



December 10, 2009

Report to Louisiana Chapter TCA - Lone Star Division Fall Train Show

The results from the Lone Star Division train show staged by La. Chapter this past November 7 are in and reports have been filed. Many different yardsticks are used to say whether or not this event was successful. Numbers alone do not tell the entire story and it is my hope that you will look back on the events surrounding the show with some satisfaction for staging it.

We collected \$2105 at the door which represents 421 adults paid. This is a 20% increase from last year's Division attendance in Metairie. Keeping show costs much lower while having a greater turnout, resulted in nearly a five times greater profit to Division as from the 2008 meet here. The final accounting of Division money will appear in their newsletter. The Lions collected several grocery bags of eyeglasses and over \$400 in food service sales. Amtrak has contacted the winner of the free trip for two on the Sunset Limited. This was won by Karl Kreider whose name was selected from 114 chances sold.

Louisiana Chapter will bank a cash profit from the train raffle of \$233. The silent auction produced \$473 and the Amtrak raffle produced \$570 for La. Chapter. The auction and two raffles grossed \$1276. All items offered were either donated or paid for from cash donations. The only chapter expenses were: \$56 for cash boxes and \$5.65 postage to mail the Amtrak chances. This gives us a net profit of \$1214.35 in our treasury. All other expenses were paid by Lone Star Division. Funds for Lone Star Division and Louisiana Chapter were kept separate throughout handling and accounting processes. And the chapter is well stocked with train items for several shows to come. Agreements are in place with the Lions, Quality Inn, Trade Days group and other organizations to partner with us for the next show in March. We purchased cash boxes, banners, easels, TCA backdrops and other meet supplies which are reusable. Many members wore their TCA t-shirts at the show. This shows organization and promotes the TCA. We added 3 members to TCA before and 3 since the show. Other applications to TCA are outstanding. We sold 54 tables, but 13 were not used. It is my understanding that vendors who gave notice prior to the show of not needing tables will have their table fees refunded directly from Lone Star Division. The dealers I have spoken with seemed to be generally satisfied with sales made, although they will always say they could have sold more. I have received one dealer complaint so far. Feedback was also favorable concerning the accommodations at the Quality Inn in Hammond and I recommend we continue to partner with this hotel.

I thank all members and helpers, who contributed time, work, ideas and trains to making this show a success. Two members who were the first to volunteer and worked early in the planning were Assistant Show Chairman George Kosanovich and Richard Kater. George was included in all decisions and was available to me whenever I needed help. Richard donated printing, train items, paste up work and good feedback as well as taking charge of admission table assignments. Thanks are also appropriate to Wynne Friedrichs for bringing his train ride to the show which was a big hit with the kids and who also helped with table chores. La. Chapter was guaranteed a profit here thanks to the fund raising efforts of Linda Kosanovich and Jeff Fowler who raised \$1100. Clay Fourrier's creation of the meet poster, his work on the web site and newsletter and helping me to "fast track" TCA applications were most helpful. Mort Kelly and Dominic Michelli also worked leadership positions and Dominic's floor plan for dealer

tables was used successfully. Jeff Fowler and Wynne Friedrichs purchased and distributed reusable roadside signs around the Hammond and Ponchatoula area.

I think each show is a unique event. Suggestions to me that my plans are in place for other shows are counterproductive and misguided. Lessons learned from this Division show should be used if appropriate. But the same circumstances seldom reoccur and even under the most alike situations, never produce the same results. I think it is much more important to assist and support the meet chairman in a plan of his design. No person can realistically be expected to work or fully understand a plan created by someone else. At this show, only one person failed a promise to me, while all others helped with Chapter chores as promised, including some that are not known for doing so. I make two recommendations that will be an investment in future show success and I consider a best use of Chapter money.

- 1) A one-time \$50 check and appreciation letter award be made to the CCSG Club and Jim Medlin. The CCSG interactive layout has enriched our local shows for years without sometimes as much as a "Thank you". Jim Medlin brought his interactive kiddy layout from Houston without the usual help of his wife and other Gulf Coast Chapter members. These two awards would cost us \$100 and make a nice surprise Christmas gift to these supporters.
- 2) Make an evaluation of club layouts with the intention of selling them and investing the sale proceeds and profits from this show in a bid for the Gulf Coast Chapter kiddy layout which will be auctioned soon. This is a very well done finished product which would be hard to build without a good deal of money and collective work. This would insure us of a first class modern attraction for all our shows which can be moved and set up by one person if need be.

No single person can do the work of putting on a show. The success of any show belongs to all members who make it work. I hope the show has been profitable and enjoyable for all, and you will again volunteer early in the planning stage to make our March chapter show successful. I expect to attend this show and offer the people who step forward to organize it my help in doing so.

A. L. Levy
Meet Chairman
LSD, TCA – La. Chapter