave Nelson is the chair of the election/nominating committee. He has two additional members, Andy Breaker and Ken Jaglinski. We currently have the following slate of candidates. Mike Slater – Superintendent, Andy Breaker – Asst. Superintendent, Steve Miazga – Director, and Burnell Breaker – Director. The slate of candidates needs to be in the Owl Car for March issue along with the mail in ballot.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM and the next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday February 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at Portillo's Hot Dogs 8705 W. Sura Lane Greenfield WI 53228. The location is just off of Layton and 84<sup>th</sup> street.

Respectfully submitted by Ken Jaglinski