

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

**Wednesday June 9, 2021  
Location: Virtual (via Zoom)**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Superintendent Slater

- BOD Present -** Andy Breaker (Asst. Super), Burnell Breaker (Library), Mark Hintz (ex-Youth), Dennis Janssen (Treasurer, Paymaster) (left at 8:10 pm), Steve Miazga (ex-Owl Car) (left at 8:28 pm), Robert Niedermann (Contests), David Rohr (Secretary, Chief Clerk), Mike Slater (Superintendent)
- Chairs Present -** Jim Hebner (Chair - Website)
- Guests -** Bob McGeever (Midwest Region President)
- Absent -** Gary Children (Achievement AP), Harry Grieshaber (Trainfest office), John Hagen (Layouts & Owl Car), Mark Willmering (Trainfest floor),
- Minutes -** Reviewed the May 12, 2021 minutes: B. Breaker motioned to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Janssen. The motion carried unanimously.
- Paymaster -** Reports were submitted by Janssen to the BOD via email. Received a few payments for booth space, B. Breaker made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Hintz. The motion carried unanimously.

**Committee Reports:**

- Membership:** Slater stated no changes. Greco has dropped his membership.
- Meets: (& Clinics).** Slater said all is ok for Breaker's church for the October 17 Meet. Start time will be 1:30 pm, as the church service ends at 12:30 pm.
- Layouts:** Hagen not present, Slater said that he is still working on a layout.
- Contests:** Slater appointed Niedermann as contest chair. Janssen to get the Trainfest awards from Zieger. (Miazga has three awards and will get them to Janssen. Janssen to also pick up contest stuff at Zieger's.)
- Video Library:** B. Breaker had no new updates. Slater has 2 boxes of videos for checkout at the Sturtevant museum this summer.
- Owl Car:** Hagen may work on a mid-July issue, for August release. Miazga said Hagen still needs access to the Google drive, Janssen to provide access.
- Facebook:** No report
- Website:** No report
- Bus Trips:** No report, Grieshaber not on the call.
- Achievement:** No report from Children, not present. Miazga has his last the item to get judged.
- WISE Ops:** No report, Open Position, no formal events.

**Trainfest:**

Slater stated we have a few more vendors signed up. Sent reminders to those that have not sent in applications, to get them in by end of June, to get 10% discount. About a dozen said they are working on completing the application. In Mid-July will send another reminder. 4 to 5 said they will not attend this year, but should be back next year. Janssen stated that June was our stated drop-dead date. Janssen motioned to move ahead with planning, Niedermann 2<sup>nd</sup>. Miazga asked if we have enough volunteers (for NMRA Booth, show office, etc.) It was stated from last month that Grieshaber has secured volunteers from St John's Military Academy. B. Breaker asked about number of current vendors signed up. Janssen said we are not even close to what we need. We currently have \$40K for booths, need \$120K (normally is \$140K). Have 30 to 40 vendors signed up so far (normally is 100 to 150). We have not sent the clubs the request for space, until we get the vendors lined up, may go out in July or August. We are the most expensive train show in the country. Image Management (IM) bill will be \$100K. A 10 x 10 booth is \$550. Plus, carpeting & electric. We need NOW to purchase advertising \$10K to 15K in magazine ads, to get started in June for Sept / October publishing. The \$100K IM bill could be reduced, since we have a \$ 10K / year Google Ad Grant. Need to contact IM for current price. Slater suggested to change the motion to do the ads now with the risk we could lose this money we don't do the show. IM cost should be negotiable. Niedermann asked if we can push the decision to next month. Janssen & Slater said June is when we need to get the magazine ads placed, and get fliers printed and sent to hobby shops and other events. We wish other BOD members would have been on the call. Janssen said he will continue as treasurer, but is done with Trainfest co-chair. Janssen left the meeting at 8:10 pm. Miazga left the meeting at 8:28 pm. The vote on Janssen's motion to continue Trainfest planning was: 0 yes, 4 no, 4 abstain.

**Old Business:**

Slater said we need to swap emails for the new positions Hagen, Miazga, Niedermann. B. Breaker said this is done.

Miazga asked in the May meeting how the Madison group funds the picnic, Bob McGeever stated they have their picnic at Little America, Marshal WI, \$500 expense, and catering, and this last year they had it they charged \$5 per person. We could do this at Jackson or East Troy. We could have a membership meeting at East Troy and maybe a tour, and maybe a trolley layout home visit in Spring, April or May, 2022.

**New Business:**

Should we continue to have BOD Meetings via Zoom, or have them in-person, or hybrid (combination of both). Slater to send email to ask who would want to meet in person.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned 8:54 pm. Motioned by Hintz, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Niedermann. All were in favor.

The next BOD meeting is Wednesday, (may need July 14, need to decide what to do with IM) or August 11 at 7:00 PM via Virtual "Zoom", or hybrid (in person & Zoom) (if those that want to meet in person to contact Rohr)

Future BOD meetings would be (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday) Aug 11? Sept 8.

Respectfully submitted by David Rohr, Chief Clerk