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**October 2021**

**Annual Membership Meeting**

The annual meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, Nov 10, 2021, at the depot, at 7:30pm. All members are invited to attend. We will be voting on the slate of club officers for the 2022 year.

The slate of club officers to be voted is as follows:

- President – Dave Mohler
- Vice President – Scott Merritts
- Treasurer – Dave Pastor
- Trustee [3<sup>rd</sup> year] – Bruce Amrine
- Trustee [2<sup>nd</sup> year] – Harold Link [recording secretary]
- Trustee [1<sup>st</sup> year] – Bill Smigielski
- Executive Secretary – Andre Torres
- Immediate Past President – Michael Van Dam

All regular paid members are eligible to vote.

**Annual Dues Increase**

**The Annual Dues** for a regular membership have not been changed since at least 1969. The \$60 regular membership dues, had they been adjusted for inflation, would be over \$450 per year, so our membership is a real bargain. Given the uncertainty of our train show revenue and the expectation of significant future depot maintenance expenses, the board has decided that it is time for a dues increase, and for clarity, we will go to a calendar years basis for dues. We will implement a 3 year plan of stepped dues increases to lessen the “pain”.

So for 2022, due Jan. 1, dues will be \$90, for a regular membership.

2023 will be \$120

2024 will be \$150

Associate and Junior memberships will remain at \$25 for now.

**Train Show Update**

Due to the Covid-19 public health restrictions and uncertainty for the future restrictions we don't know if the 2022 Train Show will take place, however we have decided to proceed as if it will. We can cancel it if necessary.

## Work Projects – Some are Stay-At-Home

There's plenty to do if you are interested. Do you have skills to share or would you like to learn something new? Do you have an idea that you would like to propose?

Repair the **Jackson depot**. It's in need of some repair and roof straightening. It's the first thing visitors see as they enter the building and a great place for a well detailed scene.

Finish the **A&W** in Dexter. It's partially completed and needs to be finished and painted.

**Chelsea depot, Jiffy Mix**. These will be new scratch-built structures. See Kevin for details.

**Scenery, ballast, trees**. There are numerous places where small ballast repairs are needed. You can never have too many trees and we have the makings for many more foreground trees. There are lots of opportunities for scene details. Use your imagination and propose a scene.

**Rolling Stock**. Check and adjust couplers, wheels and car weight. Scott has been working on this for some time and is a master. He'll teach you the ropes and how to weather the cars. Repair **club locomotives**. Install sound decoders and speakers in club locomotives. We have quite a few blue engines that potentially run well but just need some TLC. We need to start installing occupancy detection resistance in all end-of-train cars and cabooses so they will be detected on the lower loop.

**Trackwork**. There are a few places where track and switches cause frequent stalls, shorts and/or derailments. Any of these need to be identified and corrected.

**Plastic Layout Screen**. This can be extended in several places. See Bruce for details.

**Club Historic Archive**. We have many historic pictures, drawings, documents and other artifacts relating to railroading history and the Dexter Depot building that should be catalogued and preserved in accordance with our mission as a historical society. We need someone to take responsibility as the **Club Archivist** to insure the preservation and proper care of these items. This would be a good opportunity for someone with a special interest in railroading history.

**See Fabian, Bruce or Dave Mohler if you're interested in any of these projects.**

## Electrical Upgrade and Rewire

The electrical work is mostly complete and the layout is fully operational. There is still some ongoing finishing work but it does not interfere with running trains.

## 75th Anniversary

2021 will mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club. If you have any ideas for how we might celebrate, please bring them to a board member or meeting.