



Louisiana Chapter – Lone Star Division of TCA
Minutes for the General Membership
Chapter Meeting of March 28, 2009
Held at the Clubhouse of the Baton Rouge Model RR Club, Jackson, La.

Opening: The meeting was called to order by Chapter President Clay Fourrier at 3:05 PM.

Quorum Call: Members present; Bill Harrison, George Hogh, Richard Kater, Mort Kelly, A. L. Levy, Chip Mann, Curtis Mann, Dominic Michelli, Charlie Roose, Clay Fourrier and James Webb.

Reading of the last minutes was offered. After passing a copy around to members, these minutes were accepted by voice vote.

President's Report: Clay Fourrier thanked the members present for coming to Jackson and also those who car-pooled. He has acted to purchase a new domain name and web hosting service for the La. Chapter web site. Expenses for this will be passed to Division as per previous offer. The new web name will be: TCA – La. Chapter.org and should be active in about a week's time.

Vice President's Report: Vice President Mort Kelly had nothing to report.

Sec./Treasurer's Report: A. L. Levy reported \$2853.47 in the checking account with the statement balancing on 3/9/09. There were no debits to the account for regular business. The final settlement check to Division for last November's meet cleared the account this period. Several members still have not paid Chapter dues and are asked to contact the Treasurer directly to settle the matter.

Unfinished Business: Chip moved to *Take from the Table* the issue of travel expenses from the February meeting. Seconded by Mort Kelly. Discussion ensued. Since no one had been directed to formulate a budget plan asked for previously this could not be resolved. Chip and Bill wanted to see an expense formula fixed. Clay suggested a flat ceiling be adopted. Mort suggested other groups either set a flat amount for all travel expensed or reimburse expenses with receipts.. Curtis did not want to go by the rules of others. Charlie spoke up to object to expenses which would deplete the Chapter treasury in a short time. A. L. suggested travel expenses be related to annual income so these expenses be revenue neutral. Chip called for the Question. Mort seconded, motion passed. A motion was made by Bill Harrison and seconded by Chip Mann to set the travel expenses in accordance with standard business practices. This amounts to 55 cents/mile for travel, \$100 for lodging and \$40 for meals during these trips. Curtis asked the vote be taken by a show of hands. The vote was 0 for, 10 against and this motion failed. The President directed the Sec/Treas. to develop travel cost estimates for the next meeting.

Reduced rates for joining TCA are being offered until May 31 in an effort to increase membership in TCA. Division dues of \$6 are not mandatory. A payment of \$35 gets \$66 worth of membership and all paper work done. Mail payment and application to the Division Treasurer or President. Division will

credit you for one year Div. Dues.

New Business: A motion was made by Bill and seconded by Richard Kater to mail the newsletter to all who do not have an e-mail address. This passed by a vote of 9 to 1. A motion was made by Chip and seconded by Mort to likewise get the current Chapter rooster to all members. This passed by a vote of 8 to 2. Bill offered the new Lionel catalog for viewing of those who have not received this. He mentioned that MTH is now sold through Walters in a move to reduce the expense of printing and distribution of these. Clay referred the membership to the new Lionel blog and video site for information on Lionel

Announcements: Three members are going to York: Bill, A. L. and Charlie. Amtrak has been fully funded to the tune of 1.7 billion dollars by Congress. Bill noted his trip to the World's Greatest Hobby Show in San Antonio 3 weeks ago that there were approximately 25,000 in attendance and the train hobby seems to be resistant to current down trends in the national economy.

The next La. Chapter meeting is set for May 3, 2009 at Mort Kelly's home. His address is: 32 Yellowstone Dr., New Orleans, La. 70131. This is on the West Bank of New Orleans in Algiers. Time is set for 4 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 PM by President Clay Fourrier.

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