

Northwest Michigan Engine and Thresher Club, Inc

Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes

Date: September 11, 2026 Time: 7:30 PM Location: Sam Zue`Building

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

The meeting was called to order by President Blain Tarrant. The Pledge was recited and a prayer was given by David VanAlstine.

A moment of silence was held in remembrance of the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy. No deaths or illnesses were reported.

The August meeting minutes were read and approved.

The financial secretary's report was read by Barb Hobson. She reported income of \$401,836.79, including interest of \$5.09 in checking and \$123.32 interest in the money market savings account.

The treasurer's report was read by Jan Clous. She reported \$133,429.16 in total expenses for the month of August. This leaves a bank balance of \$297,611.69 and \$100,223.10 in the money market account. The financial reports were approved as read.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

New Members: Lesa Rice introduced 3 new members to the club; Michelle Herban, Noelle Wallace, and Raymond Wallace. They were all welcomed by the members in attendance.

Donations: Carl VanWylen shared that a Studebaker wagon, 3 small homemade hot air engines, and a Building 37 model steam engine have all been donated, as well as several G scale electric trains.

Train: Blain shared that Pete Labelle is looking for a crew to help scrap out the old railroad car in October. If you can help with this, please contact Pete for more details.

Grounds Maintenance: Winterizing of the buildings will start after Education Days and be completed after the October meetings.

Projects: Blain has 2 different contractors scheduled to come and give estimates for siding the town hall. He will update the members in October of the progress.

Committee Reports: There were no additional reports from any committees.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

60TH Anniversary Show: Jim Luper shared a few ideas he has come up with for the 60th anniversary show next year. He suggested featuring young people who own their own tractors and the possibility of bringing in some tractors from the first shows. David VanAlstine mentioned showcasing anything that has the number 60 in it, such as a John Deere 60 or anything else that 60 applies to. Blain asked the members to share their ideas and reach out to Jim as soon as possible so we can start planning.

NEW BUSINESS:

Education Days: This year will be the 26th annual education days. The club will be hosting 14 schools over 2 days. Please sign up to be a guide or volunteer to help where you can.

Jerrod Ruble Foundation: Carl VanWylen would like to write a grant to the Jerrod Ruble Foundation to pursue a multi-purpose pole barn for our showgrounds. It would be used for storage during non-show time and a flea market/food vendor area during the show. There are no guarantees that the club will receive the

grant. Paul Raffel made a motion that Carl write for a grant for the multi-purpose building. Ron Stark seconded the motion. Motion carried.

JI Case Foundation: The club has the opportunity to host the JI Case Foundation national meet in 2029. This club is the largest club of Case collectors in the nation. This would bring a lot of attention to our show. Melissa Embody made a motion to pursue hosting the JI Case national meet in 2029. Randy Rice seconded. Motion carried.

Social Media: Sarah Fenton gave a presentation on the success of our social media accounts. She shared that Instagram, TikTok, and our website have all been very active with viewers. The views have all been very diverse with male and female viewers of all ages.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Committee Chairs: Blain informed the members that we are in need of several different committee chairs. The parking lot shuttles are in the process of being reconfigured with new committee heads. There is a need for 2 people to be committee chairs for the bus route. The chapel needs a co-chair and the toybox needs someone to become the head of that committee. Please consider stepping up and helping fill some of these positions.

Reimbursements: Blain reminded anyone needing reimbursement that they need to complete the request in the same expenditure year. Please get your paperwork turned in.

Scholarships: All scholarship applications need to be submitted and mailed to the club's post office box by November 1 for consideration by the eBoard.

This ended all of the club business for the September meeting.

ELECTION: In the absence of past president Todd Benson, Jan Clous led the election portion of the meeting. She announced the candidates for the upcoming October election. The following members have submitted their intent:

President: Blain Tarrant

Vice President: Ham Hobson

Secretary: Kelley VanAlstine

Financial Secretary: Barb Hobson

Treasurer (1 Position): Sarah Fenton and Lisa Gulliver

Three Year Trustee (2 Open Positions): Paul Raffel, Bill Fenton and Chris Grouix

There were no nominations from the floor.

Jan informed the members that all absentee ballots must be requested by September 21. They must be postmarked by September 28 when returned. She encouraged everyone to follow the instructions carefully to ensure their ballot is not spoiled and countable.

Several of the candidates shared with the members why they would like to hold an office.

With no further election business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.