

BYLAWS OF THE TRAIN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION GREAT LAKES DIVISION

ARTICLE I – NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1: Name

This organization, an affiliate of the Train Collectors Association (hereinafter referred to as “TCA”) shall be known as Great Lakes Division (hereinafter referred to as the “Division”).

Section 2: Purpose

The purpose of the Division shall be to adhere to and support the mission of the TCA

- A. By conducting programs and activities, and to especially serve those TCA members residing within the boundaries of the Division,
- B. To uphold the ethical standards of the Train Collectors Association as expressed in the National Bylaws and policies, and
- C. To conduct activities in compliance with all requirements and standards applicable to a not-for-profit organization.

Section 3: Division Boundaries:

Division includes: Ohio, Michigan (except Upper Peninsula), Kentucky, Indiana east of the South Bend – Indianapolis – New Albany line excluding those towns, and Ontario, Canada.

ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Qualifications

Membership in the Division is open exclusively to TCA members, as that TCA membership is set forth in the TCA Bylaws.

Section 2: Duties and Rights of Members

A. Active Division Member

- 1 Members shall be current in fees, dues, and assessments. Members whose dues have not been paid as of July 1 shall not be considered in good standing and will be dropped from the active Division roster. The Board of Directors may take such action as it sees fit in the event of extenuating circumstances.
- 2 Active Division members in good standing are afforded full rights and privileges as outlined within the Bylaws and policies.

B. Inactive Division Member

- 1 Any TCA member living within the boundaries of the Division as set forth by the TCA National, but not paying yearly dues to the Division.
- 2 Inactive Division Member may attend Division Meets but shall not vote or hold office.

C. Lifetime Division Members

- 1 The Division Board of Directors, may from time to time, bestow the honor of Lifetime Membership on members of the Division.
- 2 Lifetime members shall be considered Active Division Members as outlined in these bylaws but are exempt from paying Division dues. Lifetime Division Members must remain members in good standing within the TCA.

Section 3: Complaints

- A. The Division’s Board of Directors shall take such action as it deems appropriate to protect the Division and to take action to enforce the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of itself and the TCA.
- B. Complaints pertaining to the Division’s functions or activities must be referred, in writing, to the Division’s Board of Directors for appropriate action.

Section 4: Complaints – Disciplinary Action

- A. The Division reserves the right to restrict members from attending meets or events where the member’s presence and/or actions are judged to be adverse to the goals and purposes of the TCA as determined by the Division’s Board of Directors.
- B. All other matters pertaining to member-to-member conduct and/or sales transactions will be submitted to the TCA Membership Committee for review and action, if necessary.

ARTICLE III - OFFICES, DUTIES, TERMS OF OFFICE

Section 1: Officers

The officers of the Division shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. They shall be members in good standing of both TCA and the Division.

Section 2: Duties of Officers

- A. The President shall be the chief executive officer of this Division, shall preside at all meetings, and except as otherwise provided herein, shall have the powers, duties, and responsibility usually vested in the office of the President of a not-for-profit organization. The President shall have general supervisory control of all other elected or appointed officials.
- B. The Vice-President shall be vested with all the powers and perform all the duties of the President during his/her absence or incapacity, or as directed by a simple majority of the Board of Directors.
- C. The Secretary shall act as clerk, shall send out notices of meetings to all members, keep minutes thereof, and send copies to the National Secretary. The Secretary shall receive and record all Division fees, dues and moneys, and after recording, transfer all funds to the Treasurer of the Division.
- D. The Treasurer shall disburse funds on properly presented and approved bills. All funds shall be deposited in a bank selected by the Treasurer and approved by a simple majority of the Board. The Officers are authorized signers of a Division check. The Treasurer shall prepare and maintain an Annual Treasurer’s Reports.

Section 3: Terms of Office and Vacancies

- A. The term of office for the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be two calendar years and coincide with the Division fiscal year.
- B. If the office of President shall become vacant, the Vice President shall thereupon fill the position of President for the remainder of the unexpired term. In the event the office of President becomes vacant at a time when the office of Vice-President is also vacant, the Board of Directors shall fill the office of President for the remainder of the term.
- C. A vacancy of an office other than President by resignation, termination, or death shall be filled by the Board of Directors, who may appoint a member to fill the remaining term of the vacated office until the next regular election.

ARTICLE IV - BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MEETINGS

Section 1: The Board of Directors shall consist of:

- A. Officers of the Division namely, President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer during their term in office.
- B. Directors-at-Large, being comprised of Elected Presidents of a Chapter.
- C. All past National Presidents shall be honorary non-voting members of the Board of Directors.

Section 2: Duties of the Board of Directors

- A. The Board of Directors shall have full power to manage the business and affairs of the Division except as otherwise provided by these bylaws.
- B. The Board of Directors shall control and govern the affairs, property, and finances of the Division.
- C. The Board of Directors shall meet at least twice a year, and any additional times as called by the President.
- D. A quorum for the transaction of Division business shall be a majority of the voting members of the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall record and maintain the minutes of the Board of Directors meetings. In the absence of the elected Secretary, a Secretary pro-tem may be appointed by the President. Any Division member may attend a Board of Directors' meeting but shall not have a right to vote.

Section 3: Compensation

All Division Officers, members of the Board of Directors, and committees serve "pro bono" without compensation. Compensation for travel to represent the Division at the annual National TCA Board of Directors' meeting by the President or his/her designee is at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors and requires a majority vote.

Section 4: Removal from Office

Any Officer or Director-at-Large may be removed for cause at any business meeting of the Board of Directors by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of voting members present.

ARTICLE V - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1: Eligibility

- A. Any candidate eligible to run for an elected office shall be a member in good standing of the Division for at least one year and reside within the geographical boundaries of the Division.
- B. No one who is an officer or is seeking office in another nationally recognized train club may run for office in the Division.

Section 2: Election Committee

- A. The President shall appoint an Election Committee of three, including the Chairperson, to prepare a slate of candidates for elected office.
- B. The Election Committee must poll each of Chapter President for nominations.
- C. The Chairperson of the Election Committee shall also accept nominations from the membership at the October Business meeting. The slate of candidates will be announced and nominations will close at that time.
- D. The Chairperson of the Election Committee shall prepare a ballot, with provisions for write-ins, to be mailed on or about November 1 to all members in good standing. The ballot shall contain provisions for the voting member's name and TCA number for ballot authentication. Ballots shall be returned by mail to the Chairperson of the Election Committee, postmarked no later than December 30th.
- E. The Election Committee shall count the ballots prior to January 15th and announce the results to the membership of the Division. Ballots shall be retained for ninety (90) days and then destroyed.

- F. Candidates with the largest plurality of votes cast shall be elected to the offices of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary.
- G. The Secretary shall notify the candidates of the election results.

ARTICLE VI - DIVISION MEETINGS

Section 1: Annual Membership Meeting

The Annual Membership Meeting shall be the first business meeting of the calendar year. Installation of any new officers and the financial report for the closing of the fiscal year shall be given at that time.

Section 2: Business Meetings

- A. The business meetings shall be for the purpose of conducting such business as is usually brought before a general membership, including elections, and Bylaws changes. The quorum for the conduction of business shall be twenty-five or more members.
- B. Members may buy and sell trains prior to the start of the business meeting; however, all transactions must end with the commencement of the business meeting.
- C. A minimum of two official business meetings will be held during a calendar year.

Section 3: Visitors at Business Meetings

- A. Definition: A visitor is anyone who is not a current TCA member or an immediate family member of a TCA member.
- B. A visitor may attend one meeting per year.
- C. Minors attending meetings are the responsibility, moral and financial, of their parents or sponsors.

ARTICLE VII - FINANCIAL

Section 1: Fiscal Year

The fiscal year shall be the period starting July 1 and ending June 31.

Section 2: Dues

Dues are due July 1st and shall be payable annually in advance. The Amount of dues and initiation fees are to be determined by the membership as part of any Business Meeting.

Section 3: Special Expenditures

Normal operating expenses will be sanctioned by the Board of Directors. Special expenditures over \$2000.00 must be approved by a majority of votes cast by the attending members at a regular business meeting.

ARTICLE VIII - APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Section 1: Newsletter Editor

An Editor of the Division Newsletter may be appointed by the President for a two-year term. He/She shall be responsible for the timely publication of the Division newsletter and shall work with the Election Committee for the publication and distribution of Division elections.

Section 2: Webmaster

A webmaster may be appointed by the President for a two year term. He/She shall maintain the Division's website with information and news that is current and pertinent and promotes the Division while providing favorable exposure to the general public as well as TCA members.

Section 3: Sergeant-at-Arms

A Sergeant-at-Arms may be appointed by the President for a two-year term. He/She shall be charged with the duties of maintaining order and security.

Section 4: Media Relations

A Media Relations Chairperson may be appointed by the President for a two-year term. He/She shall promote the growth of the Division through exposure of meets, events, and activities.

ARTICLE IX - COMMITTEES

Section 1: Special Committees

The President shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors, such special committees as he/she from time to time deems necessary. Such committees shall be vacated when the President who appointed them goes out of office or when disbanded by the President.

Section 2: Finance Committee

- A. The Finance Committee shall consist of the Vice President, Treasurer, and a Director-at-Large. The Committee shall review, supervise, and document the revenues and expenses of the Affiliate.
- B. The Finance Committee shall assure compliance with all financial recording and reporting requirements of the TCA.
- C. The Finance Committee shall insure the timely reporting and filing of all I.R.S. forms consistent with a not-for-profit organization.

ARTICLE X – CHAPTERS

Section 1: Formation, Approval, Finances

- A. Groups of members may organize as a Chapter of the Division subject to the Bylaws and policies of the TCA and of the Division.
- B. A Chapter may be formed by filing a petition to the Division Board of Directors with the geographic boundary, proposed name, and 25 signatures pledging TCA membership.
- C. Final approval of the petition for Chapter formation resides with the Division Board of Directors.
- D. All fees and dues collected by the Chapter are the financial responsibility of the Chapter. The Chapter President and Chapter Treasurer shall insure the timely filing of all applicable I.R.S. forms consistent with a not-for-profit organization.

ARTICLE XI – RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

Section 1: Power

All power, rights, and authority granted to the Division is dependent on the membership of its members in TCA and the continued adherence to TCA policy and standards by the Division.

Section 2: Dissolution

In the event of dissolution of the Division, the Division Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities, distribute all residual assets in the following manner. First, the Train Collectors Association or its successor; Second, the National Toy Train Museum; Third, one or more organizations which themselves are recognized as not-for-profit under current or future codes of the federal or state government for exclusively public or charitable purposes.

ARTICLE XII- PARLIMENTARY AUTHORITY

Parliamentary rules as set forth in the most current edition of Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Division in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any special rules of order TCA or the Division may adopt.

ARTICLE XIII – AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these bylaws may be proposed at any official business meeting, and upon majority vote, will be referred to the TCA Rules and Regulations Committee for review. Upon favorable review by the TCA Rules and Regulations Committee and notice duly given by publication, the amendment(s) shall be submitted by mail to the entire membership for a vote. If a majority of the ballots returned are affirmative, the amendment(s) shall be approved.

ARTICLE XIV – ADOPTION OF BYLAWS

These Bylaws shall become effective January 1, 2017