

**By-Laws OF THE
LOUISIANA CHAPTER OF THE
LONE STAR DIVISION OF THE
TRAIN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION**

Established AD1975 and amended AD1999
Totally revised and approved December AD2001
Totally revised and approved June 6, AD 2010

Preamble: We the members of the Louisiana Chapter of Lone Star Division in order to promote among our fellow collectors a better and more opened understanding to train collecting and the friendship and brotherhood derived from it, do hereby establish these By-Laws of the Louisiana Chapter of the Lone Star Division of the Train Collectors Association.

ARTICLE I.

Name

The Chapter's name will be "Louisiana Chapter of the Lone Star Division of the Train Collectors Association." The abbreviated name will be The Chapter.

ARTICLE II.

Chapter Objectives

The Chapter Objectives shall be the Mission Statement of the Train Collectors Association which is "To develop an appreciation of and to preserve an important segment of history - Tinplate Toy Trains - through research, education, community outreach, fellowship, establishment of collecting standards, and to promote the growth and enjoyment of collecting and operating toy, model, and scale trains."

ARTICLE III.

Chapter Officers

Section 1. The Officers of the Louisiana Chapter shall be a President, Vice President, and the option of either a Secretary/Treasurer or a separate Secretary and a separate Treasurer.

Section 2. Duties and Responsibilities of the Officers

A. President - The President of the Chapter shall be Chief the Executive Officer . The President shall call and preside over all meetings of the General Membership. The President shall have the power to appoint all permanent and ad hoc committees in order to conduct the business of the Chapter. The President shall have the authority to sign all legal documents on behalf of the Chapter. The officers are authorized to spend up to \$500.00 without a 2/3 vote of the membership present at a General Membership Meeting.

B. Vice President - In the event that the Office of President become vacant or in the absence of the President, the Vice President shall perform all the duties of the President until a new President is elected by the General Membership. The Vice President shall investigate and resolve all chapter member complaints and disputes. In the event that the Vice President cannot resolve the complaint or dispute, The Vice President shall refer the matter to the General Membership for resolution. The General Membership may take any appropriate action under the By-Laws of National TCA, Lone Star Division, and Article VIII of the Chapter Constitution. The Vice

President shall perform the duties that are assigned by the President.

C. Secretary/Treasurer (S/T) - The S/T shall be responsible for taking and keeping the Minutes of the meeting. The S/T shall send notices to the general members when and where General Membership Meeting is to be held. In the absence of the President and the Vice President, the S/T shall chair the General Membership Meeting and appoint a recording secretary to take the minutes. The S/T shall keep the financial records of the Chapter, receive all monies and deposit them in institutions approved by the General Membership, pay all bills legally incurred by the Chapter, and issue a financial report at all General Membership Meetings. The financial report shall become a part of the minutes of the meeting. The S/T shall maintain a file for the Constitution, documents, correspondence both incoming and outgoing, and any paper related to Chapter business. The S/T shall make available to each new chapter member a copy of the Constitution/By-Laws. The S/T only shall receive an annual stipend each December in the amount of \$2.00 per Chapter Member. Neither an independently elected Secretary nor an independently elected Treasurer shall receive any stipend.

ARTICLE IV Elections and Term of Office

Section 1. Officers shall be elected by secret ballot either by US Mail, electronically, or by being present at the meeting by a majority vote of the membership for a term of one year. The officers shall take office on July 1 of each year. The ballots shall be sent to the membership either by US Mail or electronically in May of each year. The term of office shall be from July 1 to June 30 of each year. An officer may serve for unlimited consecutive terms.

Section 2. At the June Annual General Membership Meeting, the secret ballots must be counted in public and the vote verified by a member in good standing appointed by the President who will confirm the results to the General Membership. In the event that the votes cannot be reconcile, the President shall call for a new vote of the members present by a raising of hands. The Secretary or the Secretary/Treasurer shall count the raised hand votes of the members in good standing and report the results to the General Membership. The President shall declare the member or members elected. This open vote is final and there is no appeal. In the event that the raised hand vote ends in a tie vote, the process will be repeated until there is a winner. Any member in good standing may run for office and be elected by the General Membership. In the event that there is a tie vote for an officer position, The General Membership shall vote in the same manner as if there was a voting discrepancy.

Section 3. Lone Star Division and National TCA must be notified in writing by the Secretary or S/T by July 31 following the June Annual Meeting.

Section 4. Officer vacancies occurring between July 1 and June 30 shall be filled by appointment of the President until a special election is held within two months of the vacancy to fill the position for the remainder of the term.

Section 5. All officers shall have computer capability as a condition to being elected to office in order to perform the duties of the office. This condition shall be determined prior to the sending out of the ballots.

Section 6. The newly elected officers are responsible for the transferring of all items necessary to perform the duties of that office prior to July 1 of each year.

ARTICLE V
Membership

Section 1. All power and authority reside in the General Membership. The membership shall meet at the time and place set by the President or the Secretary or Secretary/Treasurer. Any three members in good standing may request a Special General Membership Meeting to the Secretary or S/T in writing. The request must include the purpose of the meeting and a reasonable time of day and place of the meeting. The Secretary or S/T shall notify the President and call the meeting at the time and place requested by the three members in their request within 30 days of receipt of the written request. A member in good standing may invite a non member as a guest. That guest shall be recognized by the President. A member shall not bring a former member who was expelled from the Chapter or a member who is punished under Article VIII of the Chapter Constitution or under the By-Laws of the Lone Star Division, or the TCA.

Section 2. Each member will submit a signed application to be held on record by the Secretary or Secretary/Treasurer for use in the delivery of dues notices and general information.

Section 3. Dues of \$10.00 yearly will be due by January 1 of each year payable within 90 days.

ARTICLE VI.
Meetings

Section 1. The Quorum Call. A General Membership Meeting quorum shall consist of one officer and five members in good standing.

Section 2. Parliamentary Procedures shall be that of Robert's Rules of Order current edition.

Section 3. Any rule or policy of the Chapter must be voted on by a minimum of fifty-one percent (51%) of the General Membership rounded up to the next whole number by electronic or paper ballot. A simple majority of the fifty-one percent (51%) of the membership voting is necessary to carry the motion.

Section 4. The Lone Star Division Meet shall be hosted by the Chapter every **Autumn**. DELETE (November.) The location of the meet shall be decided by **a majority of the members present at a General Membership Meeting**. DELETE (the "Meet Host.") DELETE (This position is held by a Chapter volunteer.) **The "Meet Host" can be a volunteer, or in the event there is no volunteer, the President can appoint a member in good standing to the position after consultation with the chosen member.**

Section 5. The Chapter President **or his designee** shall be responsible for the Lone Star Division Board of Directors Dinner Meeting.

ARTICLE VII.
Disciplinary Action

Section 1. Recall of Officers

A. Officers may be removed from office for theft or damage of Chapter property including cash, malfeasance in office, violations of the Chapter By-Laws, Lone Star By-Laws, or National By-Laws, and public criminal acts.

B. Any member in good standing may accuse an officer of violations of Article VII, Sec.1.

Any member who destroys or damages any Chapter property to include documents shall be held liable for repairs. The member making the accusation must have proof and submit the proof to a special General Membership Meeting called for the purpose of hearing the charges.

C. The General Membership shall decide if the charge or charges are true and vote to remove the officer by 2/3rds vote of the members present. The S/T shall immediately notify in writing Division and National of the removal “for cause” from office and the name of the replacement. The proof shall become the property of the Chapter and shall be held along with the minutes of the special meeting indefinitely.

Section 2. The President or the General Membership may issue a formal or informal public or private censure of any member of the Chapter. The censure must include the reason or cause for the censure.

Section 3. The President has the power and the authority to suspend the membership of any member for not more than 60 days. The General Membership, with 2/3rds vote, shall have the power and authority to suspend any member up to one year.

Section 4. The General Membership has the power and authority to expel a member for reasons found in Article VII, Sec. 1A and Sec. 1B by a 2/3rds vote of the members present at a General Membership Meeting under Article VII, Sec. 1C.

ARTICLE VIII Amending the **By-Laws**

Section 1. Amendments to the By-Laws can be made at any General Membership Meeting by a 2/3rds vote of the members present.

Section 2. All proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the Secretary or S/T 60 days before a regular meeting of the Chapter in which the amendments are to be discussed and voted upon. The Secretary or S/T shall publish to the membership the proposed amendments 30 days in advance of the general meeting.

ARTICLE IX **Dormant Chapter**

Section 1. The Louisiana Chapter may be dissolved only by the National Board of Directors of the Train Collectors of America in accordance with Article IX, Section 4 of the National TCA By-Laws. The Louisiana Chapter may petition the National Board of Directors for dissolution with a 2/3rds written vote of the total membership at the time of the petition requesting the dissolution.

Section 2. In the event that the Chapter petition is rejected, or the Chapter is unable to function because of lack of officers or members, or the Chapter votes by 2/3rds of the total membership to go dormant, the President or remaining officer or officers shall notify the members in writing by US Mail or electronic means the reason for declaring the Chapter dormant and shall give the date for which the Chapter will go dormant officially. Ten remaining members shall have 30 days from the date of member notification of dormancy to petition in writing with their signatures to the President or remaining officer or officers to hold a special election to fill the officer position/positions necessary to carry on the Chapter. Failing to elect officers at the special election, the President or remaining officer or officers shall proceed **without**

delay to inactivate the Chapter.

Section 3. Upon member notification of dormancy, the President or remaining officer or officers shall sell all property of the Chapter and the cash proceeds along with any remaining dues shall be refunded to the members remaining who were in good standing on an equal and pro-rata basis prior to the notification date of dormancy. The President or remaining officer or officers shall notify Lone Star Division and the Secretary of National TCA the date that the Chapter went dormant.

Section 4. If a member of the Lone Star Division residing in Louisiana desires to reactivate the Louisiana Chapter, that Lone Star member must contact the Lone Star Division President.

END

These By-Laws replace all previous By-Laws.

I certify these By-Laws are an original copy and that these are the By-Laws approved on June 6, AD2010 by the Membership.

Secretary

