



**The Meet Story: Lake Nona Train Show and Events  
 November 8th & 9th, 2024**

*All Tracks Lead Back to the Orlando area for Another Great TCA Southern Division Train Show with a **Tour of the Orlando Fisher House**, a **Large Train Meet**, plus a **Happy Hour, Dinner and Show-and-Tell Party!***

**Event #1:** The first event in our Southern Division weekend kicks off Friday, November 8th, the day before the train meet. Since it's the weekend before Veterans Day, anyone who is interested may tour the Orlando Fisher House. The Orlando Fisher House is a 16-suite comfort home located at the Orlando VA Medical Center at Lake Nona. It is one of 97+ comfort homes across the United States built by the Fisher House Foundation. Military and Veterans' families can stay at no cost while a loved one is receiving medical treatment. These homes are located at major military and VA medical centers, usually within waking distance of the medical facility. There is no charge to tour, and no pre-registration is required. If you're interested, contact Mike Mills in advance for details.



Orlando Fisher House

**Event #2:** The weekend's main event is our **Fall Train Meet** on Saturday, November 9th when we return to the Lake Nona Middle School which has high visibility along Narcoossee Road with easy access to the premises. Set up in the spacious cafeteria with its easy load-in/load-out access: Friday 4:30-7:00P and Saturday 7:00-9:00A. Meet opens at 9:00A for TCA members (have your TCA and SD membership cards to show at the check-in table). General public meet hours: 10:00A-2:30P. If you have family and/or friends who plan to attend, please advise them that adult admission price is \$5/person - cash only - and ATMs are nearby. To reserve a selling or display table, complete the attached Table and Event Registration Form (TERF) as soon as possible. As this show is the weekend before Veterans Day, and to show our appreciation, all veterans admitted will receive a \$5.00 Gift Certificate to be used as a credit for purchases from vendors inside the show.

**Event #3:** The "caboose" of the weekend is actually a three-part event in itself. Post-meet, we'll again head over to Giovanni's Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria for a **Happy Hour** starting at 4:00P where members and guests will have the opportunity to unwind and enjoy complimentary appetizers. Then at 5:00P we'll enjoy a delicious **Italian cuisine buffet dinner** including salad, dessert and soft drinks. The cost to attend the dinner and party is \$16.00 per person. Again, because the division is subsidizing a portion of the cost of the food, only SD members and their immediate families (spouse, children, grandchildren) are invited. After dinner ... the fun resumes with the always popular **Show-and-Tell presentations**. Several members will be displaying a unique item or two from their train collections. Show-and-Tell table space and available time will be limited to five presenters, so members who wish to bring something to show and talk about are asked to sign up on the attached or included TERF and send it in as soon as possible. We hope to wrap up the day's activities by 8:00P so that everyone can be home or at their place of lodging at a decent hour. We hope to see you at all three events!

*Mike Mills and Bill Trappen*

*Check the website for the most up-to-date info.*

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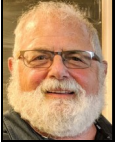
**The Southern Division Board of Directors,  
Webmaster, and *The Layout* Editor**



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phone and/or email changes.



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Facebook: [Train Collectors  
Association-Southern Division](https://www.facebook.com/TrainCollectorsAssociation-Southern-Division)

\*Send SD dues payments to  
Mike: P.O. Box 2381  
Palm Harbor, FL 34682

\*Reminder: Southern Division membership is  
open to all TCA members in good standing.  
If you're not already a TCA member,  
you may join TCA when you join the SD.



**The Layout Editor**  
Mary Anyan  
[maryanyan.mia1@gmail.com](mailto:maryanyan.mia1@gmail.com)

Send notices of upcoming  
train shows to Mary.

**President's Perspective by Mike Setzer**

This year is flying by, and here we are in the beautiful fall season (for those who get to experience it).

Lots of activities are coming up this fall, winter and spring, and I hope to see you at all of them: **York**, October 17-19, 2024; **Lake Nona**, November 8-9, 2024; **Pinellas Park**, January 17-18, 2025; **Bushnell**, March 29, 2025; and **Port St. Lucie**, May 10, 2025 (which also happens to be National Train Day). Keep checking the website and the next couple of issues of *The Layout*.

Here's my quarterly request for volunteers at the TCA Convention in Jacksonville next June. In August you were emailed a list of opportunities to provide your time and talent and have fun in the process (see page 5 of this newsletter), so please give it serious consideration. If you find you're able to contribute, email Mary Anyan.

As we approach the beginning of the holiday season, I wish all of you safe and happy times filled with family, friends and trains.

Watch for the Winter 2024-2025 issue of the newsletter, to be distributed during the week between Christmas and New Year.

*Mike*

## Vice President's Viewpoint by Mike Mills

We are fast approaching our **Fall Train Meet** on November 9th (hosted by yours truly and Bill Trappen), and your Board of Directors has been busy planning and directing a variety of exciting events and programs. All are mentioned in this newsletter. From our new **T-Shirt Sales Program** to the **TCA 2025 National Convention in Jacksonville**, I hope you will participate in some or all that we are offering.

By the time you receive this newsletter, we already will have held our first **Recruiting Event** on September 5th at Zitnik Trains. That event was the prototype of future recruitment events that we're hoping will be held across the state in SD counties.

**Update:** The event was a success! SD Board of Directors members Mike Setzer, Mike Powell and I attended along with approximately 30 others. The TCA acquired 7 new members, and the SD acquired 8. Some of the new members shared why they joined. The always supportive Dave and Gale Zitnik offered a delicious buffet, and we are most grateful. Ten SD men's T-shirts were sold and orders were taken for three more. One women's shirt was sold. We feel great to have this first recruiting event under our belt, and we received solid ideas for future recruiting efforts.

As a Concept: An invitation would be announced through social media, *The Layout* and our website. Area people will be invited to attend a hosted Open House. Also welcomed will be any Southern Division Members who invite and accompany prospective new members of their own. This gathering of a couple of hours is to share our interest in TCA and Southern Division and our passion for model/toy train collecting and operating train layouts. With this concept in mind, we're looking to find a Recruiting/Event Coordinator who would help facilitate these gatherings with local hosts. These events can be as simple or as elaborate as a host would care to put on. Open your home, or meet at a local restaurant or business. This is all about promoting recruitment of new members to TCA and/or the Southern Division. If you're interested in helping with this new idea, please contact me or any of your SD board members.

(continued on p. 10)

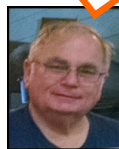
Nov. 8-9,  
2024  
Lake Nona



Jan. 17-18,  
2025  
Pinellas Park



March 29,  
2025  
Bushnell



May 10,  
2025  
Port St. Lucie



The guys at left want to  
see YOU at these  
SD train meets, so  
**SAVE THE DATES**  
& be there!



## TCA SOUTHERN DIVISION T-SHIRTS — NEW!

The Southern Division Board of Directors is offering **SD Members** the opportunity to purchase an official division T-shirt. And this time, **a women's V-neck shirt is available!** Think of this purchase not only as a way to show support for your division at train shows. But when you wear your shirt elsewhere, it **just might** encourage folks to ask you about the club, which **just might** lead to new TCA and SD members. It's a "win-win"!



Yellow  
graphics  
over  
medium-  
dark  
green  
shirt

### Available Sizes and Prices:

**Men's:** Small, Medium, Large and Extra Large = \$18/shirt;  
2-Extra Large and 3-Extra Large = \$19/shirt

**Women's:** Small, Medium, Large and Extra Large = \$18/shirt

You may elect to have your shirt(s) shipped to you for an **additional \$5 for one shirt; shipping for additional shirt(s) in same pkg. = \$3/shirt.**

Or, you may pick up your shirt(s) at no charge at a Southern Division train show - dates are found on the website. Send the order form (included with or attached to this newsletter) and payment to Mike Mills.

**Initial supply is limited, so act quickly.**

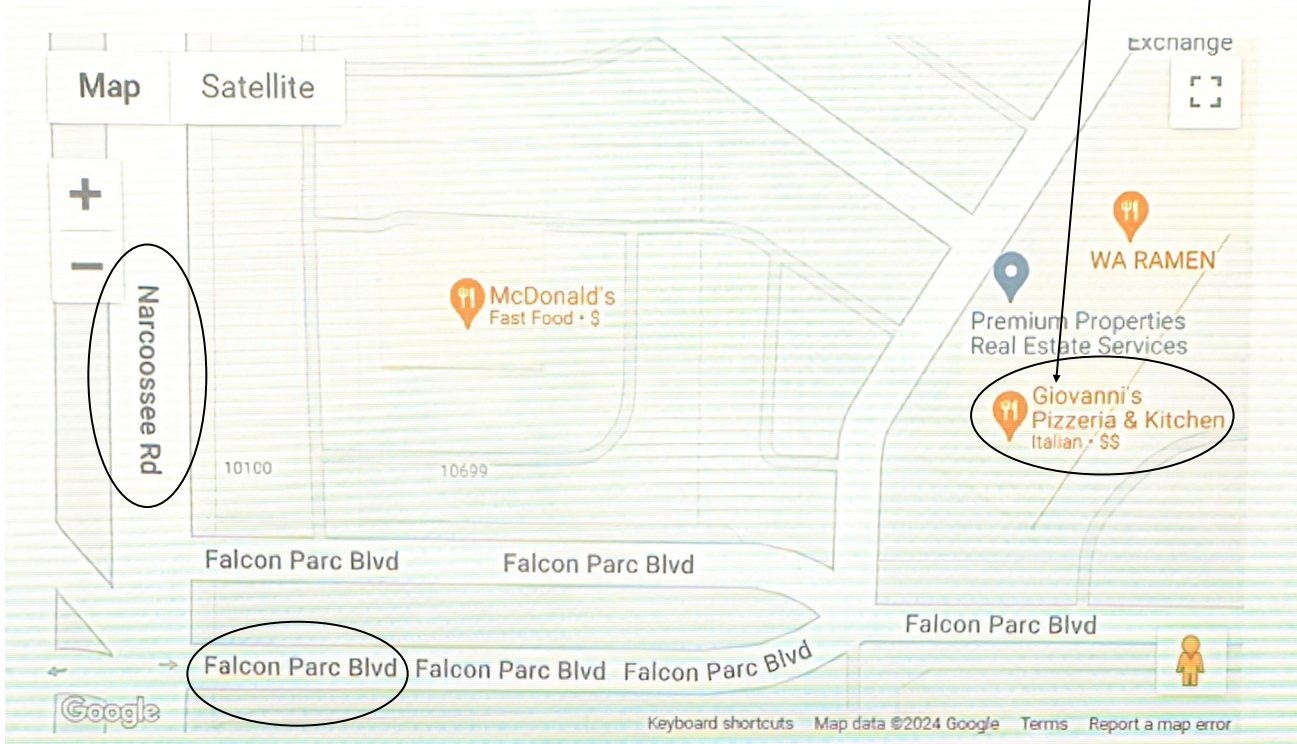
And let us know if you're interested in baseball caps and/or visors.



Map to Lake Nona Middle School, 13700 Narcoossee Rd., Orlando 32832



Map to Giovanni's Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria  
10663 Narcoossee Rd., Orlando 32832  
(<https://giovannisrestaurant.com/lake-nona/>)



## The Southern Division Has a New Webmaster and Facebook Administrator!

The Southern Division Board of Directors is pleased to announce that SD Member Keith Totten graciously volunteered to receive the torch from retiring webmaster Bill Porter.

Bill has been our Webmaster and Facebook administrator for the past five years. His vast knowledge of website intricacies and Facebook quirks, plus his pleasant personality, have made him a delight with whom to work.

Bill and Keith already have been working together, and the complete transition on/before the end of October will be seamless.

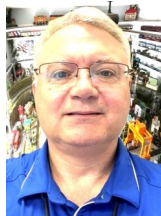
The board sincerely thanks Bill for his service and wishes him all the best in retirement.

This is Bill  
“retiring”!



### *From Keith . . .*

I have been involved with trains since I was 5 years old. My first layout was on loan from my uncle, and that was some 50 years ago. I remember having Lionel O-gauge and HO trains, but the play value and fun were found with the postwar Lionel sets that my parents provided.



I have fond memories of my dad taking me to local meets and teaching me to make sure to look at all the tables as well as those boxes on the floor. I was 12 years old and hooked on the hobby. Fast forward 30 years, and I had a chance of earning some supplemental income working for a Ft. Lauderdale train shop named “Trader Jacks.” I would visit the store

2-3 times a week and pick up all their customers’ and store items in need of repair. This went on for 10 years. In addition to repairing trains, I started building layouts for people and made quite a number of new friends.

Professionally, I am still employed full time as a Security Manager for a Pharmaceutical Research Center. Prior to that I had retired from Florida State Law Enforcement after 26 years, including serving 7 years as a Police Chief.

On the IT side of things, I currently design and maintain my church’s web pages and am well versed in current computer tech.

I look forward to working with and meeting the needs of the TCA Southern Division.

### **TCA 2025 Convention - Jacksonville, June 21-28, 2025 — Volunteer Opportunities**

**For those interested, here are a few provided by TCA Convention Chairman Bob Keller:**

1. Tour Escorts (varying tour lengths)
2. Welcome Party (Wednesday, 5-6P to set out auction items and bid sheets, and 7-8P to collect Welcome Party tickets at the door)
3. Marketplace Security (1- to 2-hour shifts on Friday, 8A-5P and Saturday, 8A-1P)
4. Banquet (Saturday, 3-5P, set out banquet programs and prizes)

**If interested, please email Mary Anyan: [maryanyan.mia1@gmail.com](mailto:maryanyan.mia1@gmail.com). Thanks to those who already responded.**

## Minutes - TCA Southern Division Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom, July 19, 2024

A Train Collectors Association (TCA) Southern Division (SD) Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting was held July 19, 2024, beginning at 1:05 PM EDT. The meeting was called to order by President Mike Setzer.

Past President Steve Johnson called roll with the following board members participating: President Setzer; Vice President Mike Mills; Treasurer Mike Powell; Communications Officer Bill Trappen; and Past Presidents Johnson and Charlie Anyan. A quorum was present. Invited guests who participated: SD Webmaster and Facebook Administrator Bill Porter; and *The Layout* Editor Mary Anyan.

Mr. Setzer reported that the 2024 TCA Convention in June 2024 in Lancaster went well. Ft. Pitt Division President George Starz and his team compiled a "Division President Guidelines Manual" which was presented to each attendee. The manual is comprehensive and easily can be updated as necessary. At this time, the manual is in hard copy format but will be digitized in the near future. The SD's September 5<sup>th</sup> Recruiting Campaign feedback from those at the convention was positive. TCA President (and METCA Division member) Kevin Quinn challenged each division to donate at least \$1000 to the TCA Endowment Fund and stated that if all of the other 19 divisions donate, METCA will donate at least \$10,000 to the fund. The SD BOD discussed, and it was decided that at this time that the Southern Division will utilize its treasury funds for division critical needs projects.

**Motion:** The Southern Division donates \$1,000 to the TCA's Endowment Fund. Motion unanimously was vetoed.

Mr. Powell and the board reviewed the SD 2024 1Q and 2Q Treasurer's Reports previously emailed to the board.

**Motion:** The Southern Division Board of Directors accepts the SD 2024 1Q Treasurer's Report as written. Motion unanimously was approved.

**Motion:** The Southern Division Board of Directors accepts the SD 2024 2Q Treasurer's Report as written. Motion unanimously was approved.

Both reports will be included with the Fall 2024 newsletter.

Mr. Trappen reported on his Communications Officer's activities since the last board meeting. He: 1) prepared and sent the mailing list file for the summer newsletter to the printer for those members who do not receive the newsletter by email; 2) prepared the Southern Division input for the complimentary ¼-page ad and calendar of meets column for the last few issues of the TCA National HQ News; 3) had Save-the-Date cards printed for the SD November Orlando/Lake Nona Meet which were distributed by he and Mr. Mills to TCA table holders at three local train shows; 4) was contacted by an SD member requesting hotel info for the November meet; and 5) collected information on previous, future scheduled, and expected Florida train shows to determine available dates for future SD Meets.

Mr. Porter reported that the website is functioning well, and there have been no reports of problems or issues.

Mrs. Anyan reminded the board that items for the Fall 2024 newsletter are due to her not later than September 1<sup>st</sup>. That newsletter will contain the Lake Nona Meet Story and Table and Events Registration Form (TERF). The Summer 2024 newsletter was eblasted to SD members July 16, and it will be eblasted to the TCA BOD upon receipt of the most current list of members and their emails.

Mr. Mills, Mr. Trappen and the board discussed the November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Lake Nona meet which again will be held at the Lake Nona Middle School. Set-up hours on Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> will be 4:30-7:00P and additionally on Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-9:00A. The meet will open at 9:00A for TCA members, and general public admission hours will be 10:00A-2:30P. Displays, layouts and food truck possibilities were discussed. A return to the Pembertons' was discussed for Friday the 8<sup>th</sup>, and Mr. Trappen advised that in view of rising costs of table rental, food, etc., it is not feasible. Mr. Mills mentioned that he has been in contact with a Brightline representative regarding a possible tour on the 8<sup>th</sup> of Basecamp, a 135,805 sq. ft. state-of-the-art train maintenance facility in

## Minutes - TCA Southern Division Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom, July 19, 2024 (cont'd.)

Orlando. Brightline boasts that they are the only provider of modern, eco-friendly, intercity rail in America. Another Friday afternoon option is the Orlando Fisher House in Lake Nona. It is one of more than 97 comfort homes throughout the United States built by the Fisher House Foundation and is a 16-suite comfort home located on site at the Orlando VA Medical Center in Lake Nona. Military and veterans' families can stay at no cost at the Fisher House while their loved ones are receiving medical treatment. Post-show event venues and times were discussed, and one mentioned was the Lake Nona Performance Club. Another option is a return to Giovanni's. As this is still in the planning stage, final decisions will be posted on the SD's website and also contained in the Meet Story in the Fall newsletter.

The board discussed that as this show is the weekend prior to Veterans Day (Monday the 11<sup>th</sup>), the SD would like to honor all veterans.

**Motion:** All veterans attending the November 9, 2024, Lake Nona Train Show will receive a \$5.00 Gift Certificate to be used at the show. Motion unanimously was approved.

Mr. Mills reported that an SD member phoned him regarding accepting credit cards at the check-in table on show day. The board discussed, and it was decided that the following wording will be posted on the SD website, on the meet flyer, in the meet story of the Fall newsletter and on flyers at the venue doors: "Cash only – nearby ATMs."

The board discussed the January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Pinellas Park show. Longtime venue, the Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center (PPPAC), does not have available dates which would not conflict with surrounding train shows. Meet Host Guy Ateniese worked with Joe Schramm of Regal Railways, and next year's meet will be held at the Lopez Hall in Pinellas Park. The meet story will be contained in the Winter 2024-25 issue of the newsletter.

The board discussed a 2025 SD member show at the Bushnell Station (<https://bushnellstation.com>). The proposed date is Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, and will include another old-fashioned, parking-lot swap meet from 9:00A-12 noon. Mr. Setzer will contact the manager of the station to confirm the date. A sign-up sheet will be included with the Winter 2024-25 newsletter.

The board discussed the Pinellas Park 2026 meet, scheduled for February 7 (set up February 6<sup>th</sup>) at the PPPAC. Required forms and deposit have been provided to the City of Pinellas Park to secure the venue.

Mr. Mills and the board discussed the September 5<sup>th</sup> Recruiting Campaign open house at Zitnik Trains. T-shirt prices, sizes, number to initially order and printing vendors were discussed, and it was suggested to use the vendor currently supplying shirts for Zitnik Trains.

**Motion:** Order an initial number of 24 T-shirts of varying sizes. Motion unanimously was approved.

The SD's Zoom account was discussed, and it was decided that in order to most easily pass the Administrator duty from Mr. Johnson to Mr. Powell, the current account should be closed by Mr. Johnson and then a new account will be opened by Mr. Powell.

The board discussed the critical need for volunteers for the TCA 2025 Jacksonville Convention. Very few people have indicated their willingness to step up, and the board appreciates those who have. However, many roles still need to be filled. If you wish to help, email TCA Convention Chairman Bob Keller, [bkeller046@gmail.com](mailto:bkeller046@gmail.com), and copy Mr. Setzer.

Mr. Porter advised the board that at the end of October 2024 he will relinquish his duties as SD Webmaster and Facebook Administrator. The board complimented Mr. Porter on his technical skills and thanked him for his willingness to serve for so many years. The SD needs a new Webmaster and Facebook Administrator. Technical skills and knowledge of necessary programs will be posted on the website, listed on the division's Facebook page, eblasted to all SD members, and listed in the Fall newsletter if necessary. If you are willing to volunteer your time and talent, or know someone who is, please contact Mr. Porter. He is willing to teach. Time is of the essence. The board discussed discontinuing use of Mr. Porter's personal credit card and then getting reimbursed by Mr. Powell from the division's treasury funds for the website maintenance fee. Begin using Mr. Powell's personal credit card who will then receive reimbursement by check from the division's treasury funds.

## Minutes - TCA Southern Division Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom, July 19, 2024 (cont'd.)

**Motion:** Discontinue using Bill Porter's personal credit card for the Southern Division website maintenance fee and use the personal credit card of Mr. Powell who will then receive reimbursement by check from the division's treasury funds. Motion unanimously was approved.

A Ft. Pitt Division (FPD) member serves as their YouTube "roving reporter," and it was suggested that perhaps the SD considers recruiting someone similar. YouTube and TikTok are extremely popular and, the FPD reports a membership increase since the show went "live." Check out <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5JGe0DTAoY2hsHbiWgLMPQ>. If you're interested or know someone who is, email any SD board member.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM EDT.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Anyan, *The Layout* Editor  
for Dienzel Dennis, Secretary

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## Minutes - TCA Southern Division Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom, August 23, 2024

A Train Collectors Association (TCA) Southern Division (SD) Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting was held August 23, 2024, beginning at 1:38 PM EDT.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Mike Mills.

Secretary Dienzel Dennis called roll with the following board members participating: Vice President Mills; Secretary Dennis; Treasurer Mike Powell; Communications Officer Bill Trappen; and Past President Charlie Anyan. A quorum was present. Invited guests who participated: SD Webmasters Bill Porter and Keith Totten; and *The Layout* Editor Mary Anyan.

Mr. Dennis reported that the SD member roster currently reflects 299 Active, 566 Inactive, and 112 Deceased.

Mr. Powell reported that the SD treasury fund currently reflects \$9,020.

Mr. Trappen: 1) He contacted the Polish-American Social Club in Port St. Lucie to discuss a potential SD train meet at that venue. The club was secured for May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, which also happens to be National Train Day. 2) He contacted three members in the Port St. Lucie area to help with the meet. 3) He participated in several email and phone discussions with VP Mills and Mrs. Anyan regarding the T-shirt design, order forms and marketing write up. 4) He participated in phone conversations with two webmaster candidates. One candidate indicated an interest in helping at the TCA 2025 Jacksonville Convention and was referred to TCA Convention Chairman Bob Keller. 5) He sent the master Lake Nona (Orlando area) Meet flyer to an SD contact in the St. Petersburg area to have 500 copies printed which will be available at the September 5<sup>th</sup> recruiting event at Zitnik Trains. Extra flyers will be returned to Mr. Mills or him to distribute at three Orlando-area train shows with the first one just two days after the recruiting event.

Mr. Porter reported that the SD website is functioning well. The financial aspect has been transferred to Mr. Powell. Mr. Porter welcomed the SD's new Webmaster/Facebook Administrator Keith Totten and advised that Mr. Totten will need to acquire FTP credentials and recommended that he use FileZilla as the tool for FTP transfers. Mr. Totten will update the website's "Officers" page to reflect his photo and contact information. The remainder of the board welcomed Mr. Totten.

Mrs. Anyan reported: 1) The Fall 2024 newsletter will be completed September 5<sup>th</sup> when post-recruiting event comments and photos from board members who attended are received. She will email the newsletter to the board for a final approval and then email the newsletter and inserts/attachments to the printer's. 2) The Summer 2024 newsletter was eblasted to the TCA BOD. 3) The Lake Nona (Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>) Meet Story, Table and Event Registration Form (TERF), and the Pinellas Park (Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025) TERF will be included in the Fall newsletter.



## Minutes - TCA Southern Division Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom, August 23, 2024 (cont'd.)

Mr. Mills reported on the Lake Nona meet: 1) On Friday the 8<sup>th</sup>, an opportunity to tour the Orlando Fisher House will be provided at no cost, and details about the Fisher House will be included in the Fall newsletter. 2) It was decided that an in-person board of directors meeting will be held November 8 from 2-4 p.m. at a location to be determined. 3) He further reported on the layouts/displays currently scheduled for the meet on the 9<sup>th</sup>. 4) He reported that the post-meet happy hour, dinner and show & tell again will be held at Giovanni's.

Mike Powell reported that he recently attended a train show at Lopez Hall and found it to be suitable for the SD's Pinellas Park meet on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The down payment was sent.

Mr. Trappen reported on the Port St. Lucie meet scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, which also is National Train Day. The event will be held at the Polish-American Social Club, and a signed contract was mailed this date. Mr. Totten and SD member Rob Wachter agreed to help with this show; however, more volunteers are needed. Barbara Mills, Rosemary Trappen, and Richard and Judy Tashjian may be on site to assist. Messrs. Mills, Trappen and Totten will conduct a walk thru of the facility next year.

Mr. Mills reported that the SD T-shirt order form is on the home page of the website and also will be included with or attached to the Fall newsletter. An initial order has been placed, and shirts will be available at the September 5<sup>th</sup> Recruiting Event at Zitnik Trains. The board discussed eligibility for raffle prizes at the event: a \$300 engine donated by Zitnik Trains = new recruits only; smaller items = everyone except new recruits; SD T-shirt = SD members who bring new recruits.

The board discussed the need for volunteers at the TCA 2025 Jacksonville Convention, and the question was asked in what areas they are needed and for what length of time. Mrs. Anyan volunteered to contact Bob Keller for information.

Reference the YouTube roving reporter gig, the board discussed and decided to table this topic for the time being.

Mr. Powell advised that Dave Zitnik of Zitnik Trains expressed an interest in forming a TCA modular layout club which could meet at his store in Pinellas Park. The board discussed this and determined that a large number of people would need to be involved, and they decided to table this item for the time being.

**Motion:** Adjourn the Southern Division Board of Directors Meeting at 2:45 PM EDT. Motion unanimously was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM EDT.

Respectfully submitted:  
Dienzel Dennis,  
Secretary

**Pics from the  
September 5th  
Recruiting Event at  
Zitnik Trains**



**L:  
Dave Zitnik  
holding court  
while folks  
stare . . .  
mesmerized**



**L: Welcome and  
congratulations  
to Kevin Kaas,  
new TCA and  
SD member!  
He also won the  
Lionel 6-2803  
O Gauge  
Pennsylvania  
4-6-2 K4 Pacific  
Steam Loco w/  
RS #3755 LN.**

**R, L-R: Mike  
Powell and  
Mike Mills  
wearing their  
new SD  
green shirts  
Middle, blue  
shirt: Guy  
Ateniese**



## Vice President's Viewpoint (cont'd.)

Now let's get to some interesting details about our **Lake Nona** events. First, if any of you are coming from out of area and will be staying over, Lake Nona has a number of hotels close to our meet venue, Lake Nona Middle School. While we don't have an official hotel, the following are provided for your consideration: Hampton Inn & Home2 Suites, .75 mi., Ph: 407-856-9165; Holiday Inn Express, 1.8 mi., Ph: 407-207-7001; Aloft by Marriott, 2.4 mi, Ph: 407-313-3700; Courtyard & Residence Inn, 2.8 mi., Ph: 407-275-5071; Lake Nona Wave Hotel, 3 mi., Ph: 407-675-2000; Spring Hill Suites, 4.9 mi., Ph: 407-313-3012.

**The Orlando Fisher House Tour:** As noted in the Meet Story, please contact me if you'd like a brief but an enlightening tour. The Fisher House is located on the Lake Nona VA Hospital grounds. Manager George Denby, Jr. is a veteran and would be honored to show you around. Due to their operating schedule, I will need to contact them in advance to arrange the tour.

Saturday we hope to draw many table holders and attendees to the meet, so spread the word. We are featuring many returning layouts and some new layouts as well. There will be N, O, HO and S gauge layouts. A note to our table holders: we are promoting this meet as *The Beginning of the Holiday Season*. Therefore, you might want to offer 'starter' items on your table to encourage young families and other newcomers to join our fun of train collecting.

Almost lastly: If you want to present an item at the post-dinner Show & Tell, mark it on the TERF in this issue.

Lastly: I'd like to thank Bill and Rosemary Trappen, Todd Davis, Judy Tashjian, our local friends (non-SD members), Mary Anyan, and especially my wife Barbara for all of their hard work before, during and after our meet.

Mike

## Upcoming Train Meets/Shows 2024-2025

**For the latest updates, check first with the meet/show hosts by phoning or referring to websites.**

### 2024:

**Oct. 5:** 86th Florida Rail Fair, Volusia County Fairgrounds, Lawrence Arena, 3150 E. New York Ave., Deland 32724 ([www.gserr.com](http://www.gserr.com)) (**Golden Spike**)

**Oct. 10-13:** NMRA Sunshine Region Annual Convention & Train Show, Ocala Hilton, 3600 SW 36th Ave., Ocala 34474 (9A-3P, Jim Robertson [jnr@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:jnr@tampabay.rr.com) or 352-746-4039 <https://www.sunshineregion.org>) (**NMRA Sunshine Region**)

**Oct. 17-19:** Eastern Division's Train Show, York, PA

**Oct. 26:** Toy & Train Show, The Point Church, 1430 Belleaire Rd., Clearwater 33756 (Vendors and Model Train Layouts, lunch available, Adults \$6.00, children 12 and under free, 9A-2P, (EARLY BIRD reservation 8-9A \$7.00), [www.regalrailways.com](http://www.regalrailways.com)) (**Regal Railways**)

**Nov. 3:** Parking Lot Swap Meet, 5193 73rd Ave. N., Pinellas Park (9A-1P, pre-registration required, 727-201-9668; [www.zitniktrains.com](http://www.zitniktrains.com)) (**Zitnik Trains**)

**Nov. 9: Lake Nona (Orlando Area) Annual Train Show (Meet Story - this issue!)  
(Southern Division)**

**Nov. 16:** Toy & Train Show, Elks Lodge, 7201 Congress St., New Port Richey 34653 (**Regal**)

(continued on p. 11)

## Upcoming Train Meets/Shows 2024-2025 (cont'd.)

**Dec. 7:** Toy and Train Christmas Show, Florida National Guard Armory, 8551 W. Venable St., **Crystal River 34429 (Regal)**

**Dec. 12-15:** The Villages Holiday Train Show, Colony Cottage Recreational Center, 510 Colony Blvd., **The Villages 32162** (Display show only with operating layouts and static displays; 12th-14th: 9A-4P; 15th: 10A-3P, Rich Trifari 352-638-2788, [rwtrif@gmail.com](mailto:rwtrif@gmail.com)) (**The Villages Model Train Club**)

**Dec. 14:** Train Show & Open House (Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center, 4951 78th Ave. N., **Pinellas Park 33781 (Suncoast Model Railroad Club)**)

**Dec. 14-15:** 12th Annual Toy & Train Show, St. Mark's Gymnasium, 3395 Burns Rd., **Palm Beach Gardens 33410** (<http://www.derrickwagnerfoundation.com/index.html>) (**Derrick Wagner Foundation**)

**Dec. 21:** Toy and Train Christmas Show, Lopez Hall, 7177 58th Street N., **Pinellas Park 33781 (Regal)**

### 2025:

**Jan. 18: Train Show, Pinellas Park 33781 - Table and Event Registration Form (TERF) in this newsletter. Meet Story and TERF also included in Winter 2024-2025 newsletter. (Southern Division)**

**Jan. 18-19:** 18th Annual Model Train Show, Martin County Fairgrounds, 2616 SE Dixie Hwy., **Stuart 34996** (<http://www.martincountymodelrailroaders.org>) (**Martin County Model Railroad Club**)

**Jan. 25:** Toy and Train Show, Hernando County Fairgrounds, 6436 Broad St., **Brooksville 34601 (Regal)**

**Feb. 1-2:** The Villages Winter Expo, Savannah Regional Center, 1545 Buena Vista Blvd., **The Villages 32162**, (<http://www.thevillagesmodeltrainclub.com>) (**The Villages Model Train Club**)

**Feb. 9:** Parking Lot Swap Meet, 5193 73rd Ave. N., **Pinellas Park** (9A-1P, pre-registration required, 727-201-9668; ([www.zitniktrains.com](http://www.zitniktrains.com))) (**Zitnik Trains**)

**Feb. 15-16:** 46th Annual Train Show, Bradenton Area Convention Center, 1 Haben Blvd., **Palmetto 34221** (David Fontaine, 941-685-2221, [david\\_f\\_34205@yahoo.com](mailto:david_f_34205@yahoo.com); [www.realrail.org](http://www.realrail.org)) (**Real Rail**)

**Mar. 29: Parking Lot Swap Meet, Bushnell Station, 6470 West County Rd. 476, Bushnell 33513**  
**Meet Story and Table Registration Form will be included in the Winter 2024-2025 newsletter.**  
**(Southern Division)**

**May 10 - NATIONAL TRAIN DAY!: Train Show, Port St. Lucie - check the SD website and also the Winter 2024-2025 and Spring 2025 newsletters for additional info. (Southern Division)**

**Jun. 21-28: TCA Convention, Jacksonville**

**Promotion and Attendance at Southern Division sponsored Train Meets:** In order to promote awareness and thus attendance, we list a schedule of upcoming shows on our Southern Division website as well as in each quarter's *The Layout*. We also promote these meets with flyers about upcoming shows available at non-SD sponsored train shows, thus marketing to folks who already have 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 **Bill Trappen** ([bill9678@aol.com](mailto:bill9678@aol.com) or phone 407-538-9678). Bill will get flyers to you to take to the meets and leave out for others. If possible, please give Bill at least 10 days' notice to ensure he has time to get the flyers to you. Thanks for your help.

Train Collectors Association  
Southern Division  
P. O. Box 2381  
Palm Harbor, FL 34682

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The deadline for articles, photos, etc..  
for the next issue of *The Layout* is  
December 1, 2024.

## SWITCH LIST

Selling a large collection of Post-War and modern-era Lionel Trains. Most are mint in box. If interested, email Mike Setzer: [setzermichael@hotmail.com](mailto:setzermichael@hotmail.com).

Wanted: 1 piece each, any condition, curved or straight "00" gauge 2-rail and 3-rail track. Will take them separately or together.  
Dienzel Dennis: 386-316-8339

**For Sale: HO-size cast. Real lead WWI Marching Soldiers.** See Summer 2023 edition of *The Layout* for photo and further description. Each is stamped on the bottom, "MADE IN S. AFRICA." **Vintage.** Asking \$100 total (**less than \$2 each**), plus \$20 shipping (in the continental U.S.). Charlie Anyan: 727-459-8681 [charlieanyan@gmail.com](mailto:charlieanyan@gmail.com)

Are you ready to **Sell** or **Thin out** your **Train and Toy collections**? Please call Dick Wilsen (Sarasota): 941-374-2288.

TCA Skytop Observation Car + TCA A & B Shells. **All mint.** Asking \$200 for all.  
Vince Coffman: 407-678-7448

**American Flyer Trains by A. C. Gilbert.** Buy, sell, repairs done. Diesel bushings redone. Single motor, \$25; Double motor, \$40 (includes general servicing and parts). Contact Chris Lucibello: 2483 Pinellas Point Dr. S., St. Petersburg 33712, 727-867-3465, email: [karen.lucibello@verizon.net](mailto:karen.lucibello@verizon.net).

**Switch List** is a **free** service to members in good standing of the TCA and SD. Send your ad (space permitting) for trains for sale/wanted/trade to Mary Anyan via email: [maryanyan.mia1@gmail.com](mailto:maryanyan.mia1@gmail.com). If you do not have email, contact Bill Trappen: 407-538-9678. Your ad automatically will renew in each issue of *The Layout*, until **you** cancel. **Note: per TCA rules and regulations, your full name must be listed and the words "make offer" cannot appear.**