



TCA UPSTATE NEWSLETTER

July 2023

President's Message

Hope everyone is enjoying their summer. Your Board of Directors continues to work on your behalf and we feel our Chapter is getting back on track. The best is yet to come with your support.

Our May 13th Train Show, held at the County fairgrounds in Dunkirk, turned into a huge success. Turnout was great and Vendors were very pleased with sales. Mike Michalczak our Meet Chairman did an outstanding job pulling things together. Make sure you give him a pat on the back next time you see him for a job well done. Part of our success can be attributed to improved marketing efforts. Beside the normal ads we run locally and in national publications, we have expanded the distribution of flyers at other Train Shows and Dave Kaczor our Vice President has been the driving force behind the newsletter and our email marketing campaign. We continue to work diligently to improve our method of communication with our membership

The Chapter currently stands at 115 members. Not a huge leap from our last newsletter, but we are growing and that's what counts. We should all be pushing fellow TCA members to join our local Chapter. It's a great way to help insure we can continue to grow and improve our

membership offerings. Please notify us of any address, or email change.

Meet scheduling continues to be a challenge for our Chapter. Our entire Board is committed to running Train Shows for the right reasons. There are a number of established shows currently scheduled across upstate and many of the "choice" weekends are booked. We will never schedule a show for the sake of filling our calendar. We are committed to scheduling at a time that is beneficial to our members, our vendors and our chapter.

This October our Chapter will again host a trip down to the Eastern Division Train Show held in York, Pa October 19-21, 2023. This is strictly an "On You" trip and is not subsidized in any way by the chapter. A great experience, whereas a group of 6-8 members travel by van to York, PA and enjoy the local bandit meets, venues of mutual interest and of course the York Train Meet. We stay at a reasonable hotel in Hershey PA and enjoy eating at some well-known local establishments. We leave early on a Wednesday and return late Friday evening. This is a first come, first served opportunity. If you are interested email me at tca.upstatenychapter@gmail.com for further information. Remember participation is limited.

Yes, it is Chapter election time again. Please read the Chapter Elections section under the Announcements section of the Newsletter. The election process will be different this year. In the past, the meeting focused election process was very contentious. Rarely was there a quorum of the membership and many left the meeting with hard feelings. After a great deal of deliberation your Board of Directors has opted to change the process. We voted to embrace the model utilized by Eastern Division TCA and National TCA. This year's election will open the election up to all members and not just a small number attending a meeting. Members will, by mail, receive a ballot to vote for their candidate of choice. Everyone will have an opportunity to vote. We are hopeful that many of you reading this newsletter, will consider running for one of the positions up for election. New blood in an organization is essential to bring new ideas and opportunities to the table. Please consider running. More information is available under announcements.

Finally, mark your calendars. We have scheduled a Train Show at St. Mary's on the Lake, Hamburg for September 30, 2023 and have already committed to going back to the Dunkirk Fairgrounds on May 11, 2024. Like always, we suggest you get your reservations in for a table early. We are confident that the Dunkirk show will in fact sell out this time around. There is a flyer for the September show attached to this newsletter.

Jerry Lepsch, President

Meet Chairman Report

On May 13, 2023 we held a Train Show at the Fairgrounds in Dunkirk New York. We had a great turnout from our members and the general public. Over 43 Vendors participated. Many voiced their satisfaction with the facility and how well their day went. I have already received reservations and inquiries for next year's show. I am happy to report the show was a financial success for the Chapter as well. After all expenses, we raised almost \$690. Your Board of Directors has unanimously agreed and put the wheels in motion to sponsor another show at the Fairgrounds on May 11, 2024. We are confident it will be bigger and more successful than this year's.

Our next Train Show will be our Fall Event and be held on Saturday September 30th at St. Mary's on the Lake in Hamburg New York. We are also contemplating a winter show.

Michael Michalczak, Meet Chairman

Announcements

Chapter Elections

Will be held in September of 2023. 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. **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 **August 1, 2023**. 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 election cycle, the Board of Directors has unanimously agreed to adopt the process embraced by the Eastern TCA Division and the National TCA organization. This year’s election will be held by mail in ballot, rather than at a general meeting. 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 the week of August 20 – 26, 2023. Ballots will

need to be completed and mailed back to the Election and Nominating by September 13, 2023. Any submissions postmarked after that date will be considered null and void.

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 Mike at (716) 913-4195. We would love to have your assistance.

Upcoming Events

Upstate TCA Toy Train Show

Saturday, September 30, 2023
9:00AM to 9:30 AM TCA Member Only
9:30AM to 2:30PM Open to General Public
St. Mary’s of the Lake Church Hall
4737 Lakeshore Road (Route 5)
Hamburg, NY 14075

York Train Show

Eastern Division TCA
October 19-21, 2023
334 Carlisle, York, PA 17403
Easterntca.com/member-notice.htm

Upstate TCA Toy Train Show

Saturday, May 11, 2024
8:30am – 3:30pm
Dunkirk Fair Grounds
1089 Central Ave
Dunkirk, NY 14048

Membership Opportunity

Are you a member of the Upstate New York Chapter of the Train Collectors Association? We would be happy to have you aboard! Your support of our chapter and our events insures the continuation of our great hobby. Our dues are minimum (\$10) and it gets you admission to all our Chapter Train Shows. It also gets you our Newsletter that is packed with great information. An application with all the pertinent information is attached. **We hope you will join us.**

Board Members

Jerry Lepsch, President
David Kaczor, V. President
John Ptak, Treasurer
Mike Michalczak, Director/Meet Chairman
Frank Patti, Eastern Chapter Rep.
Patrick Lepsch, Director
Thomas Unverzart, Director

Contact Information:

tca.upstatenychapter@gmail.com

Upstate TCA
PO Box 222, West Falls NY 14170



"Make the Chapter Great Again"

2022-23

**TCA Upstate New York Chapter
Membership Application**

TCA # _____ - _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

TCA National Expiration _____

Yearly dues \$ 10.00 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 _____

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

Your dues will give Chapter Member in Good Standing free admission to all Chapter Train Shows.

1. Membership Dues are \$ 10.00 , if you join now your due's will expire December 31, 2023
2. All Applicants must currently be TCA National Members in Good Standings !
3. If A Chapter Member allows their TCA National Membership to expire, their Chapter Membership will have to expire on that same date. No Exceptions !
4. Applicants Must Agree to Support our TCA Upstate New York Chapter Mission and promote Fellowship to all TCA Members for which our Chapter was founded.

Please take a minute and answer questions on Page 2



TOY TRAIN SHOW



Brought to you by the TCA UPSTATE NY CHAPTER

Saturday Sept. 30th, 2023

at

St. Mary's of the Lake Church Hall

4737 Lakeshore Rd. (Rt. 5)

Hamburg, NY 14075

SHOW HOURS:

9:00AM to 9:30AM Open to TCA Members Only

9:30AM to 2:30PM Open to General Public

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

Tables are 8ft. and cost \$20.00

Setup: 7:00am to 9:00am morning of show



**TRAIN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION
UPSTATE NEW YORK CHAPTER**

SHOW TABLE RESERVATION

Saturday Sept. 30th, 2023

**Location: St. Mary's of the Lake Church Hall
4737 Lakeshore Rd. Hamburg, NY 14075**

Tables: \$20.00 per 8' table

Setup: 7am to 9am the morning of the show

call Mike: 716-913-4195 / Dave: 716-208-5842

Reservations by Sept. 20th to ensure a spot at the show.

***** **Detach Here** *****

Name _____ Phone# _____

Address _____

Your E-mail _____

Table holders will be expected to stay set up until the end of the show.

Number of tables _____ X \$20 per table \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO: TCA Upstate NY Chapter

Return application with payment to:

MIKE MICHALCZAK

8393 Evelyn Dr.

Eden, NY 14057-1021



"Make the Chapter Great Again"

2022-23

**TCA Upstate New York Chapter
Membership Application**

TCA # _____ - _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ **Email** _____

TCA National Expiration _____

Yearly dues \$ 10.00 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 _____

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

Your dues will give Chapter Member in Good Standing free admission to all Chapter Train Shows.

- 1. Membership Dues are \$ 10.00 , if you join now your due's will expire December 31, 2023**
- 2. All Applicants must currently be TCA National Members in Good Standings !**
- 3. If A Chapter Member allows their TCA National Membership to expire, their Chapter Membership will have to expire on that same date. No Exceptions !**
- 4. Applicants Must Agree to Support our TCA Upstate New York Chapter Mission and promote Fellowship to all TCA Members for which our Chapter was founded.**

Please take a minute and answer questions on Page 2

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.