

THE WINNEBAGOLAND WHISTLE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WINNEBAGOLAND DIVISION
MIDWEST REGION – NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 52, ISSUE No. 3

FALL 2019

Iron monolith | Fire breathing within | Snow commotion

COVER PHOTO:

Derelict cars from the Quincy Ore Mine in Hancock, Michigan. A self-guided tour of the mine was arranged by John Leow for the 2019 WLD Fall meet.

Story starts on Page 3

Photo by Paul Hillmer.



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Superintendent's Report

By Andy Dorsch

This summer has been an eventful one! The Big Boy 4014 has come and gone; did you get to see it? I did, it was an experience I'll never forget. The 150th anniversary of the 'Golden Spike' in Promontory Summit UT. But Fall is here! The leaves are starting to turn, farmers are in the fields harvesting their crops and mosquito's reign of terror is finally coming to a close! For most of us fall signifies a return to the basement (or train room)! Summer fun activities give way to sitting at our workbenches and dusting off our model railroads. I for one will be setting down my fishing poles and getting back to work on my layout!

Division News: WLD Fall Meet Wrap-up, Hancock MI

I want to thank John and Paul Leow for organizing and putting on the Winnebagoland Division Fall Meet in Hancock Michigan. Regrettably I did not get to attend this event, however I did get a report back from John as well as our Winnebagoland roving reporter Paul Hillmer. Overall the program was chock full of railroad history surrounding the copper country. The photos I saw from the Quincy Mine tour and Quincy & Torch Lake Roundhouse gave me a taste of influence the railroads had on the area. Even though I failed to see these artifacts at the fall meet, it will certainly be a railroad destination I add to my ever-growing list of things to see! If you did not attend the event, I encourage you check out our Division's Facebook group page (Winnebagoland Division, NMRA) where John and Paul tirelessly documented their activities throughout the weekend. Hats off to those that attended!

Upcoming Events

Marshfield Train Show: October 19-20, 2019

Chicagoland RPM Meet: October 24-26, 2019 – Lisle, IL
The Registration Table will open at 9:00 AM on Thursday, October 24, outside the ballroom. On

(Continued on page 2)



Superintendent's Report

(Continued from page 1)

Friday and Saturday it will open at 8:00 AM with Seminars beginning at 9:00 AM. Attendees and Speakers can register here for the event, either paying online with a credit card or PayPal account, or by printing a registration invoice and mailing a check. Vendors and Exhibitors can register on the Exhibitor page at <https://www.rpmconference.com/index.php/events/2019-rpm-exhibitors/> Online registration will be open until 7:00 PM CST on 10/16/2017, after which time registration will be accepted on-site. The price for one-day admission on Saturday, October 26, is \$35 cash at the door and will provide access to the vendor/display room and seminar schedule for that day.

WLD Fall - Ops Session will be Saturday, November 2nd, 2019 and will be in the Sheboygan area more information to follow.

Trainfest will be held at Wisconsin State Fair park November 9th and 10th of this year. It should be noted that Trainfest this year will host the Midwest Region B.O.D. meeting as well.

The Super's Sign Off

I stated in my first Superintendent report that my goals would focus on 4 key areas, Engagement, Entertainment, Experience and Education. You may have noticed that we're taking to social media. We are posting to our Facebook Group page more often and having fun while doing it! More importantly we want you to get out there and post stuff to our Facebook page too and join in the fun!

We've made one little change...big deal right? That doesn't mean we're going to stop there. Your officers and board of directors are working very hard to make your experience in the Winnebagoland Division the best it can be. We are taking a look at how we are structuring our meets, how we can reach out to our membership and how we can get you, our member, the most value for your dues!

That being said, I want to hear what you have to say. We can't make it better for you if we don't know what you're thinking. My door (virtual door ☺) is always open, I want you to email me your thoughts, comments, likes and dislikes with the Winnebagoland Division. My email is andy.dorsch@gmail.com, or reach out to me on Facebook, Andy Dorsch.

Alright, those are my thoughts! I am very excited for Model Railroad season; I can't wait to get back to the trainroom!
— Andy

[Editor's Note: Check out the Membership Profile (by the numbers) Andy put together... at the end of this issue. Very interesting, take from it what you will!]

View From the Cab

Your Editor

How many of you have heard the term "Fake News!" and groan at how much of our social media has devolved into mockery, political correctness, endless advertisements, irrelevant celebrity streaming, comments full of personal attacks, questionable (at best) marketing schemes, etc.? Well, it's not all like that!

Have you checked out the WLD's Facebook page recently? Not long ago, Paul Hillmer was designated our Director of Social Media... those of you who follow his personal page know he posts A LOT, usually about live music, his backyard pool or his daughters and their families. With tons of photos (including, yes, selfies!). So he's been putting those skills to the service of your Division, making sure to update everyone on conventions, meets, shows, and other Division activities. In fact, most of the photos for our Fall Meet recap were taken by Paul as he participated for the weekend.

That enthusiasm has spread recently to include our new Super and Assistant Super, Andy Dorsch and Mike Ostertag, respectively. They're both doing a great job trying to reach out and involve everyone in the Division by soliciting feedback, comments, and follow-up posts. Recent topics have been as simple as informal polls for everyone's favorite railroads to model, or photos of your modeling workshop.

Now that fall is here and winter's again around the corner (hopefully this year's history of wet weather doesn't carry that heavily when it's cold!), we'd like to encourage everyone to share their own experiences and thoughts from this summer on the page. Maybe you'd like to share your latest project, some prototype photos, or just pontificate on the latest news out of Soddy Daisy, Tennessee. Everyone's welcome and nobody's going to chastise anyone for choosing S over HO or Rock Island over C&NW (well, maybe a *little* jab is in order for the latter)!

Our page is "Winnebagoland Division, NMRA", check it out, and thank you to Paul, Andy, Mike, and everyone else who have been engaging lately!

Of course, opportunity for more in-depth sharing is available on this *Whistle* platform, so feel free to send me your articles, photos, jokes, recipes, opinion pieces, etc.

As for me, I'll be continuing to clean up my wet basement (like several others who have posted lately with similar woes) and get back to the business of modeling after a summer of camping and mosquitoes. Check out the upcoming Division operating session, and I hope to see you at Trainfest in November!

Until next time, keep on trainin'! — Todd
tbushmaker@sbcglobal.net

WLD Fall Meet Wrap-UP

By John Leow

The WLD Fall Meet was held in Hancock, Michigan on September 6-7, 2019. Twenty people attended the meet, split evenly between members and non-members. Although the turnout was small, I think everyone enjoyed themselves.

Because of the low turnout, we were forced to cancel the activities at the Quincy Mine that were planned for Friday. This was disappointing for those that signed up for the personalized tours, but many of the attendees used the time to take advantage of other opportunities in the area.



The meet on Saturday started off as usual, with registration and model and photo contests. We had some really good entries in both contests, with David Zolnierek (a visitor from the North Central Region) sweeping the model contest, while two Pauls (Paul Hillmer and Paul Leow) took the photo contest awards.

Our first clinic was presented by Lynnette Webber from the National Park Service, and covered the depots and other structures in Calumet. Calumet was a happenin' place back around the turn of the last century, with several railroads of varying gauges vying for customers. Lynnette also talked about techniques she uses today to identify these structures, many of which have been altered or even moved in the last 100+ years.



Our second clinic was presented by Pat Thoney from Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Pat talked about his version of the Quincy and Torch Lake Railroad, which he models in On30. He started with some basic history of the Q&TL, and then explained how he adapted it to his layout. He is also a big proponent of operation, so he also explained how the railroad will be operated.



(Continued on page 5)

Fall Operating Session

By Scott Payne

All members and guests are invited to participate!

This year the Fall Op Sessions will be held at:

Ivan Ver Gowe's freelanced CNW based double decked layout, with a bit of the Green Bay and Western and Ann Arbor. It has car ferry operations switching both Wisconsin and Michigan ports. Coal trains with loading and unloading live loads. Various switching of industries along the mainline. The layout can handle 4 operators. It utilizes NCE radio DCC and RailOp for car forwarding.

Peter Turk's MPTSRR is a 60's themed, point to point pike featuring the Milwaukee Road. It has 1960's diesels and at present has only freight service. It is double decked and spread out through three rooms. It utilizes a car card system. It utilizes NCE radio DCC. The layout can handle 6 operators.

The layouts are located in Adell (Hwy 57, south of Waldo) and Gibberville (Hwy 32, SW of Sheboygan), respectively.

Plan on attending and having a great time operating and socializing with like-minded modelers.

The registration form to attend the Session is available at the end of this *Whistle* and on the WLD website. Please fill it out and forward it as directed.

Scott Payne

WLD Op Session Coordinator

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Fall Photo Contest

By Joe Lallensack

**Fall Meet 2019 Photo Contest
Hancock, MI on September 7, 2019**

Best of Show:

Paul Hillmer – Prototype Color Print, Mineral Range RR Railfan special

First Place, Prototype Color Print:

Paul Hillmer – 8380 Blue sky at IRM

Second Place, Prototype Color Print:

Emory Luebke - UP Big Boy east of Oxford, WI

First Place, Model Color Print:

Paul Leow - D&RGW T-12 4-6-0 and C&S 4-6-0

Second Place, Model Color Print:

Paul Hillmer - Century City Roundhouse, Backing in '17

Third Place, Model Color Print:

Paul Leow - NYC Alco switcher

It was a small contest with only 9 entries, the same as we had in Stevens Point in the spring. There were again 3 entrants but they were in only two categories. Every entrant got an award! I was assisted by John Leow in the judging. The judging process was challenging due to having only two judges.

Due to the low turnout at the meet, we had some very nice photos. We encourage anyone to bring photos to the next Meet for a fun contest. All that we ask that the photos be at least 5 x 7 but no larger than 11 x 14. We also like them mounted to allow handling during judging.

Joe Lallensack

Photo Contest Chairman



WLD Fall Meet Wrap-UP

By John Leow, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 3)



Our last clinic was presented by Dennis Leopold of Mason, Michigan. Dennis presented a history of the Copper Range Railroad, using some of the many pictures he has accumulated over the years. He included a brief history of the Copper Range Mining Company as well, and covered the railroad from its inception to the final run.

After a delicious miner's lunch consisting of a pasty,



cole slaw, pop, and a cookie (nobody left hungry!), Chuck Pomazal of Dixon, Illinois gave a presentation on the restoration of Quincy and Torch Lake locomotive #6. Chuck and his crew have been working on this project for ten years or so, and the loco looks quite different now than when they started.

The afternoon was dedicated to exploring the area around Hancock. The QT&L enginehouse was open for inspection, and #6 and other on-going projects proved to be a big hit. The Houghton County Historical Society in Lake Linden opened up their club layout, and many of the participants got to ride (and operate!) the small gas mechanical 3' gauge railroad there.

Although the turnout was not what I had hoped, and Friday's activities had to be cancelled, I still think the meet was a success for those that attended. They got a taste of a part of the Division that is a bit off the beaten path but chock full of history, much of which is still around if you're willing to look for it. Many thanks to Olivia Myers at Finlandia University, Lynnette Webber from the NPS in Calumet, Chuck Pomazal, Pat Thoney, and Dennis Leopold. Also, last but not least, my wife Renee who was a huge help in organizing the meal and hotel rooms.



BEHOLD!

This issue's primary photog... thanks Paul!

More photos on page 7...

Railroading Merit Badge

By Paul Mastalir



The Railroading Merit Badge Workshop is scheduled for Saturday November 2, 2019 at the National Railroad Museum in Green Bay. The Merit Badge is an award in the Scouting Program earned after a scout investigates the subject and

can demonstrate knowledge in the subject area. The Scouting Program is an approved emphasis program of the National Model Railroaders Association. Any scout interested in completing the qualifications for the merit badge is encouraged to register in the one day session at: nationalrrmuseum.org. Go to education -programs and register electronically. The program will accommodate up to 300 scouts.

*John Leow, why are you sleeping standing up in front of QT&L #6?
Must have been a hard day workin' on the railroad!*



Rural Freight

By Rob Mentzer, Wisconsin Public Radio

Lack Of Freight Trains Does Damage To Wisconsin's Rural Roads, Advocates Say

Rhineland Hearing Makes Case For Expanding Northwoods Freight Rail Access

Wisconsin's Northwoods needs more freight trains. That was the message of a public hearing recently in Rhineland organized by state Sen. Tom Tiffany, R-Minocqua, and Michigan state Sen. Ed McBroom, who represents the Upper Peninsula.

Freight rail service has been expanding across the state, but far northeastern Wisconsin is an exception. Florence, Forest and Marinette counties on the Michigan border, as well as nearby Menominee County, were the only places in the state that saw a decline in rail service from 2014 to 2017, according to data from the state Department of Revenue. That means fewer shipping options, and potentially higher costs, for Northwoods businesses. And because the lack of freight train options means logging companies and manufacturers must rely on trucks to move their goods, it means more damage to Wisconsin's rural roads, too.

A [state survey of Northwoods businesses in 2018](#) found that those surveyed shipped 85 percent of their logs, lumber, wood and pulp products by truck. The 41 businesses surveyed could account for more than 105,218 additional rail cars, the survey found. Doing so would remove nearly 350,000 trucks per year from Wisconsin's roads.

The largest freight rail operator in northern Wisconsin is Montreal-based Canadian National, or CN, which in 2001 purchased the Wisconsin Central railroad company. Advocates and officials at the hearing butted heads with a CN representative over the company's decision to shut down some service to the region, and sometimes over the rates it charges shippers.

"There is a direct relationship," said Rich Kedzior, a Wisconsin Department of Transportation freight rail specialist, "between CN's rates and damage to state and local roads."

CN's Larry Lloyd said the company simply doesn't see enough demand to justify rail service in some parts of the state. "Service follows demand," Lloyd said. "If there was demand to return service on that line, we would do it."

Tiffany wasn't buying that explanation. "There's much more opportunity out there, and they've squelched some of their opportunity, and they need to take another look at their business plan," Tiffany said.

Tiffany said the state should consider funding infrastructure improvements such as railroad bridge enhancements that could make the lines more profitable. Such a proposal, he said, would need to be tied to some strict requirements on CN's side, such as minimum service requirements.

Quincy Mine Tour Photos

By Paul Hillmer



Team Track

Division Officers (terms thru 04/20)

Andy Dorsch	Superintendent
Mike Ostertag	Asst. Superintendent
Scott Payne	Paymaster
Vern Ehlke	Chief Clerk

Board of Directors (terms thru 04/20)

Division Officers (above) PLUS:

Wally Rogers	Joe Lallensack
Dave Nitsch	Todd Bushmaker
Dave Allen	Mary Eiden
Mike Eiden	Phil Herman
Chris Heili	Rich Hopfensperger
Jason Hethke	Paul Mastalir

Committee Chairs

(Asst. Supt.)	Property Manager
Todd Bushmaker	Whistle
Marv Preussler	Achievement Program
Wally Rogers	Membership
Phil Herman	Clinics
(At-will, current meet)	Convention Chair
Paul Mastalir	Company Store
Scott Payne	Operating Sessions
David Allen	Model Contest
Joe Lallensack	Photo Contest
Vern Ehlke	Technology
Paul Hillmer	Social Media
Michael Eiden	Webmaster
Rich Hopfensperger	Hobby Shop/Model Club Liaison
Paul Mastalir / Mike O.	Scout Coordinators
(At-will Volunteers)	Financial Review

Note that these positions need not be Directors; any member in the Division may chair or participate in these committees!

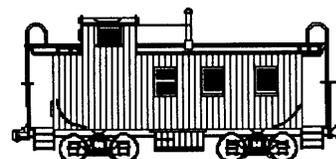


www.wld-nmra.com

Facebook:
"WinnebagoLand Division
NMRA"

Timetable

- Oct. 5** WLD Board of Directors Meeting
SLHTS Archives, Appleton
- Oct. 12-13** West Wisconsin MRR Train Show
YMCA Sports Center, Eau Claire WI
<http://www.westwisconsinrailroad.club/TrainShow/>
- Oct. 19-20** Marshfield Train Show
Marshfield Community Center
- Nov. 2** WLD Operating Session
See info this issue
- Nov. 9-10** Trainfest, WI State Fair Park
West Allis, WI



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REGISTRATION FORM

WINNEBAGOLAND DIVISION'S FALL OPERATING SESSION

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE #:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

INTERESTED IN DINING AFTERWARDS: YES____ NO____

Cost is \$5.00 which will be collected at the first layout of the session, DO NOT MAIL the \$5.00. You will be notified by email or mail. Openings are limited so slots will be filled on a first come first served basis. The exact number of slots is not known at this time. Also, if you wish to operate with another attendee, please indicate that below, however we cannot guarantee this request:

I would like to operate with: _____

SEND THIS REGISTRATION FORM TO:

To: _Scott Payne

Address: 6515 Leona Lane

City/Zip Code: Sheboygan, WI. 53081

Email: s_payne@charter.net

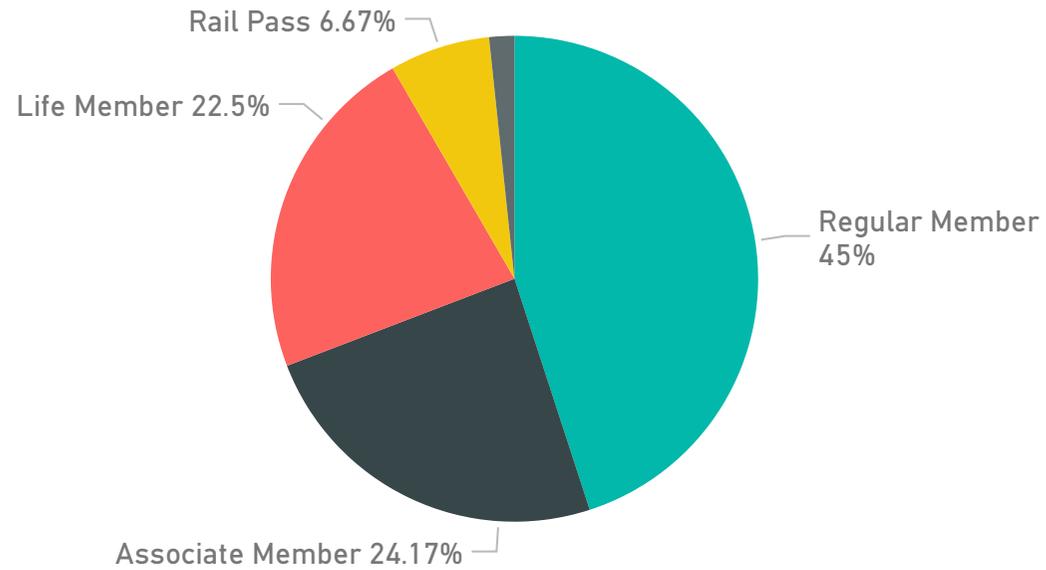
Winnebagoland Division Membership Profile

Total Membership

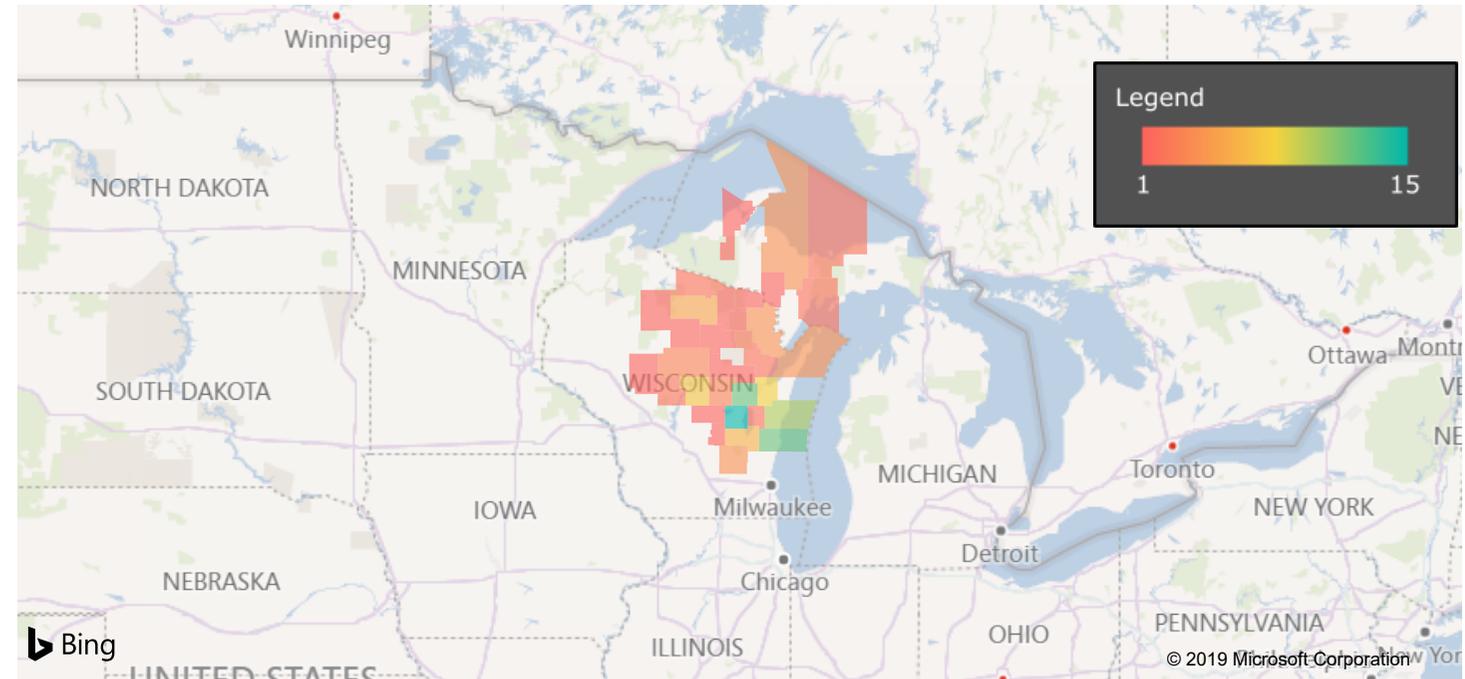
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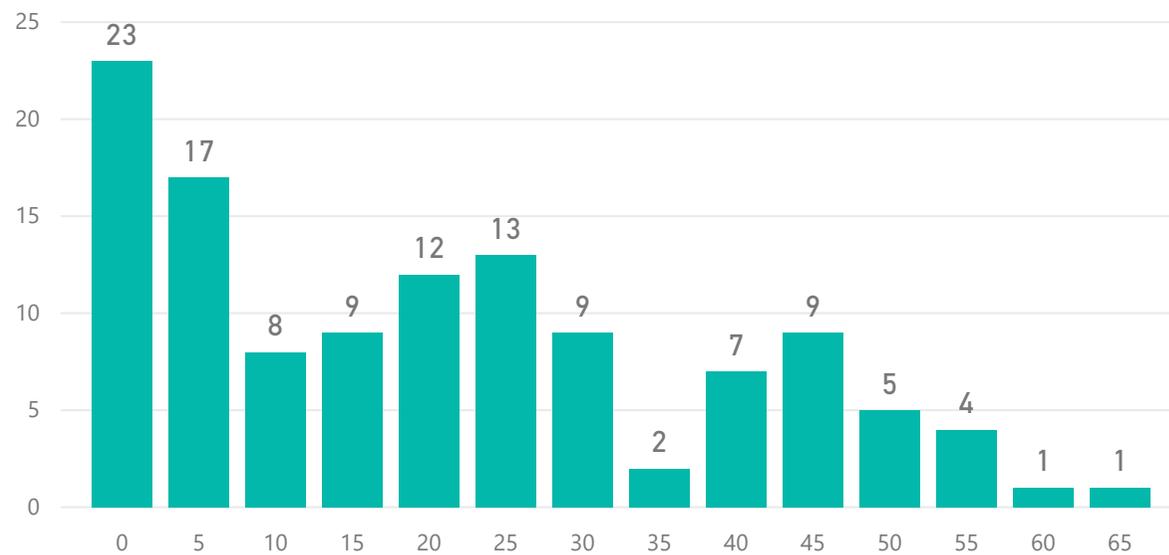
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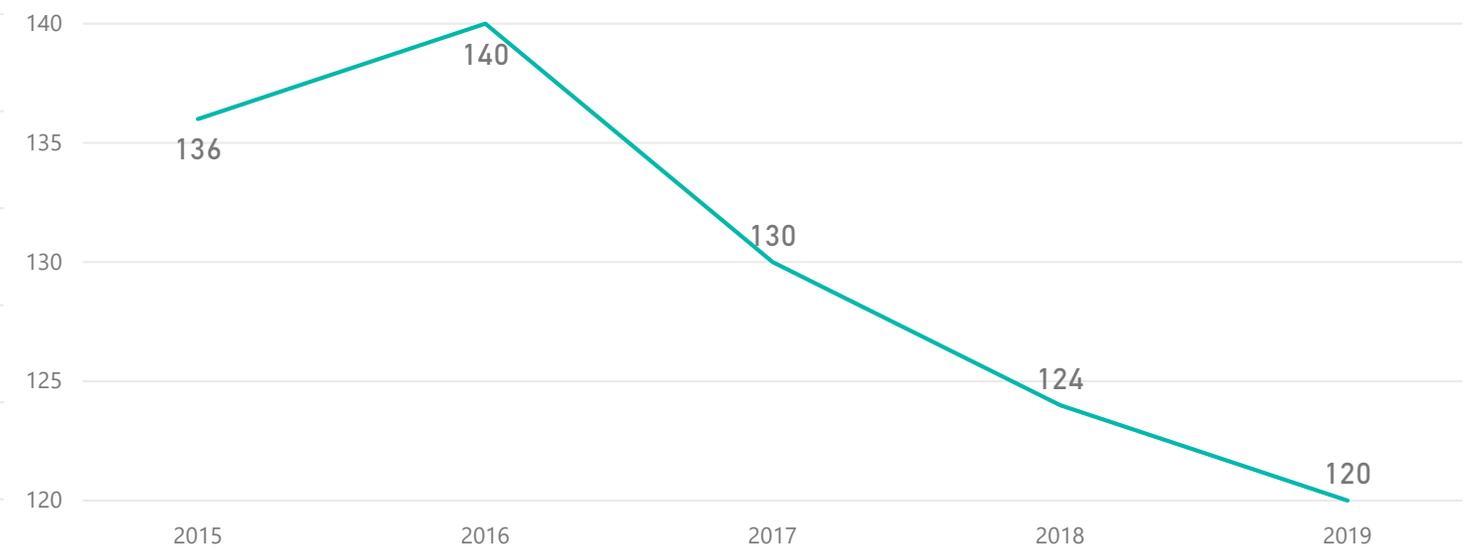
Count of Members by County



Membership Count by Membership Duration (years)



Member Count by Year



WinnebagoLand Division Membership Engagement



Meet Attendance by Year and Season

Season ● Fall ● Spring

