

## HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO EVERYONE

### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Atlantic Division Members:

Fall is here with the chill of Autumn and the Season of the Toy Train. Both Divisional and National elections have been held. At the National level Keith Arnold has been elected as President-elect, Tom Jaworski as Vice-President, Bill Miles as Treasurer and Sarah Reed as Secretary. Gordon Wilson is the new President.

The National Board Fall telephone meeting was held the last week of October. Twenty Division Presidents and the National officers on a single telephone call make for a memorable experience. The annual budget for next year was approved. Additional money was approved for changes to the National Headquarters Building. These changes will enlarge the current library and business office and provide required access for the handicapped. There was discussion and suggestions relative to the Standards Committee and its members. These changes will be proposed at next Summer's board meeting.

The Atlantic Division once again will have displays at the Philadelphia International Airport. More about this elsewhere in the Newsletter.

### END OF SCHEDULE

The end of my two terms as President of the Atlantic Division will occur on

December 31st. I still collect trains and will be seeing all of you at the meets. A review of the past four years shows there have been major changes in the personnel and the Atlantic Division Meets. We now have a new Meet Chairman (Chester Zmijewski), meets in New Jersey and permit public attendance after 10:00 AM. Many members would prefer no changes; but we must change and introduce new people to the TCA for the future. I have enjoyed the ride but now it is ending. Good luck to the new officers and directors of the Atlantic Division.

Garry Spear

### THE NOVEMBER MEET

The November Meet was held at the Westover Country Club on November 21st. Although reduced in size, it was a tremendous success. We had an attendance of 321 members and guests and all the tables were sold out. In order to cut costs, 91 tables were set up in the west room (the one with the stage and microphone) and 10 others in the Terrace Room which is behind it. It seemed crowded and everyone appeared to be having a great time. See photo below.



Part of the success of the meet was due to the fact that no major train meets were being held that weekend. This was unlike last year when there were two major train shows the weekend of our Fall meet. The division needs your attendance and support in order to continue our educational efforts.

During this meet, one of our members who happens to be Director of Sales for K-Line presented a brief seminar on some of the new K-Line products. These included some mighty spiffy looking cars. In addition, he showed us the prototype of the K-Line Reading Crusader which is now available exclusively through Boscov's Department Stores.

The Meet Committee feels that seminars such as this add to the attractiveness of our meets and help us to advance our educational mission. Hopefully we will be able to organize similar events at our other meets, covering a wide range of topics. If you have some topic that you would like to hear or if you might something interesting to present, please contact the Meet Committee c/o Bob Lubonski at 856-608-9264

Our January Meet will be held at Holy Cross High School in Delran, NJ on January 16th. We are planning to have Harry Barnes of the New Jersey Division of the Amtrak Police there to to

present his program on train and track safety. This is a good program, which he normally presents at various schools in the state, and we urge you to bring the kids. In addition, remember that the Holy Cross Soccer team's pancakes are the best; so plan on having breakfast at the meet.

Just a reminder the meets for 2000 are January 16th at Holy Cross High School in Delran, NJ, March 12th at the National Guard Armory in Norristown, PA and November 19th at the Westover Country Club in Norristown, PA. The March meet will be the traditional pre-seventies meet and the November meet will be the Member's meet with the usual games for the children. Activities are also being planned to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the division.

Currently the Meet Committee is trying to set up dates for 2001. Hopefully such long range planning will permit the ability to attract special vendors such as parts dealers to the meets. It will also provide ample time to plan for special activities in conjunction with the meets.  
Chester Zmijewski

### **THE ANNUAL RAFFLE**

The drawing for the Weaver Reading Crusader Train Set took place during the November Meet. The ticket was drawn and a smile appeared on Garry Spears face as he announced the winner to be none other than Ed Kapuscinski. I can guarantee that the drawing was not fixed. If it had been, I would have won!



**Garry and Ed after the drawing**

### **HOLIDAY DISPLAY**

A very attractive static display celebrating a 100 years of Lionel trains has been installed in Terminal B at the Philadelphia International Airport. The display was designed by Leah Douglas, the airport's art director.



The display was installed by Dick Heineman, Chet Zmijewski and Chief of Holiday Displays, Ed Kapuscinski.



**Dick and Ed hard at work**

It contains trains from 1912 to the Modern Era and includes many interesting pieces including a Blue Comet set, a Stephen Girard set and an assortment of cars that attempt to tie in the display with the airport, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and the TCA.

Unfortunately plans for running layouts had to be cancelled due to problems with obtaining appropriate space at the airport. However the Travelling Layout will make an appearance in the Food Court Area between Terminals B & C on December 8th and again on the 15th.

The Holiday Display Committee intends to review the situation for next year and perhaps seek an alternative location.

### **INK BLOTS FROM THE SECRETARY**

302 Ballots were received for the election, The results are as follows:  
President - Malcolm Kates  
Vice President - Charlie Weber  
Directors:

Ed Kapuscinski  
George Donze  
Bob Robinson  
Stanley Petty

Bob Huppmann

Congratulations and Good Luck to all of the successful candidates.

To date 455 divisional memberships have been received for 2000. In 1999 we lost two members due to death and one due to relocation. If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2000, please do so as soon as possible.

Dick Heineman

### **NEWS OF INTEREST**

Besides trains, many of us are interested in popular "other" items made by the toy train companies. Some of the most popular "other" toys are A.C.Gilbert's Erector Sets. A really spiffy article about A.C.Gilbert in general and Erector Sets in particular recently appeared in the May 1999 issue of the Smithsonian Magazine, pages 120-134. Also included are pictures and an interview with a Bill Bean of Ohio who is a real "erector set". The article is one I would highly recommend. If you don't run into the Smithsonian Magazine at the barber or some other waiting room, try a trip to the library. Many carry it. The article can be accessed over the internet; but this can't compare to reading the actual magazine.

Charlie Weber

### **THE NEXT GENERATION**

The issue of getting youngsters involved in the train hobby was brought up at the last meeting of the board. The lack of young people developing an interest in trains is a national concern. It is our obligation to help correct this problem.

The National has instituted a Junior Membership and there have been some recent articles on helping Boy Scouts earn a RR Merit badge. However each of us should get involved in some way to help promote our hobby among the young. One of the ways this can be done is to provide activities for youngsters at our meets. This is planned for our January Meet and, hopefully, it will become a part of all of our meets.

### **ECHOES OF THE PAST**

In keeping with the season, we are featuring an Ives ad that was originally reprinted in the October 1973 issue of The Delaware Valley Express. According to the caption in that issue, the ad came from the paper collection of John Turner.