



# Western Division Newsletter



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<http://www.tcawestern.org>

January 2012

## Upcoming Meet Notices

Western Division's first train meet of the year will take place on Saturday, January 28, 2012 in the Arcadia Senior Center, located at 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia, California.

To get to the meet, exit the 210 Freeway at Santa Anita Avenue, drive south about half a mile and turn right into the Arcadia Park parking lot. The meeting hall is located next to the lawn bowling area. Look for the Western Division sign.

The doors open at 10AM for table setup, trading, and selling. Please visit the TCA Western Division website, at <http://www.tcawestern.org> for detailed information and a map.

The display theme for January will be "Newest Purchase." Show off an item and facilitate the transfer of knowledge on collecting toy trains with your fellow members. A raffle prize will be awarded to one lucky display theme participant!

Our schedule of TCA Meets for 2012 and display themes are: February 25<sup>th</sup> (Trains I Love); March 24<sup>th</sup> (Cabeese); April 21<sup>st</sup> (Accessories); May 19<sup>th</sup> (New York Central RR); July 28<sup>th</sup> (Convention Cars); August 25<sup>th</sup> (Streamliners); September 22<sup>nd</sup> – special meet for kids! (Trolleys); November 3<sup>rd</sup> (Orange and Black Trains); and December 15<sup>th</sup> (Holiday Trains).

The regular monthly raffle for the membership will be held. The Western Division Board of Directors has decided that each monthly raffle will include a minimum of 1 truly rare and collectible item. After all, we are the Train Collectors Association! In order to participate in the monthly prize raffle and receive a ticket, each member must wear their Western Division membership badge at the meet. In an effort to get membership assistance at each meet with set up and tear down of the hall and with food/beverage preparations, the WD BOD has authorized the distribution of extra raffle tickets to those that lend their hands with these tasks. Volunteerism does pay off!

Tickets for this year's special raffle will also be available for purchase. The 2012 grand raffle prize will once again be a classic Lionel 'O' gauge post-war era #773 Hudson locomotive and whistling tender from 1950. As in previous years, a crisp \$100 bill will also be given away at each monthly meet, to one lucky member holding a ticket. The Hudson will be awarded at the December Holiday meet. Only 100 tickets will be sold at \$20 each.

The division will continue to have a 'layout of the month' at each meet, coordinated by board member Steve Waller. Members are invited to bring an accessory for the layout, or even a train to run.

A reminder that your Western Division 2012 membership fees are now due. Enclosed with this newsletter is the dues renewal notice. Please send your renewal check to Jim Kenney, Western Division Membership Secretary/Treasurer, 417 Lennox Circle, Fullerton, CA 92835. The cost remains at \$15 for single members, \$20 for family memberships.

Western Division will be accepting nominations for candidates to run for all 2012-2013 Board of Directors officers' positions. Nominations need to be submitted by the February 2012 meet.



## President's Message

*By Manny Gonzalez, WD President*

A new year is upon us and it is time to reflect (however briefly) on the past, even as we look towards embarking on new horizons.

As we move forward it's always good to revisit what has come before, even as it gently slips from the present into ever distant memories. As we make new friends, we will also think of old ones whose absence will only continue to be felt as time passes. This is never easy, but I sincerely believe it is what enriches us as a club, the very people we meet along the way. They befriend us as we share our passion for all things 'Trains'; we learn from each other, and hopefully we enjoy one another's company if only for a little while.

I think we all agree we had a pretty good year, and my hope is that will once again be the case. We have ten (10) Meets, not including 'York' or the National Convention, to look forward to. Let's embrace them, and enjoy them for the rich possibilities they afford us, not just for the Toy Trains, but also for the people that make this hobby special. Perhaps we could all resolve to try to get to know at least one other member a little better each time we gather. Who knows, we may even like what we learn.



*Our 'Team' working on the Christmas Train layout!*



## December Holiday Meet Recap

By Robert Caplan, WD Recording Secretary

The display theme was: “**Holiday Trains**”. We had quite a colorful display of items. Bob Spellmire showed off his ‘O’ gauge pre-war era American Flyer Union Pacific streamliner and some special four rail track that it utilized to work the whistle. Dave Mabee shared his new Lionel operating Snow Globe car.



*Bob Spellmire*

*David Mabee*

Leslie Cochran presented two of his animated Lionel Christmas displays. John Abbe showed us his See’s Candy red and green locomotive.



*Leslie Cochran*

*John Abbe*

Steve Waller presented his Lionel crossing gate coin bank. Bob Nord displayed his Christmas freight set. Jerry Johnson showed his Christmas Music Box, a special freight set with Christmas decorations added, and a toy Tug Boat that he added wheels to.

Mario Liberatore brought his Lionel Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade box car. Robert Trimble was unusually succinct, but shared his custom made Smurf’s animated hand car. Calvin Smith presented a 1945 Lionel #224 loco that he got as a Christmas present.

Mario Liberatore, Jerry Johnson, Neal Meyer, Bob Nord, and Bruce Lazarus all claimed raffle prizes. Herbert Mayer won the Grand Raffle Prize #1100 Lionel Mickey & Minnie Mouse wind-up handcar.

The membership in attendance, along with their spouses, all sat down to a nice pot-luck lunch, and then enjoyed watching the Holiday Themed operating layout provided by Steve Eastman



*Steve Waller*

*Bob Nord*



*Jerry Johnson*

*Mario Liberatore*



*Robert Trimble*

*Calvin Smith*



*December Raffle Prize Winners*



*The ladies of the party.*

Photographs by Herbert Mayer