

Return to LaRue

Soo Line Historical and Technical Society's 46th Annual Convention Agenda

The SLH&TS is pleased to host the 46th annual convention in Wisconsin Dells, WI. As the name suggests, on Friday we will be returning to the Mid Continent Railway Museum in North Freedom for a trip to the deserted iron mining town of LaRue. We will be spending the day at the museum for escorted tours of restored equipment and other sights. As an added treat, C&NW 1385 is on the grounds. Saturday includes historical and modeling clinics, photo and modeling roundtables, a swap meet, the annual business meeting, and the annual banquet and archives auction.

We have also negotiated a reduced fare to the Riverside & Great Northern Railroad on Sunday with guided tours. We welcome first time convention attendees and those who make it an annual event. We hope you enjoy the events this weekend.

ALL EVENTS IN THE GRAND BALLROOM UNLESS NOTED

Thursday, September 11, 2025

4:00-8:30 p.m.

Registration

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Meet and Greet

There will be a meet and greet for all convention attendees.

6:00-7:00 p.m.

Interest Session #1

Fred Firkus

Soo Line Slide Show

Fred has come across some new slides that he will scan and present in place of Bob Welke who could not make it.

7:00-8:00 p.m.

Interest Session #2

Mike Wahl, Pete Deets, Andy Spinelli

1385 Restoration

The 1385 Task Group will present a brief overview of both the locomotive's career on the C&NW as well as her career at the Mid Continent Railway Museum.

8:00-9:00 p.m.

Interest Session #3
David Leider

“Exploring Soo Line Motive Power between Neenah, Chicago and Davenport-1978 to 1990.”

David will give a powerpoint presentation based on a book he has edited using the photos of Randy J. Williams.

9:15-11:00 p.m.

Digital Picture & Video Sharing

LCD projector and laptop will be provided. Images need to be loaded on a USB flash drive or accessed via the internet. This has proven to be an annual classic and a can't miss for attendees.

Friday, September 13, 2025

7:30-8:00 a.m.

Registration

7:30-8:00 a.m.

Breakfast Buffet

Serving from Grand Ballroom Foyer

9:00 a.m.

Board Busses

Depart at 9:15 Sharp

Board busses outside hotel near front lobby.

9:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m. *Day in North Freedom*

Each bus will be divided into two groups. Bus 1 will hold groups A and B, Bus 2 groups C and D.

	Group	
	A	B
10:00	Arrive	Arrive
10:10	Depart for tours	Depart for tours
10:15-11:00	Car Shop	Engine House
11:00-11:45	Engine House	Car Shop
11:45-12:45	Train ride	Train ride
	departs from shops/returns to depot	
12:45-1:30	Lunch at depot	Lunch at depot
1:45-2:30	Coach Shed 1	Coach Shed 2
2:30-3:15	Coach Shed 2	Coach Shed 1
3:30-4:00	free time	free time
4:00	Board busses to return to hotel	
	Group	
	C	D
10:00	Arrive	Arrive
10:15-11:00	Coach Shed 1	Coach Shed 2
11:00-11:45	Coach Shed 2	Coach Shed 1
12:00-12:45	Lunch at depot	Lunch at depot
	train departs from depot for tours	
1:00-2:00	Train ride	Train Ride
2:00-2:45	Car Shop	Engine House
2:45-3:30	Engine House	Car Shop
3:30	return to depot	return to depot
3:30-4:00	Free time	Free time
4:00	Board busses to return to hotel	

4:30 p.m.

Return to Hotel

4:30-7:00 p.m.

Vendor Setup

5:00-6:00 p.m. *Attitude Adjustment*

Cash bar in Grand Ballroom until 8:00 p.m.

6:00-7:30 p.m. *Buffet Dinner*

Serving from Grand Ballroom foyer

7:00-8:30 p.m. *Registration*

For Saturday only attendees

7:00-10:00 p.m. *Vendor Sales*

The Loft Meeting Room (Third Floor)

7:30-9:30 p.m. *DSS&A Division Meeting*

Mount Ranier Meeting Room

9:00-11:00 p.m.

Digital Picture & Video Sharing

LCD projector and laptop will be provided. Images need to be loaded on a USB flash drive or accessed via the internet.

Saturday, September 14, 2025

7:00-8:00 a.m. *Registration*

**7:00-8:00 a.m. *Breakfast
Buffet***

Serving from Grand Ballroom Foyer

8:00-11:45 a.m. *Vendor Sales*

The Loft Meeting Room (Third Floor)

9:00-4:00 p.m. *Spouse Outing*

On-Your-Own day in the Dells, no organized itinerary

**All Morning Interest Sessions will be in the
Grand Ball Room**

8:15-9:45 a.m.

Interest Session #6

Tom Dowling, Moderator

Modelers Show & Tell

Bring your models, works in progress or pictures of models or layouts to share with other modelers in this very popular and fun session for attendees. Share your knowledge, projects, ask questions and get ideas for present or future modeling projects, This is an interactive session and you will leave networked with other SLHTS modelers.

9:45-11:15 a.m.

Interest Session #7

Rick Martin, Moderator

Photographers Show & Tell

Share your photos and photo techniques and/or equipment with other photographers. This is also a very popular session where you will have the opportunity to learn how to get that perfect shot, camera and drone techniques and how digital technology has advanced.

11:30-12:30 p.m.

Soup & Sandwich Buffet

Serving from Grand Ballroom foyer

**All Afternoon Interest Sessions will be in the
Loft Meeting Room**

1:00-2:30 p.m.

Interest Session #8

David J. Leider, president

SLH&TS Annual Business Meeting

Election of directors for 2026 and other business.

2:45-3:30 p.m.

Interest Session #9

Randy Mezdorf

Building a Model of the Sleeping Car “Duluth”

Randy will speak about how he modeled the Sleeping Car “Duluth” in HO scale.

3:45-4:30 p.m.

Interest Session #10

George Forero

Lake States Historical Association

Learn about Lake States Historical Association and the work they are doing preserving railroad history.

5:00-6:00 p.m.

***Attitude Adjustment &
Viewing of Auction Items***

Grand Ballroom Foyer and Patio
cash bar open until beginning of Auction.

6:00-9:00 p.m.

Convention banquet

Banquet Speaker: Bill Gardner

Mr. Gardner is the former president of the Wisconsin & Southern and a benefactor to the Riverside & Great Northern Railroad.

9:00-??? p.m.

Annual Auction

SLH&TS Archives Committee

Sunday, September 14, 2025

7:30-8:30 a.m.

Breakfast Buffet

Serving from Grand Ballroom Foyer

8:00-8:30 a.m.

Board of Directors Meeting

Loft Meeting Room

9:00-12:00 a.m. *Riverside & Great Northern*

Guided Tour of the R&GN with a 20% discount on admission with name badge. It is located at N115 County Road N, Wisconsin Dells, 11 minutes away.

9:00-2:00 p.m. *Layout Tours*

Pick up a flier with nearby places to visit as you make your way home.

**See you next year at the Island Resort
and Casino in Harris Michigan,
Sept. 10-13, 2026.**