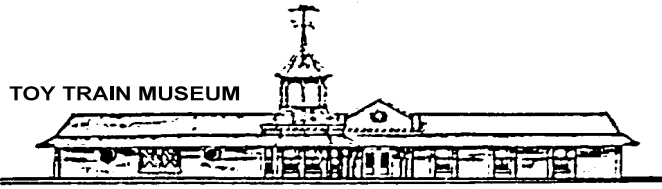


THE LAYOUT



ENJOY A VISIT TO YOUR MUSEUM

THE SOUTHERN DIVISION TRAIN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

Fall 2014

VOLUME 48 NUMBER 4



Above: Steve Johnson, Brad Woodward, Dienzel Dennis, and Mike Powell

Inside This Issue:

- Jacksonville Meet Story
- Clark and Ilene Vegazo's Annual Open House
- Toy Train Collectors of Jacksonville Holiday Display
- Open House Photos from the Venice Depot
- American Flyer Handrail Replacement
- Do you have the original box?

Important Notice!

Since the November meet is in Jacksonville this year Clark and Ilene Vegazo's annual open house will be held the weekend before the meet on SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15th. Please see page 5 for the details!

Southern Division Board of Directors, Newsletter Editor, and Webmaster



President
Brad Woodward
Phone: 772-577-3881
Collectorsshowcase@hotmail.com



Past President
Charlie Anyan
Home: 727-345-0288
Cell: 727-459-8681
Canyan1@tampabay.rr.com



Vice President
Steve Johnson
Phone: 305-335-1752
Sjohnson@flidcpa.com



Webmaster
Jake Jacob
561-395-6069
Jjacob@gate.net



Secretary
Dienzel Dennis
PH: 386-258-8574
dieden39@aol.com



The Layout Distribution Manager
Jim Spangler
(727) 398-5343
idspankler@sprynet.com



Treasurer
Mike Powell
Cell Phone 585-781-4996
MBPowell@aol.com



The Layout Editor
Jeffrey Mayer
Cell: 321-297-0501
jcimayer@aol.com



Communications Officer
Linda Harris
727-796-5721
Linda_A_Harris@msn.com



Past President
Arnie Travitsky
(407) 260-8599
ARNI99@aol.com

Address Changes

Please inform the Southern Division Secretary Dienzel Dennis (see contact info on this page) of all address changes. Please do not send address changes to the editor of *The Layout* as that will only delay processing.

Sad Tidings

Harold Griffith has passed away. Our condolences to his wife Estelle and his family. He will be missed.

Harold was a fixture at Gotcha meets back in the old days! He hosted a few at his home in which he had a fabulous Marklin 3-rail HO layout: He and his wife Estelle were both Southern Division and TCA members and Estelle was secretary of the SD for many years.

May he rest in peace, Submitted by Bill Trappen

Check out the Southern Division Website: www.tcasoutherndivision.org
Webmaster: Jake Jacob

President's Message



Brad Woodward

By Guest Author Stuart Rankin

Thank you Brad for the opportunity to guest-author the President's column in this issue of The Layout.

Hello members of Southern Division. Most of you probably don't know me or know why Brad has a guest author this issue, so please allow me to introduce myself and explain. My name is Stuart Rankin and I'm the President of the Metropolitan Division of TCA (METCA) and the Chairman for the 2015 TCA National Convention. It is this this second hat that I wear which brings me to you today.

For the first time in TCA history, the National Convention will be visiting the Big Apple. I want each and every member of Southern Division to consider yourself personally invited to attend the 2015 Convention in the New York metro area. This week long event will be unlike any other; there's a reason that New York City is one of the world's most popular destinations.

The first half of the week will consist of the "best of the best" trips and tours. During the week we'll have something for everyone; train related activities including a combination steam train and riverboat cruise, a tour of Grand Central Terminal, a trip to the TCA Headquarters, Museum, and Library in Strasburg PA and more; history related tours such as a visit to the home of FDR with lunch at the world-renowned Culinary Institute of America, a tour of Sleepy Hollow (yes, of headless horseman fame) and more; military themed tours such as West Point and the aircraft carrier Intrepid; science and technology related tours such as the Cradle of Aviation and the Thomas Alva Edison laboratory and more. Finally what trip to New York wouldn't be complete without the most famous NYC sights; a daytime ride on the Circle Line going completely around Manhattan, a visit to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, or an emotional visit to the 9/11 memorial and museum, and more.

In addition to trips and tours, the second half of the week will include the Welcome Party with a decidedly local "flavor", the sunset Dinner Cruise along the illuminated Manhattan nighttime skyline, home layout and collection visits (some world class and some more modest), and the concluding Banquet. Not to be left out is the trading hall swap meet. Here's your chance to find that item for your collection from a new/different set of vendors than you normally see at your local meets. We'll also have participation from some of the hobby's leading train manufacturers. The weather in the northeast is particularly nice in June. Although spring will be behind us, typically the hazy, hot and humid dog days of summer haven't begun yet. This really will be a once in a lifetime experience to have a TCA National Convention in such a location.

Be prepared to have the time of your life as you put yourself in a New York state of mind. I really hope that I do see you in June 2015. For further details and complete descriptions of every trip, tour and event, check out the new permanent TCA convention website at: www.TCAconvention.org



Sad Tidings, Anthony M. Lewis,

Tony Lewis passed away on September 10, 2014 at the age of 81. Tony was born in New York City and moved to Florida many years ago. He was a teacher starting out in New York City Public Schools and eventually retiring from Valencia State College in Orlando. Tony collected O-gauge trains and due to his educational focus was very knowledgeable on all aspects of real railroading and Lionel trains. He won several awards for his displays at Southern Division Meets. Following is an excerpt from the very appropriate eulogy given by his minister at his memorial service:

Got my letter, Got my letter, Got my letter.
Goin' to hail the train...
Got my letter, goin' to ride the train
I'll meet you at the station when the train comes along.
I may be blind an' cannot see...
I may be lame an' cannot walk,
But I'll meet you at the station when the train comes along.

No signal for another train
To follow on the line,
O, sinner, you're forever lost,
If once you're left behind.

Got my letter, goin' to ride the train
I'll meet you at the station when the train comes along.
Anthony Lewis got his letter and done caught that train...

Our sincerest condolences go out to his family and friends. Submitted by Bill Trappen

JACKSONVILLE MEET STORY – Saturday, November 22, 2014

LOCATION: HENDRICKS DAY SCHOOL, 1824 Dean Road, Jacksonville, FL 32216

The Day School is located just off Beach Boulevard, the main street heading towards Jacksonville Beach. It is easy to get to (one-half block south of Beach Blvd).

MEET HOST: Jeff Sawyer, Phone: (904) 891-7395, email: debq007@clearwire.net Call Jeff for further information, directions, etc.

MEET HOURS: The meet opens to TCA members only, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., and to the public 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

SET UP TIMES: 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. Saturday,

ADMISSION: Public and Non-SD TCA members \$5. TCA SD members FREE. Children under 12 free when accompanied by an adult. Tables: SD members: \$20 TCA non-SD members: \$30

Meet Hotel: Hampton Inn and Suites – Deerwood, 4415 Southside Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32216. Telephone: (904) 997-9100.

Room rates start at \$79 for Single, King-size bed or Double Queen. You must mention TCA to get this rate. Rate is good for three days before & after the meet. Complimentary hot breakfast included, 6 till 10 am.

Directions to the Meet/Hotel,

DIRECTIONS TO HOTEL: From I-95 north or south – Take exit 344 (Butler Blvd). Go about a mile east to Southside Blvd (highway 115). Go north about a mile to the Hampton Inn on the right. It's directly behind TGIF Friday's.

DIRECTIONS TO MEET FROM HOTEL: Continue north on Southside Blvd to Beach Blvd. Go left about a mile to Dean Rd. Turn left and you are there. If you are adventurous, go north a few blocks from the motel and turn left on Hogan Rd. It is a diagonal road that also goes to Beach Blvd., and comes out only a few blocks from the school. Go left on Beach & turn left on Dean Rd. It is 2.9 miles, using Hogan Rd.

Driving Directions to the Meet:

From the north – Take I-95 exit 349 (Atlantic/ Beach Blvd). Go east about 3 miles to Dean Rd. Turn right and the school is about a block down on the right. You can also get there from downtown Jacksonville by taking the Hart Bridge/ Commodore Point Expressway, which ends on Beach Blvd, but you have to make a quick U-turn and go back under the expressway about four blocks to Dean Rd.

From the south – Take exit 347 (take US-1 Alt/ Emerson St.). Turn right. Follow the road to Beach Blvd (about a half-mile down the road, Emerson splits to the right – take either one – they both go to Beach Blvd. Turn right on Beach to Dean Road.



Switch List

Repairs: Done on American Flyer Trains by A.C. Gilbert Reasonable prices, honest assessment of Parts & Labor. Alco & Geep Rebushings: Single - \$ 20.00; double - \$ 35.00 **Call or Write: Chris Lucibello 2483 Pinellas Pt. Dr. So., St. Pete, FL 33712 (727) 867-3465 candklucibello@verizon.net**

FOR SALE: LIONEL POSTWAR, PREWAR, LTI, MTH, Have MTH RAILRAX TRACK , curves, straights. ARNIE TRAVITSKY, 873 CYNTHIANNA CIRCLE, ALTAMONTE, SPRINGS, FL. 32701 arni99@aol.com 407-260-8599 LSASE FOR LIST.

FOR SALE : Large Marx post and prewar collection- about 300 pieces - some duplicates-- few O/B's , quite clean—
SOLD ONLY AS A ENTITY- very good price – especially for those who might like to resell- Call Hal Seitz : 954 749 1090--
E Mail: hal5141@comcast.net

For Sale: RCS Controllers (need rewiring); Gargraves 2-rail track; Super O #120 Crossover; #36, 37, 48, 32-20; KW, LW, SW, 1032, 1033 Transformers; #19 Bulbs; #167 Whistle Controller; 1866, 1876, 1875W LIL General Cars; TCA Bicentennial Special Set. 12948 Bascule Bridge, 2623 Madison Cars, 3356 Horse Car and Corral; #6247, 6357, 2411, 2454, 2452; 2452X; 6012; 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534 passenger cars, 214 Bridge Boxed, NYC Bridge, American Flyer Bridge, 2032 Box, 3462P Milk Platform, #456 Coal Ramp w/ 3456 Operating Hopper, Lionel Watch, All Reasonably Priced. Call **Paul Dean 352-223-4510 Also Wanted:** 2530 Large Door baggage car and PW Madison car body.

The Switch List is a free service to Southern Division Members. Send your ads (space permitting) for trains for sale/wanted/trade to Jeffrey Mayer, email icjmayer@aol.com or call me at 321-297-0501. Ads must be renewed prior to each issue of The Layout. You may renew your ad for **one** issue at a time by contacting me via email or snail mail.

Clark & Ilene Vegazo's Open House and Buffet

NEW DATE: Saturday Nov. 15, 5-10 p.m.

2225 West Dale Circle, Deland, FL 32720, PH 386-740-1293

Editor's Note: Clark's open house will be held on SATURDAY a week earlier than the meet (in prior years this was held the day (Friday) before the meet.

**Note: NEW DATE!
SATURDAY NOV. 15**

Clark and Ilene will be showing off their incredible collection of Postwar Lionel trains. With nearly 300 post-war sets on display with almost another 100 sets still in boxes, Clark's collection was featured in the November 2009 issue of *Classic Toy Trains Magazine*. Clark's 1200 square foot train room includes most all Lionel accessories including the Lionel Boat, dealer-displays, slotcars, etc.



There will also be a display of vintage (real) cars! A buffet of variety of dishes, desserts, and beverages will be served at the open house, so come **hungry!**

Directions to Clark and Ilene's Open House: From I-4 take exit #116 (26 miles north of Maitland), west 3.5 miles directly to West Dale Circle. Turn left (south) onto West Dale Circle and proceed to the 2nd from the last house on the left. Just look for the American Flag at the driveway entrance.



Toy Train Collectors of Jacksonville – Holiday Display

Established in 1988 with seed money from the CSX Railroad for the lumber and TCA Southern Division to fund the wiring for the original layout tables, the Toy Train Collectors of Jacksonville group has been running their trains for the enjoyment of the public for 26 years. In past years they have had layouts in antique malls, the Home and Patio Show of Jacksonville, and other venues with O, S and G gauge often combined in a single large layout. In addition they have provided static displays for area museums and raffles of trains in support of charities. For the second holiday season they will set up to run trains in the entry lobby of the Museum of Science and History



(MOSH) in downtown Jacksonville. While they utilize a set of premade tables, they are not a modular group. Each layout is designed to maximize operation in the space allotted with emphasis on simple operation and a minimum of maintenance. Track plans are designed to accommodate buildings and accessories brought by the members to incorporate into the layout. Members bring their own trains to the layout. There are special cars created for the holiday layout and at times they have run military trains to honor the active duty and veterans. Last year literally thousands of school children watched the trains as part of their field trips to the ex-

hibits and programs at the museum. Over the holiday vacation, the layout hosted many families who visit the museum over the break from school. In addition to showcasing six trains running through a holiday town in a winter scene, youngsters were frequently handed a remote to take control of a Lion Chief Thomas the Tank set which was a big hit. If you are in the area or traveling through Jacksonville from December 9th through January 3rd, be sure to stop by and see what the group comes up with this year (no fee to enter the lobby).



American Flyer Handrail Replacement by Chris Lucibello

Very often when I am restoring a locomotive, the railings are in deplorable shape and too far gone to be worth cleaning. I just simply replace them using bright stem floral wire that can be purchased in Wal-Mart, (in the Crafts Dept.) for about 75 cents . The gauge is # 18 and there are 25 eighteen inch pieces in the pack. That's plenty to last you quite some time. I use a small square nosed pliers and a small wire cutter to help me make the new railings. Use the old ones as a template. I bend the new one along side of the old one using a piece that is cut a little longer than needed. The wire is a bit softer and more malleable, which makes it easy to shape but it also bends out of shape easily too, so be careful. It's better than nothing or putting stained or rusted ones back on. It also beats paying a small fortune to some parts dealer thousands of miles away. Just a note, the railings for the tank cars are #20 gauge and can usually be found in the same place. Hope this is helpful and keep on training!

“Do You Have The Original Box?” By Richard Tashjian

What is an original box? Is it the box that the model train came in when it was packed at the factory? Maybe it's the box that it was supposed to come in when it was packed at the factory but it's not exactly the same box the train was packed in at the factory. It could be a brand new box that was never used that you could put a train in that fits perfectly just as though it came from the factory and looks like the box that it was supposed to come in as if it was packed at the factory. Of course, the other challenge you have is to determine the exact year of the train you are buying to be sure you have the right box the train is supposed to come in. Just as there are many variations in trains there are variations in boxes. Lionel had sixteen (16) different type boxes from years 1945-1969 (source Greenberg's Volume II – Behind The Scenes).



Wait! Another thought just occurred to me. How is it possible that a box could get separated from a train when they both left the factory together and then the box show up at a train meet 30-50 years later as a separate sale? Could it be that Lionel manufactured more boxes than trains? Not possible. Welcome to the world of Lionel box collecting. This could be of great advantage to a train collector or operator who is looking for a train to run or complete his or her collection and does not have a concern about the box.

Here's how it is done. You're at York and spot the exact car you need to finish off your Congressional Set from 1955. It's the 2544 Molley Pitcher Pullman passenger car and it's in the Purple Hall. It's a beauty! It is now Saturday morning and you've been at York almost all week and you just got to go home with that car. It's the only one you've seen. The guy selling it won't "budge" from his price. He wants \$40.00 more than what you want to pay. He's got the original box with it (?see above). What do you do? You round up a fellow TCA member who you spot in the Red Hall to help you make this last minute deal. He says, "OK" let's go back to the Purple Hall." You don't really want the box but you have to buy them together. Your friend gets an idea. He says, "let's try to sell the box before you buy the train". You think your friend has had a little too much "York". You say, "how do we do that?" Your friend says, "easy, we'll rush back to the Red Hall looking for box buyers and ask them if they're interested in buying a Molly Pitcher box." You find them. You ask. It's possible they said and ask to see the box. Well of course you tell them you don't have the box because you haven't bought the train yet. In the meantime you got to hurry because the seller is packing and wants to go home. So the box buyers ask you "is it at least a seven (7)?, or more like a five (5)?, are the inner flaps intact?, is it a Middle Classic or Late Classic box?" This is box talk and you don't know. So you ask, " if it is at least a seven (7) what would you pay for it?" They say, " a Late Classic box \$50.00 or Early Classic Box maybe more." You and your friend rush back to the Purple Hall. The guy is still there. You look at the box. You think it's a seven (7) but don't know. To be sure your friend "squeeeezes" another five (5) dollars from the guy. You make the deal. Now you rush back to the Red Hall to find a box buyer. You find one of them. You pull the train out of the box. He looks at the box and hands you \$50.00 for the box. You now end up getting the train for less than you were willing to pay for it. Isn't this a great hobby. The box could have been worth more. No let's not get into that.

A true story. Special thanks to Bill Trappen (train buyer) for this wonderful experience I had. Thanks to box buyers, train collectors and operators may be able to continue to afford buy those old trains. Happy Hunting and "be aware of the box".

Upcoming Meets/Train Shows

Upcoming TCA shows—See the Meet Story in *The Layout* TCA Southern Division - Jacksonville, FL, November 22, 2014

Regal Railways – Joe Schramm –for info, contact Joe at joe@regalrailways.com; 727-441-2159

October 18, 2014, Elks Hall, Englewood, FL ; **November 1, 2014**. Citrus County Fairgrounds, Inverness, FL; **November 29, 2014**, Knights of Columbus Hall, 401 3rd St. SW, Winter Haven, FL 33880; **December 6, 2014**. Lopez Inc. Hall, Pinellas Park, FL; **January 17, 2015**. Elks Hall, 401 N. Indiana Ave, Englewood, FL.

Golden Spike - Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa, FL Dec. 20-21st. Contact Charles Miller, rrshows@aol.com, 703-536-2954, **Schultz Space Coast Trains**, Azan Shrine Temple, Melbourne, FL, Schultzspacecoastrains.com, 321-591-2641, December 6, 2014.

Promotion & Attendance at Train Meets

In order to promote awareness and thus attendance, we will print a schedule of upcoming shows in each quarter's Layout and at our Southern Division website (www.tcasoutherndivision.org). Another way these meets are promoted is by having flyers about upcoming shows available at each show, thus marketing to folks who have already evidenced an interest in trains by attending the show. We are looking for TCA-SD members to assist in that distribution. If you plan to attend any train related meets, shows or other events please contact TCA-SD Vice-President Steve Johnson (email: sjohnson@fljdcpa.com or call: 305-335-1752) and let him know. Steve will get flyers to you to take to the meet and leave out for others. If possible, please give Steve at least a week or more notice to ensure he has time to get the appropriate flyers to you. Thanks for your help!!

Board of Directors Meeting, Southern Division of TCA, Sept. 5, 2014—Ramada Inn, Venice, Florida

The meeting was called to order at 4:09 by President Brad Woodward. Secretary Dennis called the roll with the following officers in attendance. Brad Woodward, President; Steve Johnson, Vice President; Dienzel Dennis, Secretary; Mike Powell, Treasurer; Linda Harris, Communication Director; Arnie Travitsky, Past President; and Charlie Anyan, Past President. Guests in attendance were Tim Evert, Mike Mills, and Richard Tashjian.

Tim Evert was allowed to present his state of the meet report first so he could return to his duties on the trading hall floor. Everything is going great. All 110 tables have been claimed. The huge bill board at the draw bridge appears to be even better than the one we had last year. The open house and show and tell will be at the Venice Depot Museum tonight between 6:30 & 8:30 with plenty of refreshments available. The SD presented a train set to the museum and Tim will get a picture of this to include in the Layout magazine. The board thanked Tim for a job well done and released him to return to the trading floor for set up. Mr. Anyan brought up the need for articles for our club magazine. All board members are encouraged to write articles and also to entice other members to submit articles. Secretary Dennis also mentioned that one set of minutes were not included in the latest Layout. Back copies of our Layout is our main source of records so everything needs to be included. Since the March minutes were missing, they will be published along with today's minutes in the next issue.

President Woodward reported on his experience at the TCA national convention. He thanked our board for helping him attend this informative event. He reported that the average age of a TCA member is 65 ½ years. It is imperative that we start recruiting younger members. We discussed possible ways to accomplish this endeavor. We need to put more effort into our Kids Club.

The Vice President's report will be included with the Jacksonville Meet presentation later in the meeting.

Dienzel Dennis reported that we currently have 442 active Southern Division members. At this time last year we had 493 and finished the year with 503. This is about an 11% drop from last year, which is about the same drop off as the National TCA is experiencing. During the last 7 years, there have been 35 members died and 253 more that for some reason have not activated their current membership (listed as inactive). We therefore have 730 entrees in our data base. On another note, of our 442 active members, 325 have an email listed. That is approximately 75% but only 197 requests the Layout electronically with 249 still wanting the printed hard copy.

Secretary Dennis has printed out all new 2015 membership cards and has given them to our treasurer to distribute as new dues are collected. Finally, please encourage everyone to report to the Secretary any change of address, emails, phone numbers, etc. The secretary's report accepted as presented.

Our treasurer Mike Powell distributed 4 copies of the financial reports for quarterly reports and individual meets. We discussed these at length and approved all of them. Mike will present his treasure's report as a separate item in the Layout. The board passed a motion that, "a copy of all bank statements be sent to all board members with each quarterly treasurer's report." Motion passed.

Linda Harris, our Communications Director reported on all the advertisement that she does. We have another bill board for this meet and the meet was also advertised in trade magazines, hobby magazines, etc. We are always seeking out other methods and ways to get our message out such as T.V., radio, newspaper, posters, face book, Craig's list, Groupons, hand outs at open meets, etc. Mr. Dennis suggested that it may be advisable to use bigger ads it the TCA magazine, especially since only 400 of the 1000 Florida TCA members are SD members. Report approved.

Mr. Johnson reported on the status of the Jacksonville meet. (Nov. 22, 2014) Jeff Sawyer is the meet host with Mr. Johnson and Chuck Byrner giving assistance. Chuck is working on obtaining an open house. The meet location is secured and a host hotel will be advertised later on. There was some discussion of advertising alternatives for Jacksonville and other meets. Steve Johnson will follow up with Linda Harris and meet host Jeff Sawyer. Mr Johnson also reported that Jeff Sawyer is willing and would like to continue as the SD Kids Club chair.

Mr. Anyan reported that the Largo meet is a go and is progressing nicely. (Jan. 24, 2015) The Greater Orlando meet (Maitland in the past) is still on hold as we can not find a local member to be the meet host. Mr. Galli was not present to present the Palm Beach Gardens report but the president informed us that it is progressing as expected. (March 14, 2015)

Mr Dennis brought to the board the idea of setting exact times for the Layout publications on the same date every year, three months apart, and also a cutoff date for submission of articles. We are always trying to hurry up to get a publication out before the next meet. This way, if we have two meets scheduled before the next Layout, we will just include two meet notifications and table registrations in this particular issue. Then there might not be another meet before the next publication comes out.(no problem). Also, this would eliminate extra mailings, and expense, of meet notices between Layout issues. The board was very receptive to this proposal and Mr. Anyan will work with Mr Mayer, the Layout editor, on scheduling these dates to best accommodate all concerns.

Charlie Anyan was nominated by the Southern Division board to be placed on the National TCA ballot for President Elect for next year. Also, Robert Mintz was nominated from the Southern Division for the office of TCA National Treasurer. Both of these motions passed. Mr. Woodward is to inform the national committee of this action.

The nominating committee re Mr. Woodward is to inform the national committee of this action.orted on the slate of officers for next year. It is almost impossible to find members willing to step in and run for office. As a means of enticement, a motion was made and passed that anyone who serves in an elected office in the Southern Division will have their National TCA dues paid for by the SD for that year that they are in office. Motion Passed.


Richard Tashjian presented, and led discussions on the 50th anniversary project. It seems to be coming together very well with some exciting possibilities. He was instructed by the board to continue to pursue a couple of ideas that everyone liked. He will keep the board informed of his progress.

We discussed the idea of publishing disclaimers on certain articles in our magazine concerning repairs, etc. written by our membership. It was agreed that we will not approve, as a board or club, any repairs, improvements, etc. articles in our publication. We do not want to get into the habit of having to read and disclaim on every story submitted for publication. Our national "restored sticker" provided by the Standards Committee is sufficient for this task.

A motion was made and passed to allow our president to have signs made for both the East Coast and the West Coast meets. It is hard to transport our signs from coast to coast and it will be less expensive to have two sets available than to transport one set to every meet. Also, the board approved that President Woodward is to build an additional test track for the East Coast. The club will reimburse him for these expenditures.

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p. m.

Dienzel Dennis, Secretary
Southern Division of the TCA



Get your official
Southern Division
Magnifying Glass at
the next meet!

Southern Division Board Meeting Minutes , March 21, 2014—St. Marks Church Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

The meeting was called to order at 4:22 P.M. by President Woodward. Secretary Dennis called the roll with the following in attendance; President Woodward, Secretary Dennis, Treasurer Powell, Past President Anyan, Communication Director Harris, and Meet Host Al Galli. Vice President Johnson and Past President Travitsky were unable to attend.

The President and Mr. Galli reported on tomorrow's meet. Everything is going smoothly and we currently have sold 99 tables with 13 more for displays, layouts, etc., for a total of 112 reserved. Al Galli was thanked for doing a great job hosting this meet.

No Vice President report was given.

Dienzel Dennis, secretary, reported that as of last night we have 436 active members. This is down from 501 at the end of last December and the start of another new year. Part of this is due to the increase in National Dues. Also, we usually have a 10-12 % decrease to start the new year and by the end of the year we will be back up close to the 500 range. We have lost 36 deceased members, that I am aware of, since I became Secretary seven years ago. We also have 255 inactive members, those who have not renewed during the past 7 years. With our "one" honorary member, the entire data base now shows 727 entrees. Finally, everyone please let Secretary Dennis know of any change in your address, phone number, emails, etc.

Mike Powell submitted the 2014 budget. After a few minor adjustments, the budget was approved as amended. The budget will be printed in the next "Layout"

Linda Harris, our Communication Director, reported on the different means of advertisements and the cost of the different methods. We want to do the best advertising possible with the least expense. This includes local T. V., radio, newspaper, local magazines, train hobby publications, emails, TCA e-blast, etc.

We next discussed our future meets, including Venice on Sept 6, 2014; Jacksonville on Nov. 22, 2014; and Largo on Jan.24, 2015. These are all progressing nicely. In the future we hope to have all meets scheduled at least a year in advance for better advertising. We are currently looking at Venice on Sept. 12, 2015, Jacksonville on Nov. 21, 2015, and Largo on Jan. 24, 2016. We are looking for someone to host a meet for us in the Orlando vicinity and we are also discussing the Gold Coast meet in Miami during National Rail Road Days.

We had another talk concerning the upcoming Southern Division 50th anniversary in 3 years. This includes special commemoratives, banquets, special offers, and gifts to the membership.

The tax situation regarding sales at train shows is now a hot topic. Steve Johnson has obtained the proper Florida papers and President Woodward has signed them. We think we are O. K. in the Southern Division. We will watch this carefully and adjust as needed.

Charlie Anyan was approved as the chairmen of the nominating committee with Arnie Travitsky and one other member that Charlie wishes to include. Any one who wishes to run or wants to nominate someone, please contact Mr. Anyan.

We all expressed thoughts on how to increase membership. There are over 1000 TCA members in Florida and only 436 belong to the Southern Division.

Motion made and passed to reimburse board members \$100.00 for each meet where we travel more than 50 miles, and have to spend the night in a hotel for this 2 day adventure.

We are in need of a KIDS CLUB Chairman. Currently the president is coordinating this project but help is needed and would be much appreciated. Volunteers are welcome to accept this position.

After some discussion, a motion was made and passed to allow the President to acquire 20 - \$10.00 gift certificates to be handed out to the front door table workers as he sees necessary.

New Business:

1. There were no Southern Division Awards and Plaques given out for the year 2013.
2. You can be an officer in two different train clubs as long as only one of them is a national club. A national club is one that has membership in 6 or more states.
3. We discussed the cost of TCA e-blast for the SD meets.
4. Discussion was had for possibility of this train meet being a week earlier next year.
5. We discussed how to record and retain a SD kids club roster. Louise Woodward is currently involved with this project.
6. The way we currently present, correct, pass and distribute the minutes is acceptable.
7. Officers \$10.00 dues are waived as part of a perk for all the work done for the club.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:12 P.M.

Dienzel Dennis,
Southern Division Secretary

Show and Tell at The Venice Depot



Photos From The Venice Meet



Photos From The Venice Meet

