

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

Wednesday March 11, 2020

Location: Milwaukee Lionel Railroad Club

The meeting was called to order at 6:58 PM by Superintendent Slater

BOD Present - Andy Breaker (Asst. Super), Burnell Breaker (Library),
Andy Greco (WISE Ops), John Hagen (Layouts),
Dennis Janssen (Treasurer/Paymaster),
Steve Miazga (Owl Car), Art Oseland (Bus Trip),
David Rohr (Secretary, Chief Clerk), Mike Slater (Superintendent);
Ted Zieger (Contest).

Chairs Present - Jim Hebner (Website).

Absent - Gary Children (Achievement AP), Mark Hintz (Youth).

Guests - Harry Grieshaber, Thomas Mabie, Bob Sherman

Minutes - February minutes, no corrections necessary, Miazga made the motion to accept, seconded by Janssen. The motion carried unanimously.

Paymaster - Reports were submitted by Janssen to the BOD via email. Miazga asked about manufacture's payments, one or two have not paid yet. Also, Miazga asked did we make a profit/loss on 2019 Trainfest, lost about \$80K. Hagen made a motion to accept, seconded by B. Breaker. The motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Updated roster received from Feb, a few new members, but may need to send reminders to a few.

Meets: (& Clinics)

- March Meet is set. April Clinic is Carl Prepeike.
- Tri-meet - Sunday May 3rd at 1pm @ Zor Shrine Center, 575 Zor Shrine Pl, Madison WI 53719, They meet in the lower level of this facility. There is a door on the east side of the building. (same day as the bus trip to DuPage) (Joint meet with Rock River (Rockford) & SCWD (Madison)).
- Future Tri-Meets would be 2021 would be Rock River, 2022 is WISE Div.

Layouts: Ralph Plachter's "Midwest Lines" layout canceled, will have the South Eastern Wis. LRRRC, (Racine Lionel Railroad Club) for March.

Contests: Zieger plans on being at March Meet, but maybe a no show. Zieger is on heart meds, just got out of the Hospital again. Zieger asked for Miazga to take the Dec 2019 plaque to Rally to remake into October 2020.

Youth Group: Mark Hintz reported via email:

- We got a couple new members of the youth group in recent weeks, but some other regular members seem to be waning in interest. I'd have to do a more formal count, but I'd guesstimate that we're still around 10 members.
- A set of tangible standards is being worked on.
- As far as adding the Trainfest Builders' modules on to the youth group, the biggest obstacle would be the height difference. Some of the other standards

for TB don't exactly work well with the current youth group standards, so we may need to do some coordination between the two.

- Miazga asked if the youth group is going to take the TB modules. Slater stated they need to get approval from the host group (WCGD)

Video Library: B. Breaker stated nothing new to report for the Video Library. Full library available for checkout at March meet. All DVD's due back at April meet. Hebner stated the list of available DVD's are on the website.

Owl Car:

- Miazga stated deadline is March 23.
- Would like an agenda item & motion for next meeting, to make the Owl Car digital, so if you are getting it in paper, this will cease, supply us your email address, if you have one.
- Miazga will complete his term as Owl Car Editor, but we will need to find a replacement editor. He is willing to help train the new person.
- April issue will be DuPage Trip details, Tri-Meet details.

Facebook: No report

Website: Slater says it looks like owl car section is working, however events still has error. Hebner stated the website should be working now. The 2020 RPM meet pdf flyer is being sent from Slater to get posted. The website is powered by Joomla.

Bus Trips: Oseland stated DuPage bus has no one sign up yet. Next year TBD, depending on the Tri-Meet dates.

Achievement: No report, Children not present. Still waiting on Miazga's MMR paperwork from National

WISE Ops: Greco stated that flyers have being distributed, website is updated. Carl Prepke has a new layout. Registration sign up will start Monday March 23. The WISE Ops website is up, we have 9 layouts.

Trainfest: Trainfest Report (Slater/Jansen) – Slater represented the Wise Division and Trainfest at the Mad City Train Show in Madison on the 15th & 16th. Also had several vendors ask about the show, we will be sending them invites to the show, so far two of the layouts that have refused to come to Trainfest due to old policies are submitting forms to attend the show.

- Sold \$300 of old merchandise (Bridger, T-Shirts, etc.)
- Space is getting tight, get your applications in. Mark is doing a great job.
- IM Contract is completed (Image Management)
- A. Breaker is working the hotel tickets and will get some income from this, that we have not seen before.
- Janssen will create a letter to ask some manufactures for sponsorships.
- Slater will create a letter to groups to ask for Volunteers.
- New marketing firm has updated the webpages as being secured (<https://...>)
- State Fair will put up the Trainfest event on the outside sign.
- Jaglinski is sending the application emails.

Old Business:

- Burnell will have pictures of the Fellowship Hall and a couple requests from my church in regard to the March meet. A number of the group have been prompting the Milw Rd event, should be well attended.

- Discussion of Burnell taking over as G Suite Administrator & how-to Utilization of G Suite in the future. Domains and email addresses we control are: WiseDivision.org, and Trainfest.com & Trainfest.org. G-Suites can also be used to store documents & archives. We pay \$7 per month for each email account. (We do not own WiseDivision.com). Cloud backup we discussed in the past is now using G-Suite, since we now control it, and not Mercury.
- The IRS return 990. Janssen and Bob Sherman are going to talk after the meeting.
- Plan for Trainfest print ads. We will print the artwork that is created from IM, and paid for separately, budgeted about \$16K. We discussed the magazine ad details. Budgeting for \$20K.
- Picture issue still in the works – Slater to send email to Russ.

New Business:

- Slater suggested as a handout to new members, I suggest we pick up a few to review, they are only 1.00 each. Kato just released a great 30-page getting started book that speaks to parents and mentors about using model railroading as a learning tool for STEM or STEAM (science, tech, engineering, art, mathematics). Each booklet is only a buck and is a great handout for newcomers to the division or for new modelers visiting monthly meets. It's pretty incredible and also mentions getting girls into the hobby. Here's a link to the book - it's in-stock and a pic will be up shortly. [STEAM Up Your Railway Modeling -- Design Skills for N Gauge Dioramas, Softcover, 30 Pages](#). Miazga will investigate.
- Flyers for September RPM meet has been created, and begin distributing at the March Meet. Will plan to use three rooms this year.
- Discussed 2020/21 membership meet schedule, needs to be finalized no later than April, Slater suggests not to do a December meet.
 - Sept 26 - RPM meet – Saturday
 - Oct 18 - Regular Meet – Washington County Fairgrounds, KMBS layout (West Bend). Can ask Winnebago land Div. to tap for a clinic, and attendees.
 - November 14 & 15 – Trainfest – setup Friday Nov 13.
 - Jan 17 – Rail School, this needs to be advertised at Trainfest for beginners, prefer to have on the floor map, at Four Point Sheraton.
 - Feb 20 - Bus trip to SCWD show (Mad City)
 - March 21 – Regular meet in Oconomowoc; the Museum group will host and provide clinics.
 - April 9 & 10 – WISE Ops (Apr 17 & 18 Title Town Train Show Green Bay)
 - April 18 - Membership meet at Four Point Sheraton. (Easter is April 4)
 - May 2 - DuPage Bus trip; and / or Joint Meet in Rockford.
- Thought for a meet, build an inexpensive laser cut kit that the person that is attending the meet would need to purchase, I am talking to several laser companies to manufacture an easy to build kit.
- Slater appointed Harry Grieshaber as BOD member. – At Large
- Make-n-Take will be in Jan 2021, not at Trainfest.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:22: PM. Motioned by Miazga, Zieger seconded, all in favor.

The next meeting is Wednesday, April 15 at 7:00 PM, at the Lionel Railroad Club of Milwaukee, 2721 S Calhoun Road. New Berlin. (2nd Wednesday)

April BOD meeting will be April 15, as the Meet & Annual Meeting will be April 19.

May BOD meeting will be May 13 (2nd Wednesday). Slater to be out of town on May 20th.

Respectfully submitted by David Rohr, Chief Clerk