



Louisiana Chapter – Lone Star Division of TCA  
Minutes for the General Membership  
Chapter Meeting of September 6, 2009  
Held at the home of Harley Rabig, Gretna, La.

Opening: The meeting was called to order by Chapter President Clay Fourrier at 4:25 PM.

Quorum Call: Members present were Buddy Broussard, Tom Devenney, Clay Fourrier, George Hogh, Richard Kater, Mort Kelly, George Kosanovich, A. L. Levy, Curtis Mann, Chip Mann, Dominic Michelli, Harley Rabig, Charlie Roose, Michael Sandras, Mike Sciavicco, Carrol Thompson, Cheeky Tramonte, Charles Wayne, and Joe Wrubleski. Also present were family and guests Pat Rabig, Vicki Devenney, and 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 read a letter from the National President describing the Leadership Challenge to raise funds from TCA officers at all levels. This challenge runs through October 31. The letter will be posted on the web site. Clay also noted that MTH Trains now has a Facebook page to reach out to and interact with it's customer base.

Vice President's Report: Vice President Mort Kelly reported that Atlas took action promptly to remedy his ongoing problems with his MP-15 engine once he mentioned his title as a TCA Chapter Vice President. He mentioned that KCS has taken over the Panamanian National Rail Road and passed around pictures of related rolling stock.

Sec./Treasurer's Report: A. L. Levy reported \$3703.55 in the checking account. The monthly bank statement was balanced on 8/10/09. There were debits for office supplies and postage amounting to \$97.92. One new member has joined TCA and La. Chapter to sell at the upcoming Division show. The treasury has received it's first donation for the Chapter raffle and auction in the amount of \$1000. A. L. has sent a letter to a fellow TCA member who has not acted in accordance with the rules of TCA in a verbal deal made at the last York meet. He offered this service to any member of La. Chapter who similarly has an unresolved conflicted deal between TCA members in good standing. A. L. offered a notice by National officers favoring the proposed changes in the National By-Laws. He also presented a letter from a dissident group which asks members to reject these changes. A. L. asked prospective TCA members to send their applications through him so he can know the applications are correctly filled out and he will have a sense of who is coming to La. Chapter following the National application process. The hall deposit check of \$250 for the March Chapter meet has been delivered to the Ponchatoula Lions Club and the contract is being finalized. The December Division Newsletter will be the last chance to advertise this Chapter meet because the following newsletter comes out in April.

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 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: There was no new business.

A recess was declared at 4:40 PM.

The meeting was continued at 5:00 PM with the postponed Unfinished Business taken up.

Unfinished Business – continued: A. L. reported that Chapter member Billy McKie has contacted the Ouachita Parish Library and has agreed to advise them in their plans to set up train displays in their branch libraries. Discussion was begun on the topic of the planned La. Chapter show in March. A motion was made by Mort Kelly and seconded by Tom Devenney to schedule a two day show on March 6 and 7, 2010. This will be held at the Lions Hall in Ponchatoula and again occur with the next Trade Days Antique and Craft Show there. A vote was taken. This passed unanimously. A. L. outlined parameters for the upcoming GTE show at the Castine Center in Mandeville where we will have a TCA booth to promote the organization and the Division show which follows by one month. He asked for help to work our TCA booth from members who come to this show. Nine members present said they would attend this event over the two days and would help man our exhibit. Members are referred to the Great Train Expo web site for details of the event, and should contact A. L. for any questions.

A. L. opened a report and discussion of the upcoming Division show. Subjects covered were:

1- Only one donation has been received to fund Chapter fund raising events. Members are asked to acquire the letter needed to approach businesses and work now to bring in cash or train related items. This is the only plan to increase our Chapter treasury this year.

2- A. L. again asked members to invite wives to man the remote outpost at the Trade Days show. No firm commitments were made, although several members said this could possibly happen as family plans firm up going into November. Establishing this link will make a great difference in attendance at the train show.

3- Show announcements:

a- Amtrak will have a presence yet to be worked out, but has offered passes on the Sunset Limited for a Chapter raffle. This will require a separate raffle which our members will have to man. Clay acknowledged A. L.'s work on this project.

b- A. L. passed out posters and fliers generated and reproduced at no cost to TCA of both the train show and craft show. Both sets of advertisements showcase both events and represents the fruits of cross-promotion planed at the outset.

c- A.L. asked the chapter to buy two easels to set up at October and November shows. A motion was made by Mort Kelly and seconded by Mike Sanders to expense this. Discussion followed. Early in this discussion, Curtis Mann volunteered to cover this cost. Mort withdrew his motion and Curtis' generous offer was accepted.

d- The Ponchatoula Lions Club has volunteered to set out banners in Ponchatoula during the show. Discussion on this was delayed.

- e- A. L. is seeking an HO gauge layout for the show. Members are asked to contact clubs that might have this.
  - f- Members are asked to send visitors to the Quality Inn in Hammond, La.
  - g- Members are asked to donate train items to the Chapter raffle and auction.
  - h- Members are asked to read notices and updates on the Chapter web site.
- 4- Members are asked to volunteer for hourly work on the admission table, Chapter events sale table and remote outpost at the Trade Days event. See Richard Kater for door assignments, Mort Kelly for Chapter assignments, and Dominic Michelli when going to the craft show. If most members will help service the public, no member will be stuck for hours in one place and should have plenty of time to enjoy the show and work their table.
- 5- Division has offered to pay for two banners to be located in Ponchatoula on the day of the show on condition that the TCA logo not take up space on these. A. L. argued for inclusion of the logo. A motion was made by Chip and seconded by Mort to omit the TCA logo from the banners. A vote was taken by show of hands. The vote was 13 for and 1 against. The motion passed and the logo will be omitted, thus allowing Lone Star Division to cover the expense of these. The Lions Club has offered to set these out on the day of the show.
- 6- A motion was made by Harley and seconded by Chip to buy 5 extra t-shirts for the show and have La. Chapter cover the shipping. The vote by show of hands was 16 for 0 against. The motion passed. All members are asked to get their checks to A. L. now so we will have a more uniform and professional appearance at shows and other events where we represent and promote TCA.
- 7- The Rutter family has made a huge cash contribution to our Chapter raffle and auction. A. L. asked that the Rutter family and in particular 4 year Issac Rutter be honored at the show and Chapter funds be used to present him with some gift of trains. Mike Sciavicco of Mike's Trains in Kenner generously offered to donate a Lionel train set to Isaac Rutter. A special presentation will be made during the show.
- 8- A. L. asked to meet with section leaders after the meeting.

Announcements: Members are asked to volunteer to host upcoming Chapter meetings. The next meeting was tentatively set for October 11 at a place yet to be determined. Members are asked to contact Clay to offer their home for future meetings.

A motion was made by Mike Tramonte and seconded by Chip to adjourn. This passed unanimously. The meeting was declared adjourned by Clay Fourrier at 6:32 PM.

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