



TCA UPSTATE NEWSLETTER

August 2025

Fall on the way!



President's Message

Hope everyone is doing well. One hot summer! This month's newsletter will not harp on seeking volunteers to fill our many open Board seats. Why? Because it's time to begin our election process again. Hard to believe, but it has been 2 years since the last election. I won't say it has been an easy 2 years for your current board. We made a valiant attempt to pick up the pieces following some very challenging years. I know many of our regular members understand some of the issues with which we have had to deal. I sincerely thank Mike, John, Frank and Pat for hanging in there during those years. We did our best given a limited Board and most importantly the lack of human capital to help carry out our goals and objectives. We were able to sponsor 6 shows over those 2 years and for the most part we were happy with the outcome. All of the

shows were profitable and those vendors participating were happy with our marketing and foot traffic. Many members and non-members appreciated our newsletters and our reminder e-mailings. I believe we all recognize, that the upstate marketplace offers numerous opportunities when it comes to train shows. The reality is that as a chapter, we are in competition with all of them. Some of these train shows are not chapter based and exist for the sole purpose of providing table space for vendors and to make a profit. There is nothing wrong with these shows, as they offer all train collectors an opportunity to buy, sell and mingle with fellow train enthusiasts. As a chapter, however, we were organized through the efforts of the Eastern Division of the Train Collectors Association and dedicated ourselves to promoting the history, operation and enjoyment of toy trains and model railroading in our community. Our purpose goes beyond just offering a show 3 times a year. Unless our chapter is able to address the lack of interest in holding a chapter office and members continue to stand on the sidelines our chapter may go the way of TTOS.

Wrapping it up...this newsletter announces that we are seeking candidates for chapter office to further right the ship and take our chapter to the next level. That is to provide our membership and the public the opportunities and services for which we were organized. Your support and participation in this process is critical.

Elections will be held in October of 2025. We are not in line with the timelines specified in our by-laws, but we are working to expedite the process. After numerous attempts, we recently were able to secure an Election Coordinator.

With this newsletter, we are formally soliciting individuals who are interested in running for elected office. As in past elections, the following positions will be on the ballot: President, Vice President, Secretary, Director-At-Large (Up to 4) and Eastern Chapter Representative. (Duties Attached) The board of directors shall determine the number of Directors-At-Large and whether the offices of secretary and treasurer shall be combined for next term. **Any individual requesting consideration must be a member in good standing of the National Train Collectors Association (TCA) and the local Upstate Chapter of the TCA.** To be considered, you must submit a formal “Request for Consideration” to the Election and Nominating Committee by no later than **September 20, 2025**. The request should be mailed to:

**Upstate Train Collectors Association
Attention; Elections Committee
PO Box 222
West Falls NY 14170**

The “Request for Consideration” (REC) should include the following information; Name, address, email address, phone number, TCA number, TCA experience, TCA offices held, volunteer experience and a statement detailing specific goals and desires for the TCA. It is suggested submission not exceed one 8 ½ by 11 sheet of paper.

The Election and Nominating Committee, appointed by the Board of Directors, shall oversee the process. Via direct contact with those submitting the RFC, the Election and Nominating Committee will identify and vet members interested in seeking office. They will provide the membership with a slate of qualified and interested individuals for their consideration and vote.

This year as in 2023, the election will be held by mail in ballot. This process will insure that each and every member of the local chapter is able to participate in the process. Everyone’s voice will

be heard. A ballot will be mailed directly to each member’s residence of record during October 2025. Ballots will need to be completed and mailed back to the Election and Nominating Committee by the appropriate date indicated on the ballot. Any submissions postmarked after that date will be considered null and void. Any questions regarding the positions, or the process, can be emailed to tca.upstatenychapter.events@gmail.com.

David Kaczor, President

Vice President/ Meet Chairman Report

Next month we will be having our third show of the year on **September 27th** at St. Mary of the Lake, 4737 Lake Shore Road, Hamburg, NY 14075. Flyer attached.

Our March and May shows were both profitable for the Chapter. As of August 5, 2025 our Treasury Balance was \$8,557.09. We continue to demonstrate sound fiscal practices for the benefit of the organization. I would like to thank everyone that attended and especially those that helped out with set-up and take-down at these shows. It is greatly appreciated !!!

Remember Chapter Members participating in the show only pay \$17.00 per table. Your support of these shows is important to the financial operation of the Chapter. Hope to see you at St. Marys in September.

SPECIAL OFFER!

If you participate in the set-up and break-down of our show at St Mary of the Lake this September 27th, you will receive 1 free table for your efforts. For more information contact me at (716) 913-4195. Advanced notice to participate is necessary.

UPCOMING TRAIN SHOWS

September 7 – Batavia, GCC
 September 20-21 Hemlock Fairgrounds
 September 27 St Mary’s on the Lake, Hamburg
 October 12 Polish Falcons, Depew
 October 26 Knights Event Center, Cheektowaga
 November 1-2 Fairgrounds Syracuse
 November 2 Waldameer Park, Erie PA
 November 22-23 Agri-Center, Hamburg
 November 29 Roberts Wesleyan, Rochester

Mike Michalczak, Vice President and Show Chairman

Eastern Division TCA Announces Fall 2025 York Train Fair PRE-SHOW
 Come Early Monday-Wednesday
 Selling Tables Available – All Gauges
FREE Admission to the Public
 Indoor on the Fairgrounds Purple Hall

Sunday Oct 19 - (Set-Up 1-5pm)
Monday Oct 20 - (Set-Up 7-9am) Open 9-4
Tuesday Oct 21 - Open 8:30-4 (Seller Entry 8am)
Wednesday Oct 22 - Open 8:30-1 (Seller Entry 8am)
 Paid Table Reservations > Due Oct 1, 2025

Name _____	PA Tax License # _____	
Phone _____	* All Sellers MUST have a PA Tax ID, Transient or Usage License https://mysoath.pa.gov/ /#2	
Email _____		
TCA # _____	Non-TCA Member# _____	TOTALS
PRE-SHOW (Mon-Wed) _____ # @ \$35 Each	_____ # @ \$50 Each	\$ _____
(After 10-1-2025) _____ # @ \$40 Each	(After 10-1-2025) _____ # @ \$55 Each	
Payment Due by Oct 1, 2025 (Checks payable to TCA Eastern Division)		
TCA Dealers Only Remain in Purple Hall (Thurs-Sat) _____ # @ \$25 Each	_____ # @ \$25 Each	\$ _____
Payment Due by Oct 1, 2025 (Checks payable to TCA Eastern Division)		
Early Payment Due by Oct 1, 2025 (Checks payable to TCA Eastern Division)	BOTH SHOWS	\$ _____

Mail Form & Payment to: Russell Youens, 110 Slash Dr, Ashland, VA 23005
 Questions: JRYouens@verizon.net

Eastern TCA Pre-Show Table Reservation
 Sun Set-Up 1-5 Mon Set-Up 7-9, Mon Show 9-4, Tue 8:30-4, Wed 8:30-1
OCT 20-22, 2025 PUBLIC ADMISSION FREE

Name _____	PA Tax License # _____	
Phone _____	* All Sellers MUST have a PA Tax ID, Transient or Usage License https://mysoath.pa.gov/ /#2	
Email _____		
TCA # _____	Non-TCA Member# _____	TOTALS
PRE-SHOW (Mon-Wed) _____ # @ \$35 Each	_____ # @ \$50 Each	\$ _____
(After Oct 1, 2025) _____ # @ \$40 Each	(After Oct 1, 2025) _____ # @ \$55 Each	
Payment Due by Oct 1, 2025 (Checks payable to TCA Eastern Division)		
TCA Dealers Only Remain in Purple Hall (Thurs-Sat) _____ # @ \$25 Each	All 8ft Tables _____	\$ _____
Payment Due by Oct 1, 2025 (Checks payable to TCA Eastern Division)		
Payment Due by October 1, 2025 (Checks payable to TCA Eastern Division)	BOTH SHOWS	\$ _____

Mail Form & Payment to: Russell Youens, 110 Slash Dr, Ashland, VA 23005
 Questions: JRYouens@verizon.net

Membership Opportunity

Are you a member of the Train Collectors Association? We would be happy to have you join our local “Upstate New York TCA Chapter! Your support of our chapter and events insures the continuation of our great hobby. Dues are minimal (\$10) and it gets you admission to all our Chapter Train Shows. (Add \$10 if you want hard copy information mailed) It also gets you our Newsletter packed with great information. Chapter members who reserve tables at any of our scheduled shows, will also receive a \$3 discount on table costs. An application with all the pertinent information is attached. **We hope you will join us.**

Announcements

Sponsorships

If you are interested in helping to sponsor any of our events send an email to tca.upstatenychapter.events@gmail.com. Great way to promote your business and help the hobby.

Layout Visitations

We are looking at doing a layout tour of one of the premier Train Layouts in WNY this fall. If interested contact Mike Michalczak evenings at (716) 913-4195. Will be limited to small groups, so first come first serve. You won’t be disappointed.

Guest Contributor

John C. Ptak



While the summer inevitably begins to wind down, there are still plenty of opportunities for the public to get out and enjoy some of the rich railroad history and experiences the state has to offer. The Hornell Erie Depot Museum, located at 111 Loder St. Hornell, NY. 14843, will be celebrating its 20th anniversary on Saturday, September 6th from 11 AM – 3 PM. Stop by and see all the great rail history the museum has to offer during the open house. The Arcade and Attica Railroad still has plenty of room left on all of their train rides. The railroad runs excursions every Saturday and Sunday, along with most Wednesdays. Take a ride on the historic AARR steam train each operating day at 1:00 PM. The railroad is also offering special themed rides, including The Great Train Robbery, Wine on the Rails, Whisky on Wheels, and Fall Foliage Steam Excursions. For more information, please go to the railroad's calendar, which may be found at aarailroad.com/calendar. As some may know, the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum fell victim to the flooding that occurred in the Finger Lakes and Southern Tier regions in early June. The museum has been closed throughout the summer as volunteers work tirelessly to make repairs and ready the museum to reopen to the public in late September. The museum is currently scheduled to run vintage diesel train rides on September 20th. Come out and support the largest operating



railway museum in New York State as they overcome a challenging summer.

Board Members

David Kaczor, President
Mike Michalczak, V. President/Show Chair
John Ptak, Treasurer
Frank Patti, Eastern Chapter Rep.
Patrick Lepsch, Director

Contact Information:

tca.upstatenychapter.events@gmail.com

Upstate TCA

PO Box 222, West Falls NY 14170

We are now on Facebook. Come follow us!
Visit us under “TCA Upstate New York Chapter”



TOY TRAIN SHOW



BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE TCA UPSTATE NY CHAPTER

Saturday September 27th 2025

at

St. Mary's of the Lake Church Hall

4737 Lakeshore Rd. (Rt. 5) Hamburg, NY 14075

**A VARIETY OF TOY TRAINS, ACCESSORIES
AND RELATED COLLECTABLE TOYS**

We have operating Toy Train Layouts for your enjoyment

SHOW HOURS: 9:00AM to 2:00PM General Public
TCA Members Allowed in at 8:30AM

Admission: Adults \$5.00 / Children 12-17 yrs. \$3.00
Upstate Chapter Members & Children under 12 yrs. FREE

TABLE RESERVATIONS: Mike: 716-913-4195 / Dave: 716-208-5842

Table Registration Form for September 27, 2025 Show

Tables are 8ft. and cost \$20.00 / Setup: 7:00AM of Morning of Show

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone No: _____ Email: _____

Number of tables _____ X \$20.00 per table. Total Enclosed \$ _____

MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO: TCA Upstate NY Chapter

Mail to: MIKE MICHALCZAK 8393 Evelyn Dr.
Eden, NY 14057-1021



Upstate NY TCA Chapter Renewal/Membership Application 2025/2026

TCA # _____ - _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

TCA National Expiration Date _____

Yearly dues \$ 10.00 Check # _____

(Check made out to: Upstate New York Chapter, TCA, Inc.)

Mail Checks to: Upstate New York Chapter, TCA, Inc. P.O. Box 222, West Falls, NY 14170

Signature _____

NOTE: Add \$10 to cost of membership if you are not providing an email address and wish your newsletter and chapter updates mailed via USPS.

***** ALL LINES MUST BE FILLED IN *****

1. Chapter Members will receive free admission to all Upstate New York Chapter sponsored Train Shows.
2. Vendors who are Chapter members, will receive a discounted table rate at shows sponsored at our St Mary's of the Lake location.
3. Membership dues are \$ 10. If you join now your dues will expire December 31, 2025
4. All Applicants must currently be a TCA National Member in good standings.
5. If a Chapter member allows their TCA National Membership to expire, their Chapter Membership will expire on that same date.
6. Applicants Must Agree to Support our TCA Upstate New York Chapter Mission and Objectives.

Duties of Officers

PRESIDENT

The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Chapter and shall preside at all meetings of the Chapter, Executive Committee and of the Board of Directors, except as otherwise stated, and shall have the powers, duties, and responsibilities usually vested in the office of President of a non-profit corporation. The President shall have general supervisory control of all other elected or appointed officials. In financial matters, the President shall not incur any expenditure in excess of \$100, without formal Board of Directors Approval.

VICE PRESIDENT

The Vice President shall perform such duties as are assigned by the President or, in his stead, by the Board of Directors. In the event of the absence, or the removal or inability of the President to serve the Vice President shall assume the Presidents duties. The Vice President shall have such powers and shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors.

SECRETARY

The Secretary shall publish notices of membership meetings, prepare agendas for all Board of Directors and Executive Committee meetings. The Secretary shall attend and be responsible for the keeping of the minutes of all the meetings of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. The Secretary shall exercise supervisory control of the records of the Chapter, including but not limited to records of applications, membership lists, membership actions, minutes of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee, Affiliate documentation and correspondence.

TREASURER

The Treasurer shall exercise supervisory control over the books and accounts of the Chapter and issue financial reports as required. All funds shall be deposited in accounts established in the name of the Chapter. The Treasurer shall exercise supervisory control of the expenditures of Chapters funds in accordance with the direction of the Board of Directors.

1. All checks must be made out in the Chapter's name prescribe by the Treasurer.
2. Deposits will be processed into the Chapter's Account within a timely manner in within the guidelines established by the Board of Directors.
3. Upon request and as determined by the Board of Directors, the Treasurer will provide a full accounting of all transactions and a statement of financial condition of the Chapter.
4. Shall prepare all necessary financial documents for review at the end of each term and as required by the Board of Directors to facilitate the provisions of an internal, or outside audit.
5. Shall establish and implement a financial control system, whereas all Chapter checks will be countersigned by a second member of the Executive Committee as designated by that Committee.

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE

The Director-at-Large will assist the Executive Officers in all aspects of Chapter activities including: establishing an operational budget, developing goals and Chapter objectives, helping insure financial integrity, supporting and directly participating in all Chapter events and activities, chairing various Chapter committees and activities and helping nurture a positive communicative environment with Board and the general membership

EASTERN CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVE

The Eastern Chapter Representative will actively participate as a member of the Chapters Board of Directors. In addition to previously stated Director-At-Large responsibilities, he will act as the official liaison between our Upstate Chapter and the Eastern TCA Division. This includes attending Eastern Divisions meetings and events and actively keeping each entity abreast of current activities and issues impacting each other's organization.