



Published by the Wisconsin Southeastern Division of the Midwest Region of the National Model Railroad Association, Inc.

March 2019

\$\$\$ From the Cluttered Desk of the Paymaster
— Dennis Janssen

So, what does the Paymaster do anyway?

Besides examining the bills that roll in and writing the checks to pay them, I supply financial reports for the Board of Directors and make sure the expenses are recorded in the correct account.

Then, we get to the good stuff. I serve as the primary person on the Budget Committee. I look at history and decide what is practical to allow for spending in the current year. Unlike most businesses who prepare their budgets prior to the end of their fiscal year, we prepare and examine our budget in the first few months of our current year using the benefit of very recent history. We have separate budgets for the Bus Trips, the Owl Car, Meets, the Youth Group, the General Operations of the division as well as Trainfest. There are almost 100 possible expense lines that may or may not apply to each of these categories.

Once complete, the Finance / Budget Committee and the rest of the directors examine the result for suitability. So, six categories times 100 lines is a possible 600 numbers in the annual budget. For everyone's sanity, I condense this down to 17 lines for presentation at the annual meeting. And that is the easy part of my job.

The WISE Division has qualified as a 501(c)(3) charity with the IRS. This makes us tax exempt, but we are far from exempt from reporting. Each year I prepare a form 990 which defines who we are, what we do, how much revenue we earn and what our expenses are. Along with these facts, there are questions that serve to qualify us for exemption in the future. There are questions that relate to possible donor funds and if they have been designated by the donor for a specific use, there are questions about a written conflict of interest policy (yes, we have one), there is a form that looks back four years plus the current years income and expense. Anyway, I will not bore you with more details except to say that the finished product this year is 24 pages long! Imagine for a moment that each division, region and the national must prepare this report. That is a lot of reading for some individual in Ogden, Utah.

You might also see me at Trainfest, getting my 16,000 steps a day in.

Please do not read this as a complaint. I really love this job! The people are interesting and fun. The software we use is very friendly. And most of all, I get to do what I did for a living before I retired.

And on another note, please send in your ballot. Voting is a privilege whether in a local or national election or in our division. You elect the people who run the division. Make your choice and make your vote count. We need to receive your ballot no later than April 10th.

Thank you,

Dennis Janssen



Time to Register!

The joint Midwest and Thousand Lakes Division's 2019 Meet will be in La Crosse, WI on May 17-19, 2019. The convention hotel is the Days Inn, La Crosse and rooms are filling up fast. Join your fellow modelers for a great weekend of clinics, tours and layout operations. For more information go to either the Midwest or Thousand Lakes Divisions websites.



**Last Big Event for Spring...
Off to DuPage**

(Leave the driving to us!)

Our annual bus trip to the Great Midwest Train Show at the DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, IL will be on Sunday, May 5, 2018. Cost is \$39 per person and includes the bus, admission, goodies on the bus and two Chicago layout tours. Pick-up will be at College Ave. Park & Ride departing promptly at 8:00 a.m.

After the train show we will visit Wayne Pelke's HO Scale Denver Junction Western Pacific layout. Wayne's free-lanced "L" shaped layout is greatly influenced by the Great Northern in the Midwest during the 1950's. It features steam and diesel on a 250 foot mainline with 28 inch minimum curves. The viewing height is 50 inches and occupies about 1000 square feet of Wayne's basement. Track is 95 percent complete and scenery is 75 percent complete.

Sign up and payment can be done at the March or April Meets. Youth pricing options are available.

For more info contact Art Oseland at raydenny1@aol.com or 414-764-5375.

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From the Superintendent

— Mike Slater

Within the past ten years we have seen so many changes within our hobby. Many have been positive some have not been so. An unfortunate change in this hobby has been the loss of many local hobby shops. The local hobby shop was a gathering place for people with the same interests. With these losses, some might wonder how people are meeting and communicating ideas across this great hobby. I thought the same thing when I lost my part time job at Gary's Hobby Center in Racine, Wisconsin. When the store closed almost a decade ago.

So how do people in this hobby communicate? At first it may have been the many different email groups that specialized in specific areas of one's interest. Many of these email groups are still going strong today and are a good source of information. Another way many people communicate with one another is on Facebook. Like email there are many groups with specific interests. Facebook has an easy to use format. While information is shared freely and quickly, topics are easily lost. Groups do have a search tool to help find topics, but sometimes that is not very user friendly.

So now you may ask "Where do people share ideas?" Well I then came across a podcast called Model Rail Radio, produced by a fellow NMRA member by the name of Tom Barbalet. Tom currently lives in the San Francisco Bay area. He was born in Australia. The great thing about Model Rail Radio is its worldwide audience and the pool of people who call in on a regular basis. I have had the pleasure of calling in using a free online program called Skype to join in on these calls. Podcasts like Model Rail Radio help spread the knowledge that others in many different fields and can expand upon ideas for projects you are working on.

Other than podcasts, the video media people are using to share ideas is YouTube. An example is the YouTube video cast of Ken Patterson's "What's Neat This Week" or his "What's Neat" for Model Railroad Hobbyist Online Magazine. Ken's weekly podcast has a round table format where fellow hobbyists talk about their latest projects or products they find interesting. However, Ken's monthly podcast for MRH covers very informative how to segments and visits to home layouts. Another type of format is an informative video like James

Wright's channel where he does product reviews and train show coverage.

Besides online media, our hobby has many train shows, meets and sales. When I became an NMRA member, the first meet I went to was the NMRA Regional Convention in Memphis Tenn. Why did I go down to Memphis? Well many friends whom I had met previously during train watching, convinced me to come on down again. To save a few bucks, I joined the NMRA via the Rail Pass. (yes, the frugal model rail-roader strikes again).

After this convention, I decide to keep my membership in the NMRA. I did not go to the meets until the hobby shop closed. The meets were enjoyable so I decided to go on a regular basis. Attending our meets opened me up to different ideas that were shared to help us all. Plus, I learned by entering models in the contests. It could help offset the cost of my NMRA membership, if I could win first place. (Frugal modeler strikes again)

A newer social gathering of likeminded hobbyists is the Prototype Modelers Meets. If you have not been to one, I suggest attending. There was once one in our area that was held when the Milwaukee School of Engineering held their show in March. It was the Midwest Milwaukee Modelers Meet. A nice thing about all of these meets is the sharing of knowledge and ideas. Is this a format that we want to try in the near future for a Divisional Meet?

One more get together idea I have I am borrowing from my mother's quilting group. They meet once a month to work together on their quilts. Why can't we do this, but for our models. People could work on freight cars, locomotives or maybe even a module for their layout, club or group. We have done this in the North West Traction Group that Andy Breaker and I belong to. During these work sessions, we have helped each other achieve our goals in this hobby and learn new skills.

Communication is the way we can all improve our modeling and knowledge. What's your favorite way of interacting with other members and what would you like to see us doing going forward?

If you would like more information about the podcast or YouTube videos please see the links below:

www.modelrailradio.com

<https://www.youtube.com/user/Kensart55>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ilwii2000>



From Your Editor

— Steve Miazga

This month's edition of the Owl Car can be seen in full color and high resolution on the WISE website: <https://wisedivision.org>.

This month's mailing in hard copy format is so that we can distribute the ballots to the membership for the Board election. Next month we will resume the e-mail distribution of the Owl Car.

Video Library News

— Burnell Breaker

The Video Library will be available for DVD check out at the March meet. All DVD's are due back by the April meet. No DVD's will be checked out at the April meet. We have a great selection of DVD's available for free use by WISE Division members.

A reminder as well, there are still a limited number of the Division's last membership directories available. One free copy per member.

Jim's Tips and Tidbits

— Jim Kelly

Most model vehicles are just too shiny, particularly the chrome parts, and they look like toys when you put them on the layout. An easy fix is to spray them with Testors Dullcote or a flat, clear finish by some other manufacturer. The Dullcote that comes in a spray can makes the job easy, but you need to be extra careful not to over apply. Just a quick spritz will do the job. You'll probably want to weather some vehicles a bit more, but this first step is all you'll need for most cars.

And speaking of scale autos on the layout, if you have children, say age five or under, coming around, it's a good idea to place vehicles out of reach. It's natural for them to want to push the cars around, because in their world that's what you do with miniature cars. Lecturing them on scale models versus toys won't get you far.

Also on the subject of children, I think it's a bad idea to help them "get started" by giving them inferior equipment we're discarding. Those items will frustrate them even more than they did us. You're exposing them to the hobby all right, but not the side of it we prefer. If it's not good enough for you, it's not good enough for anybody.



Upcoming Division Events

- March 17, 2019—Division Meet**
Oconomowoc Historical Museum, 12:30 pm
 - April 12-14, 2019—WiseOps Operating Weekend**
 - April 28, 2019—Division Meet & Annual Meeting**
Four Points Sheraton Milwaukee Airport, 12:30 pm
 - May 5, 2019—Bus Trip to DuPage County Swap Meet***
 - September 15, 2019—Division Meet**
Location TBD
 - October 20, 2019—Division Meet**
Location TBD
 - November 9-10, 2019—Trainfest**
Wisconsin State Fair Park Expo Center, West Allis, WI
 - January 19, 2020—Division Meet**
Location TBD
 - February 2020—Bus Trip to Mad City Train Show**
 - March 15, 2020—Division Meet**
Location TBD
 - April 19, 2020—Division Meet and Annual Meeting**
Location TBD
 - May 2020—Bus Trip to DuPage County Swap Meet**
* Denotes extra fare event
- For more event details
go to our website:*
WWW.WISEDIVISION.ORG

Want to Operate?

If you enjoy operating on layouts, or if you have never done it and want to get involved, don't miss **WiseOps 2019** the weekend of April 12-14. Nine layouts will be open for operation Friday evening and Saturday.

If interested please email Andy @:
nmrawiseop@gmail.com to receive further information.

The WISE Owl Car is published by the Wisconsin Southeastern (WISE) Division of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA). Subscription is free in an electronic format to all NMRA members residing within the boundaries of the WISE Division.

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Please send any comments, information, or editorials to the editor.
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Upcoming National And Regional Events of Interest

- March 10, 2019—Metro Club Model Club Show**
Circle B Recreation, Cedarburg, 9am to 4pm
<http://www.metroclub.org>
 - April 27-28, 2019—Tittletown Train Show**
Resch Center, Green Bay
www.Reschcenter.com
 - May 10, 2019—Golden Spike 150th Celebration**
Promontory Summit, Utah
www.spike150.org
 - May 17-19, 2019—Joint NMRA Regional Convention**
Joint meeting of Midwest and Thousand Lakes Regions
Days Inn, La Crosse, WI (see Page 7 of the Owl Car)
 - June 26-30, 2019—National N-Scale Convention**
Crowne Plaza Chicago O'Hare, Rosemont, IL
www.NationalNScaleConvention.com
 - July 7-13, 2019—NMRA 2019 National Convention**
Salt Lake City, Utah
<http://www.nmra2019slc.org/>
- ### Historical Society Meetings
- April 6, 2019—Burlington Route Historical Society**
Spring Meet, Lyon Farm, Yorkville, IL
www.burlingtonroute.org
 - April 27, 2019—Green Bay & Western Historical Society**
Annual Meeting & Banquet, Green Bay, WI
(Same weekend as Tittletown Train Show)
www.gbwhs.com
 - May 30—June 2, 2019—CNW Historical Society**
2019 Convention, Crown Plaza Hotel, Milwaukee, WI
www.cnwhs.org
 - June 20-23, 2019—Milwaukee Road Historical Association**
2019 Annual Meeting, Envision Hotel, South St. Paul, MN
www.mrha.com
 - July 20-24, 2019—Great Northern Railway Hist. Society**
2019 Convention, Fargo, ND
www.gnrhs.org
 - September 12-15, 2019—Soo Line Historical & Tech. Society**
2019 Annual Convention, Lake Delton, WI
www.sooline.org
 - September 18-22, 2019—Burlington Route Historical Society**
2019 Fall Meet and Annual Business Meeting,
Sandwich, IL, www.burlingtonroute.org

WISE Board Elections

Included in this issue of the Owl Car is our annual election ballot for officers and board members. Four positions are open— Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and two director positions. All current members of the NMRA WISE Division are eligible to vote. Please complete your ballot (make sure to include your NMRA membership number) and return it so it is received no later than April 10th. The ballot is a self mailer—simply fold in thirds, tape the three open sides and include a first class stamp. Results of the election will be announced at the April Meet and Annual Meeting. Bios for the candidates are listed below.



For Superintendent—Mike Slater

I have been a member of the NMRA since 2006 and I have been attending division meets for the past 5 years on a regular basis. I have served as the Contest room director since this past summer and I have been the Interim superintendent since January of this year. I have been involved with this hobby for the past 40 years. I received my first Lionel train set at the age of three and with my late father collected an interesting example of Lionel production dating back to the 1930's. I had also worked part time at Gary's Hobby Center in Racine, Wisconsin running their Model Railroad Department until the store closed due to the passing of the owner. I am also currently involved with the Western Union Junction RR Club & Museum in Sturtevant Wisconsin serving as the president of that organization. Several other organizations I also belong to are the Train Collectors Association (TCA), Milwaukee Road Historical Association, the Green Bay & Western Historical Society, and the Southeast Wisconsin Antique Power & Collectable Society (which at their Fall Harvest Days show I help to organize the Model Railroad layouts that display at the show).

My goal for the WISE Division is to have open communications amongst all members, to have the WISE Division benefit its members, And to promote the Division Youth Group. By working together we can all achieve these goals.



For Assistant Superintendent—Andy Breaker

I am running for the Assistant Superintendent position of the WISE Division. I have been a lifelong model railroader and go between modeling HO scale traction and the C&NW, as well as G scale. I currently am in charge of the Northwest Traction Group, which we set up our modular traction layout at Trainfest every year. I used to be very active with the NMRA when I was younger and am getting back into it, after finishing college and getting settled into my career as a funeral director for the past few years. I ask for your support in this election and hope to do a lot of good things for the division.



For Director—Burnell Breaker

My name is Burnell Breaker and I am running for reelection on your WISE Division Board of Directors. For the past 8 years, I have served on the Board as your Video Librarian and for many years as a volunteer at Trainfest and our 1985 and 2010 NMRA National Conventions. I am looking forward to moving the Division into the future in trying to encourage younger people and members who have strayed to come back to the NMRA and our WISE Division. I have been a life long model railroader, from my first Christmas with a Lionel train around the tree, a time modeling in HO scale during my teen years into my 20's, then back to my first love, 3 rail O scale with my present hi-rail Lineville & Western. I ask for your vote to continue to serve on the WISE Division Board of Directors.



For Director—Steve Miazga

I have been an avid N Scale modeler since 1974 and a member of the NMRA since 1996. I am currently completing my first 3 year term on the Board of Directors and have been the editor of the Owl Car since February of 2018. I have volunteered at Trainfest for nearly 15 years and am currently chairing the Celebrate a Railroad program. Prior to moving to the Milwaukee area in 2002, I was involved with the Rhinelander Railroad Association which moved the former Soo Line depot and restored it to become the Rhinelander Railroad Museum, complete with a HO historic model railroad in the basement. I am also on the Board of Directors of the Soo Line Historical and Technical Society, currently serving as their 2019 Convention Chairperson.

My goals for the Division are to create a positive and rewarding value to our members through our Meets, education and events. I have offered clinics and expanded the content of the Owl Car to provide more value to the members. I am a firm believer of leading by example and that a positive atmosphere will promote membership in our Division. After being in the hobby for 45 years, I believe it is also time to give back what I have learned so that fellow modelers will enjoy the many facets of our hobby. I would sincerely appreciate your vote for another three year term on the Board.

2019 WISE Division Board Elections—Official Ballot

Note: All ballots *must be mailed* to: Dave Nelson
Attn: WISE Division Election Committee
1506 East Fox Lane
Fox Point, WI 53217

All ballots must be *received by April 10, 2019 and include your Name and NMRA Member # for verification*. Vote for no more than two candidates for the Board of Directors.

Note: **The NMRA does not allow FAMILY MEMBERS to vote, nor does the Midwest Region.**

Article IV, Membership and Dues, of the NMRA Regulations includes the following provision in Section 2:

"B. Each member in the above classes, including Honorary Life Member, shall have the right to:"

"4. Except for Family Members; and Sustaining and Corporate Members other than individuals, the right to vote and run for elective office in any Region or Division of which the member is a resident member, subject to any qualifications and conditions"

Member Name (please print) _____

NMRA Member # (required) _____

THIS BALLOT IS A RETURN MAILER—FOLD, ADD 1ST CLASS STAMP AND TAPE ALL 3 OPEN SIDES TO ALLOW FOR PROPER MAIL HANDLING

WISE DIVISION NMRA SUPERINTENDENT (Vote for ONE ONLY)

- Mike Slater:** Candidate for WISE Board Superintendent (President)
- Write in Candidate for Superintendent (must be NMRA Member) _____

WISE DIVISION NMRA ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT (Vote for ONE ONLY)

- Andy Breaker:** Candidate for WISE Board Assistant Superintendent (Vice President)
- Write in Candidate for Asst. Superintendent (must be NMRA Member) _____

WISE DIVISION NMRA BOARD DIRECTOR (Vote for ONE ONLY)

- Burnell Breaker:** Candidate for WISE Division Board of Directors
- Write in Candidate for Board of Directors (must be NMRA Member) _____

WISE DIVISION NMRA BOARD DIRECTOR (Vote for ONE ONLY)

- Steve Miazga:** Candidate for WISE Division Board of Directors

Vote for no more than TWO Board of Director Candidates

Fold Here FIRST

VOID

DAVE NELSON

ATTN: WISE DIVISION ELECTION COMMITTEE

1506 EAST FOX LANE

FOX POINT, WI 53217

Fold Here SECOND



**WISE Division NMRA
Officers & Board
of Directors**

Mike Slater—Superintendent
m Slater@wi.rr.com, 262-515-3623
Andy Breaker—Assistant Superintendent
funeralguy20@gmail.com
Dennis Janssen—Paymaster (Treasurer)
Ken Jaglinski—Trainfest Chairperson
kenj@trainfest.com, 414-331-9643
Gary Children— Achievement Director
csuperchief20@wi.rr.com, 414-327-1666
Mark Hintz—Youth Group Director

gp30@fuzzyworld3.com, 414-745-4613
Burnell Breaker—Video Library Director
brbreaker@yahoo.com, 262-939-9193
Art Oseland—Bus Trip Director
raydenny1@aol.com, 414-764-5375
Bob Sherman—Director at Large
bob4sherm@sbcglobal.net, 414-448-7017
Steve Miazga— Owl Car Editor
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Ed Kofroth—Director at Large
Ted Zieger—Contest Director
ptzieger@sbcglobal.net
Jim Hebner—Webmaster
hebnerj@gmail.com, 937-207-0163
Open—Chief Clerk
Open - Layout Tour Director
Open - Clinic Director
Open - Picnic Director

Website: www.wisedivision.org



**WISE Division NMRA
Model Railroad
Meet**

March 17, 2019

PUBLIC WELCOME — FREE ADMISSION

12:30 pm Doors open and contest registrations
1:00 to 2:00 pm **Clinic 1:** Shawn Becher leads the “Golden Spike Ceremony” and presents a history of the Milwaukee North Western Model Railroad
2:15 to 2:45 pm **Clinic 2:** Chuck Gevaert reviews the Electrical Concepts and their Implementation on the Milwaukee North Western
3:00 to 3:45 pm **Clinic 3:** Shawn Becher reviews Semi-Automated Operations Planning for the model railroad
3:45 to 4:15 pm **Contest Awards & Announcements**
4:30 to 6:00 pm **Layout Tours**

**Bring in Your Best and Enter the FREE
Model and Photography
Popular Vote Contest**

If you don't enter—you can't win!
2 Entries Allowed, per Person, per Category

Meet Location This Month Only

Oconomowoc Historical Museum

103 W. Jefferson St., Oconomowoc, WI
(Museum is handicap accessible—use side door ramp)

Driving Directions to Oconomowoc Museum

If coming from Milwaukee on I-94, exit State Hwy. 67 north. Go north about two miles (do not take the Hwy. 67 By-pass around Oconomowoc). Hwy. 67 becomes Summit Ave, stay on Summit and as you get in toward downtown you will see the Milwaukee Road depot on your right across the railroad tracks. Here you want to turn left on South Main St. for two blocks and you will come to the museum at 103 West Jefferson.

If coming to Oconomowoc via Hwy. 16 from the east (do not take the Hwy. 67 By-pass) you come straight into downtown. About two city blocks after the round-about you will come to the stop light at Main Street that runs north-south. Turn left on South Main Street and you will pass the Oconomowoc depot on your left, keep going straight south another couple of blocks and you will come to the museum at 103 West Jefferson.

CONTEST CATEGORIES

Photo Prototype, Photo Model, Model Diorama, Structures, Freight Equipment, Passenger Equipment, General, Non Revenue Equipment, Traction

AND DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE BEST OF SHOW AWARD!



WISE Division of the NMRA

P.O. Box 242

Butler, WI 53007-0242

Memories From the Mad City Trip

Enjoy a few pictures from our trip to the Mad City Train Show and a visit to Roy Grant's super N Scale layout in Deerfield. See you all next year!

