



Louisiana Chapter – Lone Star Division of TCA
Minutes for the General Membership
Chapter Meeting of June 20, 2009
Held at the home of A. L. Levy in Ponchatoula, La.

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

Quorum Call: Members present were Clay Fourrier, Wynne Friedrichs, George Hogh, Richard Kater, Mort Kelly, George Kosanovich, A. L. Levy, Chip Mann, Tom Ottoway, Keith Smith, and Cheeky Tramonte. Also present was one guest of Mort Kelly – Ludmila Talley.

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 stated that it would be his policy to meet with the other Chapter officers privately before each meeting so as to plan the meeting's agenda. This has recently proven to be an effective way to efficiently work through the business of La. Chapter during our meetings.

Clay noted that the Castine Center in Mandeville, La. will be the site of The Great Train Expo show on October 3 and 4, 2009. This marks the return of a large train meet to the New Orleans metro area. He offered for circulation catalogs of Lionel, MTH, Williams and Bachman. He announced that the TCA Mission Statement will be posted on our web site. Meetings will be scheduled monthly until November to advance the Division Meet planning.

Vice President's Report: Vice President Mort Kelly offered the new MTH 2009, vol. 2 catalog to members who have not seen it.

Sec./Treasurer's Report: A. L. Levy reported \$3013.47 in the checking account. The monthly bank statement was balanced on 6/5/09. There were no debits to the account for regular business. Ten members have paid Chapter dues since Apr. 29 and reminded all that members will be deleted from the official roster if their 2009 Chapter dues are not paid by June 30. A. L. again asked for one-on-one contact with each member to be advised of changes to contact information. He noted that the \$50 membership drive award to La. Chapter has been received from Division and deposited. He offered "The TCA Division and Chapter Connection" from National, the Lone Star Division annual report and Eastern Division's newsletter recently received to all members present for their viewing. The Eastern Div. Bulletin spells out specifics for the Fall semi-annual meet at York, Pa.. He reminded all members to update their bookmarks to the La. Chapter website so as to stay informed of future meetings and all other business and news concerning TCA. Links can be found to other levels of the TCA organization on our web site (www.tca-louisianachapter.org).

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 make a audio-visual presentation 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: A. L. Levy reported his notes taken at the Lone Star Division Board of Directors Meeting in New Braumfels, Texas on May 15, 2009. The main points of this meeting were; termination of the membership drive sponsorship, the donation of an Atlas U-23 engine, progress on the four chapter's new web addresses, a time line for new National TCA by-laws to be approved by the end of 2009, the ongoing production of special Division cars, re-election of the current LSD board of directors, planing started for the 2016 National TCA convention at Houston, Tx., payment to each LSD chapter of their \$50 share of the membership award and increased cost to advertise in Classic Toy Trains magazine. A. L. then spoke about the planing of the Nov. Div. Meet to be hosted by La. Chapter. He was asked to speak about these plans at the general business meeting during the meet. All details of this meeting will be posted on our website when the minutes are composed and distributed by the Division Secretary Clay Kinsner.

A. L., George Hogh and Mike Tramonte all spoke to the pleasant experience of going to the New Braumfels show in May. The hospitality extended by all LSD members there was terrific. Offers to come to our Div. Show were extended. A. L. encouraged all La. Chapter members to attend these shows for their enjoyment and also the hospitality of our Texas neighbors.

Mort Kelly introduced his guest Ludmila Talley and she spoke to her reason for attending our meeting. She is in the process of disposing of her late husband's large HO train collection and appealed to us for help. As meet host, A. L. Levy suggested she either join TCA or get a member to sell items for her at the upcoming shows, since only TCA members can rent tables and sell at TCA sponsored events.

A recess was declared at 4:43 PM.

The meeting was continued at 5:02 PM with the postponed Unfinished Business taken up.

Unfinished Business – continued: A. L. Levy made a presentation of the Division meet planning and work done since the last Chapter meeting on May 3. Since the upcoming meet occurs on the day of a local craft fair in downtown Ponchatoula, he has pursued the opportunities offered to TCA to cross promote the Division show with objectives of The Ponchatoula Lions Club and The Ponchatoula Trade Days And Craft Fair organization. This offers us much increased publicity and the prospect for many more public guests than any previous show. He spoke to the history of TCA shows, goals for November 7, specific features of the show, the cross promotion aspects and many other plans which will be detailed on our website. He appealed for inclusion of the families of members to back up members who purchase tables and also man a remote outpost at the Trade Days Fair. The main feature of the planning is an organizational chart for the assignment of specific duties during the meet. The willingness of members to accept and implement this plan of shared work was the main theme of his presentation. Planning is well underway and contacts have been made at this time. An appeal to come to this show was made at the New Bramufels Division Meet in May and was warmly received by TCA members in Texas. A confirmation by e-mail has been made to bring Gulf Coast Chapter's interactive kiddie layout to our show. He will be working with La. Chapter members on an individual basis and hopes to set up

various subcommittees to work different aspects of putting on a large successful show in November. The three main divisions of assignments were: Pre-meet publicity, hall organization and Chapter operations during the show. He suggested members buy the TCA tee shirts from The National Museum to present a uniform appearance. The public trading hours will be extended until 5:00 PM. Our dealers are offered free outdoor space at the Trade Days event on Sunday, November 8 and can sell to the thousands of people that come on this last day of that show. This follow-on show is not TCA sponsored and vendors will be allowed to sell items not appropriate to a train show. All members are asked to volunteer for show duties which they are comfortable doing even if they have not worked at these duties before. This will not require all of the member's time as a schedule of hourly rotations is planned. The meet poster and dealer's notices are being constructed and will spell out many details of the show plan.

Announcements: A movie of Central Texas Chapter Vice President Frank Hamadock's Lionel layout will be showed following the meeting. A. L. asked the members present to speak with him after the meeting with regards to the Division Show assignments. Mort announced that Amtrak is considering re-establishing New Orleans to Los Angeles daily service without using new money under the stimulus legislation by implementing a reallocation of existing equipment usage and time table changes.

Members are asked to volunteer to host upcoming Chapter meetings. The next meeting was not set and members are asked to contact Clay to offer their home for future meetings.

A motion to adjourn was made by A. L. and seconded by Mike Tramonte. This was passed without objection. The meeting was declared adjourned by Clay Fourrier at 6:07 PM.

Members stayed to talk about the train meet, see A. L.'s American Flyer layout and watch a DVD of Frank Hamadock's great Lionel layout in Texas.

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