

**Wisconsin Southeastern Division (WISE) of the NMRA
Annual Meeting**

**Sunday October 18, 2020
Location: Zoom virtual Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 1:17 PM by Superintendent Mike Slater

Attendees -

Superintendent - Mike Slater, Paymaster - Dennis Janssen, Chief Clerk – David Rohr, Owl Car Editor - Steve Miazga, Election Chair - David Nelson (Audio only), Luellen Breed, Harry Evans, Reid Kahrs, Robert Niedermann, Charles Rice (Audio only).

Minutes -

Chief Clerk David Rohr read the annual meeting minutes from April 28, 2019 Steve Miazga made motion to accept, seconded by David Nelson. The motion carried unanimously.

Paymaster -

Reports were displayed online by Dennis Janssen. We will end the 2020 fiscal year (ending Oct 31, 2020) with a net loss of about \$ 20.5 K. Main reason was advertising over-run on 2019 Trainfest. By buying out the Mercury contract and accumulated expenses, we had to pay Mercury \$ 56K, including a website that we did not own. The 2021 Trainfest event is being planned, but if the State Fair (SFP) location is not available, there is no other location in the metro area with 200K sq. ft. We may have to scale down the show, if we go to another location. We still have a \$1K deposit with SFP for 2021.

Question was asked about annual expenses.

- The Owl Car publication is now all digital, so no mailing/printing costs.
- Insurance is about \$3000 / year. This includes liability, and DOE (Director Coverage), and electronic transaction coverage.
- Storage expense is \$210 / month (\$ ~ 2500 / yr.)
- Email address database service is \$111 / mo. (\$ 1332 / yr.)
- Zoom Meeting \$ 120 / yr.
- We are not paying a hotel \$500 per time since March 2020, and not planning on doing a meet till after April 2021.
- (also, no bus trip Feb 2021, and no youth group expenses)
- Image Management contract will be \$100K when Trainfest is going to move ahead.

David Nelson moved to approve the financial report, 2nd by Robert Niedermann, Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Trainfest:

Trainfest Co-Director Mike Slater reported: Image Management has been a pleasure to work with. We have created Trainfest-X, to do an online virtual event. Needed to keep the name recognition alive, and we are working with the NMRA-X team. The NMRA team does a monthly event, and November will feature Trainfest. It will be a Saturday, and maybe Sunday event. We need to have the presentation lined up by end of October 2020, to have the NMRA team get it on the schedule. Could have Don Goerke TrainFest videos.

Election & Results:

Election Committee Chair Dave Nelson reported the results of the spring 2020 election.

The election was for 2 BOD positions. Total ballots cast were 35.

Mark Hintz got 25 votes, Andy Greco received 23 votes, and Gary Children received 20 votes. No write-ins were noted.

Mark Hintz and Andy Greco were declared the winners.

Mike Slater stated at a BOD Meeting in May 2020, he appointed Gary Children to an At-Large Board position.

One follow-up to the election from Mr. Nelson, that a number of ballots stated there was no election info in the Owl Car, like candidate Bios, or photos.

Mike Slater and Steve Miazga stated they both tried to get this info, but that never materialized. Maybe the Covid issue may be to blame.

Motion made by Robert Niedermann to destroy the ballots, 2nd by Harry Evans, Motion passed.

Superintendent's Report:

Mike Slater explained another major change – Youth Programs have stopped, based on the recent change to NMRA policy for “At Risk” persons.

WISE Div. Youth Group has been disbanded. But the Waukesha County Gandy Dancer Club had possession of the modules, and was hosting the group before this change, and has stated they will continue to host and run this program as their own.

The Junior Engineer Program and the Make-n-Take programs have stopped. Walthers was supporting the Make-n-Take program, and they are now doing their own program.

WISE Div. is allowed to make financial donations to these youth activities, but WISE Div. cannot promote them. They can appear at our events, like Trainfest. But the organizers or helpers should not wear a NMRA, Trainfest or WISE Div. shirts or identification.

The Trainfest Builders program has also ended, because of this change.

We had planned to hold a joint division meet with Madison & Rockford Divisions in May 2020, but this was canceled due to Covid restrictions.

We are participating in Multi-Division/Regional Zoom call on the 3rd Saturday of the month. These occurred on Sept 19 and Oct 17, 2020. The November event will be Trainfest-X. We are also doing a WISE Division Chat, or future clinics, to be held typically on the 3rd Sunday of the month. We had one on Friday, October 9, 2020. We will do another chat in December.

Achievement:

Gary Children was not present. Steve Miazga reported that Ted Zieger received the Golden Spike Award for his layout. Dave Poquette received 98 points for his model of GB&W yard office which was judged by Steve Miazga, Joe Russ & LaRoye Chisley. The team is open to judging if we use a garage during the winter months.

Steve Miazga is working on a HO Caboose, completely scratch built.

Harry Evans stated he needs one more model judged (a bridge) to complete his requirements for this structure category.

Contests: Ted Zieger not present. Mike Slater stated contests will start happening virtually.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:17 PM. Motioned by Dennis Janssen, 2nd by Robert Niedermann, all in favor.

The next Annual meeting is planned for Sunday April 18, 2021, via Zoom, time TBD.

Respectfully submitted by David Rohr, Chief Clerk