



Wheeling Wheelmen

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

June 2021

Article IV Section 6 of the Wheeling Wheelmen Constitution states "**The Board shall meet at least six times per year**".

On Monday, May 3rd the Wheeling Wheelmen Board voted **four to three** to cancel the "Harmon Hundred" for the year 2021. The board also voted on and unanimously approved to co-host the "Harmon Hundred" with the McHenry County Bicycle Club using the "Udder Century" course.

On Tuesday, May 11 McHenry County College sent an email to me and this is a portion of it: "It looks like we can move forward with the September 12th date" in reference to conducting the 2021 Harmon Hundred. Please note that the September 12th date is in keeping with the Harmon Hundred tradition of hosting this event on the first Sunday after Labor Day.

I then phoned McHenry County College and we are now penciled in to host the Harmon Hundred at McHenry County College in partnership with the McHenry County Bicycle Club on Sunday, September 11, 2022.

I will continue my devotion to the work needed on the Harmon Hundred. The labors of Hercules pale in comparison. I am at the point where I need to deposit rental holding fees to reserve facilities for September 11, 2022.

We as a club need a much more popular and successful Harmon Hundred now more than ever. For instance, the dues the club collects does not even cover the cost of insurance much as less the cost of the "Banquet" or a picnic etc. Our donations to the "League of American Bicyclists", "Active Transportation Alliance" and to "Ride Illinois" are way down over the years. All due to the fact that the Harmon Hundred has been going downhill financially ever since it left Wheeling. We use to have the largest voice in the country with the "League of American Wheelmen" and in the state with the "League of Illinois Bicyclists" through our club contributions and members participation in these organizations. All of that effort led to improved roads, more bicycle paths and increased safety with the "share the roads" campaign. My vision for the future is to bring the Harmon Hundred back to Illinois and that has taken hundreds of hours of work in putting together two very high profile proposals to accomplish this. But this pales in comparison and is all for null without you the club members. I need you and the club needs you along with cyclists everywhere. Meeting up with a group of riders without belonging to a "Ride Illinois" club does nothing for improving the roads and safety of fellow cyclists. It is clubs like the Wheeling Wheelmen, Arlington Heights Bicycle Club, McHenry County Bicycle Club, Evanston Bicycle Club, Bicycle Club of Lake County etc., etc. that contribute money and advice that enables these organizations to advocate for these improvements. We owe it to each other and younger cyclists everywhere to join these clubs and volunteer to do what we can to accomplish this. It is the actions that we take now that will ultimately judge us.

On another note I contacted the Prospect Heights Library June 5th when they held their "Grand Reopening". 912 people showed up that Saturday. On Monday June 7th I drove over and spoke in person with the library manager. This is where the Wheeling Wheelmen held their open board meetings. I would like as many club members who are able to, to attend these board meetings. The library was completely reconfigured and there is now only a single eight person room available on a first come first serve basis at no charge. No reservations accepted. A bigger room will be available in September via reservation for \$25-\$50 per meeting. I spent a full day contacting libraries and schools looking for a place

for us to hold a board meeting with no facilities that were willing to accommodate us still do to COVID. So if anyone is aware of such facilities where the club could hold its monthly meetings please contact me or another board member through groups.io and I will most certainly look into it.

Be safe

George, President