

Northwest Michigan Engine and Threshers Club, Inc.

Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes

Date: April 17, 2026

Time: 7:30 pm

Place: Clubhouse

Executive Board Members Present: President Blain Tarrant, Vice President Ham Hobson, Secretary Kelley VanAlstine, Financial Secretary Barb Hobson, Treasurer Jan Clous, Trustees- Larry Clous, Brandon Jenkins, Jim Luper, Lisa Gulliver, Bill Fenton, Scott Overman, Past President Todd Benson

The meeting was called to order by President Blain Tarrant.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and an opening prayer was given by David VanAlstine.

Three member deaths were reported: Geneva Cornell 12/20/25, Bob Buskirk 1/08/26, and Louis Sweet 12/28/25.

Two exhibitor deaths were reported: Randy Schuberg 11/22/25 and Walter Rohn 4/02/26

Kathy Nichols, Casy Gunnett's mother, also passed away on 11/23/25.

A moment of silence was given in their honor.

There were several members who experienced illnesses over the winter. Member, Lee Lowing has been diagnosed with cancer.

Blain introduced the newest trustee, Scott Oeverman, who is replacing Greg Thon on the board.

The minutes from the November 2025 meeting were read and approved.

Financial secretary Barb Hobson read the income reports for the months of November 2025 through March 2026. Total income for those months was \$41,452.96.

Treasurer Jan Clous read the expense reports for the months of November 2025 through March 2026. Total expenses were \$83,052.73 for those months. This leaves a checking account balance of \$41,996.60, and \$139,389.34 in the money market account.

A motion to accept the financial reports as read was made by Kevin Beerens, 2nd by Dan Ockert. Motion approved.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The club received thank you notes from the three scholarship recipients, Dawson Clous, Amelia Holzschu and Ethan Fuller. A letter was also received from Boots for Kids thanking the members for their generous donation of \$731.87 collected at the October and November meetings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

New Members: There were no new members to report for the month of April.

Donations: Carl VanWylen shared that a unique butterchurn has been donated.

A very large donation from the Underwood family has also been offered to the club. The family owns a water powered wood shop in Stanwood. Consumers Power Company has forced a buy out through an emanate domain near the Rogers Dam. The family is getting rid of all of the contents of the shop. They have donated anything to the club that we would be interested in taking. Several club members have toured the building and started sorting and packing some of the smaller items. There are many artifacts that the club plans to make use of. A date will be set when a group can get together to move the larger items. Cory Wall has donated the use of a hoop barn for temporary storage of some of the items.

Train: Pete Labelle shared that there is no major work necessary for the train this year, just some smaller maintenance projects. There are some ties that need replaced as well. Paul Wilson from the UP is interested in purchasing the old green railroad car to display in his museum. Pete asked for volunteers to help take the wooden frame off from the car. It is full of old bus seats that are free for the taking. The train committee would like to take a few usable parts off from it before it is considered for sale. Pete is also looking for someone with a dump cart to pick up a load of firewood and haul it from Kelly Green's property to the showgrounds. The little train building needs stained. Pete has found a source that has a large surplus of quality oil based stain that is available for purchase for \$10 - \$15 per gallon. Please see Pete if you know of any other projects that could benefit from this deal.

Grounds Maintenance- There is a large amount of spring cleanup that needs done on the showgrounds. There are several large tree branches that need cut up and

removed. This is a priority in the areas where the swap meet will be held in May. Raking and general yard maintenance needs done as well.

Building Maintenance- There are always smaller buildings that need painted and maintained throughout the year.

Advertising Book- Todd Benson informed the members that the advertising books are at the printers and should be available for the May show. He praised Kevin Beeren for his hard work on the ad sales and entertainment. He believes the sales exceeded the cost of printing the book. Carl also shared that many great articles were submitted from members as well.

Oil Well Lease: Ham Hobson shared that our lawyer has been helping us work with the new owners of the oil well to get a new lease contract signed. The club has received two payments from them so far but there is still no agreement on a fair lease contract.

Swap Meet- Jim Luper asked the members to take flyers for the Swap Meet and Car Show and distribute them throughout our communities. The swap meet will be held on Friday and Saturday, May 15th and 16th. The car show will only be on Saturday. Jim shared that the first 20 cars will receive a free lunch voucher from Betty's Brats food truck which will be on the grounds for the show.

Budget Requests- Please get any budget requests turned in as soon as possible for any projects you would like to see done this spring.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Priority Projects-

- Tear out old wooden boardwalk in front of the sound booth and replace with concrete.
- Leveling work from the chapel to the sound booth.
- Museum roof ridge cap will be replaced.
- Install porch roofing on the post office.
- Clubhouse roof repair around the chimney
- Town Hall painting will be done by hired painters. We will be getting quotes for this project.
- Clubhouse main doors, shower room doors and bathroom doors will be replaced.
- Address roof leaks in the steam building and discussion of an addition with possibility of grant assistance.
- Oil field building committee will be starting a foundation for a lean to building for displaying the Kahlenburg engine. They will be getting quotes for the cost of this project.

- Improve drainage from the pavilion to the oil field building by installing a French drain. Jake Fisher and Ham will be working on this project.
- Foundry- The foundry building will be getting a new metal roof and siding. We need quotes for supplies and members to volunteer to help with this project.
- Sand and finish the floor in the Toy Box. One interior wall needs to be finished before the floor can be done. See Carl if you can help.

NEW BUSINESS:

Flea Market Parking Area: The area behind the caretakers house will be converted into a designated parking area for members and guests to use when they are at the flea market. This will alleviate the problem of tractors and carts parking all over by the flea market, causing a great deal of congestion in that area. The campers that have been camping there will be moving to an approved camping spot on the show grounds. It is currently not a designated camping area according to our permit.

Internal Shuttle System: A blue ribbon committee, lead by Bill Fenton, has been created to develop a shuttle system that will run on a continuous route with designated stops on the show grounds during the show. This will also include stops in the campgrounds and generator area. The committee has been studying a map of the grounds to come up with an effective route layout. Bill has been looking into running gear options and costs so new shuttles can be built. This new shuttle system will require adequate tractors and manpower for it to be successful.

Camping Permit: Ham shared that there has been some confusion with our camping permits. They have the numbers of primitive camping and the temporary camping areas switched around. A letter has been sent to the state for clarification.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Sarah Fenton updated the members on the club's social media accounts. Since last July, the Instagram and Tik Tok accounts have reached almost 100,000 views. Sarah thanked everyone who has helped make this happen.

Bill Fenton reminded members to continue to log your work hours. He shared that 28,000 hours were logged last year. This helps with our non-profit and grants.

The golf cart list has been updated by the eBoard. We have eliminated several golf carts from the committee lists due to the high cost of renting them. Blain encouraged members to bring their own carts or side by sides if they can. The club will provide fuel

if they are being used for club business. All member carts need to be registered, have proof of insurance on file and a high visibility flag. See Kim Yanich for details.

Please turn in any reimbursement requests as soon as possible. They must be received in the same expenditure year. Please cash any check that you receive. This helps Jan and the accountants keep efficient financial books.

The club's rules and regulations, including admission and camping fees, have been updated. They are available for view on the website.

The vendor contracts have all been updated and have been written to be cohesive. All contracts will be reviewed and approved by the eBoard in July. If any changes are requested, they must be presented to the eBoard before the July meeting.

Please sign the get well cards and the sign in sheet.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.