



ALL ABOARD!!

Winter 2020

Newsletter

Music City Chapter TCA

Officers

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Secretary *Doug Roberts*
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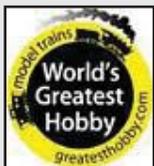
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Board Members

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President's Message

Happy New Year!

Let me thank everyone who participated in our 26th annual Christmas Toy Train Show at "The Fairgrounds Nashville." The new location was certainly an upgrade from our previous venues. The facility contained everything we needed including a Café. The amount of space within that building will allow us to add approximately 35 additional dealer tables. That's good news.

Prior to the opening of the show, we held our business meeting where we announced the officers for the next two years. They are as follows:

President - Joseph Marabeti
Vice-President - John Blake
Treasurer - Vic Petrone
Secretary - Doug Roberts

I want to express a sincere thank you to outgoing President Ron Hirst for his leadership over his term of office. On his watch, we have increased our attendance by over 30% at our Spring and Summer shows as well as increased dealer participation. Ron will continue to provide guidance as a Member of our Board.

I also wanted to thank Doug Roberts for taking on the responsibilities of club Secretary. Doug will continue to use his considerable marketing skills in his new position which have contributed to our continued growth.

As we move into 2020, the Club will be adding new Members to our Board. We encourage a diverse perspective of views and opinions to better serve the overall membership. Any member wishing to serve is asked to contact me or any of the officers listed. Let me wish all of you a healthy and prosperous new year.

Look forward to seeing all of you at our March show!

Joseph Marabeti



Editor's Notes

On Friday afternoon before our Christmas show, I sat at the entrance table with Vic Petrone and Ralton Wagner as the dealers began arriving. We provided them with the number and the location of their table. Most of them unloaded their items, put a cloth on the table, and placed their trains and accessories out on display. Once completed, they were done for the day.

As I watch this process repeated over and over I couldn't help but wonder if they thought about the preparation that went into making this possible.

Here is a brief overview of our planning process.

While we're not new to this event, our preparation began two years earlier when the Fairground Board announced that the building we had occupied would not be available. New construction scheduled for completion in late 2019 would be taking its place. Anxious, you bet. We signed a contract to lease space that hadn't been constructed.

Consequently, Ron, and sometimes Vic, began going to the Fairground's monthly Board meetings for the last two years. They began developing a working relationship with the folks in charge of the new buildings. This proved to be invaluable in the months ahead.

In August of this year, we began developing our print media advertisements that would be published in the December edition of various train publications. We hoped that the new building would be ready to go.

In early October, while the buildings were still under construction, Ron, Vic and I were allowed to walk through the site and take measurements for the tables and layouts. Vic prepared a draft of the floor plan. Just to be on the safe side, Vic and Ron went back two more times to check out measurements. The construction was completed in late October.

Also in October, Doug Roberts negotiated a favorable price for the printing and mailing of over 3400 announcements that were sent out to people in our data base. The announcements, with the new location, went out in mid November.

On Thursday prior to the show, Vic and I walked through the building to check the placement of the tables ensuring that there was enough space between the rows of tables and the operating layouts. Once we had everything in order, we numbered the 200 plus tables.

Meanwhile, Ron went to inspect the two trailers that contain the Club's mobile layouts. He didn't want any

surprises on Friday.

That Friday, Ron shuttled back and forth making two trips to bring our layouts to the show. I am still surprised that there are no other members having a truck or SUV with a trailer hitch that can provide assistance. As each trailer arrived, a team of people including Ron and Carol, John Blake, Jim Langan and newcomer Geoffrey Allen and his family, assembled the layouts and test-ed the trains. I would be remiss if I didn't thank Virgil King for servicing all of the club engines prior to the show.

Late Friday afternoon, a buffet of deli sandwiches, chips, cookies and drinks were provided to all the dealers. The refreshments were greatly appreciated.

Saturday the show began and a steady flow of train enthusiasts began filling the hall while Vic and Dick Page collected admissions as quickly as possible. Soon, participants with smiling faces were walking out with boxes of train items, dealers were busy talking to customers and trains were humming along on the operating layouts.

While the crowd size was impressive, it really doesn't tell the story. It's about the experience. Maybe it's the purchase of those one or two items you've been searching for, or visiting with old friends that you only see once a year, or making new friends that you hope to see again. It's something different for each of us. But whatever it is, it's something that brings you back year after year. That's why we do it. That's what the preparation is all about.

*I encourage each member
to share this experience with us.*

*Joseph Marabeti
Editor*

Train Trivia

Submitted by Joseph Marabeti

A train with a locomotive attached at both ends is described as what?

Answer: "Top and tailed". This practice is typically being used when there are no reversing facilities available."



CHRISTMAS TOY TRAIN SHOW

WINNERS!!!!!!!

In addition to the drawing for the five Lionel ready to run train sets, one of the club members donated a complete HO trains which was also given away. The winners are:

Marcus Jensen, Smyrna, TN

The Polar Express

Anastelle Stephenson, Nashville, TN

The Patriot Set

Nathan Gibson, Murfreesboro, TN

Disney Holiday Set

Madison Arnett, Murray, KY

John Deere Set

William Wylie, Nashville, TN

Frosty the Snowman

T.J. Novetia, Algood, TNh will work

Harvest Express, HO Train Set

*Congratulations to all these
young train enthusiasts!*



Music City Chapter Announcements

TCA National Convention

The Dixie Division will sponsor the 2022 TCA National Convention to be held in Nashville, TN. Volunteers are needed to assist in the planning of this event. If interested, contact Joseph Marabeti or any of the Officers or Board Members listed on this Newsletter.

Spring Train Show

March 14, 2020

Donselson First Baptist Church
2526 Lebanon Pike, Nashville, TN
Registration form enclosed

Music City Chapter TCA Officers and Board of Directors January 18, 2020 Minutes

Attending: Joseph Marabeti, Ron Hirst,
Doug Roberts, John Blake, David Gray

Joseph Marabeti advised members that Francis Jones, Vic Petrone's mother-in-law passed away. The funeral was held Friday, January 17, 2020. Ron suggested that the Club make a memorial in her name. Arrangements are being made.

Vic Petrone prepared the the financial report for the 2019 Christmas Toy Train Show. The data showed a net loss of \$1,268.00. It was determined that several factors contributed to the loss. While attendance was consistent with prior years, there was a 10% decrease in table sales. Several large blocks of tables were cancelled just prior to the show. This was the primary cause of the negative financial impact.

Other factors included the cost associated with vendor layouts and the more efficient use of the space within the facility. In addition, due to the new location there were issues associated with signage, parking and dealer access to the facility. Several ideas were discussed for generating additional revenue which will require further discussion.

Members discussed the number of train shows held in or near the Nashville area. Doug provided a list of shows currently scheduled in 2020 within a few hours drive. The list was emailed to officers and members of the board.

Ron Hirst suggested the the Club schedule a date for the Summer 2020 Show in Donelson as soon as possible. All agreed that August 22 or 29 were preferred. Joseph will contact the Church to secure one of those dates.

Joseph detailed his discussion with Bob Keller, Dixie Division President, regarding the upcoming TCA National Convention to be held in Nashville in 2022. It was agreed that members of the Club would meet with the TCA officials in March to plan how we cold assist in hosting the event.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Doug Roberts
Secretary