

# Wisconsin Society of Automotive Historians

wisconsin-auto-historians.org

## July 2024 Newsletter

### Officers

President: Ken Nimocks  
Vice-President: Don Gullikson  
Secretary: Dan Manola  
Treasurer: Gary Koehnke

### Directors

Don Chandler  
Jim Morris  
Jessica Zdanowicz

### July meeting/event announcement and details

#### President's message

#### Minutes from April 13, 2024 meeting

#### **JULY WSAH MEETING/EVENT, FRIDAY JULY 12, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.**

Our annual summer WSAH meeting will be held on the Lola Car Show grounds in the Special Exhibit area of the main building (now called the Convention Center). We will plan to hold the meeting in one of the back offices as we have in the past. Please check at our WSAH table ahead of time for the exact location. The meeting agenda can be summarized in a few words: Where do we go from here?

#### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

I sent a group email asking for volunteers to help at the Lola Car Show and the response was minimal and all "veteran volunteers." If anyone missed reading that email and/or still would like to help, please contact me (email [knimocks@netnet.net](mailto:knimocks@netnet.net) or call or text 920-655-2740) and I can get you set up with details, answer questions, and mail you a volunteer packet. I have already mailed packets to those who have let me know they will help. At our WSAH table we will have sign-up sheets for Wednesday through Saturday hours and lists of tasks so volunteers can dig in and help without having to be always directed. I am hoping we can have great coverage throughout the show.

At our meeting, as stated above, we will have to determine the future of WSAH. Shall we become a social group with our shared interest in automotive history? Shall we become a service organization offering financial support to other non-profits? Please be prepared to voice your opinions.

#### **MINUTES from WSAH Spring Meeting, Saturday April 13, 2024**

On a very beautiful day in April with comfortable Wisconsin weather the following members of the Wisconsin Society of Automotive Historians met at our usual Spring meeting place at the Wisconsin Automotive Museum in Hartford. Those members included President, Ken Nimocks; Vice President, Don Gullikson; Treasurer, Gary Koehnke; Wisconsin Historical Society Liaison, George Tesar; Museum Curator, Dawn Bondhus Mueller; Directors, Don Chandler and Jim Morris; Secretary, Dan Manola, and members Dan Sharpee, Victor Vlasak, Randy Nimocks, Greg Vanark, Gene Steinfeldt,

Gary Kaphingst, and our National Liaison officer of the SAH, Robert Barr. President Ken Nimocks called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

First order of business was to discuss the minutes of the January meeting at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. Minutes were read and a motion to accept the minutes was made and seconded. Next was the reading by Gary Koehnke of the treasurer's report. A motion to accept the report was made by Dan Sharpee and seconded by Don Gullikson. As per our usual business of making a motion to donate money to the Wisconsin Auto Museum, Greg Vanark suggested an amount of \$1,000 to be given by our group and seconded by Gary Koehnke.

Discussion of some changes at the Iola Car Show are placement of only two tables for the Wisconsin Society of Automotive Historians area of the building. All sales of merchandise has been transferred to the retail site adjacent to Otto's Bar in the building. We would most likely only be distributing directories and helpful information of things at the show. It was suggested we ask Iola to place some enlarged posters of Wisconsin manufactured automobiles in the building where our tables would be located.

An attempt to help with the volunteering of assistance at the show was brought up for discussion. Ken has shown a sign-up sheet which those willing to help can sign up with their times they are available. Wednesday is a particularly busy day with placement of vehicles in the building, removal and recapping fuel tank caps with a baggie and the disconnecting of a battery clamps. Also, the roping off of certain areas needs to be accomplished.

New Business - Member George Tesar decided that it should be appropriate to bring up the subject as to what our role as automotive historians should be. He gave several points that he felt were important to consider, these being 1) Explore, 2) Examine, 3) Study, 4) Assess, 5) Conclude, 6) Summarize, 7) Publish. George gave a number of examples of books he has read and what each example did to show a point. He brought forth very good information as to how this all can be accomplished as writers of this material. He brought the topics of how auto history has a place in demonstrating how changes in the chosen topics of autos has changed, such as the relatively new engagement of the masses gravitating towards electrical vehicles. His information he has put forth will be a well explored topic for future reading and writing on the subject.

Member Robert Barr has said much is changing in the way that the National SAH is moving forward. Because President Ken Nimocks will be stepping down as president, what adjustments, if any, should we make in the movement of officers. Bob said in many ways the structure of our group need not be dependent upon who are the officers, but rather what roles can we each accept to hold and how members, committees, or groups can manage the tasks we want to accomplish. Bob said the National now looks differently on the chapters, that having very structured elements in the chapters is unnecessary. Our group surely would like to free up some of the responsibilities that Ken has long managed and give him more free time at Iola for other interests. This and other topics will be discussed at the July meeting at Iola with meeting information being published in the next Newsletter. President Ken Nimocks concluded the meeting and adjourned at 3:20.

Respectfully submitted, Dan Manola, Secretary