

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

Wednesday February 10, 2021

Location: Virtual (via Zoom)

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Superintendent Slater

BOD Present - Burnell Breaker (Library), Harry Grieshaber (Trainfest office) (joined at 7:17 pm)
Dennis Janssen (Treasurer, Paymaster), Steve Miazga (Owl Car),
David Rohr (Secretary, Chief Clerk), Mike Slater (Superintendent),

Chairs Present - Jim Hebner (Chair - Website), Mark Willmering (Trainfest floor) (joined 7:15 pm)

Guests - Robert Frey (voice only)

Absent - Andy Breaker (Asst. Super), Gary Children (Achievement AP),
Andy Greco (WISE Ops), John Hagen (Layouts), Mark Hintz (ex-Youth),
Art Oseland (Bus Trip), Ted Zieger-resigned (Contest).

Minutes - Reviewed the January 13, 2021 minutes: Miazga motioned to approve,
2nd by Janssen & B. Breaker. The motion carried unanimously.

Paymaster - Reports were submitted by Janssen to the BOD via email.
Discussion of what does the division spend on each year. We have about \$130K
in the bank at the moment. We spend in a normal year about \$10-12K per year,
in addition to Trainfest. Trademark was renewed for \$2k, March Owl car needs to
be mailed this coming month as it contains the printed ballot, \$30 for printing,
\$20 for postage. The budget for this coming year will be tight, no luxuries this
year. Expected Trainfest expenses could be \$40K in spring, \$20K in October,
then \$24K for rentals after the show is completed., but before the money
collected for tickets. Janssen said he sees 3 options: 1) we could
ask for a loan from MWD (Mid-West Division), 2) or declare bankruptcy, 3) or not
do Trainfest, and just continue the meets, until the money runs out. Janssen is
looking at other opportunities, but doesn't look fruitful.

Miazga made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by
B. Breaker. The motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Slater stated no changes.

Meets: (& Clinics).

- Slater stated last month January 17 (via Zoom), we had 2 pre-recorded clinics: layout tour & Steam Loco performance.
- This month's event on February 21 will be a multi-divisional meet.

Layouts: Hagen not present, no report.

Contests: Zieger has resigned for health reasons, need new person for this, no report.

Video Library: B. Breaker stated nothing new.

Owl Car: Miazga stated he has no articles for this coming month. Deadline is Feb 24. Need ballot, and the bio's, to be mailed to all members. Up for re-election is Superintendent (Slater), Asst. Superintendent (A. Breaker), Contests, Art Oseland.

Miazga was asked to contact Greg Hacke as he may be interested in doing the Owl Car, just needs to work out the summer schedule (Apr > Sept) when he is in northern Wisconsin, with no computer or internet. Maybe Slater should contact him, if we could solve the laptop issue, would he be interested.

The Owl Car info can be posted on the website, and is available for the general public. Do we need to create a member only login, to create a benefit for being a member.

Ballot last year had 40 voters from 175 members.

Facebook: No report, Trainfest member passed away

Website: Hebner and Janssen stated he is investigating Google Ad Grants, their BOT did not like our website. The requested to Clear navigation and speed updates.

Bus Trips: No report, Oseland not present. No bus trips for this year.

Achievement: No report from Children, as he was not present. Miazga has a project in pieces to work on. (Not sure what this means)

WISE Ops: No report, Greco not present, no formal events.

Trainfest:

Willmering stated a lot of folks are looking to get out, and do train events.

We could do Trainfest with fewer layouts, and bigger aisles.

Would need as many vendors & manufactures that would want to come. Need to limit some layout displays, would like smaller displays of various scales, over larger displays. MLES is a huge draw. Garden railways, Free-Mo and ManTrack & N-Trak need to be reduced ($\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of last few years). Historical groups were suggested to get deeper booth spaces. Slater has talked with the 3 local hobby shops, that we are still planning on the 2021 event and apologized for not getting the forms out yet. Miazga asked if this is a wise decision, before we have made a final decision.

Grieshaber asked about the hospital at the Expo park, the news we have is it was be taken down at end of Feb, but now looking at April.

B. Breaker and others stated we should poll the vendors & manufactures if they are going to attend and report back with a tally at the next meeting. Or are the vendors now moving to a virtual event, and save the expense (booth, travel, hotel, food, shipping). Grieshaber and Slater to contact some/all the vendors for their opinion.

Trainfest attracts a lot of families, and they pay most of the admission fare to put on the show. The fair park is ok with our dates. Attendance restrictions are unknown at this time. Was requested to get as many of the BOD members to the next meeting. Rohr offered to have the Lionel Railroad Club available for those that do not attend the BOD zoom calls.

Old Business:

No issues, we covered elections for March ballot earlier.

New Business:

Was asked how to get assistance for some vendors at Trainfest. Some displays are a one or two-person operation. We are unable to offer help for Lego group.

Since we just renewed the trademarks, does Trainfest have value with other groups, DuPage, MWD, and others? Would need to find someone to buy the name, or give it to those interested.

The storage unit rental went up \$10 /month.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned 8:49 pm. Motioned by Miazga, 2nd by Grieshaber & B. Breaker, all were in favor.

The next meeting is Wednesday, March 10 at 7:00 PM, via Virtual "Zoom", or at the Lionel Railroad Club, for those that do not want to join remotely.

The following BOD meetings, March 10 before the March 21 virtual meet. (2nd Wednesday). And Wednesday April 14 is the BOD meeting prior to Sunday April 18, which is the annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted by David Rohr, Chief Clerk