

# Mid-Continent Railway Historical Society, Inc.

## Regular Meeting of the Members

**April 5, 2014**

Location: North Freedom Village Hall, North Freedom, WI

Voting: (20 voting members required)

Life: 15

Current Regular: 5

Non-Voting:

Associate: 13

Guests: 3

**1:00 PM** – Meeting called to order by President Bloohm

**1:07 PM** – The minutes of the November 2, 2013 Annual Meeting of the Members stand approved as read.

### **Reports:**

#### **The president's report was presented.**

Snow Train was better attended with 1200 people in two days. We discontinued the Friday trains and 4:00 PM trains yet we carried more people than the previous year. First class did well at the event. Two steel passenger car trucks were donated that are close to the trucks use by the Lackawanna coaches, and can be used with some modification. They will be shipped once the snow melts. The SOO Line Caboose for sale by Carl Peirce was purchased. The Peirce's also made a restricted gift to the car in the form of a perpetual care fund. The Milwaukee Road Dodge inspection car was sold to IRM. They will come to pick it up once the ground firms up. Their plan is to perform an operational restoration. There was a computer failure in the office, Kelly Bauman and Robert Anderson each donated a new computer to replace the failed ones. There are still some slight issues being worked out, so there may be some delays getting out some mailing. New brochures were delivered before snow train. Randy Long installed the new 1385 displays in the depot. There were about 1000 people attending the open house in February. We have also received a number donations from the event, including a donation by Mr. Garver of three original signed pictures by O. Winston Link. These will likely be sold via an eBay auction with a reserved price. We have switched to a new ticketing system WhistleTix. We will be able to reuse the equipment we already have. We were on Wisconsin Public Television in Milwaukee, Chicago and Madison. We received free advertising in exchange for providing vouchers for those that donated at a certain level. AAA is predicting that due to the cold winter and high heating and fuel

costs, people will be limiting their summer trips to staying close to home, this may work in our favor. The trucks for the DL&W 425 should be coming back soon. We are looking for GE 752-E8 traction motors for the MILW 988. They are newer but should fit as long as the gearing is changed. Also the anonymous challenge grant for the 988 has been met. That gives us \$77,000 for the project. The trucks may be back by the end of the year. The Board of Directors appointed Jeffrey L. Huttenburg to a board appointed three year term at the March Meeting.

**The financial report was presented by president Bloohm.**

The budget for the year was approved in December. It is the second year in a row we have had an approved balanced budget. We have an approved audited financial report. Have not had to borrow out of the line of credit in two years, and likely won't have to this year. Currently we have in the general fund a total of \$47,981.76. That is an amazing amount to have on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Normally at this time of year we would be deeply into the line of credit. This is in part due to paying our insurance in full in October.

**The vice president's report was presented.**

R. Ristow has been appointed as the Superintendent of Dining Services. At the last Board meeting Superintendent Ristow provided an accounting of income and expenses brought in by First Class and Dining services. The report shows that after expenses Snow Train brought in \$9,800 in profit. Superintendent Ristow also appointed J. Huttenburg, C. Vergenz, and A. Spinelli as Assistant Superintendents. There are also ongoing efforts in the office to make projects known to the membership that they may participate in items of interest to them.

**The secretary's report was presented.**

The failure of the office computers caused us to reevaluate the systems in place in the office. Two new computers were installed, and a third was reinstalled in the board room. While some files were lost because of the failures, we were able to recreate most of them. We are now making use of a program available from Microsoft which allows us to store our email and files in their datacenters (Office 365) at little to no cost as the licenses are donated to us. This should prevent a reoccurrence of the file loss.

Collections report was presented by Collections Manager Thiele.

First Class and Dining Services report was presented by Superintendent Ristow.

Operating Department report was presented by Superintendent Bauman.

A report on the status of Saginaw Timber #2 was presented by the owner, R. Lichter.

The Buildings and Grounds report was presented by member J. Busse.

A project to replace the brick around the pavilion with bricks removed from the old depot platform will begin after Mother's Day. Anyone interested should contact Superintendent Hamm. Members should check the member's website for more information about this and other projects.

Member M. Laabs reports that he will need someone to take over the Mid-Continent booth at the Milwaukee Train Fest in November of this year. He has a scheduling conflict.

**The Annual meeting of the members will be held on November 1, 2014 at 2:00PM in the North Freedom Village Hall.**

**Mission Statement:**

There was a lengthy discussion about the status of the current Mission Statement. In general it was felt that the current Mission Statement needs review. There were concerns raised that the dates listed in the Mission Statement are perhaps too narrow. And that some wording may be incorrect. However, others were concerned if they were expanded it may cause us to try to increase our already large collection. It was pointed out that some form of regular review of the Mission Statement is in general a good business practice, and it has been since the 1990's that the Statement was last reviewed.

It is the consensus of the voting members present, that president Bloohm should appoint a committee of the membership that should be charged with carefully reviewing the Mission Statement and report back at the Annual Meeting. The Committee may elect their own chair and recorder. The Committee is comprised of the following members: K. Pickar, M. Laabs, R. Schramm, S. Hamlet, and R. Dischler.

**3:07 PM** – B. Schumacher moves and M. Laabs seconds to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

---

Approved by the membership at the November 1, 2014 Annual Meeting of the members.

Kelly R. Bauman

Secretary

Mid-Continent Railway Historical Society, Inc.