



# ***ALL ABOARD!!***

## ***Winter 2019***

### **Newsletter**

## ***Music City Chapter TCA***

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### ***President's Message***

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year!

Hard to believe this was our 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Show. We had a good attendance even with declining weather. A big thank you to all the vendors, officers and members and thanks to those who loaded and unloaded trailers and helped set up the layouts. The weather was a little messy during the take down and clean up. This may have affected our attendance.

Our next show is set for Saturday March 23 at First Baptist Church of Donelson at 2526 Lebanon Rd. New hours are from 9 – 2. We have extended the show for one more hour.

Vic Petrone and I met with the Nashville Fairground show planner to reserve our space in new complex for the 2019 Christmas Show, December 14. Construction is underway with planned opening in July or August. Should be about 31,000 square feet of space.

If you are a toy train lover, history buff, local Nashvillian or maybe curious, the last couple of weeks have peaked your interest. The old steam engine, #576 that has been a fixture at Centennial Park for years has been moved to its new location. Several thousand people, both young and old and hundreds of kids lined the route to see this massive marvel of steam power. This is the last remaining engine of its type. I remember going to the park, climbing on and in the cab as a child. I imagined how it would feel to drive down the track, wind in my face and pulling the rope on the steam whistle. The plan is to fully restore the 576. One day it could pull an excursion train from Nashville.

I received an email from TCA President, Rupert Campbell, asking that anyone that has email and has not signed up to receive toy train information to please, do so. If you would like to check online the website is: [www.tcamembers.org/index.shtml](http://www.tcamembers.org/index.shtml) or you can phone or write to the NBO and they will get you enrolled to receive the information by email.

Hope to see you in March.

***Ron Hirst***  
**President**



## Editor's Notes

December 8, 2018 marked the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Toy Train Show sponsored by the Music City Chapter of the TCA. The genesis of the show goes back to 1993 when N.C. Hibbit, of Mt Juliet, pronounced that we should have a train meet. And off we went!

The Club struggled those first few years in an effort to attract both dealers and participants and, at times, lost money. But our goal as always was the same ... to enhance the toy train experience for all who attended.

Over the years, we have grown in both the knowledge and expertise needed for the operation and administration of our shows. And, as the shows have expanded, we have worked hard to accommodate both dealers and participants. This has led to some modest financial success which has allowed us to better serve our members.

Currently, we have three shows throughout the year. Our operating budget is approximately of \$18,000. Our annual attendance is in excess of 1,500 adults and an estimated 400 children. This year there were over 70 dealers and 225 tables of merchandise at our Christmas Show.

We have purchased and configured two trailers to house our mobile O gauge and S gauge operating layouts. In addition to numerous door prizes, we have an annual drawing for six complete Lionel train sets for children 12 and under. We publish a newsletter three times a year and have a Music City Chapter logo shirt. We also donate a portion of the proceeds from each show to the Dixie Division.

We have made substantial progress from the lessons we learned in those early years and benefited from the experiences. I'm proud of what we have accomplished but there is more to be done.

However, the one thing that hasn't changed is the lack of participation on behalf of our membership. While our Chapter has over 150 club members the operation and administration of our shows is limited to a handful of people ... the same people. And while these members have a passion to serve, the passage of time will eventually bring their service to an end. Long term, this is not sustainable. If the members want this club to continue to grow and enjoy the benefits of this chapter, it is time to participate.

I encourage each of you to initiate a discussion with one of our officers or board members to learn how you can be an active participant in the Music City Chapter. It's really up to you.

*Joseph Marabeti*  
Secretary

## 25th Annual Christmas Toy Train Show



### Door Prize Winners

<b>Logan Harris</b>	<b>Penn Keystone Flyer</b>
<b>August Duke</b>	<b>Zombie Apocalypse</b>
<b>Bodie Labbe</b>	<b>Christmas Set</b>
<b>Dominic Letteru</b>	<b>Penn Keystone Flyer</b>
<b>John Center</b>	<b>Patriot Freight Set</b>

**Congratulations!**

## Train Trivia

*Submitted by  
Joseph Marabeti*

**What is the name of the train line that was used in the Harry Potter movies?**



**Answer: The West Highland Line train is the real Hogwarts Express train. It runs daily.**

## Logo Shirts!

**If you don't have your Music City Chapter logo shirt, they will be on sale at the Spring Show!**

**The next meeting of the Officers and Advisory Board Members will be held on February 23, 2019.**