



TCA

GREAT LAKES DIVISION

SEMAPHORE



President's Corner

I've had some time to look over the Membership Queries sent by National. Due to personnel shortages, these are kind of hit and miss. I received a February report and then a July report and presently have the November report. Some interesting things are happening.

Between February and July, membership dropped 0.7% nationally and 0.3% in Great Lakes Division. However, between July and November, those numbers are -1.45% nationally and -2.45% in our division. Obviously, we all are aware of the elephant in the room. That is partly why I asked for the addition to the bylaws to endeavor to get more input into TCA specifically where growth and retention opportunities lie.

I recently interviewed Jake Olsen and Kyle Illingworth about two of these adjunct director positions. Both are willing to take the appointment. I purposely looked for energetic and young members for this. I wish you could have heard all the insight Jake Olson had. Hopefully you will see firsthand some of his enthusiastic input. I'm not saying all his ideas need to be implemented but it was amazing

that he had thought so deeply about TCA, where it is now, and its future. I ask members of the board to nominate any member they feel should be considered. I also ask Dan and Thomas to nominate any member they feel will benefit growth and direction of TCA in the Great Lakes Division. As discussed before, it seems that an adjunct director from Columbus and another from Detroit would make a lot of sense. Adjunct directors from the heart of Western Michigan Chapter or Ohio River Chapter are certainly not excluded but forward thinking nominations, to my mind, would come from areas with greater growth potential as well as areas where we don't already have a strong organization in place.

Charlie Easton

Helpful Links

Follow these links to stay up to date on all TCA events and info !!!

- [Train Collectors Association](#)
- [Eastern Division TCA Website](#)
- [Great Lakes Division TCA Website](#)
- [Great Lakes Chapter On Facebook](#)

Guest Commentary

By Ed Mularz

Experiences at York and some other crazy things

“Why should I be a member of TCA?” is a question often heard. Well I believe there are several reasons, but the #1 reason for me is one word: YORK! The opportunities for enjoyable and unforgettable experiences are many. Brief personal history: My brother George and I are native to the Cleveland West Park area. After college in the Detroit area, we wound up back here, when George said to me: ‘Let’s get the old Lionel trains out of Mom’s attic, and set them up for Junior (my young son Eddie). That started a rekindled interest in our Lionel train hobby.

Soon after I met a NASA expert technician, Lou Warren, who invited us to a TCA train show in Bainbridge, Ohio. The show was all we needed to be convince to join TCA in 1976. Then, in October, Lou invited us to join him for a trip to an unknown place

called York in the eastern side of Pennsylvania. So, George and I piled into Lou’s Suburban auto with: wife Evelyn, son Ron, Lou’s dad, a friend Bernie, and another friend Gene and his wife! Nine people, with food for the trip! A tight fit, and we were going to – buy trains????!!! Well we made it - to the famous Modenaire Motel, which looked curiously like the Plasticville motel. Four rooms fortunately! So next morning we were off to the other side of York to the York Fairgrounds. In those days, members who registered each got a table, but they were NOT preassigned – so all the TCA guys would jam up at all the doors to the fairground buildings (We wanted tables in the Blue Hall), and at the stroke of 8am, the doors opened and the rush began (like the running of the bulls) to dash in while climbing over each other to grab the table we wanted. You claimed a table by putting a box on it, and there’s your uncle! So after patching up our wounds we were off to look for train deals. See, our tables were just a “home base”, we

weren't selling trains but that was our flagship for the next two days (only Friday and Saturday in those days.

My memory has faded after that initial time, except that I know George and I bought way more trains than we budgeted for. There were fewer buildings then than now: The Blue hall, the Red, the White, and all the major train dealers were under the concrete Grandstand, which was also a crazy situation: lots of nooks and crannies of various sizes for the dealers to set up shop; so it was a kinda labyrinth of aisles. And the dealers were all giving deals on all the modern new stuff, so we made several trips across the fairgrounds between the Blue hall and the Grandstand with armloads of treasures to stuff on and under our tables.

So then Saturday after 2pm came around and it was time to head home – in the one car with all our newly obtained goodies. To this day I cannot fathom how we got us and our stuff into that car (and Lou's dad WAS NOT put on the

roof aka "National Lampoon Summer Vacation)!

So ended my first trip to York, and I clearly had the bug that NO vaccine would cure! I will always have much gratitude to Lou for inviting us to join TCA, and that started a 45 year continuous membership. I've got many more memories and anecdotes to share with you, if you will allow me that honor, but I'll end this for now. Until next time, "Keep Training

Ed is the Vice-President of the Great Lakes TCA Division.



Great Lakes Division Officers

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In Memorium

It is with a heavy heart to report the passing of a great friend and long time TCA member, Paul Fischer on October 8, 2022. He was a strong supporter of the TCA and of the model train hobby. His knowledge of trains, and especially the Milwaukee Road, was well known. He was also a faithful attendee at the York train meets. His helpfulness and kindness to all who knew him will not be forgotten.

From Paul's obituary:

Paul was born on October 21, 1935, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

He proudly served in the United States Army.

Strong in his faith, he was dedicated to attending services and events at his church.

Paul was an enthusiast of automobiles, Chris-Craft Boats, and more than anything, locomotives. His love and passion for trains was evident

through his endless knowledge. Paul enjoyed being a member of the T.C.A. Brotherhood and their shared appreciation for all varieties of trains. He was extremely proud to be the creator of East Troy Railroad Museum in East Troy, Wisconsin



Both the Great Lakes Division & Chapter donated to purchase a brick in honor of Paul at the National TCA Museum.

Phyllis Speidel



Phyllis joined the TCA in 1974 and subsequently became an Honor Roll member. She would volunteer many times at the admissions table when the GLC would hold a train meet.

The Great Lakes Division and Chapter donated to purchase a brick in memory of Phyllis at the National TCA Museum.

Phyllis passed away on October 23, 2022. Both Phyllis and her late husband, Don, were well known to the TCA members in Northeast Ohio. Don was an engineer for the New York Central and was the 92nd member when he joined TCA and made a charter member. He was former President of the national TCA and of the Lake Erie Chapter TCA.

Upcoming Events

MANSFIELD TRAIN SHOW

Denny's Trains of Loudonville will have its 15th train show Sunday, January 1, 2023 at The Richland County Fairgrounds 10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. in The Fairhaven Hall, 750 N. Home Rd., Mansfield, OH 44906

Admission \$7 - 12 & under FREE!!

THIS SHOW WILL HAVE ONLY TRAIN-RELATED ITEMS

If you are looking for tropical fish, baby clothes, plants, tupperware, toys, men's socks, basement-water proofing booths., **THIS SHOW IS NOT FOR YOU!!**

This show **WILL** have several operating layouts and over 100 tables of quality train-related items and HOURLY DENNY DOLLAR drawings 11-\$25, 12-\$50, 1-\$75, 2-\$100

DEALERS – 8 ft. tables \$30 – Buy 5 get 1 FREE! – Saturday set-up 2:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. Sunday set-up 7:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M. There will be limited drive-in access to unload – Dealers and layouts must stay completely set-up until 3:00 P.M.

For more information, contact Dennis Breesse at 419-606-7934 or 419-920-4076 or email at coaltrain3@hotmail.com

Please make checks payable to **Dennis Breesse** and mail to:
Dennis Breesse
22537 State Route 3
Loudonville, OH 44842

DIRECTIONS: off US 30, 7 miles **WEST** of I-71 – exit at Trimble Rd., go north 1000 feet, turn left on W. Longview Ave., take W. Longview Ave. 8/10 of a mile to stop sign at N. Home Rd., turn right – Fairgrounds on right

The Great Lakes Division
TRAIN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

SNOW TIME TRAIN MEET

Saturday, January 28, 2023

U.A.W. HALL (Parma)
5615 Chevrolet Blvd.
Cleveland, Ohio 44130

Open to the public 10am – 3pm

**ADMISSION \$6.00 each, \$8.00 Family
Kids 17 & Under, FREE with Adult**

- FREE PARKING
- HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE
- GOOD LIGHTING
- TCA KIDS CLUB: KIDS PLAY WITH TRAINS!
- MOD SQUAD OPERATING MODULAR LAYOUT
- NEW & OLD TRAINS
- MANY BRANDS & SCALES
- BOOKS, LITERATURE & VIDEOS
- PARTS, REPAIR MANUALS, ETC.
- MODEL BUILDING SUPPLIES & KITS
- REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE


SPECIAL RAFFLE!

**READY TO RUN
TRAIN SET**

TICKETS: \$5 EACH

**ONLY 100 TICKETS
TO BE SOLD**

For Meet Information,
Contact:
John Twarog (330)273-6404
www.greatlakesca.org



DIRECTIONS
Via I-90: to I-71 southwest to W130th south left at Brookpark; right at Chevrolet Blvd.
Via I-71 north: to I-480 east; exit W139th: Left on Brookpark; right at Chevrolet Blvd.
Via turnpike: Exit I-71 N, then follow above
Via I-77: exit I-480 west to Tiedeman left to Brookpark; right to Chevrolet then left



Snow Dogs Train Show

Saturday, January 7, 2023

Wind, nor Rain, nor Snow will keep a train fan from a good train show!

UAW Hall, 5615 Chevrolet Blvd., Parma, Ohio 44130

10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Admission: \$6.00, Kids under twelve Free

Free Parking

This is an **ALL Gauge Show** with over 150 tables of trains and toys.

Operating Layout of several gauges
Good Food at reasonable prices
Free Parking

For Table Info call:
330-633-9097




The CVSGA is moving forward with this show. Should there be an extension of COVID 19 protocols, social distancing rules may be applicable.

Show sponsored by Cuyahoga Valley S Gauge Association (www.cvsqa.com)

Revised 3.3.22



Before We Go

From the Division Treasurer

Here is the latest financial totals of the
Great Lakes Division:

Statement Savings - \$3617.33

Business Checking - \$15973.49

CD Certificate – \$6036.99



“I finally found it!” !!

Lake Erie Chapter TCA

Officers

Al Lakis – President

Cliff Reeves – Vice-President

John Twarog - Secretary

Joe Pescha – Treasurer

John Tworag – Meet Chairman
