

The TCA President's Gavel Passes from Jay Zschau to Kevin Quinn

The 2024 TCA Convention in Lancaster is but a memory. The Southern Division Board of Directors takes this opportunity to thank one of our own, Jay Zschau, for serving as TCA National President for the past two years. It's a daunting task to assume that role for even one year, and it's been awhile since someone has served for two years. But Jay handled it with ease and also with the help of then-Vice President Kevin Quinn, the top-notch staff at the TCA HQ, and other invaluable TCA folks. A huge thank you also goes to Jay's wife Leila for being along on his journey. Jay, enjoy your new "Past President" status - it's time to exhale and relax! To you, Kevin, sincerest congratulations in your new role. We are confident you will serve us well; we're here for you. And to Kevin's wife, Renee, enjoy the ride!



Above: Veterans gather to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.



Additional photos inside



Above: just a snippet of the trading floor before the Marketplace officially opened

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The Southern Division Board of Directors, Webmaster, and *The Layout* Editor



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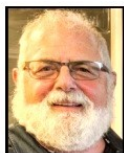


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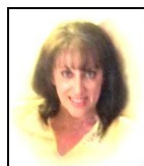
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Website: tcasoutherndivision.org

Facebook: [Train Collectors
Association-Southern Division](#)

**Reminder: Southern Division
membership is open to all TCA
members in good standing. If not
already a TCA member, you may
join TCA when you join the SD.**



The Layout Editor

Mary Anyan

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Above: TCA Board of
Directors hard at work

**President's Perspective
by Mike Setzer**

The Eastern Division's spring York show was interesting and productive. During the meet, SD Treasurer Mike Powell, Dave Zitnik (owner of Zitnik Trains in Pinellas Park, FL), and I met with TCA Vice President Kevin Quinn who will take over as TCA President effective July 1, 2024. We discussed the dwindling membership in TCA as well as in some of the divisions (SD included). We brainstormed ideas and came up with a Recruiting Campaign for both the TCA and the SD. Read more about it on pages 5 and 6 in this newsletter. And then ask yourself what **you personally** can do to increase membership in national and your division.

Last month, my wife and I were in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, to attend the TCA's 70th Convention. The tours were varied, the welcome party and banquet were fun, the hotel was accommodating to us, and the best part - the camaraderie - was superb. Enjoy the convention photos in this issue.

I hate to sound like a broken record but am going to do so anyway. The 2025 convention in Jacksonville is **less than one year away**. Bob Keller, TCA Convention Chairman, continues to request volunteers to help in a variety of capacities, so please let me know if you're able. Surely, there's **something** you can do. If you want more info, e-mail Bob: bkeller046@gmail.com.

And watch for the Fall issue of the newsletter (distributed in early October) for the Lake Nona Meet Story.

Mike

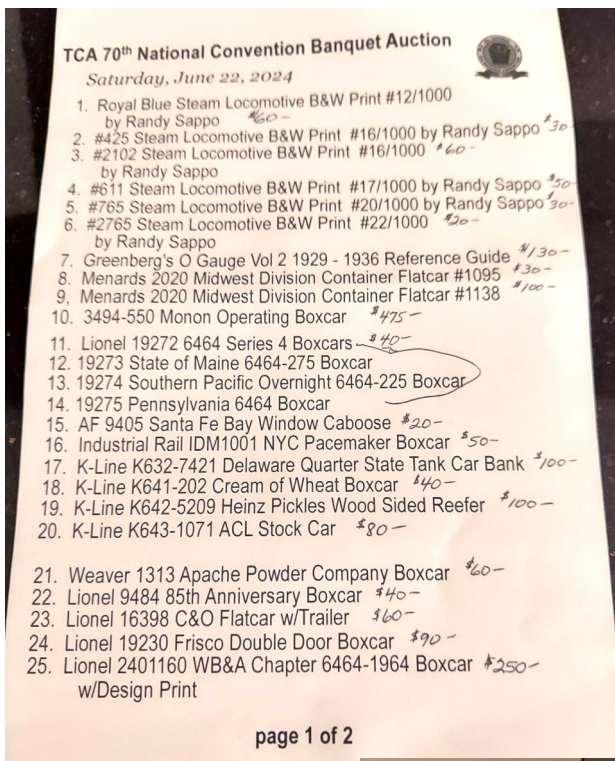
**Vice President's Viewpoint
by Mike Mills**

Regarding the Recruiting Campaign for the TCA and the SD, let's take a look at the timeline: 1) Mid-April 2024 in York — Setzer, Powell, Zitnik and Quinn met. 2) Early- and mid-May 2024 — two Zoom meetings with SD BOD members and Dave and Gale Zitnik were held to brainstorm and finalize dates, times, etc. for the September 5th gathering. 3) Mike Powell and the Zitniks created two documents: a Zitnik Trains internal e-blast and a Flyer; 4) Mary Anyan created a two-sided informational document (taken from the TCA and SD websites) which will be handed out Sep. 5th. 5) Marketing: the TCA will send an e-blast to all TCA members living in Florida; Gale Zitnik will e-blast to her list of over 2000 customers; SD members will see the invitation in this newsletter as well as on the SD website and SD Facebook page; copies of the Flyer and its attachment will be taken to Florida train shows. (If anyone wants copies for a train show, let me know and I'll see that you get them if I'm not already going to that show.)

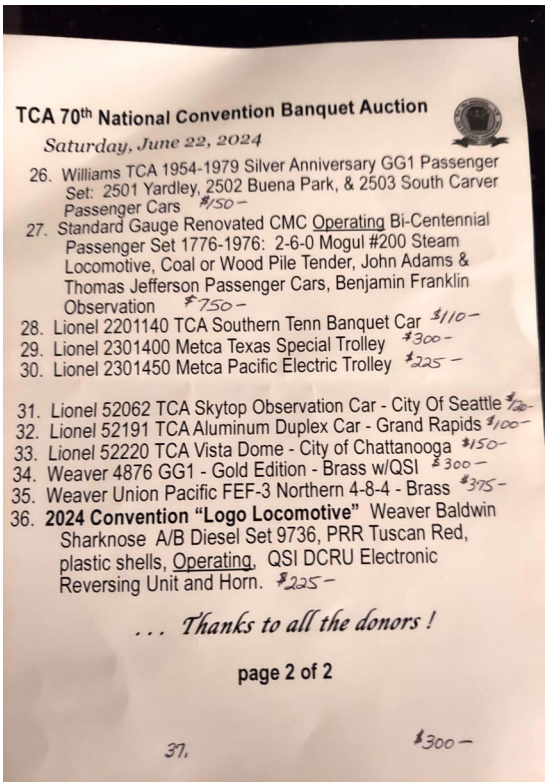
The timeline is to give you *some* idea of how many hours your SD Board of Directors, in addition to the always supportive Zitniks, already have invested in this. More importantly, it should tell you how much we believe in the sustainability of the TCA and the Southern Division. On September 5, Setzer, Dennis, Trappen and I plan to travel across the state to Pinellas Park to show support to attendees. We'll have to overnight, spend our time and money for gas and lodging, and we receive only a small stipend from the division. If this is successful, we'll consider other Florida venues.

To reiterate what Mike Setzer said, "ask yourself what **you personally** can do to increase membership in TCA national and your division."

Mike



Left and
 Right:
 Post-banquet
 auction items
 and their
 selling prices



Right: Jay
 presents the
 President's
 Award to
 Bob Keller,
 TCA Conven-
 tion Chairman.



Below four photos: Jay presents the
 Meritorious Service Award to these
 deserving gentlemen who consistently
 go "above and beyond" for the TCA.



L: Charlie
 Hirschmann,
 TCA Museum
 Volunteer



L: George
 Starz,
 Ft. Pitt
 Division
 President

R: Chris
 Allen,
 Desert
 Division
 President



R: Mike
 Speltz,
 Lakes and
 Pines
 Division
 President



TCA Southern Division Special Meetings via Zoom May 7 and May 23, 2024

Minutes

Two special meetings were held for the purpose of discussing recruiting efforts for the TCA and the SD. Both meetings were called to order at 6:00 PM EDT. Attendees for both meetings included: SD President Mike Setzer; Vice President Mike Mills; Secretary Dienzel Dennis; Treasurer Mike Powell; Communications Officer Bill Trappen; Past President Charlie Anyan; Dave and Gale Zitnik, owners of Zitnik Trains in Pinellas Park, FL; and *The Layout* Editor Mary Anyan.

After much brainstorming and discussion, it was decided that the SD and the Zitniks will host a **"TCA Night at Zitnik Trains."** The event will be held Thursday, September 5th, 2024, at Zitnik Trains from 6:00-8:00 PM. The SD will provide a light dinner, beverages, door prizes, etc. As an added bonus, the Zitniks will offer a 10% discount on new, in-stock purchases from their shop that evening. A valid TCA card must be presented at the register.

Various forms of advertising will include: 1) an e-blast by TCA to all TCA members living in Florida; 2) an e-blast by Zitnik Trains to their current e-mail list of customers; 3) Flyers at Florida train shows; and 4) the SD's website and Facebook page.

The board agreed that anyone who joins the **SD** on September 5th will be charged the annual \$10 fee, and their membership will be considered active until December 31, **2025**.

Mr. Mills suggested selling SD t-shirts at the September 5th event. The color scheme on the new shirts will be reversed from the original tees (green lettering on a bright yellow shirt) to yellow lettering on a dark green shirt.

If the September 5th event is successful, the board will consider hosting similar events at venues around the state.

Mr. Setzer advised that Mr. Quinn is very interested in the SD's September 5th recruiting efforts; and, if successful, he would like other divisions to follow suit.

Note: Active, Southern Division members are welcome to attend on September 5th, **if accompanied by a non-member candidate** because this is a recruiting event. But space is limited, and you must R.S.V.P. to Gale Zitnik: zitniktrains@gmail.com.

Both meetings were adjourned at 7:10 PM EDT.

Respectfully submitted:
Dienzel Dennis
Secretary



SD Members - to reiterate from the minutes on p. 5: Active, Southern Division members are welcome to attend on September 5th, if accompanied by a non-member candidate, because this is a recruiting event. But space is limited, and you must R.S.V.P. to Gale Zitnik: zitniktrains@gmail.com.

**SD Members ~ please feel free to
copy the info below and share with
family and friends!**

**Save the date for the
TCA Night at Zitnik Trains
(sponsored by the TCA Southern Division)**

Thursday, September 5, 2024

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

You are cordially invited to attend the Train Collectors Association (TCA) night at Zitnik Trains, 5193 73rd Ave. N., Pinellas Park, FL 33781. A light dinner will be served, and door prizes will be awarded - *including an engine donated by Zitnik Trains* (Lionel K4 steam engine with TMCC 6-38089). Other TCA gifts will be awarded, and you must be present to win.

If you have ever been interested in learning more about the TCA, this is the perfect opportunity to hear about the many benefits of joining the largest Toy Train Collecting and Operating club in the U. S. Attendees will be under no obligation to join, but members of the Southern Division (SD) of the TCA will be on hand to assist in answering your questions and accepting your application for membership if you choose to apply.

If you are not a current TCA member, a TCA member and not an SD member, please join us for the TCA Night at Zitnik Trains. Current SD members are invited if they bring a non-member candidate to the event.

TCA members always get a 10% discount on all **new, in-stock** merchandise purchased at Zitnik Trains; pre-owned items are not eligible for this discount. Just remember to present your TCA membership card at the register.

If you are planning to attend, you must R.S.V.P. by email to Gale Zitnik at zitniktrains@gmail.com to ensure that enough food and space will be available.

We look forward to seeing you in September!

Dave and Gale Zitnik

The Southern Division Board of Directors

Upcoming Florida Train Meets/Shows, July-December, 2024

For the latest updates, check first with the meet/show hosts by phoning or referring to websites.

Jul. 13: 85th Florida Model Train Show, Volusia County Fairgrounds, Lawrence Arena, 3150 E. New York Ave., **Deland** 32724 (Sat. 9A-4P, Sun. 10A-3:30P, Charles Miller 703-536-2954 rrshows@aol.com, www.gserr.com) (**Golden Spike**)

Aug. 17: Train Show, Lopez Hall, 7177 58th St. N., **Pinellas Park** 33781 (Vendors and Model Train Layouts, lunch available, Adults \$6.00, children 12 and under free, Hours 9A-2P, EARLY BIRD reservation (8:00-8:45A) \$8.00, www.regalrailways.com) (**Regal Railways**)

Sep. 7: Train Show, Azan Shrine Center, 1591 W. Eau Gallie Blvd., **Melbourne** 32935 (operating layouts & vendors, 9A-2P, Adults \$5, under 10 free; call 321-805-1963, <http://schultzspacecoasttrains.com>) (**Schultz Space Coast Trains**)

Sep. 14: Train Show, Hernando County Fairgrounds, 6436 Broad St., **Brooksville** 34601 (**Regal**)

Sep. 21-22: Train Show Expo, Savannah Center, 1545 N. Buena Vista Blvd., **The Villages** 32162 (Sat. 9A-4P, Sun. 10A-3P; \$7 Adults, Children under 12 free; Jim Rutherford, 678-640-0696, jruthco@gmail.com; or Sam Mathis, 352-750-2433, sammathis1118@gmail.com; www.thevillagesmodeltrainclub.com) (**The Villages**)

Oct. 5: 86th Florida Model Train Show, Volusia County Fairgrounds, Lawrence Arena, 3150 E. New York Ave., **Deland** 32724 (**Golden Spike**)

Oct. 10-12: NMRA Sunshine Regional Annual Convention & Train Show, Ocala Hilton, 3600 SW 36th Ave., **Ocala** 34474 (www.nmrasunshineregion.org) (**NMRA Sunshine Region**)

Oct. 26: Train Show, The Point Church, 1430 Belleair Rd., **Clearwater** 33756 (**Regal**)

Nov. 2: Train Show, First Christian Church, 1908 E. Ft. King St., **Ocala** 34471 (9A-2P, Call 352-694-6381 or 813-203-3216; bring a food can for \$1 off admission; one can good per adult ticket) **Silver Springs Lions Club**

Nov. 3: Parking Lot Swap Meet, 5193 73rd Ave. N., **Pinellas Park** (9A-1P, pre-registration required, 727-201-9668) (**Zitnik Trains**)

Nov. 9: Train Show, Lake Nona Middle School (Orlando Area)
Watch for the Meet Story in the Fall newsletter! (Southern Division)

Nov. 16: Train Show, Elks Lodge #2284, 7201 Congress St., **New Port Richey** 34653 (**Regal**)

Dec. 7: Christmas Train Show, Florida National Guard Armory, 8551 W. Venable St., **Crystal River** 34429 (**Regal**)

Dec. 12-15: The Villages Holiday Train **Displays**, Colony Cottages Recreational Center, 510 Colony Blvd., **The Villages**, 32162 (12th-14th 9A-4P; 15th 10A-3P, Rich Trafari 352-638-2788, rwtrif@gmail.com) (**The Villages Model Train Club**)

Dec. 14: Train Show & Open House, Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center (train show), 4951 78th Ave. N., Pinellas Park 33781 (suncoastmrrc.com) (**Suncoast Model Railroad Club**)

Dec. 21: Christmas Train Show, Lopez Inc. Hall, 7177 58th St. N., **Pinellas Park** 33781 (**Regal**)

Please send notices of upcoming Florida train meets/shows to Mary Anyan, maryanyan.mia1@gmail.com.

Promotion and Attendance at Southern Division sponsored Train Meets: In order to promote awareness and thus attendance, we list a schedule of upcoming shows on our Southern Division website as well as in each quarter's *The Layout*. We also promote these meets with flyers about upcoming shows available at non-SD sponsored train shows, thus marketing to folks who already have evidenced an interest in trains by attending the show. We are looking for TCA SD members to assist in that distribution. If you plan to attend any train-related meets, shows or other events, please contact Bill Trappen (bill9678@aol.com or phone 407-538-9678). Bill will get flyers to you to take to the meets and leave out for others. If possible, please give Bill at least 10 days' notice to ensure he has time to get the flyers to you. Thanks for your help.

Train Collectors Association
Southern Division
P. O. Box 2381
Palm Harbor, FL 34682

Non-Profit Organization
Standard US Postage Paid
Permit #934
St. Petersburg, FL 33730-9541

The deadline for articles, photos, etc.,
for the next issue of *The Layout* is
September 1, 2024.

Switch List

Selling a large collection of Post-War and modern-era Lionel Trains. Most are mint in box. If interested, email Mike Setzer: setzermichael@hotmail.com.

Wanted: 1 piece each, any condition, curved or straight "00" gauge 2-rail and 3-rail track. Will take them separately or together. Dienzel Dennis: 386-316-8339

NEW! **For Sale: HO-size, cast, real lead WWI Marching Soldiers.** See the Summer 2023 edition of *The Layout* for photo and further description. Each is stamped on the bottom "MADE IN S. AFRICA." **Vintage.** Asking \$100 total (**less than \$2 each**), plus \$20 shipping (in the continental U.S.). Charlie Anyan: charlieanyan@gmail.com, 727-459-8681

American Flyer Trains by A. C. Gilbert - Buy, sell, repairs done. Diesel bushing redone. Single motor, \$25; Double motor, \$40 (includes general servicing and parts). Contact Chris Lucibello: 2483 Pinellas Point Dr. S., St. Petersburg 33712, 727-867-3465, email: Karen.lucibello@verizon.net.

Are you ready to **Sell** or **Thin Out** your **Train and Toy collections**? Please call or email Dick Wilsen (Sarasota): 941-374-2288, dwilsen@hotmail.com.

TCA Skytop Observation Car + TCA A & B Shells. **All mint.** Asking \$200 for all. Vince Coffman: 407-678-7448

Switch List is a **free** service to members in good standing of the TCA and SD. Send your ad (space permitting) for trains for sale/wanted/trade to Mary Anyan via email: maryanyan.mia1@gmail.com.

If you do not have email, contact Bill Trappen: 407-538-9678.

Your ad automatically will renew in each issue of *The Layout*, until you cancel.

Note: per TCA rules and regulations, your full name must be listed and the words "make offer" cannot appear.