

## **Wheeling Wheelmen Board Meeting February 2, 2023 7:00 PM Via Zoom**

Present: Roland Cooper, President, Neal Barg, VP Ride Chair, Flo Bvunzawabaya, Membership, Johannes Smits, Treasurer and Webmaster, Keith Carlson, Secretary, and Scott Assmann, St Pat's Ride Chair.

**Preliminaries:** Roland introduced himself and each board member. With new individuals comes change and growth. With a new year come fresh opportunities and a belief that we can put a smile on each club member and allow more people to enjoy cycling and friendship. We discussed many subjects that make Wheeling Wheelmen distinct from other clubs and what we need to continue this long tradition. True progress has been made in some areas and in others, decisions are pending.

**St Pat's Ride: Sunday March 19<sup>th</sup> 2023:** at Wauconda High school

The event is off to a great start. Scott has received the necessary permissions. Promotional ads and posters are in the works. Wauconda HS is set and many volunteer positions are filled. Johannes added a sign up on Wheelmen.com to fill the open slots. Reminders will go out shortly about the baked goods needed to offer the participants. We will purchase new window flags for SAG vehicles to display that are easier for ride participants to see. We need more volunteers and, as in the past, baked goods for participants. This is our introduction to surrounding clubs for 2023. It is up to us to show that we are more about the joy of cycling than pulling in entry fees.

**The Phyllis Harmon Founders Day Picnic: Sunday July 16, 2023:** at Heron Creek Forest Preserve

The reservation for Shelter B had been secured, so reserve the date for this important club ride.

**Harmon Hundred: Sunday September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023** at Wilmot High School, Wisconsin

At the President's urging, Step 1 is complete. The date is reserved at Wilmot and reservations for Eagle Lake and Kaskin Park (Town of Randall) have been made. Next step, which is already progressing, is to sign leaders for each major aspect – Harmon Chair, Eagle Lake, Kaskin Park, Food, Registration, and Road Markings. There is a great concern that without the leaders mentioned we can't put this event on as expected. Flo pointed out that that we should find some folks to help out even if they are not current members. Never-the-less we are proceeding as in the past. Yes, the Harmon is now a week after the Northshore Century, but they do not offer peace, serenity, and fall colors. Please step up now to lead one of the sections. The better we are prepared, the more smiles we'll see on rider's faces.

**Chili Ride and Banquiday:** These dates will be announced later in the year.

**April Meeting at Crank Revolution Bike Store:**

There was a report that the store will have a Specialized Day bike demo in April. Information about it will be distributed via Group.oi when we find out more.

Officer Reports:

**Membership Chair:** Flo met with Emily for a good transition for the Membership Chair position. Flo working on addressing the member renewals and new members, and beginning to send out the member letter and membership cards as needed. Just received the updated artwork for that.

**Meetup App:** Emily has been the moderator. We definitely want that social media presence. How we will address that is uncertain and needs to be pursued. Some stated that they were receiving way too many emails for each and every upcoming ride but, after seeing new faces and gaining great members, it is known to be a positive for the club. No doubt there was a learning curve for using this new tool and extra thanks to those who literally spent hours behind the scenes making the postings both informative and attractive. "We still have much to learn" per Flo. The board agrees.

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**VP Ride Chair:** Neal explained his efforts to establish the ride calendar and how the process works. He emphasized that his weekly publication of the ride schedule from Groups.io is the most up to date information regarding Ride Hosts and routes. Roland intends to make sure that all members are signed up to receive the Group.io messages. Neal stated that he receives requests for other start locations and routes, but that some of those past additions were poorly attended. The board asked him to continue to look into that as the season moves along. With Gilmer reopen for us (Hooray!) some of the standard rides will feel new again with the change in scenery.

**Treasurer and WebMaster:** This summary is way too short for the contribution that Johannes has been providing but when finances are strong enough to keep us going and tax filings are being made, life is beautiful.

**Publicity:** This position is still open so we are pursuing what we can individually as it relates to our upcoming calendar of events. An updated ad will be submitted to the Illinois Ride Guide by Scott Assmann. Discussions will be held with Wisconsin Bike Federation. The board must work against very tight deadlines in this regard.

Other open issues:

**Jerseys:** Still a work in process. Scott explained the difficulties he had trying to find a vendor willing to make a small quantity of quality jerseys at an affordable price point. Covid has exasperated all the difficulties that go into having a small run of specialty apparel made – design, colors, quality, minimum quantities, price, lead-time, and trust. Scott also stated that obtaining a sizing kit from any vendor has become almost impossible because much of the product is produced overseas. We want to have jerseys available for new members to purchase, so new members are not disappointed.

**Stop as Yield Campaign:** This advocacy effort to change Illinois law allowing cyclists, when the path is clear, to yield rather than stop at stop signs is beginning to take shape. This option is available in other states but in Illinois, the law sees little distinction between bicycles and cars. A campaign is beginning to start spreading the word. Roland explained that we will begin a process of petitions and letters to organizations and legislators to update the Illinois Bicycle rules of the roads to include the “Idaho Stop”. With a new Secretary of State in Illinois, it is possible that this demand could be favorably viewed. There are 7 other states with this law in place. Illinois could lead the way for the Midwest. This campaign will begin soon and information will be sent to club members about the next steps.

**Next Board Meeting:** A date in Mid to later February will be promulgated.

Meeting was adjourned:

Respectfully submitted: Keith Carlson Secretary   February 7, 2023