

# OZARK DIVISION TCA NEWSLETTER

*“Celebrating the Magic of Toy Trains”*

[www.ozarkdivision-TCA.org](http://www.ozarkdivision-TCA.org)

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Great St. Louis Christmas Train Show & Food Drive**
- **Ozark Division Annual Membership Meeting**
- **Membership Renewal**
- **Focus on Members**
- **Armchair Railfannibg**

**Great St. Louis Christmas Train Show & Food Drive** held on December 4, 2021 is history and from what I heard everyone who attended had a good time. While the overall attendance was disappointing but the enthusiasm of those who attended was fantastic. All 70 of the vendor tables were sold and if there more they could have been sold. I witnessed people leaving with bags of treasures and that was exciting. Winter 2020 was the first time in the 30 plus years of the show that it had to be canceled.

Once again the 8th grade class at Immanuel Lutheran School did a great job setting up the tables on Friday afternoon. They also did a great job at being servers and their volunteer parents also made the job easy putting the show on. All of the behind the scenes people deserve a big thank you for putting up with all if us.

The good news is the 8th grade class for 2022—2023 wants to do the show again. So reserve the date of December 3, 2022 for the next Great St. Louis Christmas Train Show & Food Drive. More details will follow.

An important part of the Train Show is the Food Drive. I don't know how to measure the success of the Food Drive, other than any nonperishable food items collected is a success. Immanuel Lutheran Church has a food pantry and they also support Lutheran and Family Services food pantry.

**Ozark Division Annual Meeting** was held Saturday afternoon at the Great St. Louis Christmas Train Show & Food Drive. Please take a few minutes and read the minutes a copy is enclosed with this Newsletter. During the meeting Vice President Rob English announced the names of the individuals who have been nominated by the BOD for the positions of Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer for the term 2022—2024. Darin Grant was nominated for Vice President and Dennis James for Secretary/Treasurer. There were no other nominations and the nominations were closed and the Secretary was instructed to prepare a ballot and send to the membership. The ballot will sent electronically with instructions on how to cast your ballot.

**Membership Renewal:** It is time to renew your membership to the Ozark Division as all memberships expire on December 31st of the current year. However a number of you have paid ahead so if you don't know when your membership expires please feel free to contact the Ozark Division Secretary at [jonlstrains@netscape.net](mailto:jonlstrains@netscape.net) or 314-239-7996. This is a great time to become a member of the Ozark Division and that can be accomplished by completing the Membership Application enclosed with the Newsletter. The annual membership is \$10.

**Focus on Members:** One of the three Ozark Division management pillars is Honor the Past. Beginning several years the TCA National and the Ozark Division started to recognize those members with long term membership to the Association. For 2021 the following members were honored for their longevity, 50 years of membership; HR71-3554 David M. Dillingham, 71-3558 Martin T. Floyd, 71-3561 Mel Walbridge,

HR71-3625 John W. Ourso, 71-3768 Friedrich O. Gastreich, HR71-3771 John E. Reed, 71-3968 Lane D. Gilmore. Unfortunately John W. Ourso passed away earlier this year. In addition to the above, the Ozark Division has decided to recognize those members with 25 years of membership; 96-42698 Harry G. Smelcer, 96-42753 David W. Bass, 96-43010 Kent J. Glovanovitz, 96-43027 Rodney Dreifuss, 96-43303 Robert M. English, 96-43481 Larry W. Taylor, 96-43587 Jack Treiber, HE96-43643 Bob Anderson, 96-43695 Randall K. Drescher, 96-44020 Michael E. Clouser, 96-44160 James D. Johnson. As we move into 2022 the following members will be celebrating 50 years of membership in the Train Collectors Association; 72-4133 Michael Lonigro, 72-4737 Thomas L. Heabel, 72-4876 David L. Fleenor, Sr.. Here are those member celebrating 25 years of membership; 97-45073 Fred Klafta, 97-45190 Robert K. Boyd, 97-45265 John W. Howorth, 97-45601 Jan W. A. Bocker, 97-45811 Ronald E. Mottola, 97-46329 Lee Smith, 97-46330 William G. Robertson, 97-46355 Mike P. Lee. All of these individuals are to be commended for their commitment to the "Worlds Greatest Hobby" and to the Train Collectors Association.

In memoriam, I am saddened to report the death of 92-36009 Kenneth J. Hake. Condolences to his family from his friends at the Ozark Division and the TCA.

Welcome Back: The following individual has rejoined the Train Collectors Association and the Ozark Division; 95-4133 Craig Tarpoff, 2621 Madison Ave., Granite City, IL 62040, ctarpoff@gmail.com, 618-451-0729.

**Armchair Railfanning:** It is becoming time to start armchair railfanning as winter is starting to move in. I don't particularly like standing out in the cold waiting and watching for trains. So the answer to get my "fix" is to go to YouTube for my railfanning. YouTube supplies great entertainment for both real and model trains. I have several influencers that I go to for watching real trains. I believe the best influencer is Virtual Railfan because they have 24 hour live camera feeds from around the country. Within the Ozark Division they have live cameras in La Plata, Santa Fe Junction, Doc's Caboose, Parkville, MO and in Oklahoma they have a camera at the Oklahoma Model Railroad Association in Oklahoma City. They have live camera's at Quincy and Galesburg, IL for great BNSF activity. Since they are live 24 hours a day you can catch live action; for instance I saw the Union Pacific derailment on the trestle at Santa Fe Junction, I have witnessed drivers driving onto the tracks at Ashland, VA and drivers trying to bluff a CSX freight trains at La Grange, KY street running. Here are a few other real railroad influencers; Wide World of Trains "DPU Alright" is his saying for great CSX and Norfolk Southern action in upper New York, Jaw Tooth who records his activity in southern Ohio and Northern Kentucky, Jason Asselin Youtube records his activity in Northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan along the Escanaba and Lake Superior Railroad, TrainManBrodie records is activity around Centralia, IL covering the activity of the BNSF, Canadian National, Norfolk Southern and Amtrak and finally there is Distant Signal recording activity down in Florida and Southern Georgia for CSX and Amtrak. There are many other influencers, but these are the ones I go to.

There is probably as many if not more influencers for model railroading covering all gauges, here are some of the ones I go to for entertainment; Eric's Trains, JDStucks (Jason's O Gauge Trains), Sid's Trains, RBP Trains and Chris's Trains and Things. All of these influencers have operating layouts in various stages of construction maybe with the exception of Eric's Trains and RPB Trains as their layouts appear to be pretty much complete.

As I end this Newsletter, please take a few minutes follow the instructions and cast your ballot for election of new officers for the Ozark Division.

Jon Lundvall, Editor

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