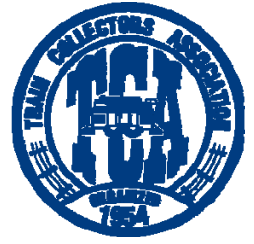




# Western Division

## Train Collectors Association

### Newsletter



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<http://www.tcawestern.org>

August - September 2009

## Upcoming Meet Notices

Western Division's September train meet will take place on Saturday, September 26th, in the Arcadia Senior Center, located at 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia, CA.

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

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

The display theme for September will be, "Box Cars w/ Advertising". Show off an item and facilitate the transfer of knowledge on collecting toy trains with your fellow members. There will be a separate raffle prize drawing held for all those members who display items.

There will be the regular monthly prize raffle for the membership. The special raffle this year has 2 items that can be won - a Lionel Postwar Classics GG-1 with Madison car set and a Burlington diesel with red stripe silver car passenger set. A crisp \$100 bill will once again be given away to one lucky eligible member who has purchased a 2009 Raffle ticket. September is also Auction Month.

Western Division remaining 2009 scheduled meets are: October 24, and December 19. No meet held in November.

### Reminder to Vote:

**WD President Wayne Sheriff is running for TCA National President-Elect and there are revised By-Laws on the September ballot.**

## President's Message

*By Wayne Sheriff, WD President*

It is that time of the year when we wrap-up summer and look forward to the fall and winter seasons. It is also time for us to look at our finances, personal, division and national. I can not talk for our personal finances, but I can report how the division and national are doing. The Western Division is in good shape. By sending correspondence and newsletters via E-Mail, we have been able to save a lot on printing and postage. The internet is good for something. We have been able to provide services to WD members within our existing budgets. With the funds we received from the past Nixon Library exhibit and other savings, we have not found it necessary to raise dues and do not expect to raise dues any time soon.

National is another item to be considered. Over the past several years, National has been operating in the red. Because of lawsuits, the necessary work on the sewer system for the Museum/Headquarters, and reduction in membership, we have been unable to keep costs down. Every action is being taken to reduce expenses at all levels including the elimination of the published membership directory. These expenses have been draining our reserves with no end in sight. National is asking, without raising dues, that every member makes a \$10.00 donation

to National to help cover the overruns and thus keep dues at the same level. The Officers and Board of Directors are doing everything possible to cut costs and still have a viable member centered organization.

On a lighter note, we have moved the 40' by 32' layout platform into the Nixon Presidential Library in Yorba Linda for another exhibit. The period of operation will be from November 16<sup>th</sup> 2009 through January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Negotiations are now complete which includes contributions to Western Division and National. Members are encouraged to volunteer time in preparing the layout and associated displays. This year, Ward Kimball's restored steam engine 'Chloe' will be moved from the Orange Empire Railway Museum to the Library for the duration of the TCA train layout exhibit. In addition, the LEGO club will put up their largest LEGO modular layout in the lobby of the library. This is going to be a great year at the library.

September is election month in TCA. Along with the election of officers, the National By-Laws are being revised and the total National Officers and Board of Directors recommend that all TCA members approve them. This action will help streamline the working operation of the organization. One proposed change is to start the fiscal year July 1 instead of November 1. This will mean that the newly elected Officers will take their positions when the TCA National Convention concludes, instead of on the first of November.

Western Division is in the process of updating its own By-Laws as a result of the National updates.

Last but not least, I would appreciate your vote as I am running for National President-Elect. I feel that TCA should become the 'Must Belong' train organization. We need to encourage members to invite friends and family to join and have much more of an outreach to the public. We need to expand the "Kids Club" through members' family and organizations such as the Boy Scouts. The National short term and long term financial condition must be addressed before the reserves are depleted.

## July BOD Meeting Minutes

*Submitted by Robert Caplan, TCA Western Division Secretary*

President Wayne Sheriff called the meeting to order at 9am. Secretary Report: Was approved for May 2009 with the following corrections: Manny Gonzales is not in charge of the meet set up and tear down but Chairing the Christmas Party.

Treasurer's Report: The budget and Monthly Statement was given to the BOD and approved. There still are 35 Western Division Members who have yet to pay their 2009 Dues. The non-paid member list was split up and each of the Board of Directors will call those accordingly to remind them to pay dues. We have \$2,238.44 in our Bank Account and \$18,153.97 in a CD that is set at a 2.9% interest rate.

Division By-Laws: Michael Donovan is reviewing the proposed TCA National By-Laws and will align them accordingly for Western Division. Two significant changes are the new officer terms and fiscal year that will begin July 1, 2010 and that TCA procedures will be separated from the By-Laws sections.

Standards Report: TCA National is looking for a new Standards Committee Chairperson. Bob Robinson has stepped down and the position is now vacant. Bob Caplan made the suggestion that the opening be shared by two Chairpersons. One Co-Chair will be for the West Coast and one for the East Coast.

Boy Scouts will be in attendance at our September 26, 2009 Meet. Robert Lemberger discussed the need for volunteers to assist in the set up for the Nixon 2009 Layout Display. The platform must be moved by August 7, 2009. There still needs to be a firm commitment by the museum for needed monies to continue the TCA Layout this year. There will be no wall display this year.

It was suggested that TCA National conduct a Cruise to Alaska. Lionel is looking for a spokesperson to meet with groups: Harold Shapiro expressed interest. Next Auction Date: September 2009 meet.

## July Meet Display Theme: "Licensed Products"



Calvin Smith with photo of a rare bicycle



Herb Mayer and Vermont Teddy Bear



Wayne Sheriff and Lionel Clock



Bob Nord and Lionel Lunch Box



Raffle Winners: Robert Spellmire, Harold Shapiro, Herb Mayer, Bill Shepard, Dave Mabee and Leslie Cochran

## August BOD Meeting Minutes

Compiled by Steve Eastman, TCA Western Division Acting Secretary

President Wayne Sheriff read the July minutes. Treasurer Jim Kenney reported that 4 members have caught up on membership dues. National Election ballots will be out in September. Wayne is running for President Elect. There will be no Scout activities at Cal-Stewart. The Nixon Library budget was signed. The Education fund was approved for \$3,000 to TCA, \$1,000 to National, and \$2,000 to WD for: Reimbursement for storage costs, lunches to be paid for volunteers and Ruby's will cover some meals and help advertise. The 2010 meet dates are being handled by John Parker. This years York Meet is Oct 15, 16 & 17, 2009.

## August Meet Display Theme: "All Scales"



Steve Eastman and Green Giant Marx Set

Bob Trimble took the word 'gauge' literally

Mario Liberatore and HO loco



Bob Nord and Jim Beam Whiskey Set

John Abbe and FM Lackawanna

David Gabay showed a switch tower



Bill Grove and unusual locos

Harry Chortanian figures in 3 gauges

Larry Pearson and green standard gauge



Raffle Prize Winners: \$100-Ken Vaughn, KMT UP Boxcar-Dave Mabee, Lionel Flat with Trucks-Zak Mustille, UP Boxcar-Les Cochran, Switches-Fred Farias and K-Line NYC Caboose-C.A.Meyer.

## In Memoriam

Long time WD member Richard O. Wheeler, CM-HR-65, recently passed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife and family.