



TCA UPSTATE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025

Happy Holidays!



President's Message

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas to all our Upstate NY TCA members and Model Train enthusiasts across the North East. Wishing you and yours a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Well the election results are in and the following individuals were elected to serve your chapter for the next 2 years: David Kaczor (President), Michael Oher (Vice President), John Ptak (Treasurer), Chuck Janiga (Director), Ethann Browne (Director) and John C. Ptak (Director). John C. Ptak was a write-in and has agreed to serve. Finally, Frank Patti has been reappointed Eastern Division TCA Representative for the chapter. Approximately 40% of the membership returned their ballots. For those who took the time to return their ballots, we thank you.

The Year Ahead...Look For Change

Some things you need to know. The last 2 years were extremely challenging for our chapter. During this period, our newsletters and special communications were very candid and up-front regarding the lack of membership participation and our need to have greater volunteer support for our train shows and events. We constantly strived to address this issue, but sadly we were not successful. During the month of August, when we were initially not able to pull together a slate of officers to run for office, serious consideration was given to disbanding the chapter. In the end, our Board was not yet ready to throw in the towel. Everyone on the Board has been a member of our chapter for many years. A number of us were members of the group that founded the chapter. We love the model railroading hobby and are still committed to expanding the appreciation of our hobby and preserving the legacy of railroading.

Thankfully, due to some internal and external membership referrals and some arm twisting, we have been able to pull together what I feel is an outstanding leadership group. Your Board now consists of old school experience and talent as well as new school experience and talent. This group is energized with new ideas and a commitment to turn our chapter around with your support and participation.

So what's next? We are currently looking to schedule our shows for 2026. It is becoming increasingly difficult to position our shows so they are not in conflict with other shows offered

in the region. We will share our schedule as soon as it becomes available. We are also looking for improved ways to man and operate our events. We recognize we MUST improve membership and possibly outside support for these events. To this end, you will see a continued emphasis on communication. We are researching and are hopeful we will have a chapter web site operational within a reasonable period of time. We will continue our quarterly newsletter, but they will eventually be made available on our web site along with train related articles, upcoming events information, special links and other information you will find valuable to you and our hobby. We will expand our outreach to attract new members and work to develop new interest in the hobby. This will include greater presence at outside events and possibly establishing relationships with local schools, colleges and Universities. We have started this process by formulating a strategic relationship with another organization, which will be covered later in this newsletter. We are hopeful this will be the first of many. We are also reviewing membership benefits to ensure our chapter membership does indeed benefit from their support and participation.

In conclusion, your Board feels everything outlined is achievable. We feel we have the organizational tools to make it happen, but we need the support of our membership to move these initiatives forward. Are you up to the task? We are! For now we ask you to be patient. We need to walk before we can run.

We can do this!

Have an idea? Want to volunteer for a committee, or just provide feedback?
Email us: (tca.upstatenychapter@gmail.com)

Nuff Said!

David Kaczor, President

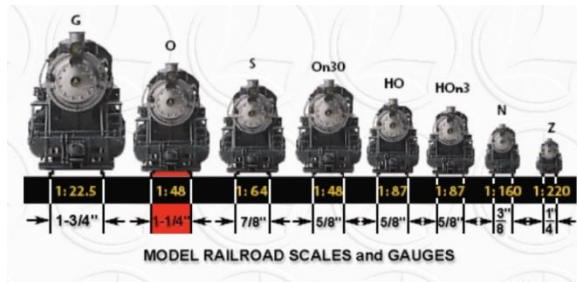
Strategic Partnership



On Saturday, December 13, 2025 the Upstate NY TCA Board of Directors presented the WNY Railway Historical Society Orchard Park Depot Board of Directors with a check for \$500. The check will be used to underwrite the building of a portable train layout that will be on display during holidays and special events at the Depot. The purpose is to expose more youth to the train collecting hobby, while educating them to the history of trains in upstate New York. This gesture facilitates an open strategic relationship between our groups. The Depot will be available to the Upstate NY TCA group for meetings and will serve as the location for the group's summer picnic.

UPCOMING TRAIN SHOWS

January 18 – Utica TTCS
January 25 – Knights Event Center (Cheek)
February 1 – Polish Falcons TTCS (Depew)
February 14 &15 - Hamburg Agri Center
February 28 – Rochester Edgerton
March 1 – Rochester Dome GMRS
March 1 – Erie Pa Waldameer Park
March 8 – Sanborn Fire Hall



Membership Opportunity

Not a member of our Upstate TCA Chapter? Are you a member on the National Train Collectors Association? We would be happy to have you join our local 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. More benefits will follow. Stay tuned! An application with all the pertinent information is attached. **We hope you will join us.**

Announcements

Chapter By-Laws

We are still looking for volunteers to work on updating our Chapter By-Laws. There is a need to update our chapter by-laws. We are looking for 2 or 3 members to set up a By-law Revision committee. Please contact us if you are interested in serving your chapter. You can contact us at tca.upstatenychapter@gmail.com.

Sponsorships

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

Volunteers Wanted

We are always looking for and need volunteers to help us set up the day before meet events.

Send us an email at tca.upstatenychapter@gmail.com or call Dave at (716) 208-5842. We would love to have your assistance. You don't need to be a member to participate in our activities.

Board Openings

Board Secretary and Director

Your Board of Directors are looking for members to fill the positions of Board Secretary and Director. These are very important positions in our organization. If interested please contact us at tca.upstatenychapter@gmail.com.

Board Members

David Kaczor, President
 Michael Oher, V. President
 John Ptak, Treasurer
 Chuck Janiga, Director
 Ethann Browne, Director
 Patrick Lepsch, Director
 John C. Ptak, Director
 Frank Patti, Eastern Representative

Contact Information:

tca.upstatenychapter@gmail.com

Upstate TCA
 PO Box 222
 West Falls NY 14170





Upstate NY TCA Chapter Renewal/Membership Application 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.

