

LIONEL COLLECTORS CLUB OF AMERICA
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
JULY 19, 2013
CHATTANOOGA, TN, CHATANOOGA CHOO CHOO HOTEL

1. Call to Order:

The Annual Business Meeting of the Lionel Collectors Club of America was called to order by Immediate Past President, Dennis DeVito, promptly at 2 PM on July 19, 2013.

2. Roll Call:

Secretary, Harry Hampson called the roll which revealed the following:

Present: Immediate Past-President, DeVito

President-elect, Kolis

Director, Farkash

Director, Ourso

Director, Overtoom

Director, Schmeelk

Treasurer, Kelley

Secretary, Hampson

Absent: President Caponi, absent due to illness

3. Immediate Past-President, DeVito explained to the assembled members he was assuming the direction of the club for a period of 90 days due to the illness of President Caponi who remains hospitalized. Mr. DeVito was assuming this role at the direction of the LCCA Board of Directors. He asked all members to kindly remember President Caponi and to send him best wishes for a speedy recovery.

4. Reports:

- a. Mr. DeVito announced that all minutes of prior meetings had been approved by the Board of Directors and would appear in 'The Lion Roars.' He went on to say how pleased he was with the Chattanooga convention and with the overall direction of the club. He mentioned his team of officers, directors and volunteers who have stepped forward to assure the continued success of the LCCA. He also mentioned the improved communications we have put in place with our members, the continued direction of our Special Events Program and the increased contacts we are having with our members. At this point he asked Robert Doaks of the Chattanooga Convention and Visitors Bureau to read a proclamation from the

Mayor Andrew Berke of Chattanooga proclaiming the week of July 14 through 20 "LCCA Week" in Chattanooga, TN.

b. Immediate Past-President's Report:

It was reported we had 3 formal complaints. Two of these were from non-members and one from a member. These were worked out to the mutual satisfaction of those involved.

c. Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer reported the financial problems we encountered in 2011 have largely been remedied both by measures the club has taken as well as a better business environment. The 2012 audited financial statements have not yet been completed, however, at this time it appears we will show a \$52.00 loss. Financials so far in 2013 are running comparable to those of 2012. Member's equity position continues to improve.

d. President-elect's Report:

Special Events continue to be successful for LCCA. This past year we hosted events in 27 states and had multiple events in 20 states. Members are urged to contact Mr. Kolis with ideas for hosting Special Events. He is eager to have at least two follow-up events in Chattanooga following the convention. Also mentioned in this report is our continued involvement with the Junior Members Program. We have 80 youngsters at the convention this year which is outstanding. For our JM program to continue to be successful we need adult involvement with our JM's. We are a family oriented club and we want our JM program to be an integral part of LCCA.

At this point in the meeting we took a brief break to sing "Happy Birthday" to our Convention Co-Manager, Bob Carter.

e. Secretary's Report:

The Secretary reported that membership stood a 7,295 as of 7/1/2013. Mr. DeVito challenged everyone present to aid in bringing in new members.

5. Convention Status Report:

Mr. Carter reported that the convention continues to run smoothly. Tours have been successful and have generally received glowing comments from those participating. The 2013 Chattanooga, TN convention is definitely a success!

6. Future Conventions:

- a. We will be in Indianapolis, Indiana next year, the last full week in July 2014.
- b. In 2015 we will be Boston, Massachusetts the last full week of July.
- c. In 2016 we are looking at the possibility of Kansas City or other sites. At this point in time nothing definitive has been decided.

7. Introduction of the Telly Award:

Mr. DeVito introduced Ed Richter, LCCA photographer, video production manager and the official voice of the LCCA in all video productions. Ed presented to Mr. DeVito and the members of LCCA the Telly award which the club received for its outstanding Christmas video (not-for-profit category). "The Telly Award is the premier award honoring the finest film and video productions, groundbreaking web commercials, videos and films, and outstanding local, regional and cable TV commercials and programs." This is a tremendous accomplishment for Ed and his team and for the LCCA.

8. Communications:

The club continues to place great emphasis on effective communication with our members. The LCCA web site is a critical part of the process. Members are strongly encouraged to place their email addresses in their profiles so they receive all the latest communications from the club including the club's e-blasts which provide up to the minute communications in regard to product development/shipment and Special Event programs. Mr. DeVito went on to outline the club's new policy in regard to membership renewals which are anticipated to save the club a substantial amount of money via encouraging the use of web based renewals rather than the more expensive USPS method.

9. Videos:

Mr. DeVito discussed the club's efforts in producing videos which included 6 new productions and a ½ hour program on Lionel and LCCA currently running on the RFD network. Again, special thanks to Ed Richter for his outstanding efforts.

10. Volunteers:

Mr. DeVito made a formal call for more volunteers to step up and assist the club to continue moving forward and growing. There are numerous areas where individuals are needed to help out. Please raise your hand!

11. Digital Memberships:

Mr. DeVito discussed our need to change the way we classify our membership. When ready we will now add a digital membership. We have already reduced the cost of our JM membership to \$25.00 per annum and will begin migrating all JM members to a digital format. This saves both the club and our member's money.

12. Product:

Mr. DeVito stated more product is in the planning stages. The modules are now on display at the convention and Mr. Farkash has brought a complete modular system for display and operation at the convention. This week we are promoting the purchase of a module and we will ship it to you for free. Also noted, is the fact that the 2012 convention car is in the United States and will be shipping in the following week. The 2013 convention car is selling well and can still be ordered on the web site. The Prospector set is also available for order through 7/31/2013 and we have had an excellent response for this product. The Texas Special Switcher, calf and related add-on cars are all in the production stages and should be shipped to members by the close of 2013. The coal ramp project is well underway and we are now working on reducing the overall cost of this item. A highlight of the convention is the announcement of the "MADE IN the USA" billboard. This item will feature multiple

formats and will be an LCCA exclusive. Noted were the on-site car and the Choo Choo Hotel sign which are available for sale in the LCCA store.

13: Mr. DeVito noted we have three large "Get Well" cards for Lou Caponi for all attendees to sign. These are in the foyer outside the theater.

14: Question and Answer Session:

There was one question from member 16342, Burton TenBrink, who asked how many members were registered at the convention. Mr. DeVito responded we had 310 members registered and total attendance exceeding 700.

15. There being no further questions, Mr. DeVito adjourned the LCCA Annual Business Meeting at 2:55 PM, EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry G. Hampson
Secretary, LCCA