

February 3, 2023—NRHS Wisconsin Chapter Annual Business Meeting Minutes

An agenda was published on our Chapter web site, and forwarded via e-mail to all members on Wednesday, February 1, 2023. This was our second hybrid (in-person and Zoom) formal business meeting.

Welcome and Call to Order

Wisconsin Chapter President Mike Yuhas was working from our in-person meeting site at the North Shore Congregational Church in Fox Point tonight. He began recording on Zoom at 7:30 pm. He greeted and welcomed all of us at 7:31 pm. There were 30 people in the physical meeting space. We had 42 computers (two in the physical meeting room) connected on Zoom. He reminded all of us that this is the annual business meeting. It is a little longer and more formal than our usual meetings. We do have an agenda to get through (which he shared from his computer screen). It should not take too long tonight.

President Mike Yuhas began by introducing himself as the outgoing President. He observed that we have a good number of people in the physical meeting room. Janet Yuhas is offering snacks and soft drinks at the back of the room. A free at-will donation is requested.

Announcements

We have gained six new members since our November 4, 2022, meeting:

- Mark Duchow--Sheboygan
- Brian Matsumoto—Arlington Heights, Illinois
- Robert Guhr--Burlington
- Robert Banke—De Kalb, Illinois
- Steve Mueller—Carbondale, Illinois
- Tom Aldrich—De Pere (joined today)

If you see value in our content, please join (or renew). There are three ways to do so. The first is a \$20.00 cash or check payment while attending a Chapter meeting in person. Our Chapter Treasurer Tara Grudzielanek is in the room and accepting payments tonight. The second is on-line payment via our website at nrhswis.org. That second option includes an extra \$1.00 fee for PayPal processing costs. The third is to send a \$20.00 check to Wisconsin Chapter NRHS, P. O. Box 070758, Milwaukee, WI 53207. Dues payments support Chapter activities and publications. Your support is much appreciated. Tara Grudzielanek reported that Peter Rindt had just joined. An announcement of his joining will be made at the next meeting.

Upcoming events are:

- Friday, February 10—Railroad Gab Fest (free form discussion—on-line only). An e-mail link will be sent to members.
- Tuesday, February 21—On-line Railroad Slide Show—four presenters are currently signed up. A list and sign-up portal will be sent to members via e-mail shortly.

- Friday, March 3—Regular Chapter Meeting. Richard Koenig will present Midwest US railroad images from the late 1970s—just before the Staggers deregulation act. That meeting will also be hybrid—in-person at the church and on-line via Zoom.

President Mike Yuhas noted that a representative of the North Shore Congregational Church was in attendance, and called for him to come forward for the next announcement. We have been meeting at this church since 1964. They have never charged us any rent. We have traditionally given them an annual donation in grateful appreciation for the use of their space. Rick Kieffer came forward. He has been Director of Music at the North Shore Congregational Church since 1990. He related his memory of his father's HO scale model railroad layout in their basement. Treasurer Tara Grudzielanek also came up. Tara presented Rick with a \$750.00 check for the church, our traditional annual donation. She also presented a \$75.00 gift card for church custodian Mike Fugarino, given in appreciation for his extra work in cleaning up after us.

Next came the sad announcement that we had lost member Mike Sosalla. Mike lived from July 8, 1950 to January 30, 2023. He had already renewed for 2023, in October 2022, before he passed away from pancreatic cancer on January 30.

Introduction of Current Officers and Board

President Mike Yuhas introduced the remainder of the current Chapter officers and board. Those officers and directors present in the physical meeting room were asked to stand as they were introduced. These included Vice-President Keith Schmidt, Treasurer Tara Grudzielanek, and four of the five at-large Directors— Dan Grudzielanek, Ralph McClure, Cathy Wegner, and Neal Wegner. Secretary Tom Marcussen and Director Andrew Roach were attending via Zoom. Mike expressed his appreciation for the service of the entire board, and especially for outgoing Directors Ralph McClure and Cathy Wegner. They will still be around and serving, but not on the Board.

Confirmation of Quorum, and Statement of Rules

We had 67 paid-up dues-paying members (both National and Chapter dues) as of Monday, January 30, the latest record that is available. A quorum is 5 per cent of that number, which works out to at least 4 members. We had well in excess of that number present. Both in-person and Zoom presence count. The annual formal business meeting can proceed.

The annual formal business meeting is longer and more formal than our usual monthly meetings. We will try to keep the business part of tonight's meeting brief. The rules of the National Railway Historical Society state that only dues-paying members of NRHS National can be full-fledged members of any Chapter. Only paid-up dues-paying members of both NRHS National and the Wisconsin Chapter are allowed to discuss or vote on Wisconsin Chapter business. We appreciate the support we get from others—but they cannot vote (or discuss business). They are asked to only listen to and observe the business meeting.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The last previous formal business meeting was held on Friday, February 4, 2022. It was also a hybrid meeting, conducted both in person in the church basement and via Zoom. The full minutes were posted on our Chapter website. There was a link to them on the agenda that was sent to members on Wednesday, February 1. There were no corrections, additions or other comments to those minutes. Tom Hoffmann moved that the February 2022 minutes be approved as published. Keith Schmidt seconded the motion. No one offered any discussion. The motion and the minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

President’s Remarks

President Mike Yuhas said that while he is leaving as our President, he will continue to serve on the Chapter Board. It has been an honor and a joy to serve.

Membership has increased through the pandemic. The increased audience has attracted better programs, which have in turn attracted more members, in a virtuous circle. Much of this growth is due to our new ability to offer on-line and hybrid meetings—not requiring physical travel to Fox Point. He thanked the Chapter board for its willingness to invest in the improved audio-visual equipment that allowed us that to happen. Zoom attendance was 52, then 53, at that point in the meeting.

Report from Vice President

Vice President Keith Schmidt thanked Mike Yuhas for his four years of service as President. He will be a tough act to follow. We have had four good years. He is looking for Chapter activities to do in 2023. He also thanked departing Board members Ralph McClure and Cathy Wegner for their years of service on the Chapter Board.

Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Tara Grudzielanek presented her treasurer’s report for 2022, as follows:

Opening Balances

Opening Checkbook Balance	\$5,264.14
Pay Pal Account	<u>1,523.87</u>
Net in Accounts	\$6,788.01

Receipts by Method

Deposits to Checking	\$2,937.00
Pay Pal Deposits (less fees)	5,767.68
Interest on Checking Account	<u>0.15</u>
Total Receipts	\$8,704.83

Receipts by Source

Dues & Donations	\$3,716.83
Auction Items (October 7 meeting)	503.00
Banquet Receipts—October 1 (see Note 1)	2,340.00
East Troy Excursion—August 6	<u>2,145.00</u>
Total Receipts	\$8,704.83

Expenses

Miscellaneous Supplies	\$138.51
Annual Post Office Box Fee	166.00
Insurance—Securian	584.00
East Troy Trolley Museum—Donation	500.00
East Troy Trolley Museum—Excursion on August 6	2,123.72
North Shore Congregational Church-Donation (See Note 2)	660.00
Banquet Cost—October 1	2,247.75
Sales Taxes (there were no taxable sales in 2021)	0.00
Sales Tax License Fee (Wisconsin Dept. of Revenue)	10.00
Check Printing Fee	35.35
Sparks & Cinders (printing, postage & mailing supplies)	<u>2,961.55</u>
Total 2022 Expenses	\$9,426.89
2021 Checks Cleared in 2022	<u>1,254.59</u>
Total Debits for 2022	\$10,681.48

Closing Balances

Closing Checkbook Balance	\$3,091.62
Pay Pal Account Closing Balance	<u>1,719.74</u>
Total	\$4,811.36

Other Assets / Investments

Chase Bank CD (matures March 2023)	\$28,592.66
Heartland (Mutual) Fund (Dec. 31, 2022)	\$81,618.96

Notes to Treasurer's Report

- 1—includes a \$500.00 sponsorship from Wheel Rail Seminars
- 2—\$600.00 to church, and 60.00 to custodial staff (given in 2022)

She concluded that we are in good financial shape. There were no questions on the Treasurer's report.

President Mike Yuhas added that we have appointed a Financial Committee to look into the best use and management of our investments above. He introduced the Committee Chair Ward Wells, who recognized / introduced the other members of the Committee—Bon French, Doug Fast, and Rich Hawthorne. Preliminary recommendations have been presented, and are being discussed. Final recommendations will be published shortly.

Remarks from National President

Chapter President Mike Yuhas introduced NRHS National President Tony White, who is a Wisconsin Chapter member, and was in attendance via Zoom. Tony White noted that the NRHS is 88 years old and going strong. We have members worldwide, and a full Chapter in Japan. All are advancing our missions of railroad history and preservation. We awarded an all-time record of \$99,199.00 in Heritage Grants in 2022. All of that was given out to advance the preservation

of United States railroad history. All of this money came from member contributions. None of it came from dues. Our goal is to award \$125,000.00 in 2023. Contributions can be made together with dues / renewals, or given at any time, to four funds:

- Railroad Heritage (Preservation Grants) Fund
- (Teen Age) Rail Camp Fund
- Film Preservation Fund
- NRHS General Fund

Dues support our two National publications—the *NRHS Bulletin* and the less formal *NRHS News*. Neither of them accept any advertising. They offer 100 per cent historical railroad writings and photos, much of which are not available anywhere else. They offer to all members the opportunity to be published, and have their work seen, on an international level.

Current Wisconsin Chapter President Mike Yuhas is serving, along with Tony White and several others, on the National-level Membership Committee. On-line renewals are increasing. Our renewal rate for 2023 is going very well.

We are always looking for volunteers. Anyone with expertise, free time, or an idea for how they can serve should contact either Tony White or Mike Yuhas.

Acceptance of Treasurer's Report

President Mike Yuhas said that the Treasurer's report was accepted as presented—subject to future audit. No motion or vote was required.

Old Business

The agenda did not show any old business. No one in attendance was aware of any.

New Business

The agenda did not show any new business. No one in attendance was aware of any.

Member Comment

Tom Hoffmann approached the microphone. He had seen a *Waukesha Freeman* story that the Mayor of the City of Pewaukee had come out in favor of extending Amtrak Chicago-Milwaukee Hiawatha service to Madison. Some private citizens from Watertown and elsewhere along the proposed route had expressed their support.

President Mike Yuhas called for any comments from the Zoom virtual meeting room. There were none.

Annual Chapter Election

There were no changes to the list of candidates published in the Wednesday, February 1, e-mail announcement of this meeting:

- President - no candidate

- Vice President - Keith Schmidt
- Secretary - Tom Marcussen
- Treasurer - Tara Grudzielanek
- Director - Dan Grudzielanek
- Director - Andrew Roach
- Director - Neal Wegner
- Director - Ward Wells
- Director - Mike Yuhas

Mike Yuhas asked for any other nominations. There were none.

Mike Yuhas announced that he would entertain a motion to approve the above slate as a group. Ed Koehler made that motion. Jim Rindt seconded it. The motion was presented to the membership for an up-or-down vote. It passed unanimously. We therefore proceeded to a second more formal vote. Mike Yuhas had received two e-mail proxies in favor of the above slate. All eligible members in the Zoom virtual meeting room (polled by electronic quiz) was in favor of the above slate. Two separate raised-hand votes in the physical meeting room—one for “Yes” and one for “No”—were unanimous in favor the above slate. There were no “Nay” votes, or other signs of opposition, from any source. The above slate was declared to be elected.

We then had no new President to take over. Mike Yuhas continued to preside over tonight’s meeting.

Anything Else for the Good of the Order

Mike Yuhas asked if there were any other subjects of discussion. None were offered.

Adjournment

Mike Yuhas announced that he would entertain a motion to adjourn the formal business meeting. Keith Schmidt provided that motion. William Krohn seconded it. All voted “aye.” There were no “nay” votes. The motion carried. The official business meeting was declared adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Presentation

Mike Yuhas introduced our presenter Paul Swanson. Mr. Swanson is the President of the Lake States Railway Historical Association. He will present some selected images from the large collection that our late Wisconsin Chapter member Harry Evans donated to them. Mr. Swanson took over at 8:02 pm. There were then 56 devices in the virtual Zoom meeting room.

Mr. Swanson noted that LSRHA Treasurer Mike Raia was in the back of the room, with brochures showing what they are all about. We got a short summary of what the Lake States Railway Historical Association is and does. They were formed in 2006. Their main on-line website is at www.lsrha.org. Their archives are search-able, and can be accessed directly at www.lakestatesarchive.org. We took a short video tour of their fairly new (built in 2015) 5000 square foot climate controlled facility in Baraboo, Wisconsin. The front 1000 square feet are

their entrance and library space. Most of the rest of the space is for secure storage of their extensive archives. These include photos, drawings, books, and films. They have extensive records of Fairbanks-Morse locomotive production (and maintenance records) from their Beloit, Wisconsin, factory. They have a number of records from the Sheffield Motor Car Company. They are now at approximately 65 per cent of capacity, leaving some more room for additional contributions of high-quality images and records.

Tonight's presentation will be focused exclusively on photos taken by our late Wisconsin Chapter member Harry C. Evans. Harry was born in 1943. He grew up in Winthrop Harbor, Illinois, close the Wisconsin state line, the Chicago & North Western Old Line Subdivision, and the North Shore Line main line. His uncle gifted him with a camera at age 14, in 1957. Harry quickly learned how to use it to take high-quality photographs of trains. He donated his photo collection to the Lake States Railroad Historical Association before he passed away on July 8, 2022

Two of his three children, son David and daughter Christie, were present in the physical meeting room. His wife and their daughter Amy were in the Zoom meeting room. Christie came up to express her appreciation to the LSRHA from the preservation and sharing of her father's work.

The main part of the presentation started with Harry's first rail fan trip, with his older brother who had a driver's license. It showed a Nickel Plate Road freight, with double-headed Berkshires, taken at Knox, Indiana, in 1957. From there we were treated to numerous shots from the last days of steam power, including the Baltimore & Ohio; Duluth, Missabe, & Iron Range; Grand Trunk Western; Rio Grande narrow gauge; Illinois Central; and the local Peppermint & North Western. The P&NW was only open for 1 ½ years, at the Peppermint Farm in Waterford. They had a loop of three-foot narrow-gauge track going around the farm. Their 2-6-2 is preserved (not operational) at Como, Colorado. Harry continued shooting into the diesel era, after many others had quit, providing a valuable record of early diesel power in service. He attended college at Fairfield, Iowa, on the Chicago-Omaha-Denver main line of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. He then worked three years in the traffic and marketing department at the Chicago & North Western. He then went on to non-railroad work, but always maintained his interest in railroad photography. We were treated to numerous images of the above railroads, plus the Milwaukee Road; Elgin, Joliet & Eastern; and the North Shore Line. We saw photos of C&NW 4-6-0 #1385 touring their system in the mid-1980s. Harry continued taking pictures, converting to digital photography, until the last years of his life. There were no questions on the presentation. It ended at 9:12 pm.

Virtual attendance peaked at 58 devices during the presentation. About 52-53 of those stayed until the end. There were 30 attendees in the physical room in the church basement. After subtracting the two devices in the church basement, total peak attendance was 86.

Mike Yuhas repeated the above schedule of upcoming events (in "Announcements" above). He declared the meeting over, and ended the recording, at 9:14 pm. There was no significant online discussion group / chat room. That will take place on Friday, February 10 (above). The on-line Zoom meeting room closed at about 9:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Thomas W. Marcussen
Wisconsin Chapter Secretary