

PINELLAS PARK (TAMPA BAY AREA) MEET STORY

January 18, 2025

Meet Host: Guy Ateniese, gateniese@tampabay.rr.com, 727-480-7909

New / Smaller Venue: Lopez Hall, 7177 58th St. N., Pinellas Park, FL 33781

Set Up for table holders will be Friday, Noon-5:00P and Saturday, 8:00-9:00A. During set up, the hall only will be open to table holders, their families, and their authorized helpers. Remember to list on the Table Registration Form the full name(s) of any helpers. All helpers selling trains must be a family member or a current TCA member in good standing, unless pre-approved by the meet host or a board member.

Tables: 8 feet each; SD members: **\$25** per table for 1-3 tables or \$20 per table for 4+ tables; TCA non-SD members: \$10 additional per selling table. Due to early table pre-sales (table holders from other meets and repeat table holders), and also due to the smaller venue, tables are limited. It will be first come, first served. **Send your completed Table Registration Form with payment in advance of the meet.** The division no longer accepts “table holds” or “payment upon arrival.”

Hours: 9:00A for TCA Members only; **9:30A SD Members’ Meeting;** and 10:00A - 3:00P to the public

(Check the website for the most up-to-date info.)

(continued on p. 4)

BUSHNELL OUTDOOR SWAP-MEET STORY

March 29th, 2025

Meet Hosts: Mike Setzer and Mike Mills

The Southern Division is pleased to again offer its members and TCA members an old-fashioned, outdoor swap meet in Bushnell on March 29th.

The Bushnell Station (<https://bushnellstation.com>) is home of the Gulf Coast and Central Florida Railroad (GCCFRR) Museum, a non-profit that provides an educational model railroading experience. The museum occupies part of the building and has 20 trains running inside and outside including interactive exhibits and boasts hundreds of trains from all over the world. The rest of the building features operating layouts in all of the popular US model railroading scales and gauges from “Z” to “G,” inclusive. Of course, a 3-rail O gauge layout and a 2-rail S gauge layout are included which are the gauges that most of us Southern Division folks collect. In addition there are static displays of model trains in all those scales plus lots of railroad memorabilia

(Check the website for the most up-to-date info.)

(continued on p. 4)

In This Issue

Page

* SD Board of Directors, et al. / * President’s Perspectives	2
* Vice President’s Viewpoints / *SD Crew- & V-neck Shirts	3
* SD BOD Meeting, November 7, 2024 - Minutes	5
* TCA 2025 Jacksonville Convention Volunteer Opportunities and Convention Merchandise	6
* Lake Nona Meet Photos	7
* Upcoming Florida Train Shows/Events	11
* Switch List	12

Attachments / Inserts

1. SD 2024 3Q Treasurer’s Report
2. SD 2025 Budget
3. Table Registration Form -
Pinellas Park, January 18
4. Table Pre-registration Form -
Bushnell, March 29
5. SD Crew-and V-neck Shirt
Order Form



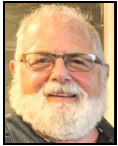
The Southern Division Board of Directors, Webmaster, and *The Layout Editor*



President
Mike Setzer
Phone: 954-476-1058
setzermichael@hotmail.com



Communications Officer
Bill Trappen
Phone: 407-538-9678
bill9678@aol.com or
sdtcacomunications@gmail.com



Vice President
Mike Mills
Phone: 612-382-0325
flyermike1949@gmail.com



Past President
Steve Johnson
Phone: 305-335-1752
sjohnson@fljdcpa.com



Secretary
Dienzel Dennis
Phone: 386-316-8339
dieden39@aol.com



Past President
Charlie Anyan
Phone: 727-459-8681
charleanyan@gmail.com

Notify Dienzel of any address,
phone and/or email changes.



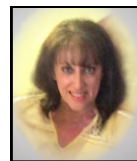
Treasurer
Mike Powell
Phone: 585-781-4996
mbpowell@aol.com



**Southern Division Webmaster /
Facebook Administrator**
Keith Totten
Phone: 561-685-4115
fau8@yahoo.com
Website: tcasoutherndivision.org
Facebook: [Train Collectors
Association-Southern Division](https://www.facebook.com/TrainCollectorsAssociation-Southern-Division)

***It's time to renew your SD membership for 2025.
Send \$10 payment to: TCA Southern Division,
P.O. Box 2381, Palm Harbor, FL 34682.**

****Reminder: SD 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

President's Perspectives by Mike Setzer

Your SD Board of Directors hopes that you and your loved ones remained safe through the two, devastating hurricanes and a multitude of tornadoes this past fall and were able to celebrate a wonderful Thanksgiving. Please enjoy this newsletter early, as the January 18th Pinellas Park show Table Registration Form is due to the meet host by January 4th.

Several activities are on track this winter, spring and summer - see page 3 and those smiling faces for event dates.

This past August you were emailed a list of opportunities to provide your time and talent and have fun in the process at the TCA 71st Convention, June 21-28 in Jacksonville. Several folks volunteered. You again were emailed on November 13th, and I'm happy to report that several more folks volunteered. The board of directors and I thank you. Critical need is for Tour Escorts and 2-hour shifts for Marketplace Security, so please give this serious consideration. If you find you're able, email *The Layout* editor Mary Anyan. This is the second-to-last newsletter until the convention, but keep checking the SD website in the event of updated information. The convention website went "live" on Monday, October 28th.

As we approach the beginning of a new year, my wife Arlene and I wish all of you **good health, good friends** and **lots of trains**. Merry Christmas, and Happy 2025 - *almost*.

Mike

Vice President's Viewpoints by Mike Mills



The Lake Nona Train Show was held on November 9th. We had a great variety in both table holders (33 with a total of 81 tables) and Operating Layouts. The operators came from various parts of Florida: Jacksonville; The Villages; Orlando, and as far away as South Carolina. Cam Johnson, a young train enthusiast who I met at the summer Golden Spike Train Show in Deland, provided an extensive Lego layout. To all of the table holders and operators - **THANK YOU**.

We celebrated Veterans Day - Southern Division Style! We handed out a total of 24 Gift Certificates to Veterans who attended the show.

We also had a very worthy organization from the VA hospital that shared its Artwork with the public and is part of a Creative Arts Therapy Program.

Although attendance was up from last year, I wish more of our Southern Division members would have attended. Please remember that your admission to all of our shows is free.

Our Dinner and Show & Tell on Saturday evening was Fun, Fillin' and Informative.

Thanks to all who helped me host this show. Enjoy the pictures, and I hope to see everyone at the three upcoming shows as well as at the convention.

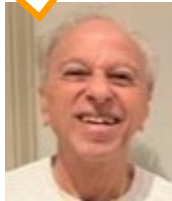
Mike

***It's time to renew your SD membership for 2025. Send \$10 payment to:
TCA Southern Division, P.O. Box 2381,
Palm Harbor, FL 34682.**

The guys at right want to see you in 2025 at these SD train meets and also at the convention, so **SAVE THE DATES!**



January 18
Pinellas Park



March 29
Bushnell



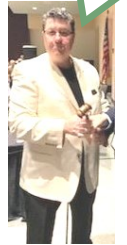
May 10
Port St. Lucie



Meet Story in
the Spring issue

June 21-28
Jacksonville
Convention

R: TCA
President
Kevin
Quinn



TCA SOUTHERN DIVISION CREW- AND V-NECK SHIRTS — *NEW!*

The Southern Division Board of Directors is offering **SD Members** the opportunity to purchase official division Crew- and/or V-neck shirts for themselves and their family and friends. The initial supply sold like hotcakes, the second batch already has been shipped, and we'll keep ordering to meet demand. 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"! These shirts are available NOW to order. And let us know if you're interested in baseball caps and/or visors. Thank you for your support.



Yellow
graphics
over
medium-
dark
green
shirt

Available Sizes and Prices:

Crew neck: Small, Medium, Large and Extra Large = \$18/shirt;
2-Extra Large and 3-Extra Large = \$19/shirt

V neck: Small, Medium, Large and Extra Large = \$18/shirt

You may elect to have your shirt(s) shipped to you for an **additional \$7 for one shirt; shipping for additional shirt(s) in same pkg. = \$4/shirt.**

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



PINELLAS PARK (TAMPA BAY AREA) MEET STORY, January 18th, 2025 (cont'd.)

Admission: \$5.00/person and free admission to children 12 and under when accompanied by an adult. All children 12 and under will receive a free gift at the check-in table.

Activities: door prize drawings for adults and children throughout the day; Scavenger Hunt for families; and kids' play area

Food: A kitchen is available in the building, and limited food items will be available for purchase. However, there are several nearby restaurants (Cheddars, Firehouse Subs, Popeye's Chicken, McDonald's, etc.).

Open House: Dave and Gale Zitnik again have graciously agreed to host an open house for SD Members and their guests at their store, Zitnik Trains, 5193 73rd Ave. N., Pinellas Park from **6:30-8:00P** on **Friday the 17th**. Sandwiches, snacks, desserts and beverages will be provided. Zitnik Trains is in very close proximity to the meet venue. Registration is not required.

BUSHNELL OUTDOOR SWAP-MEET STORY, March 29th, 2025 (cont'd.)

and photographs and artwork hanging on the walls. In addition there's a well-stocked gift shop with train-related merchandise for rail fans of all ages. On the property outside the building are a large G-gauge "Garden layout" plus their largest and most entertaining "model" train which is a 1/8th scale 7 1/2" gauge 16-hp gasoline powered train (photo at right) on which visitors can ride a 1/2-mile trip around the perimeter of the property with scenery and many amusing signs along the route. This attraction is very well done, truly is a train lover's dream, and well worth the drive to visit.



Our swap meet will be open to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and will be located in a large grassy area on the property inside the south loop of the outdoor riding train track.

TCA members may set up as many tables as you wish, and the cost will be a flat rate donation of \$15 regardless of how many tables you bring. You may bring your trains to sell but with the following stipulation: trains should be used or new old stock and NOT NEW, CURRENT MERCHANDISE which would be in competition with what is sold inside the station. If you need electricity, there are a limited number of electrical outlets available in the outdoor area for an additional charge of \$5; so please make sure you reserve one when you pre-register. If you have a pop-up tent, it would be a good idea to bring it as there is not much shade in the area where the tables will be set up.

There is no fee for non-table holders who wish to attend only the swap meet, but a donation to the GCCFRR Museum is encouraged. All of this money will be donated directly to the museum.

Needless to say, you'll want to visit the museum and also may want to ride the outdoor train. Regular museum admission fees vary by visitors' age, but the museum is offering us the following special discounted prices for pre-registering: Adults (18 and older) \$7.75 each; Children (4 to 17) \$5.00 each. The prices are for pre-registering only; anyone who attends without pre-registering will pay the regular posted prices for admission to the museum which can also be found on their website using the link shown in paragraph two, on the cover page. There is no charge for children under 4 and no charge to ride the outdoor train.

There is also a modest concession stand with very reasonable prices. For pre-registering members, the museum is offering a special price of \$12 per adult which includes admission to the museum plus a box lunch consisting of a Nathan's All-beef Jumbo Hot Dog, chips, a pickle, and a bottled beverage of your choice (water, soda, iced tea, etc.). All proceeds will go to the museum. The price of museum admission and food without pre-registering will be the posted prices.

A pre-registration form is included with this newsletter to assist us and the facility staff in planning for the event. So if you're interested in bringing trains to sell at the swap meet or just attending without bringing trains, please complete the form with appropriate payment in full not later than March 15th. Make checks payable to the "GCCFRR Museum" with a notation on the memo line: "Donation from SD Member" so that the museum knows how much was contributed by this event produced by the SD. Those attending without pre-registering will be encouraged to make a donation. Because the GCCFRR Museum is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, your donation is tax deductible.

(continued on p. 5)

BUSHNELL OUTDOOR SWAP-MEET STORY, March 29th, 2025 (cont'd.)



The city of Bushnell is located right off I-75 about 50 miles north of Tampa and 15 miles south of the I-75/Florida turnpike intersection. But the station is located about 6 miles west of “downtown” Bushnell at 6470 West County Road 476, Bushnell 33513. To reach the museum from southbound I-75 get off at Exit #314, keep right at exit and follow FL-48 west for ½ mile. Turn left onto CR 616 and go ½ mile to stop sign. Turn right onto West CR 476 and go 3½ miles to the station on your right. From northbound I-75 get off at Exit #309, keep right at exit and follow 673 and 476B for 3½ miles to stop sign. Turn left and the station is just a short distance on your right. You will pass the well-known Florida National Cemetery on 476B where many military veterans are buried.

A special parking area will be provided for table holders close to the swap meet area. There will be a sign located along County Road 476 before the main entrance to the property directing vendors to the special parking area. Visitors without tables should use the main entrance located near the large red and blue sign (photo at right) and park in the regular parking lot. Handicapped spaces are available close to the building entrance.



Important Note: In the event of inclement weather on March 29th, the meet will be canceled and not rescheduled due to conflicts with other area shows. Therefore, it's very important that you list an email address if you have one and a cell phone number (or home phone number if you don't have a cell) on the registration form so that we can notify you of the cancellation as soon as possible ahead of time. If the event is canceled, there is a place on the form to indicate if you want your check to be sent to the museum as a donation or shredded.

This should be a very enjoyable, multi-event outing: an old-fashioned, outdoor swap meet; a museum tour; a train ride; and, perhaps most importantly, the camaraderie of spending time with other train enthusiasts.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Mike Setzer and Mike Mills

P.S. If you're looking for a great place to eat before the meet, check out the Summer 2023 issue of *The Layout* for information and photos of the “Breakfast Station.” (<https://www.breakfaststationcentral.com>) It's a train-themed restaurant highly recommended by an SD member for good, reasonably priced food and friendly staff.

Minutes - TCA Southern Division Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom, November 7, 2024

A Train Collectors Association (TCA) Southern Division (SD) Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting was held via Zoom November 7, 2024, beginning at 1:05 PM EST. The meeting was called to order by President Mike Setzer.

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

Mr. Setzer reported decreased attendance at the October 2024 York meet. A convention committee meeting was held, and information will be disseminated to the SD BOD as well as the general membership via the website, eblasts, and the quarterly newsletter. Mr. Setzer related that while in that meeting, it was shared that a proposal by Choo Choo Barn to purchase the TCA grounds was presented to TCA President Kevin Quinn. Mr. Setzer emailed a copy of that proposal to the board and asked them to review it and provide feedback to him. If any SD member wishes a copy of that letter, please contact Mike and he will make sure you receive one.

Mr. Powell and the board discussed the SD 2024 3Q Treasurer's Report, previously emailed to the board.

Motion: The Southern Division Board of Directors approves the SD 2024 3rd Quarter Treasurer's Report as written. Motion unanimously carried.

(continued on p. 9)

TCA 2025 Convention - Jacksonville, June 21-28, 2025
 Volunteer Opportunities



Check out the Convention website which went “live” October 28th.
<https://traincollectorsassociation.regfox.com/71st-annual-national-convention-jacksonville-fl>.

You’ll find lots of information, including the Schedule of Events, Tours, Hotel, Marketplace Registration, etc.

We’re still in need of volunteers for the following, but please note that in order to volunteer during June 21-28, you must be registered for the convention.

That does not mean you cannot contact Mary Anyan now to sign up in order to secure the tour escort positions and other opportunities that you wish!
It’s first signed up, first confirmed.

Thanks to those who’ve already responded.

1. Tour Escorts: (varying tour lengths) Note: per Bob Keller, TCA Convention Chairman, Tour #4 will be comp’d. for the escort. Therefore, whomever escorts that tour does **not** need to register or pay for it on the convention registration website. However, anyone wishing to escort other tours must register and pay for them on the convention website. The following tours still are in need of escorts: #2, 4, 5, 6 and 7. For complete information, visit the registration website or consult the Tours document you were emailed November 13th.
2. Welcome Party: Wednesday, 3:00-5:00P - set out silent auction items and bid sheets; and 6:30-7:00P - collect Welcome Party tickets at the door(s).
3. Marketplace Security (2-hour shifts): Thursday, 12:00-4:00P set up; Friday, 7:00-8:00A set up; Friday, 8:00-10:00A (Members only); Friday, 10:00A-5:00P (Members & Public); Saturday, 8:00-9:00A (Members only); and Saturday, 9:00A-1:00P (Members & Public) Duties: At entrance(s) to the Marketplace, check badges of TCA members and registration wristband(s) from the public.
4. Registration (2-hour shifts): Assist at the Registration tables in the hotel’s Sky Bridge area; sell convention merchandise.

Convention Merchandise will be on sale at each of the SD’s three meets prior to the convention.
Cash/Check/Money Order (made payable to TCA)

Top:
3-1/2” D

7”
T
A
L
L

Bottom:
2” D

Drink Cup:
\$15

Souvenir Pin:
\$10

ESCO®
...your “friendly” alternative!

Polo Shirt,
\$35,
all sizes:
M / L / XL /
2XL /
3XL /
4XL

Cap:
\$15

Lake Nona Show
 (Thanks to Mike
 Setzer for the pics.)



L: Meet Host
 and SD VP
 Mike Mills
 (foreground)
 sported the
 updated SD
 shirt.



Jacksonville
 S Gaugers

Below: SD
 Member
 Kishor
 Pendse
 displayed
 his 3-rail
 Marklin
 pre-form
 kit,
 treasured
 since his
 childhood.

R: Dave Zitnik, owner
 of Zitnik Trains,
 modeled his
 new SD shirt.



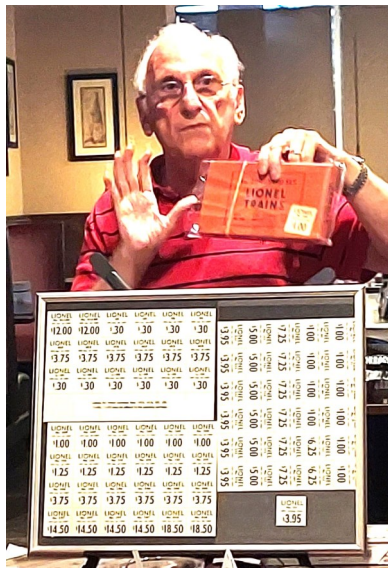
from
 The Villages
 Train Club



L: Bill Trappen (facing away from the
 camera), wearing his new division shirt,
 and
 his lovely wife Rosemary (seated)



Show & Tell at Giovanni's
(Thanks to Mike and Arlene
Setzer for the pics.)



Left: SD Member Richard Tashjian displayed his OPS ceiling price stickers from 1951. The small sticker in the lower right corner of the photo at left has the words "ceiling price" printed on it as opposed to regulation code. This is a variation. Richard has had these between 30-35 years, and they are scarce.

OPS PRICING

THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE END OF WORLD WAR II AND THE KOREAN WAR WAS ONE OF HIGH INFLATION. DURING 1951 LIONEL'S PACKAGING BECAME SUBJECT TO EFFORTS OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO CURB INFLATION. CONSEQUENTLY, THE ECONOMIC STABILIZATION AGENCY, OFFICE OF PRICE STABILIZATION, SET FORTH GUIDELINES FOR PRICE CEILINGS OF MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS. HENCE OPS STAMPS, RUBBER STAMPING, PREPRINTED BOXES AND PASTE ON STICKERS WERE THREE WAYS OF PRICING. THIS IS A SAMPLE OF A COUPLE.

LIONEL	LIONEL	LIONEL	LIONEL	LIONEL	LIONEL	LIONEL	LIONEL	LIONEL	LIONEL	LIONEL	LIONEL
12.00	12.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00
13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25
13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.95	13.95	13.95	13.95	13.95	13.95
LIONEL	LIONEL	LIONEL	LIONEL	LIONEL	LIONEL	LIONEL	LIONEL	LIONEL	LIONEL	LIONEL	LIONEL
11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75
11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50
13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.95	13.95	13.95	13.95	13.95	13.95
14.50	14.50	14.50	14.50	14.50	14.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50

1951

The Economic Stabilization Agency, Office of Price Stabilization (OPS) set forth guidelines for price ceilings for manufactured products. Lionel had to provide for the marking of OPS ceiling prices on products in each of these stages. An OPS Sticker had to be affixed to products already in the inventory of retailers. Displayed are three (3) original OPS Sticker sheets.

An OPS Sticker had to be affixed on boxes at the Lionel Factory level that did not have OPS printed pricing. In the bottom corner is an original unused sticker from the Lionel Factory – note the edging is not perforated as these stickers were straight edged cut at the factory level unlike the others mailed out on sheets like stamps.

R: TCA Convention Display Banner and Merchandise Table - Thanks to Mike Mills who built the frame for the banner and Arlene Setzer for working at the table through the entire show. Arlene and the merchandise will be at the next SD show in January in Pinellas Park.



Above two: SD VP Mike Mills displayed his American Flyer pre-war and post-war crossing gates. In his right hand is a brown roof, yellow building, and is a less common variation and more commonly found pre war. The other, a red stripe, white building, is more commonly found post war.



Mr. Powell and the board discussed the SD FY 2025 Proposed Budget, previously emailed to the board. After several suggestions of how to increase revenue and decrease deficit, the board proposed: 1) raising the annual dues from \$10 to \$15. As the 2025 dues reminder cards recently were mailed to all members, and second reminder cards will be mailed in the near future, the board decided that anyone who pays his or her dues prior to or on February 28, 2025, will be charged \$10 for 2025. Dues paid on or after March 1, 2025, will be charged at the new rate of \$15 per year.

Motion: Effective March 1, 2025, Southern Division member dues will be \$15 per year. Any 2025 dues paid prior to or on February 28, 2025, will be at the \$10 per year rate. Motion unanimously carried.

2) Effective with the Port St. Lucie meet on May 10th, 2025, table costs for SD vendors will be as follows: \$30 per table for 1-3 tables and \$25 per table for 4+ tables. Cost to non-SD TCA members will remain at \$10 per additional selling table. 3) The high cost of printing and mailing *The Layout* four times per year was discussed. It was mentioned that only 40% of the SD active members request a paper copy. The board discussed adding a nominal, annual surcharge to the dues of those who request a paper copy, but that would not be implemented until 2026. 4) Several budget line-item allocations were reduced, and the board will be working during 2025 to close the \$560 negative gap in the budget.

Motion: The Southern Division Board of Directors approves the SD 2025 Proposed Budget, contingent upon discussion modifications being incorporated and a revision then emailed to the board. The final, approved 2025 Budget will be included in the Winter issue of *The Layout*. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Powell advised that he purchased five copies of Greenberg's Guide to Lionel Trains: O Gauge, Volume 3: 1937-1942 and has sold two. They are available for \$90 each.

Mr. Trappen provided his Communications Officer's activities since the last board meeting he: 1) prepared and sent input for the Calendar of Meets column and the division's complimentary advertisement for the most recent issues of the TCA National HQ News; 2) prepared and sent the mailing list file for the Fall newsletter to the printer for those members who do not receive the newsletter by email; 3) distributed Lake Nona Meet Flyers at several train shows in the area including having to get more copies printed plus handed out table registration forms to TCA table holders at those shows; 4) posted Lake Nona Meet announcements on the following on-line sites: OGR Forum; Toy Train Mailing List io group; Lionel Super O Track io group; Model Train Forum; Model Train Journal; and Orlando Craigslist site; 5) created a Microsoft Excel program to produce pdf files for the annual SD Dues Notice cards and a similar program to produce the SD Membership cards. These programs use the Excel extract of the SD roster received from Secretary Dennis to produce files containing images of the dues notices and the membership cards for all active SD members, respectively. The reverse side of each card image has the member's mailing address. These files were used by Treasurer Powell to print the recent dues notice cards for mailing and also the 2025 SD membership cards which members receive after membership is renewed. This process saves the secretary and treasurer considerable time and effort completing those tasks, as well as saving the division over \$250; 6) participated in emails and phone conversations with Mr. Mills and Mrs. Anyan regarding the SD shirt order forms and write ups; 7) participated in many calls and emails with Mrs. Anyan regarding the content of the Winter newsletter; 8) participated in many phone calls with Mr. Mills regarding the Lake Nona meet and peripheral activities; 9) also prepared the Certificates to be given to Veterans for \$5.00 off a purchase from vendors at the show; and 10) fielded several inquiries about the Lake Nona and Pinellas Park meets from SD members regarding tables and sent SD membership applications to prospective new members.

Mr. Totten reported that: 1) the website was updated within the past seven days; 2) usage reports for the last month indicated a 113% jump in traffic; 3) the remodel of the entire site has been completed; 4) the online switch list has been reactivated; 5) the "Meets" page was updated to include links to flyers and registration forms; 6) a link was added to access the TCA National Convention information; and 7) added the Bushnell show information. 8) SD members are encouraged to email him photos and/or videos of their displays and layouts with a friendly request to please caption them.

Mrs. Anyan provided *The Layout* report: 1) Items for the Winter 2025 newsletter are due to her not later than November 19th for distribution during the week between Christmas and New Year. That newsletter will contain



the Pinellas Park Meet Story and Table Registration Form (TRF) as well as the Bushnell Meet Story and Pre-TRF. 2) The Meet Story and TRF for the May 10th Port St. Lucie meet will be included in the Spring 2025 newsletter. 3) The Fall 2024 newsletter was e-blasted October 3rd to SD members and the entire TCA BOD. 4) The Summer newsletter was e-blasted to the TCA Board of Directors.

Lake Nona, November 8th-9th, 2024: Mr. Mills reported that he received no requests to tour the Orlando Fisher House on Friday the 8th. Vendor tables scheduled for the show = 83, number of layouts = 5, a Lego train display is scheduled to be on site, Veterans Hospital will display artwork in the lobby. The happy hour, dinner, award presentation and show & tell are scheduled as listed in the Fall 2024 newsletter.

Mrs. Anyan related information from Meet Host Guy Ateniese regarding the January 18th train show in Pinellas Park. As of this date no TRFs have been received. The venue coordinator advised Mr. Ateniese that the kitchen will be staffed, and hot dogs, chips and soft drinks/bottled water will be for sale.

Mr. Setzer provided information regarding the Bushnell outdoor show on March 29th. The museum owner advised Mr. Setzer that a new building on the property will be completed by the time of the SD show.

Mr. Trappen advised that he, Mr. Setzer and Mr. Totten will visit the Polish-American Club on February 7th to confirm details for the May 10th show.

Mr. Mills shared that he has received no offers for a host and location for a second TCA Recruiting Campaign. Mr. Setzer shared that he, Dave Zitnik and the Southern Division each received a Certificate of Appreciation from TCA National for the successful campaign on September 5th.

Mr. Mills provided an update regarding the new SD crew- and v-neck shirts. The first batch he ordered quickly sold out, the second batch was received and will be shipped in the near future and also sold at SD meets. The board is entertaining selling SD caps and/or visors and solicits members' interest.

A discussion was held regarding the TCA 71st Convention, June 21-28, 2025 in Jacksonville. 1) Mrs. Anyan advised that the convention registration website went "live" October 28th. The schedule of events and tour write ups are on the website. In addition, the hotel is accepting reservations. 2) Per Convention Chairman Bob Keller, 1100 room nights need to be sold in order to break even, and the board encourages SD members to attend at least part, if not all, of the convention. 3) Mr. Keller asked Mike Setzer to serve as Public Displays (Hotel Displays) Chairman. A total of three displays is requested, and Mr. Setzer has provided two to Mr. Keller. It was suggested that perhaps The Villages would be willing to be the third, and their representative will be contacted in the near future. 4) Mr. Keller asked Charlie Anyan to serve as Marketplace Security Chairman. This requires recruiting a large number of volunteers to work a minimum of two-hour shifts. They will be stationed at the entrance(s) to the Marketplace to check badges of TCA members and wristbands worn by the general public who have pre-paid, to ensure that no unauthorized people enter. 5) Mr. Keller asked Mary Anyan to serve as Southern Division Volunteer Coordinator. She reported that she already has e-blasted the SD membership asking for volunteers for Marketplace Security, Tour Escorts and the Welcome Party. Additional details will be included in the Winter 2025 newsletter. In order to volunteer at a convention event you must be registered for the convention. 6) Convention merchandise will be sold at all four SD shows prior to the convention. A table displaying a large banner will be set up at each show. Merchandise, prices, and order forms will be available. Arlene Setzer, wife of SD President Mike Setzer, graciously agreed to work at the convention table for all four shows. Merchandise may be purchased via cash, check or money order (made payable to TCA). As merchandise sells at one show, it will be supplemented by National for the following show, etc.

The board decided to revisit the topic of an SD YouTube "roving reporter" at a future meeting.

Mr. Dennis emailed the board with his latest SD Member Roster. It reflects 307 Active, 566 Inactive and 114 Deceased. Within the last two weeks, the SD has recruited five new members.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 PM EST.

Respectfully submitted: Mary Anyan, *The Layout* Editor, for Dienzel Dennis, Secretary

Upcoming Train Meets/Shows 2025



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

Jan. 11-12: 87th Florida Rail Fair, Volusia County Fairgrounds, Lawrence Arena, 3150 E. New York Ave., Deland 32724 (www.gserr.com) (**Golden Spike**)

Jan. 18: Train Show, Pinellas Park
Meet Story and Table Registration Form (TRF) in this 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 (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) (**Regal Railways**)

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. 8: Jacksonville Model Train and Railroadiana Show, Prime Osborn Convention Center, 1000 Water St., Jacksonville 32204 (**Golden Spike**)

Feb. 9: Parking Lot Swap Meet, 5193 73rd Ave. N., Pinellas Park 33781 (9A-1P, pre-registration required, 727-201-9668; (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; www.realrail.org) (**Real Rail**)

Feb. 22: Toy and Train Show, Elks Lodge, 7201 Congress St., New Port Richey 34653 (**Regal**)

Mar. 22: Toy and Train Show, Lopez Hall, 7177 58th St. N., Pinellas Park 33781 (**Regal**)

Mar. 29: Parking Lot Swap Meet, Bushnell
Meet Story and Table Pre-Registration Form in this newsletter (Southern Division)

Apr. 5: 89th Florida Rail Fair, Volusia County Fairgrounds, Lawrence Arena, 3150 E. New York Ave., Deland 32724 (**Golden Spike**)

Apr. 12: Toy and Train Show, FL National Guard Armory, 8551 W. Venable St., Crystal River 34429 (**Regal**)

Apr. 24-26: Eastern Division Train Show (York)

May 10: Train Show, Port St. Lucie - Meet Story and Table Registration Form in the Spring 2025 newsletter - keep checking the SD website. NATIONAL TRAIN DAY!

Jun. 21-28: TCA 71st 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 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**

STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
ST. PETERSBURG, FL
PERMIT #934

The deadline for articles, photos, etc.,
for the next issue of *The Layout* is
March 1, 2025.

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.

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

YOUR AD COULD APPEAR HERE!

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.

Switch List is a **free** service to members in good standing of the TCA and SD. Send your ad for trains for sale/wanted/trade to Mary Anyan via email: 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.