

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS
APRIL 16, 2023
FOX VALLEY DIVISION (FVD), MWR, NMRA**

CALL TO ORDER

The Annual Meeting of the Members of the Fox Valley Division, NMRA, was held at the Gary Morava Recreation Center, 110 West Camp McDonald Road, Prospect Heights, Illinois 60070 and the meeting was also hosted via Zoom Video Conference. The meeting was called to order at 1:01 pm by Superintendent Mike Hirvela who presided over the meeting. The Chief Clerk, Rich Hoker, recorded the minutes.

Others Board members attending were: Asst. Superintendent Denis Zamirowski, Paymaster Tim Kleimeyer, Programs and Clinics Trainmaster Gary Saxton, Contest and Achievement Program Trainmaster Jim Landwehr, Publications and Webmaster Trainmaster Jim Osborn, and Public Affairs Trainmaster Keith Dart. Membership Trainmaster Erich Abens respectfully notified the Superintendent he was unable to attend.

Members: The Annual Meeting date and time had been announced and posted in advance on the FVD website and communicated to the membership at prior FVD regular meetings and in Division publications. There were approximately 25 attendees in the meeting, which included members at the Morava Center and others connected via Zoom. The Zoom conference for both audio and video were operating properly. The Superintendent noted that a quorum was present and declared the meeting as valid to conduct FVD business.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Mike Hirvela welcomed everyone, provided an overview of the topics for the Annual Meeting and a brief summary of the FVD activities and status over the year. The Superintendent noted that during the year the meetings were presented with good success, there were quality clinics, and good discussions. The Superintendent introduced each of the Board members who provided their report as follows:

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Denis Zamirowski presented the Assistant Superintendent's report and commented on the food and beverage service and the Snack Fund for monthly meetings, including explaining that food and beverages are paid with contributions from members.

CHIEF CLERK

The Chief Clerk took minutes of the meetings and noted that eight meetings of the Board were conducted during the year with good Board representation at each meeting. One of the main focuses of the Board during the year was the ability to provide virtual Zoom connections to the live meetings. The Board had invested a significant amount of time and also purchased equipment to facilitate the virtual component of the meetings.

PAYMASTER

Tim Kleimeyer provided the Paymaster's report for the period noting that the financial position of the Division was in good order. The largest expense was the cost of the meeting space for the monthly meetings. Tim was not seeking reelection this year and therefore provided his comments on the prior cost for hosting the annual train show called High Wheeler. The Superintendent noted Tim's long length of service to the FVD and thanked him.

CLINICS & PROGRAMS

Gary Saxton reported that he had coordinated all of clinics for this season and was starting to recruit clinicians for the 2023/2024 season.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS & CONTESTS

Jim Landwehr reported that the Achievement Program and monthly meeting contests had gone well this year. The meeting contests are currently being planned for 2023/2024 season and Jim asked the membership if they had any suggestions for changes in the contest program, they should contact him directly.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS, SOCIAL MEDIA

Keith Dart provided the Public Affairs and Social Media report and noted that he had been updating the Division's Facebook page and had also been assisting with Midwest Region social media activity.

PUBLICATIONS AND WEBMASTER

Jim Osborn provided the Publications and Webmaster report. Jim has assuming the duties of the Publications Trainmaster since that position became vacant. Jim noted that the Semaphore has been published monthly with good content and information. Jim thanked certain members for their contributions over the past couple of years. Jim noted that a new Publications Trainmaster had been identified who would be taking over the Publications Trainmaster role after the May issue of the Semaphore.

With regard to the Webmaster role that Jim also services, Jim noted that the FVD website was up to date and that the website typically has 300-400 visits per month as members look for information. The most popular webpages that are visited are the monthly Semaphore link, listings of model railroad clubs, railroad events and the list of hobby shops.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The transcribed minutes of the prior Annual Meeting dated April 24, 2022 were provide to participants at the Morava Center. A Motion to approve the minutes was made by a member and seconded by another member. On a voice vote, the Motion to approve the prior year minutes was past.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of the Assistant Superintendent and Paymaster are conducted in odd numbered years for a 2 year term. Notice of the election of these two positions had been posted in prior FVD meeting materials and discussed at prior FVD meetings. Denis Zamirowski, the incumbent Assistant Superintendent, agreed to rerun for the position of Assistant Superintendent and submitted his name for re-election. Rich Sieben submitted his name for election to the position of Paymaster. No other candidates presented themselves prior to the Annual Meeting for the two roles. The background information regarding the election as well as the biographies of Denis Zamirowski and Rich Sieben were included in the March 2023 issue of the Semaphore, which was posted on the FVD website. In the Annual Meeting, the Superintendent asked if there were any other candidates who wished to submit their names for the positions of Assistant Superintendent or Paymaster. No additional candidates presented themselves. The Superintendent then received from a member a motion for a unanimous ballot to elect Denis Zamirowski to the position of Assistant Superintendent and a second unanimous ballot to elect Rich Sieben to the position of Paymaster. Both motions were seconded by an additional member. No member requested any additional information or objected to the motion. The Superintendent called a voice vote on the proposal for a unanimous ballot for the two candidates and all members in the room and connected via Zoom agreed with the motions. There were no dissenting votes for either motion. Therefore the motions passed and Denis Zamirowski was elected to the position of Assistant Superintended and Rich Sieben was elected to the position of Paymaster for a period of 2 years.

Meeting dates for the 2023-2024 season were discussed and the Board will consider them at a future meeting.

There was discussion to consider other meeting locations within the division that had been used many years ago, but may have lower fees.

The Superintendent then reviewed upcoming train shows, including one in Franklin Park, Illinois on June 10.

There was additional discussion of the idea of hosting a model railroad show in the future and of hosting a summer outing for the membership.

The attendees were asked if any other discussion matters existed.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, a Motion to adjourn was made by a member and seconded by a separate member. On voice vote, the motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 PM.