

E.D.G.E. & T.A.

# NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

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January-February-March 2023

Editor, Carrie Jo Parmley

## From Jeff Fenske, President and Director-at-Large

Happy New Year Everyone,

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be in the New Year, 2023. It looks like we survived Covid and all the many restrictions that went along with that. It has really been a long two years and, I think, we are all ready to move on and get back to normal. During that time, EDGE&TA lost some very active members due to Covid and just time. I have been seeing a lot of you members on Facebook enjoying shows, events and parades. I just drove in a lighted Christmas parade this last weekend pulling a few members in a people mover that may have been visible from the Space Station!! It was fun decorating and being in the parade, but not so much fun taking all the lights off the ole John Deere and trailer. That turned into a job. In our hobby, we put in a lot of time and effort, but it is also a lot of fun.

The Directors are in the process of reviewing the EDGE&TA website to update information. If you see anything that looks outdated, give one of us a call or send an email to let us know. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we have restructured the regions due to membership numbers. Now each of the four Directors has about the same number of branches to oversee. When you go to the website, you can see the new map on the branches page. Our Webmaster, Josh Dilsaver, did a great job on the new map, making it easy to see where each of the four regions is now.

Another change to the webpage for this year is the Branch Officer page. In the past, we listed all the officers and their contact information so that members in other branches could contact each other. Now that we have so many hackers that prey on websites, be it government, business or nonprofit organizations, we are trying to be safer. Don't want anyone to be sending Gift Cards to

someone in another country!! So, Josh developed a new plan for the Branch Officer Update form that will send your information to the Branch Locations page. Now you can have as many Officers listed or as few as one club contact person. We must have one contact person with club information included. This will not include a name, just contact information for your Branch. There will be a place to click if you don't want the information for individual officers to be shown. Click in the square for either yes or no for each office. You will still submit all the information, but it will be hidden from the public. The Directors and Officers will have a password so that they can see ALL the officers. This will allow them to contact anyone with information or to ask questions. Members can contact their Director for the password to contact officers in other branches. This should eliminate the computer-generated robots that troll the internet looking for any way they can to try to scam people. Usually, they ask for Gift Cards pretending to be someone you know. It's a sad world we live in now. When we were growing up, we wouldn't have dreamed of all the ways that people can hurt other people.

On another note, it's time to think about the new year and the EDGE&TA National dues. They will remain at \$17 per person. This includes your liability insurance and the administration costs of the National. When you get your membership in, just continue to fill out the Branch Member Form found on the EDGET&TA website on the forms page or fill out your own form that has all the information shown. When you have completed the form and have the dues money, send this into Carrie Jo between the middle of March and April 14<sup>th</sup>. Remember, our insurance policy runs from April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, until April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, this year. So, to ensure that your members are covered with liability insurance, Carrie Jo needs to receive this by April 15<sup>th</sup>. You can keep

getting stragglers in throughout the year, but the majority of the membership should be in by mid-April. Carrie Jo will be sending out your 2024 stickers and new yellow cards, if requested, before this date but please don't hand them out until your membership person receives the dues.

After more than 10 years as our National Secretary/Treasurer/Newsletter Editor, Carrie Jo Parmley has decided it's time to retire at the end of 2023. If you would be interested in this position, please call or email me so that we can give you the details. This is a part-time job that pays \$12,000 per year. The job includes keeping records on banking and membership, depositing membership dues, keeping a spreadsheet of branches and membership numbers, compiling income tax information, paying the bills, sending stickers and membership cards out to the branches, taking minutes of Board meetings, answering phone calls and emails and editing and mailing out a newsletter every three months. This is a list of duties and responsibilities to give you an idea of what the job entails. Carrie Jo has assured me that she will do everything she can to make this a smooth transition and is willing to help the next person with any questions they may have. This is open to any member in good standing, and you can live anywhere in the country. You work from home and set your own hours. Hope to talk to some of you and explain in more detail.

The National Show is in the Western Region this year, hosted by Branch 9. It will be in Pottsville, Oregon on Father's Day Weekend, June 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2023. There is more information on the EDGE&TA website. Hope to see a lot of you there.

Until Next Time.....Play Safe.....Stay Safe

**Jeff Fenske, President and Director-at- Large**

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**2023 dues are \$17**

**From Morrie Robinson, Vice President,  
NW Regional Director**

Happy Holidays from the cold Northwest.

Winter is upon us and it's still Autumn.

After dry and hot weather July to November, we had 4 to 6 inches of snow that has stayed for the past 2 weeks. Temperatures have been in the low 20's and we are expecting more mid-low 20's two weeks before Christmas. Maybe we will have a white Christmas like last year's 1-foot of snow.

I recently purchased a large collection of railroad-logging-steamship related postcards and books. The cold days have been well spent organizing them into 4x6 albums; consequently, shop projects have been on hold.

Shop projects that need work are 2 "La Crosse Happy Farmers" tractors. The 4-wheel (Model G) Happy Farmer is nearly complete, just needing fenders and radiator. The 3-wheel (Model F) is missing the same parts as the 4-wheel plus others. I used "G" parts for a "one off" to cast missing F parts at a foundry 45 minutes from home.

Did you know that La Crosse Tractor Company was organized in late 1916? It resulted from consolidation of Happy Farmer Tractor of Minneapolis and Sta-Rite Engine Company of La Crosse, Wisconsin. In July 1921 it was announced that Oshkosh Tractor Company had purchased all La Crosse Tractor assets. Oshkosh announced early 1922 they wouldn't carry out their agreement. La Cross Tractor Company had big plans, but not much came of it. By 1923 they were history.

Most of the major big shows continue to get bigger, with exhibitor participation and public attendance, while the small shows struggle. The big shows are able to attract the rare feature engines and tractors. I have seen the Fuel Cell Allis Chalmers Tractor, the 150 Case Steam Tractor, one and only, Rumely Kerosene Annie, the one and only prototype.

Our one-day "Gas-up" has the same loyal exhibitors year after year. This year we are changing the location, so it will be interesting to see how it works out.

That's about it for rambling. Stay healthy, do good deeds, be safe.

**Morrie Robinson, Vice President, NW Director**

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**From John Roderick,  
Central Regional Director**

### **Old Roads, Old Tractors and Old Ways**

I don't know about you all, but I am always reading stories about tractors, especially antique tractors. As I have mentioned in articles before, my father was a mechanic. The last few years of his career, he concentrated on tractors and often had one in the backyard under the shade tree as he worked.

I ran across a story the other day, and it reminded me of those days watching my father work and the love he had for the work as well as the friendships he developed with the tractor owner.

It's a pretty simple plot: Boy grows up with a tractor, grandfather sells the tractor, adult boy finds and buys back the tractor and grown boy restores the tractor.

The story begins 80 years ago when a shiny little bright red Farmall "A" came off the assembly line and ended up in Sangerfield, NY on my grandfather's farm. The purchase price of this tractor was just north of \$600.

The tractor worked in combination with horses as it was used to mow hay, run the ensilage cutter, pull the thresher, haul firewood, plow snow and whatever else was required around the farm. Little Red had its own stall in the barn where it got exceptional care and was a large part of the family fun. It helped create meaningful learning experiences and good memories for the grandsons. When my grandparents sold their farm to a young couple and moved away, the tractor moved with them. Now it was a leaf mover, wood hauler and parade-goer (Just like many of our tractors are.) One day Little Red disappeared and was replaced by a new Cub Cadet lawn mower and I was devastated. I disagreed with my grandfather, but what was done was done and Red moved to another family. I did tell the new family if they decided to sell the tractor to call me first. Every once in a while, I would catch a glimpse of it hauling wood or plowing snow. The only problem was it was left outside in the weather. This made me sad.

After my grandfather passed, I vowed to bring the tractor home where it belonged – with family. It was a miracle one day when my parents were

driving down a country road and saw Little Red sitting on the side of the road with a "For Sale" sign on it. My dad called and asked if I wanted to buy it and, of course, I said yes and price was no problem. The sale was quick at \$1,500-the same price my grandfather had sold it for 20 years ago.

The trip to my house was on a sunny day, and I was so excited. I could see the old dent by the hand crank, where my grandfather had hand painted over the original Farmall emblem, and how the hitch had been set up for a sickle bar. I could only think of one thing: Little Red was coming home again.

Over many years, this little A has been quietly, patiently waiting in the barn for rebirth. I believed this piece of antique iron needed to be back in service and part of our family story, but I knew my mechanical limits would require help to get Red back into tip-top shape.

Old tractors are comfortable in the hands of "older folks", and I am fortunate to be friends with retired farmers. One of these crack-pot mechanics was willing to help me. I took the tractor to his place and the transformation was nothing short of a miracle.

With his ability and knowledge, he used his calloused hands and changed the wobbly front axle, changed all the fluids, tuned up the engine, welded here and there and added new decals so it looked just as it did in 1940.

To pay homage to my grandparents, I took Little Red back to its roots. Driving down the same roads where Little Red had worked for so long, I paused by the roadside and said a little prayer for the old homestead, and the land where this little tractor had shaped a community. Then it was on home to give the grandkids a ride. They were too young to realize the historic moment but, in time, they will have endless opportunities to keep the wheels turning.

Now for us "older ones," it is important to share the love of the land and family farms so that new roads, young tractors, young folks and new ways still have a lot to offer in this world we live in.

Even though this is a story I read, it brings back memories for me. I was able to find a tractor, not the original but the same make and model, as the one my father started farming with. I restored it and now take the grandkids riding, just as my father did my two kids. Here is to hoping we can

keep these memories alive for our children and grandchildren for many years to come.

I want to give credit to Troy Bishopp for the original story.

**John Roderick, Central Regional Director**

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Website: [www.edgeta.com](http://www.edgeta.com)

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**From Ron Hanson, SW Regional Director**

Hello All...

Here it is January 2023. For most of us, the Antique Tractor and Engine Shows are over for the season. I really enjoyed seeing and meeting you at various shows.

Thank you all for a Safe and Fun show season in 2022.

For some, this time of year is when you get to spend some time out in the workshop either repairing the broken items from the various shows or taking on a completely new restoration project

Thank you ALL for keeping this hobby going and those tractors and engines alive!

In 1923, please consider volunteering or helping out your clubs and branches. It is the many volunteers that keep this hobby alive. Thanks to all that help out to keep these tractors and engines going. Without your continued involvement, this organization would not be what it is today.

Start looking at the year ahead and come on out to the various shows and events around your region. See old friends and make some new ones,

also.

As always, I am available to listen to your suggestions, comments and concerns.

Let's all make the 2023 shows and events a fun and safe one for all to enjoy!

I am still looking for a SW Region Advisor to assist me. If this something that might interest you, please let me know and I will discuss this with you in more detail.

Happy New Year 2023!

**Ron Hanson, SW Regional Director**

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**Happy New Year!**

**From Travis Brown, Eastern Director**

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**From Carrie Jo Parmley, Secretary/Treas./Editor**

Hope all of you have a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

I'm looking forward to starting a new year and working with you again as secretary/treasurer. Stickers for 2023-24 will be mailed out the end of the first full week of February. The number sent is based on the total membership for each branch for the previous year. However, I always send extra stickers with optimism that we will increase in numbers this year. Please be certain that the person who has been designated to receive the stickers will open and distribute the contents accordingly. Also, if you need additional yellow membership cards, please let me know.

Just a reminder that dues are \$17 per person, and I should receive those by mid-March. The Branch # must be on all pieces of correspondence: email, checks, and lists. The list and amount included must match or it will be returned, as was stated in several of the past newsletters. No 2023 dues will be accepted until after February 27, 2023.

**The 2023 EDGETA National Annual Show/ Meeting is June 17-18, in Pottsville, OR, hosted by Branch 9.** Please see EDGETA.com for all Regional Show dates as well as other shows. If you have questions, or if you need additional information, please contact me at 903-360-0396

or [cjparmley2@gmail.com](mailto:cjparmley2@gmail.com).

Happy New Year, and I hope each of you has a successful year.

**Carrie Jo Parmley, Secretary/Treas./Editor**  
**Happy New Year!**

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*Happy New Year!!!*

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## ***Important Dates***

**2023 Annual National EDGETA**  
**Show & Meeting**  
***June 17 & 18, 2023***  
***Branch 9 – Pottsville, OR***

See [EDGETA.org](http://EDGETA.org) for all Regional Shows for 2023  
--will be posted as dates are received--

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***South Central Regional Show***  
***June 16 & 17, 2023***  
***Branch 260***

24<sup>th</sup> Farming Heritage Festival, 40006 Hardesty Rd., Shawnee, OK 74801  
Contact: Shawn Singleton, (405)613-5774  
[shawneetractorclub@gmail.com](mailto:shawneetractorclub@gmail.com)

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