

**Wisconsin Southeastern Division (WISE) of the NMRA
Executive Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday April 12, 2023
Location: Lionel Railroad Club & Zoom**

Meeting called to order by Burnell Breaker at 6:59 pm

BOD Present - Burnell Breaker (Interim Superintendent & ~~Video Library~~),
Dennis Janssen (Treasurer, Paymaster)
David Rohr (Secretary, Chief Clerk)
Tim Koch – BOD

Chairs Present - Gary Hendrickson (Membership),

Guests - None

Absent - Robert Niedermann (Interim Asst-Superintendent, & Contests), Bob McGeever
David Mielke (Train School) & Cindy Mielke (Owl Car)

Minutes: No changes noted from March 8 meeting minutes, approved

Paymaster Report:

St James' church check (\$100) has not cleared the bank, but we received a thank you for the donation for Ed Varek's memorial.

Janssen said David Swanson (GATS) still has not cashed the \$390 check for tickets purchased for half price tickets to Trainfest 2022 to be sold at the August picnic and October meet. We have already sent him a second check.

Janssen is changing the Division's official address for the IRS from the PO Box, to his home residence. Will close the PO Box when it comes due in September 2023 (or before). We have 3 keys to turn in.

The IRS is re-qualifying 501c3 groups, with new definitions. We do not believe this will affect us. For the IRS 990 form, the swap meet train sales have been lumped in to Trainfest sales.

No changes noted for the treasurer report from March 8 meeting, approved

Train Sales:

Need to discuss what to do with some of our for-sale items after March 2023.

There is another swap at OAW Sports complex in April 23.

Need to talk with Tom at Southside Trains, to what he thinks would sell.

Have more equipment from Don Strike coming.

Committee Reports:

Gary Hendrickson – Membership –

Gary is donating up to 4 cars to the person/s that joins up the most members.

See the challenge details in the March 2023 Owl Car

We discussed updates to the WISE Div website. Look at other sites, like Piedmont Div.

We should post pictures of the layout tours on the website, along with the Owl Car.

Breaker to discuss with Hebner for what is possible to modify on the website.

Dave Nelson – Clinics - Has an article in the Owl Car

Dave Poquette – AP - nothing to report

Jim Hebner – Website – No update

Dave Mielke – Train School – No update

Cindy Mielke – Owl Car – No update

Jon Dettmann – Layouts – needs transportation (does not drive)

Meets:

March 19 Meet – was held at New Berlin Entertainment Center
Average turnout, 3 good clinics, Layout tour was Jon Dettmann near Shorewood.

April 16 Meet – to be held at Oconomowoc Historical Museum
2 clinics arranged by Club: Dave Evans & Chuck Gevaert,
No contests are planned, short membership meeting, one layout tour.
The WISE Website needs an update with this latest info.

Owl Car:

May issue deadline is April 20

Next issue is planned for August or September

Distribution results from Constant Contact – Janssen - 151 on email, 81% opened (120);
52% (77) clicked on the link; small amount of bounces, but no one unsubscribed.
But compared to other area divisions, we are much better than anyone else.

2023-2024 Schedule discussion:

Piggyback onto Lionel Club show dates for 2023/2024.

The dates at New Berlin Ale House:

Oct 15, Nov 19, Feb 25, Mar 17 member meeting & possible elections

Jan 14 Train School at New Berlin VFW post,

Mad City (Feb 17 & 18),

Apr 21 at East Troy.

Go somewhere else in Division for one meet? Still looking for a location.

East Troy for April 21, 2024 meet. Have contract from ETRR. (East Troy RR) \$450 for
50 people + box lunch at \$10 each from Elegant Farmer. Beverage would be extra.
Start ride at East Troy, ride to Elegant Farmer end, tour the maintenance facility,
pick up the lunch boxes at Elegant Farmer, ride to Indian Park in Mukwonago,
have the picnic, then ride back to East Troy, and tour the car barns.
Cost would be maybe \$20 for the ride and lunch, and extra cost for beverage.
Would we be able to have a few folks (that are not riding the trolley) pickup the food,
and bring a few coolers of drinks, and meet us at the park?

April Business meeting:

How much do we need/want to tell membership at April 16 meet in Oconomowoc?

Discuss concerns that were brought up regarding membership demographics and
participation.

Financials for the year, overview.

Trainfest 2022 went well, no show in 2023, will return in 2024.

Future of the WISE Division

Next Meeting:

Scheduled for Wednesday May 10, 2023 at 7 pm at the Lionel Railroad Club in New Berlin.
May do an August meeting on zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted by David A. Rohr, Chief Clerk.