



# ALL ABOARD!!

*Winter 2018*

## Newsletter

### *Music City Chapter TCA*

#### Officers

**President**      *Charles R. Hirst*  
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#### Board Members

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### *President's Message*

I would like to thank all the officers, board members and chapter members for your work to make our Christmas show a success. Also, thank you to our vendors. I hope everyone had a good show. If you have a suggestion for improvement in our shows, please let me know.

On February 13th, I attended the Nashville Fairground meeting. I addressed the board on the traffic congestion we experienced at our Christmas show. The board was unaware of the traffic problem. I explained that traffic backed to Nolensville Road in one direction and the interstate in the other direction. There was a craft show that was in the Agricultural Building and a huge attendance on Friday night as well as Saturday. The large attendance at the craft show paired with the 1200 attendance at our train show was the reason for the congestion. My suggestion to the board was to have people taking money on both sides of the parking booth at the main entrance and maybe opening the side entrance. I will talk to the events manager before the Christmas show and see what measures are being taken for the parking and traffic congestion.

The 2018-19 Executive Board Officers were elected by acclamation. We have a new board member I would like to welcome, David Gray.

Our Spring show, April 14th, is fast approaching, looking forward to seeing everyone.

**Ron Hirst**  
**President**

### **Music City Chapter Logo Shirts**

The Music City Chapter TCA logo shirts have arrived and will be available at our Spring Show. The cost is \$15.



## Editor's Notes

The 24th Annual Christmas Toy Train Show was quite an event.

For some of us it started on Thursday, December 7th. The tables were numbered and relocated to their proper place within the Creative Arts Building in anticipation of Friday's dealer set up.

Friday afternoon the dealers began unloading their trucks and trailers and we began setting up the two Club layouts both the S gauge and the O gauge. It was a busy day.

Friday was also the start of a crafts fair in the Agricultural Building directly behind us. The crafts fair began at 6:00 pm that evening and continued all day Saturday. Naturally, this created some unanticipated logistical issues for the Fairgrounds.

With both the Train Show and the craft fair operating at the same time, entering the fairgrounds parking facility was a challenge. Only one person was manning the parking booth resulting in a traffic line as far out as the interstate. Several participants at our show said they had waited in line for over an hour. This will be discussed with the Fairgrounds management before our next Christmas show.

Once again the weather was a factor for some of our dealers. The folks coming from the Atlanta and northern Alabama areas were hit with up to 6 inches of snow. While most of them braved the weather at least three of the dealers were not able to attend.

Over the last few years, we have initiated additional market efforts designed to promote our Spring and Summer shows as well as, the Christmas Show. Board Member Doug Roberts has been the principal architect of this initiative. Both the Spring and Summer shows have increased participation by over 30%.

The Christmas Show attendance was over 1200 people by both participants and dealers and an estimated 300 children that enjoyed the operating train layouts. We believe our strong attendance was due to this market effort which included our TV ads running on the major Nashville networks prior to the show. All in all it was a very good day!

Thanks to all the Chapter members and dealers for their help in making this one of our best shows ever.

**Joseph R. Marabeti**  
Editor



*Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Dale Beagle whose wife Sugar passed away earlier this year. Sugar and the children were by Dale's side running the G gauge layout at our Christmas shows.*

## Treasurer's Report Music City Chapter TCA 2017 Statement of Operation

Bank Balance 12-31-16	\$18,363.60
Spring Meet	\$-17.01
Summer Meet	\$-86.05
Christmas Show	\$2,223.27
Other Inc/Exp	\$-1,906.73
Bank Balance 12-31-17	\$18,577.08



## Train Trivia

Submitted by  
**Joseph Marabeti**

What was the last railroad company to use steamlocomotives for regular interchange service?

Answer: Norfolk & Western



**24<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Christmas Toy  
Train Show  
Winners of  
the Lionel Train Sets**

**Adam Lefellier**

Southside, TN

The Patriot Freight Set

**Jack Russell**

Hermitage, TN

Pennsylvania Keystone Flyer

**Grayson Hagewood**

Nashville, TN

New York Central Flyer

**John Mosier**

Clarksville, TN

Frosty The Snowman

**Wyatt Barber**

Knoxville, TN

Pennsylvania Keystone Flyer

**Gavin Greene**

Murfreesboro, TN

The Polar Express

**Congratulations to all these  
young winners!!**



## Officers and Advisory Board Meeting

The quarterly meeting of the officers and Members of the Advisory Board was held on Saturday, February 24, 2018 at Rafferty's Restaurant in Nashville. Present at the meeting were officers Ron Hirst, John Blake, Vic Petrone and Joseph Marabeti. Also in attendance were Board Members Wendell Tipton, Jim Langan, Doug Roberts and David Gray.

Ron Hirst opened the meeting by welcoming our newest Board Member David Gray. The meeting addressed a wide range of topics, a summary of which follows.

Ron reviewed the plans for the upcoming Spring show on April 14, at the Donelson First Baptist Church. The customary refreshments would be provided, a table train layout would be set up, and the portable PA system would be utilized. It was agreed that the postcard announcement would be mailed out prior to the show. Vic and Doug will be accessing the database to determine the scope of the mail out.

In addition, an informal survey of our dealers will be conducted to consider extending the Spring and Summer by one hour.

Ron attended the February Board meeting of the TN State Fairgrounds and addressed the traffic issue that occurred between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM the day of the Christmas Show. Attendees trying to enter the Fairground's parking facility experienced delays of over 1 hour with traffic lines backed up to the Interstate. The Fairgrounds board members were not aware of the issue but indicated that this would be addressed.

Several members discussed the issue of dealers leaving early during the Christmas Show. It is not uncommon for many participants to come to the show after 2:00 PM. Empty tables are not what they are hoping to see. There will be further discussion on ways to address this issue at the next board meeting.

Vic gave the annual financial reports for 2017 which included the Spring and Summer shows, the Christmas Show and the event at the Mt Juliet Library. We continue to have sufficient working capital.

John and Joseph discussed opportunities to support the Adventure Science Center in running trains during the holiday season as well as the application of blue tooth technology to their curriculum.

There being no additional business the meeting was adjourned.

**Joseph R. Marabeti**  
Secretary