



Louisiana Chapter – Lone Star Division of TCA
Minutes for the General Membership
Chapter Meeting of August 2, 2009
Held at the home of Charlie Roose, Mandeville, La.

Opening: The meeting was called to order by Chapter President Clay Fourrier at 4:13 PM.

Quorum Call: Members present were Clay Fourrier, George Hogh, Mort Kelly, A. L. Levy, Chip Mann, Dominic Michelli, John Moreheser, Harley Rabig, Charlie Roose, Mike Sciavico, and James Webb. Also present were family members Michael Mann, Pat Rabig, Margaret Roose and Cheryl Landry.

Reading of the last minutes was offered. There was no objection to the minutes and the president called for approval. The minutes were accepted by voice vote.

President's Report: Clay Fourrier reported being contacted by Lionel to ask for members who are media orientated and could be used for their marketing plans. He has offered the names of Bill Harrison, Mort Kelly, Mike Sciavico and himself to Lionel. He urged all members to vote in the current election of Lone Star Division officers by the ballots that have been distributed. He has been contacted by the Ouachita Parish Public Library for help with trains they have and no longer have a person to maintain and operate for public displays. Clay asked for any contact in the Monroe area who could help them. A. L. Levy volunteered to contact La. Chapter member Billy McKie of West Monroe to respond to the Parish Library there.

Vice President's Report: Vice President Mort Kelly reported that Atlas is having problems with all their power truck pickup rollers for the MP-15 since changing to plastic parts. He is in contact with their service department for a fix for this issue of his engine and will keep the membership apprised of any resolution of this problem.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: A. L. Levy reported \$3025.87 in the checking account. The monthly bank statement was balanced on 7/9/09. We are signing up several new members for La. Chapter TCA who want to have tables at our upcoming Division show in November. The Chapter roster has been trimmed to 44 names with the deletion of six people who did not pay 2009 Chapter dues by our June 30 deadline. He offered Division notices for the upcoming Division meet in Plano, Texas on August 22 and asked all members to vote in the ongoing election for national TCA officers.

A motion was made by A. L. and seconded by Mort to move the order of Unfinished Business to after New Business and other routine business so he could inform the membership of all planing done on the upcoming November Div. Show. This motion passed without objection.

Unfinished Business: Please refer to “Unfinished Business – continued”.

New Business: Chip Mann reported on his trip to the train museum at Foley, Alabama last week. They offer a large 22' x 60' three rail layout that is very well done. This is located near mall shopping for the ladies and is open 10 AM to 2 PM on Tue., Thu. And Sat. He urged all members to visit this attraction which can be seen in a feature article of the current "O gauge Railroading" magazine, Aug./Sept. issue.

Clay thanked Mike Sciavico, and Charlie and Margaret Roose for hosting this meeting and also for putting on the great Bar-B-Q lunch. Everyone present echoed this sentiment.

A. L. encouraged everyone to attend the August 22 Plano, Tx. Division show and offered transportation for a few members as he has registered and will attend. He has applied to The Great Train Expo group for free space for our Chapter exhibit at their large show at the Castine Center in Mandeville, La. on Oct. 3 and 4. He asked for members to volunteer to man this booth over the two days to promote TCA in Louisiana and advertise our Division show in November.

A. L. introduced the possibility of having a Chapter meet on the weekend of March 6, 2010 to coincide with another Trade Days event in Ponchatoula. This would again offer the possibility of a large increase to the Chapter treasury and also offers the advantages of the cross promotion being done now for the upcoming Division meet. A vigorous discussion ensued. A motion was made by Mort Kelly and seconded by A. L. Levy to authorize A. L. to enter into a contract with the Ponchatoula Lions Club to lock in dates and costs for the Lions Club venue for a one or two day Chapter show on the weekend of March 6, 2010. This motion passed unanimously.

A recess was declared at 5:02 PM.

The meeting was continued at 5:31 PM with the postponed Unfinished Business taken up.

Unfinished Business – continued: Harley Rabig ask for a disposition of a group of trains that were supposed to be sold on eBay. Since no one knew of the status of these trains, Clay will contact Bill Harrison for information regarding the location and history of this train lot.

Charlie asked about the status of the 745 steam engine being reclaimed. Mort replied that it is "being worked on" at this time.

Clay asked for information on any old train collections or layouts in Louisiana for a proposed December PBS special program.

A. L. began a report to the membership concerning plans and progress for staging the November Division show in Ponchatoula. A discussion and exchange of ideas ensued on all aspects of the planing for this. Topics discussed were;

- 1- Posters, a dealer registration form, press release and a solicitation letter have been generated and posted on our web site. You should download, print and copy these now to promote the show. Two hundred show fliers have been donated and A. L. passed examples of these to the members present. You may request more copies directly from A. L., or generate them yourself.
- 2- You are asked to solicit businesses and individuals for cash contributions to the Chapter fund raising events at the Division show. Contributions in any amount are tax deductible and will get the donor a free pass for two adults into the show. Their names or logos will appear on a donor display.

3- Members who purchase tables are asked to have a helper cover for them for brief specified times during the show when they can help process the public through the event. Members are also asked to visit the TCA remote outpost at the Craft Fair sometime during the day and help to direct people to the Lions Hall. The Lions are considering providing food during the dealer set up time on Friday, November 6.

4- Members are asked to volunteer to rotate one hour tours on the admission tables, raffle table and remote outpost in downtown Ponchatoula during public access hours. See Rich Kater for the admission table and Mort Kelly for the raffle table shifts. Dominic Michelli will oversee the staffing of the remote outpost in Ponchatoula. We hope some of the wives will come to this craft show and spend some time at the TCA exhibit there to direct people to the Lions Hall.

5- A majority of members present volunteered to purchase the TCA tee shirts from National Headquarters Museum to present a uniform and professional appearance at the show. These will cost \$15 each and it was suggested the the Chapter purchase a few extra shirts to have on hand. You should refer to the National TCA web site for details. There is a link to this on our Chapter web site tca-louisianachapter.org .The chapter treasury will cover shipping costs for one group order to be made around mid September. Please get your order to A. L. and specify size and quantity when sending your check. Make checks payable to: LSD, TCA – La. Chapter. The creation of a roadside banner to advertise shows was discussed but no definite plan was adopted.

6- All members are asked to donate train items in any gauge for the Chapter raffle and silent auction. A committee has been established to see to it that any item submitted is in an acceptable condition to offer. Mort will screen O gauge, Clay G gauge, Harley HO gauge and A. L. S gauge train items.

7- Clay called for a meeting at the Lions club of key members to layout an arrangement of tables.

8- Members are asked to steer visitors to the designated host hotel for this meet. Information for contacting the Quality Inn in Hammond, La. is available on the dealer's informational poster and registration form.

During discussion of meet parameters a motion was made by Mort and seconded by Harley to exempt this show from a standing motion made years ago to bring the Kiddie and Switching layouts to all shows. This passed by unanimous voice vote.

The Chapter web site will have more information about this show as it develops. Direct all inquiries to Meet Chairman A. L. Levy. He can be contacted by phone, e-mail or written correspondence.

Announcements: Mort announced that plans are “on hold” to expand daily train service from New Orleans as discussed at last month's meeting.

Clay has suggested a “field trip” to the Mississippi Gulf Coast and Alabama train attractions for our members after the November Div. Show. No firm plans are proposed at this time.

A. L. asked all members to download and circulate the letter for solicitation of money for Chapter fund raising events at the upcoming Division show. Any contributions are tax deductible and we intend to advertise the sponsors at the show. Any donations will be replied with a letter of gratitude and a pass for two adults to the show.

Members are asked to volunteer to host upcoming Chapter meetings. The next meeting was set at the home of Harley Rabig, 752 Fairfield Ave., Gretna, La. on September 13 at 4:00 PM. Please note that a gate has been erected on Harley's street at Lapalco Blvd., and you must enter his subdivision from Laplace on Marlene Dr. or Bellemeede Blvd. and circle back to his house on Fairfield. All members who plan to attend this meeting are asked to *RSVP* Harley at 504-398-0619 or timberlane2@bellsouth.net.

The meeting was declared adjourned by Clay Fourrier at 6:42 PM.

A. L. Levy
Sec./Treas. LSD, TCA – La. Chapter