



Louisiana Chapter – Lone Star Division of TCA  
Minutes for the General Membership  
Chapter Meeting of February 15, 2009  
Held at the home of A. L. Levy, Ponchatoula, La.

Opening: The meeting was called to order by Chapter President Clay Fourrier at 4:04 PM.

Quorum Call: Members present; Clay Fourrier, Richard Kater, Mort Kelly, A. L. Levy, Chip Mann, Curtis Mann, Thomas Ottaway, Charlie Roose, George Kosanovich, Carroll Thompson, Cheeky Tramonte and James Webb.

Reading of the last minutes was offered. A motion by Curtis Mann to accept the amended minutes was accepted by voice vote.

President's Report: Clay read a letter from Bill Harrison who attended the Division meet in Katy, Tx. on January 3, 2009. This detailed various subjects discussed by Division officers including a plan to offer a Beer Reefer special car to raise funds for the Division. The exact paint scheme is undecided. These will be produced by Clay Kinsner through his store in San Antonio as he has had great success with this type of promotion before. Cars in several scales are being considered. Cost of domain name software is being offered to La. Chapter. A motion was made by Chip and seconded by Mort to end debate on the particulars of the DNS structure of the web name. This passed. This will be eventually co-ordinated through Clay Fourrier who manages the La. Chapter web site. The 2016 TCA National Convention is awarded to Houston, TX. The date and month of this event is yet to be determined. Division President Pat Halpin plans to offer a Division Directory sometime this Spring. La Chapter is asked to donate to the TCA Annual Appeal in Bill McClanahan's name. A \$50 award is offered to La. Chapter as it's quarter share of a \$200 award to Division. A motion was made by Mort and seconded by Carroll to ask for a cash sum to be applied as later decided toward possible meet prizes. This passed unanimously.

Vice President's Report: Mort turned over files of past Chapter activities to the Secretary for review and evaluation. He also gave witness to his visit to the Jackson, La. Train exhibits and recommended this to all.

Treasurer's Report: A. L. Levy reported a checking account balance of \$2853.47, having balanced the latest bank statement on February 6. He reported 31 Chapter dues paid, plus 3 exemptions and 4 remaining to be collected. It will be his policy to not accept dues from people without proof of National TCA membership. This agrees with National By-Laws whereby a person can not be a member of any Chapter or Division without first joining the TCA at the National level. Because of the long waiting period after submission of national application forms, all persons in this state of pending membership shall be encouraged to fully integrate with all TCA activities and all assistance will be rendered to them to complete the joining process. These policies were established after vigorous discussion from all present.

Unfinished Business: The La. Chapter treasurer reported that reports and financial settlement from the Nov. Division meet were poorly handled and handed off in incomplete fashion to the new officers. This matter was resolved with Division on Jan. 19, 2009 by the acceptance of a meet report done by Division Treasurer Clay Kinsner, and a check in the amount of \$1921.76 mailed to him. This shows a profit of \$421.76 to LSD and represents a 28% return on their money for a two month investment. A ten day deadline for these reports is required following future Division shows, as stated by Pat Halpin directly to the new Chapter treasurer.

New Business: Clay made several announcements to the address the discovery of a train club in the Lake Charles area and asked for ideas on reaching out to them. This is The Lake Area Model RR Club. He showed an article in the January issue of The Platinum Record which highlighted the activities of the Baton Rouge Model RR Club. Mort began a discussion of news of a new venture between Lionel and MTH. This will be a new line of pre-war products. A. L. passed around a news letter from Jane Boyce at National TCA ( The TCA Division and Chapter Connection ). All of these publications can be viewed in detail on line at the respective web sites.

Clay began a discussion to set a policy to pay expenses for the Chapter President and other officers to attend all Division meets in Texas. Mort moved to authorize the Chapter President or club officer attending a LSD Board of Directors meeting in Texas reimbursement of gas and lodging expenses incurred. A second was made by Carroll Thompson. It is now a Division requirement that all Chapters be represented at BOD meetings at these show. This would involve three shows per year, one in each area of Texas covered by the other Chapters in Lone Star Division. Chip introduced a motion to table this issue for a future meeting where a budget plan could be submitted for consideration. This motion passed and the matter is tabled.

A recess was declared at 5:13 by the Vice President. Food and snacks were enjoyed during this recess which allowed time to set up a photo presentation on the next topic. Recess was declared ended at 5:31 PM by VP Mort Kelly.

The selection of the location of the 2009 La. Chapter Lone Star Division Meet was taken up. A. L. Levy presented a picture summary on his large screen television of his explorations of new sites for this show. These were considered in addition to the option of returning to VFW 6640 in Metairie. All parameters were discussed to include cost, floor space, access, table availability, food service, location and local sponsorship for each of the four halls considered. The new sites explored were: American Legion Post 350 in Metairie La., the Quality Inn Conference Center in Hammond, La., and The Ponchatoula Lions Club in Ponchatoula, La. Each site had attractive possibilities for the show being considered and also for future meets. Everyone present had a chance to ask questions and express their priorities for making such an important decision. A. L. also spoke by phone with two 'out of town' dealers in an attempt to consider their concerns for moving the show from last year's site. A date will be determined once the selected site is contacted. It was requested that the date take into account LSU home football games as well as other attractions in the affected area on the day of the Division Meet. Pictures of the halls, parking spaces and food service areas were shown for all new sites. The members expressed appreciation to A. L. Levy for his work on this unprecedented visual presentation by which the site selection was made easy.

A motion was made by Mort and seconded by Mike Tramonte to limit the choices to the two Northshore locations. This passed unanimously. A vote to choose the Hammond site was: 1 for, 11 against. A vote was then taken for the Ponchatoula site. The vote was: 11 for, 1 against. Thereby the La. Chapter has chosen to hold it's Lone Star Division meet at The Ponchatoula Lions Club, 750 E. Pine St., Ponchatoula, La. The treasurer is directed to contact this venue and set dates and terms with The Lions Club.

Announcements: The next La. Chapter meeting will be at the home of the Baton Rouge Model RR Club in Jackson, La., on Saturday, March 28 at 3 PM. The president asked for volunteers to host future club meetings. Mort suggested his home in April, and Charlie suggested possibly hosting in May.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mort and seconded by George Kosanovich. The motion passed unanimously. Chapter president Clay Fourrier declared the meeting adjourned at 6:29 PM.

Members continued to gather around the food and soon migrated to A. L.'s American Flyer high rail layout located over his garage. While this meeting ran unusually long on time, it covered a number of involved and important subjects. This meeting covered a two month time frame since no meeting was held in Jan. 2009. The long duration of this meeting addressed the the change of officers, two Division meets and news and discussion of many issues by which plans for all 2009 activities will be affected.

A. L. Levy  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Lone Star Division, TCA – Louisiana Chapter