

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

**Wednesday April 15, 2020**

**Location: Virtual**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Superintendent Slater

**BOD Present -** Andy Breaker (Asst. Super), Burnell Breaker (Library), Andy Greco (WISE Ops), John Hagen (Layouts), Mark Hintz (Youth), Dennis Janssen (Treasurer/Paymaster), Steve Miazga (Owl Car), David Rohr (Secretary, Chief Clerk), Mike Slater (Superintendent);

**Chairs Present -** Jim Hebner (Website),

**Absent -** Gary Children (Achievement AP), Harry Grieshaber, Art Oseland (Bus Trip), Ted Zieger (Contest).

**Guests -** None

**Minutes -** March minutes, no corrections necessary, B. Breaker made the motion to accept, seconded by Hagen. The motion carried unanimously.

**Paymaster -** Reports were submitted by Janssen to the BOD via email. Miazga made a motion to accept, seconded by B. Breaker. The motion carried unanimously.

**Committee Reports:**

**Membership:** One member has passed away (LM00429 Jay T. Jespersen, Racine)

**Meets: (& Clinics)** March and April Meets have been canceled due to Covid-19.

- Sept RPM meet, the group decided to charge \$3 for non-NMRA members
- October 18<sup>th</sup> Meet can be at Burnell's church, with same clinic and location that was scheduled for March. Presenter will be the author of Milw. Rd Book.

**Layouts:** Hagen needs to work on the list of available layouts, along with inputs from others.

- We are still waiting for the NAPM group to meet, (delayed due to Covid-19) to approve to a visit during the September RPM Meet.
- The plan for October is to visit Ralph Plachter's "Midwest Lines" layout (provided he is ok with visitors), or the Tri-County Club in Union Grove and/or the South Eastern Lionel Club in Racine, or others.

**Contests:** No report, Zeiger not at meeting.  
Plaque modifying on hold with Rally. Will take about a week or so to get it re-done.

**Youth Group:**

- Mark Hintz reported: No youth meetings due to the shutdown.
- A set of tangible (i.e. not all in my head) standards for youth group modules has been started. I'll polish up what I've got and send it along by tomorrow, just looking for feedback on whether it makes sense/is clear.
- Hintz sent out proposed standards via email.
- Long term, it may be a good idea to update the Trainfest Builders standards to effectively be compatible with youth group standards. Although they were developed to work with the other layout, it would probably be a better idea to keep a single set of standards.

- Trainfest builders - one person is creating a new section.
- Trainfest builder layout is a bit shorter than the youth layout, so TB needs to be adjusted (need taller legs)

**Video Library:**

B. Breaker stated via email

“I will contact those later this summer who checked out and have DVD's reminding them to bring to the RPM Meet. First meet the Video Library will be available is October.”

- nothing new to report for the Video Library.

**Owl Car:**

- Miazga stated the May issue is now about 12 pages, since now all Digital.
- Deadline is April 23. Needing anything that folks are working on.
- Need Railfan pictures. You can share on Google Docs, if can be setup.
- Hagen may take over the Owl Car, so he may play around in the next few months.
- Need to be non-profit for google to share files.

**Facebook:**

Slater stated he is posting news worthy items, like YouTube videos, Twin City Facebook live layout tours, Australia layout tours. Northshore program clinic, will be updated and rebroadcast.

**Website:**

Hebner stated the website should be up to date.

**Bus Trips:**

Oseland not present. All trips canceled for 2020

**Achievement:**

No report, Children not present.

**WISE Ops:**

Greco stated would like have WISE Ops, but can't have any events. All events are canceled for 2020. River Rail has been canceled.

**Trainfest:**

Trainfest Report (Slater/Jansen) –

- One of our vendors has asked if we are canceling, we said it is too early to decide. The vendor needs to order \$30K merchandise for the event 7 months out.
- Did we get computer from Ken J? He still has it, he is receiving and sending out replies.
- The State Fair Complex or the governor (or ??) needs to decide the plan for the overflow hospital setup in the Expo Building. The temp. hospital could remain in place for 12 months or more. Janssen to contact the fair park.
- Attendance drop could hurt, need to decide in June or July.
- Payment to the fair park is due in August 1st.
- The O Scale National group may display at another building at the fair park, as their event at the St. Louis NMRA Convention was canceled. Need to investigate a joint ticket plan.

**Old Business:**

- Picture issue still in the works – Slater received email from Russ stating he was making arrangements to take the painting to Walthers. Slater signed and dated a contract to display the painting at Walthers, Stacy needs to sign & date. It was asked what is Stacy's response to this painting, will she display this painting? Slater to follow up.
- What is Stacy's response to Trainfest, and what changes she is aware of. Slater to also check.

- The IRS return 990 has been submitted and accepted.
- Plan for Trainfest print ads. All set.

### **New Business:**

- New Date for Annual Membership meeting, According to By-laws this is to be held during April / May, however with safer at home mandate by the State of Wisconsin this will not be possible, suggest moving Meeting to October Meet. It was agreed to move this to the October Meet, in Racine.
- Trainfest may be the first big show of the year after the national shutdown. The NMRA has canceled their convention in St Louis this summer. I have had one vendor contact me directly asking if we had plans to cancel Trainfest this year. I told him it was too early to tell at this time as so much can change between now and then..... His concern is around this time he orders around 30K of inventory for Trainfest
- On Saturday I talked with someone from the O-Scale National Committee, they may be interested in holding their convention during Trainfest, I mentioned we would be happy to give them the contacts for State Fair Park so they could rent a separate building, and we would could work on an admission price so their attendees could attend Trainfest, this is due to them also cancelling their convention in St Louis that was to be combined with the NMRA Convention.
- Slater reported Spring Election results: Andy Greco and Mark Hintz were selected as new incoming Directors; Gary Children did not win.
- David Poquette maybe interested in doing the AP chair position.
- We had a few boxes of membership directory, It was ok'd to recycle these, keeping one box for requests. Most agreed to dump this last box.
- Suggested to describe in the Owl Car the current hobby store operations. Hiawatha is doing curbside pickup, Sommerfeld's is curbside, or open if not busy. Southside is open, but the sign is turned off.
- Maybe have a modeling contest in the Owl Car to vote for the most interesting project, with most everyone confined to home.
- It was suggested to poll Facebook for picture of the month, for the WISE Div. Facebook page.

### **Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM. Motioned by B. Breaker, Miazga seconded, all in favor.

The next meeting is Wednesday, May 13 at 7:00 PM, via Virtual "GoToMeeting"

June BOD meeting will be June 10 (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday).

Respectfully submitted by David Rohr, Chief Clerk