

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

**Wednesday March 10, 2021**

**Location: Virtual (via Zoom) & LRRC**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Superintendent Slater

**BOD Present -** Burnell Breaker (Library), \*Gary Children (Achievement AP), Harry Grieshaber (Trainfest office), \*John Hagen (Layouts), Mark Hintz (ex-Youth), 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 7:07 pm) Dave Nelson (Elections, ex-Legal),

**Guests -** \*Mike Carlson, Robert Frey (voice only)

**Absent -** Andy Breaker (Asst. Super), Andy Greco (WISE Ops), Art Oseland (Bus Trip), Ted Zieger-resigned (Contest).

\* persons that met in-person at Lionel Railroad Club.

**Minutes -** Reviewed the February 10, 2021 minutes: Miazga motioned to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by B. Breaker. The motion carried unanimously.

**Paymaster -** Reports were submitted by Janssen to the BOD via email. Question of what money was paid last year, and still held for Trainfest this year, this is about \$5000. These were on the PL statement from last year. And not on the balance sheet as liabilities. With Art Oseland resigning, and not doing bus trips, Janssen requested to close the 2 bank accounts (checking & savings) at PNC bank (that Oseland used for Bus Trip transactions), and move it to the other Summit general fund accounts. This would be about \$4500. B. Breaker made a motioned, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Slater, motion approved. B. Breaker made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Hagen. The motion carried unanimously.

**Committee Reports:**

**Membership:** Slater stated that we just learned that Ed Kofroth passed away in June 2020. Need to add a nice write up in the next Owl Car

**Meets: (& Clinics).** Slater stated we will have clinics on March 20 by Miazga, and Robert Frey's CD on car forwarding. April is annual membership meeting.

**Layouts:** Hagen, 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 the deadline is March 24 for the April Owl Car. Miazga also stated the Title Town Train Show is now ON for April 17 & 18, 2021, at the KI center in downtown Green Bay. Great Northern convention is canceled.

**Facebook:** No report

**Website:** Hebner stated everything is up to date.

**Bus Trips:** No report, Open Position and Oseland not present. No bus trips for this year.

**Achievement:** No report from Children

**WISE Ops:** No report, Open Position and Greco not present, no formal events.

**Trainfest:**

Grieshaber reported the survey results from the query of vendors. Sent out 60 emails, received 26 YES votes, 80 to 90% of respondents said to keep same size footprint as before. A couple said they may want a smaller space.

2 folks said NO, Classic Trains & Hobby from Paducah (book vendor) and an Australian vendor (still in lock down and not allowed to travel or leave the country), will not be attending.

2 stated they are still unsure, and need to decide their plans.

4 emails got rejected.

A few wanted to know if the price will be the same or less.

Grieshaber asked if State Fair Park's Expo building will have all the rooms available to us? Janssen said at this point yes, but not sure when the hospital will be taken down, may be taken down in April. We anticipate to have a problem getting volunteers to assist. Insurance says we cannot be held liable if someone gets sick from our events.

SFP will provide Hand sanitizer stations for the event.

We expect that masks will need to be worn at the event, if local law /state requirement requires it, if this is still in effect at that time.

Floor plan could have wider aisles, deeper booths, fewer layouts, which could result in less tables and chairs rented, for reducing some costs.

We did not get a reply from Kalmbach, or Walthers.

Grieshaber asked Mike Carlson on his shows he sells at, what he is seeing of the public - Carlson displayed at West Bend in October 2020 was 20% less attendance, and the Racine Roma Lodge swap in March 2021. A lot of the public at the Racine show asked if there are other shows happening. People are itching to get out to shows/swaps again. And he is signed up for Green Bay show in April. Other shows he has heard of: Rockford is planning a mall show in October. There are shows/swaps in Cheyanne, Minnesota, Indiana, Galesburg is planning a show, RPM is planning St. Louis in July.

Pull out the youth activities, which would reduce some floor space needs.

Insurance costs if event is canceled or loss.

Janssen stated we could have a \$864 loss, for the \$150K we have in the bank. If all the vendors attend, and if the public attend like prior years. These numbers would go down if the projections don't materialize.

The vote of the board was 4 Yes, 1 No, 3 unsure.

Burnell motioned to send out the invites to vendors and exhibitors, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Children, approved.

**Old Business:**

Slater reported: Was asked on 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, because of the NMRA policy to support youth activities. We can use Trainfest volunteers and staff to help the one or two-person groups.

We renewed the trademarks, for Trainfest Logo

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

**New Business:**

Slater stated we should think of having in-person events, and an RPM Meet, maybe in fall.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned 9:09 pm. Motioned by B. Breaker, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Janssen. All were in favor.

The next meeting is Wednesday, April 14 at 7:00 PM, via Virtual "Zoom", prior to Sunday, April 18 (This was changed on March 20 to April 25 ) (moved because of Title Town Train Show on April 17 & 18), which is WISE Div's annual meeting.)

The next BOD meetings would be (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday) Wednesday May 12, June 9

Respectfully submitted by David Rohr, Chief Clerk