

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

# NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Volume No. 24, Issue No. 3

July-August-September 2023

Editor, Carrie Jo Parmley

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

Hello EDGE&TA Members,

Hope your year is going well and you are enjoying lots of old engine and tractor shows, parades and pulls. We just went to the National Show at the historical Pottsville Museum and grounds in Merlin, Oregon. It was a great show that was well attended by exhibitors and spectators. What a great turnout of tractors and engines. There were two threshers, a combine, sawmill, shingle mill, blacksmith shop, and huge swap meet. Before the Parade of Power tractor parade each day there was a tribute to the Veterans. There were about 100 Veterans that came out to stand in front of the grandstands on Saturday while the Boy Scout color guard presented the colors. This was followed by the National Anthem, Flag salute and tribute to the Veterans. Each afternoon there were tractor pulls. The Saturday evening dinner was attended by over 130. Thank you, Branch 9 for all the work you did to put on a great National Show. Next year the National Show will be held in the Eastern Region at Medina, Ohio July 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> 2024. Case and Ohio made equipment will be featured.

The National Meeting was called to order after The Pledge of Allegiance. Then the roll call showed we had 24 Branches represented at the meeting. The Directors attending were, President and Director at Large, Jeff Fenske, Vice President and NW Director, Morrie Robinson, SW Director, Ron Hanson and Eastern Director, Travis Brown. Also in attendance was Cliff Northcote former National President and current President of Branch 22. Absent were Central Director, John Roderick and Secretary/Treasurer Carrie Jo Parmley. Thank you, Morrie Robinson, for your years of service to EDGE&TA as Show Coordinator, Hall of Fame Chairman and NW Director. Welcome our new NW Director, Mike Pollack from Anchorage, Alaska. Those of you in the NW Region will be

getting calls from Mike, so answer your phone when you get a call from Alaska! Ron Hanson will be the new Vice-President. All this information will be on the EDGE&TA website. At the end of the year Carrie Jo Parmley will be retiring after 12 years as our Secretary/Treasurer. Our new Secretary/Treasurer will be Michelle McGill from Branch 9, Oregon. Her information will be on the website later.

We ended last year with 6,300 members. We now have 5,460 members. This is down from over 12,000 members ten years ago. We now have four Regions instead of six due to lower membership and finding people willing to be a volunteer Director. See the website for the new map of Regions and Branches.

There was a discussion at the Board Meeting about the speed of tractor pulls. We voted on moving the speed from 3 MPH to 6 MPH. We feel like this is still a safe speed but might bring in more people to pull, especially bring younger people into the club. If you have any questions or comments, please contact your director or me.

Starting April 15<sup>th</sup> 2024 we will be raising the National dues from \$17 to \$20 per person for the year. This increase is due to inflation and our lower membership.

The South West Regional Show will be held in Valley Center, CA, north of San Diego, on September 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> 2023. This will be hosted by Branch 22.

There were four Hall of Fame recipients this year. Two of these attended the National dinner and were presented the award by Morrie Robinson. Jude Durfey from Branch 54 in Washington and Les Layton from Branch 15 in Oregon received their plaques at the dinner. Alvin Bartleson from Branch 28 in Missouri and Duane Nelson from Branch 1 in Minnesota were mailed plaques to their branch. Congratulations to all the winners. For more information the EDGE&TA website has a page devoted to the Hall of Fame

recipients throughout the years and their applications and photos.

Have fun the rest of the summer and enjoy all the shows and events you can. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to call or email either your Regional Director or me.

Jeff Fenske Play Safe.....Stay Safe

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

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**WWW.EDGETA.ORG**



**Renew Memberships for 2023**

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**From Ron Hansen, Vice President & SW Regional Director**

Hello All,

It's Great to be in the middle of show season. Hopefully you're getting out and enjoying some shows and visiting with friends.

Recently I was able to attend the National Show in Merlin, Oregon hosted by Branch #9 and the Pottsville Historical Museum.....WOW! What a Great Show that was put on !!!!

It was very nice to see and meet lots of EDGE&TA members and visitors. There were lots of spectators coming to see all that was there to see. I was told there was about 8,000 people who came through the admission gate.

Great Show to ALL the people that helped make the show a Success!

There was a National Show Dinner held on Saturday Night with a General Meeting for the EDGE&TA members. There was a Roll Call of Branches and there were 24 branches represented

in attendance. Wow..... that was incredible to see so much involvement from so many branches Nationwide.

I would also like to announce that Branch #22 is eagerly making plans for the SW Regional Show. I had a nice conversation with Cliff Northcoat of Branch 22 at the National show about the preparations.

The SW Regional Show will be held at Bates Nut Farm In Valley Center, Ca. September 23-24, 2023. It would be nice to meet you there.

Lastly, if there is something that I can assist you with or if you have a suggestion/concern, please reach out to me.

Sincerely,

**Ron Hansen, Vice President & SW Regional Director**

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**Mike Pollock, NW Regional Director**

Hello from the Northland! Mike Pollock, here. I am a member of Br52 in Wasilla, Alaska. During the recent National Show in Merlin, Oregon, it was announced that I had been elected to the position of Northwest Regional Director. I would first like to say "thank you" to Morrie Robinson for his service as NW Director as well as the many other EDGETA hats he wears. Morrie leaves big shoes to fill!

The Northwest Region covers 8 states and includes 33 Branches. If my geography serves me correctly, the Northernmost Branch is Br 118 in Fairbanks, Alaska and the most Southeasterly is Br 84 in Caney, Kansas...3,500 miles apart...four time zones...certainly quite a spread! Regardless of the distance, we all share the same interest. It will take me a bit to get up to speed, but I do intend to contact each branch in the months to come. I look forward to working with you all to continue promoting our fun hobby! In the meantime, if there is any way I can assist your branch, please contact me (talk or text) at 907-229-3500 or email, [farmall1945@alaska.net](mailto:farmall1945@alaska.net).

By the way, the National Show was great. Well done, Branch 9!

That's all for now. Until next time, be safe, be happy! Mike

**Mike Pollock, NW Regional Director**

**From John Roderick, Central Regional Director**

The Central EDGETA Regional Show was held in Shawnee, Oklahoma on June 15-16. The show was held in conjunction with the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Farming Heritage Festival sponsored by EDGETA Branch 260. I would like to say a big “Thank You” to Branch 260 for hosting the show.

I usually don’t write about tractor shows, but I am going to make an exception this time because this event was truly special. Severe weather moved in on Thursday, so they had to finish the setup on Friday Morning. I was amazed watching the members work in such a coordinated effort to get it all done in a short time frame.

The Branch 260 group consists of many young men and women and some high school students. The show on Saturday morning began with breakfast, which was attended by approximately 50 people and at least five EDGETA branches were represented.

After a welcome by the president, Sean Singleton, and myself, there was a flag raising by members of the American Legion. Then the show began!

Visitors and members were able to participate in various events including wrench throwing for men and kids, skillet throwing for women and kids, barrel race, kiddie tractor pull, chain pull, tractor pull, lawn tractor pull and other events. There were approximately 125 tractors there along with threshing and baling demonstrations conducted by Branch 260 members. Several vendors and food trucks were available to the crowd as well.

The event was one of the most organized and safety-oriented tractor shows I have ever been involved in. Members of the Shawnee club welcomed us with open arms and made us feel right at home.

“Thank you EDGETA Branch 260 for a great show!”

**John Roderick, Central Regional Director**

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**From Travis Brown, Eastern Regional Director**

Hello from the East Region! Things are quite busy here. Back in April we were invited to a new event hosted by the Tennessee Agricultural Museum up in Nashville. We took our half-scale

Keck Gonnerman up there and our sawmill.

They had a nice show there with a few of our Branch 202 members participating. It was different, as many kids and probably many parents there were unfamiliar with the array of hit and miss engines, antique tractors and the two-scale steam engines present. So we were given the opportunity to answer a lot of questions there to a different audience.

In June, I headed out to the National Show in Pottsville Oregon. It was quite a journey there. My day started at 3:30 am to catch a plane; then I had to get a connecting flight in Las Vegas. Finally, I got a rental car and drove five hours to southern Oregon. It was a fun drive seeing a part of the country I had never been to before.

Joining me there at the National Show were President Jeff Fenske, his wife Glynnna, Directors Ron Hanson and Morrie Robinson. We got to see the show set up Friday and had a great time seeing all the excellent exhibits there. It was my first time on the west coast at a show, and I was very impressed with the quality of the exhibits and the size of the show.

Missing was Secretary-Treasurer Carrie Jo Parmely and Director John Roderick who had duties at other shows. Carrie Jo is involved with lots of red tractors and that especially gives her a excused pass. My grandfather was a red tractor man and my wife was driving a 806 Farmall when we first met.

Friday I helped the crew tinker on a Red River Special thresher for a minute powered by a original paint John Deere R, but they had things well in hand.

What caught my eye most was a beautiful 10hp Russell traction engine. It had just been repainted and brought to the show. They told me a few other engines had been expected but unforeseen circumstances intervened. Luckily the owners of the Russell engine trusted me to run the engine and Branch 13 member and owner of a steam tractor, Dick Watson, to take it through the parade on Saturday. It was a real neat little engine and a real treat to operate it.

Other great exhibits that were thereincluded a really large hit and miss exhibit with many manufacturers and lots of old tractors as well. I saw a few tools in the flea market that would have proven a great inconvenience to take home on the airplane so I resisted. I'm fond of old ford tractors with flathead conversions and there was one there

with chrome side pipes and a flashy purple paint job that sounded great.

I saw a lot of Caterpillars and tracked John Deeres and some other brands and a couple even hooked to the pulling sled.

We had a good directors meeting Friday, then Saturday night the branch hosted a huge dinner for EDGETA members followed by a meeting hosted by President Fenske. He fielded all the questions, so all I had to do was eat some good food and enjoy.

Note: We had a discussion about how dues work. I thought this might be worth covering. Your dues need to be in by April 14. The dues cover from April 15 to April 14 or 365 days. If someone joins after April 15, you have to get their dues in within 30 days. Their insurance starts the minute they hand the check to your branch administration.

Only too soon it was time for another 3:30 am wake up to my way home. I crossed back over the Cascades and drove down to Sacramento, caught a plane to Dallas then to Nashville. I got home at 8:00 pm that night, after a long day of travel, though some Texas brisket at Love Field was great.

In closing, it was announced that Mike Pollack would be replacing Morrie Robinson as the Northwest Director. I would like to thank Morrie for his many years of service to EDGETA. I would also like to welcome Mike to the board. He told me he was going to be asking questions; I hope I can steer him the right direction with my limited knowledge.

Thanks to Glynnna for helping stave off us directors from starvation at the meeting Friday. There weren't any food options open as it wasn't a show day. I can't say I even know how to spell charcuterie correctly but it was delicious!

**Travis Brown, Eastern Regional Director**

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

**From Morrie Robinson, NW Regional Director**

Farewell:

The 1st National I attended as an exhibitor was at Pottsville 1989. Ironically, this year's Pottsville 2023 Show is my last as EDGETA NW Director.

I started on the Board in 2009 as the National & Regional Show Coordinator and have served as Vice President and Hall of Fame Chairman.

Over the years I have met many of you via email, phone and in person. I appreciate the support many of you have expressed and given. It's been a fun ride that's ended.

Below, I have included a list of all National Shows that I put together. Until we meet again.

God bless you, be safe and keep in touch. Morrie Robinson

Year, Branch, Town, State

- 1961 — 3 — Geneseo, Illinois (1st National)
- 1962 — 2 — Sussex, Wisconsin
- 1963 — 4 — Constantine, Michigan
- 1964 — 1 — St Croix, Minnesota
- 1965 — 3 — Geneseo, Illinois
- 1966 — 2 — Sussex, Wisconsin
- 1967 — 4 — Mottville, Michigan
- 1968 — 8 — Mt Pleasant, Iowa
- 1969 — 5 — LaPorte, Indiana
- 1970 — 6 — Vernalis, California (10th)
- 1971 — 7 — St Peters, Missouri
- 1972 — 6 — Santee, California
- 1973 — 10 — Paris, Missouri
- 1974 — 12 — Rogers, Minnesota
- 1975 — 13 — Galt, California
- 1976 — 15 — Brooks, Oregon
- 1977 — 16 — Springfield, Missouri
- 1978 — 17 — Fort Scott, Kansas
- 1979 — 19 — Platte City, Missouri
- 1980 — 20 — Centrali, Washington (20th)
- 1981 — 21 — Stacy, Minnesota
- 1982 — 2 — Sussex, Wisconsin
- 1983 — 3 — San Jose, California
- 1984 — 4 — Pawnee, Oklahoma
- 1985 — 5 — 3 Oaks, Michigan
- 1986 — 6 — Tracy, California
- 1987 — 7 & 15 Brooks, Oregon
- 1988 — 8 — Merced, California
- 1989 — 9 Pottsville, Oregon (Merlin)
- 1990 — 10 — Oak Creek, Wisconsin (30th)
- 1991 — 11 — Winfield, Kansas
- 1992 — 12 Union Gap, Washington
- 1993 — 13 — Grass Valley, California
- 1994 — 14 — Salt Lake City, Utah
- 1995 — 15 — Brooks, Oregon
- 1996 — 16 — Springfield, Missouri
- 1997 — 17 — Fort Scott, Kansas
- 1998 — 18 — Chowchilla, California
- 1999 — 28 — Cabool, Missouri

2000 - - 19- Farmington, New Mexico 40th  
 2001 - - 32 - Ozark, Arkansas  
 2002 - - 21- Klamath Falls  
 2003 - - 35 - Tidewater, Virginia  
 2004 - - 22 Santee, California  
 2005 - - 37 Gentry, Arkansas  
 2006 - - 23 Ridgefield, Washington  
 2007 - - 55 Hutchinson, Kansas  
 2008 - - 26 - Mt Vernon, Washington  
 2009 - - 66 Fredericksburg, Texas  
 2010 - - 8-27-3 -Santa Margarita, California  
 2011 - 79 Wellington, Kansas  
 2012 - - 29 Huntley, Montana  
 2013 - 85 Morrow, Arkansas  
 2014 - 51 Lewistown, Montana  
 2015 - 89 Henderson, Texas  
 2016 - 52 Palmer, Alaska  
 2017 - - 42 Fruitport, Michigan  
 2018- 107 Emporia, Kansas  
 2019 - 114 Red Bluff, California  
 2020 \*\*2020 postponed-covid  
 2021 202 Eagleville, Tennessee  
 2022 16 Republic, Missouri  
 2023 9 (Merlin)Pottsville, Oregon  
 2024 192 Medina, Ohio (Compiled by Morrie Robinson)

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

Hopefully, all of you are doing well. We are having shows in our area now, and our Branch 124 has participated in a number of events as well as hosted several events. Hope the same things are occurring for you as well.

“Thank you” to those of you who have renewed your memberships for the year. Branches are continuing to submit your membership rosters for this year. It appears that some of us are a little slow in getting back on track, but our numbers are growing daily as more of you get back into participating.

Our membership has dropped drastically since I started this position 12 years ago. That year, we had 12,003 members, the peak of the membership for our organization. We ended 2022 with 6,369 members, slightly over half of the number of members that I started with.

I was sorry that I could not attend the National Show this year; all reports are that it was a great show. During that same time, we went to the Red Power Roundup in Grand Isle, Nebraska—you already are aware that we are “red” people, and I drive the Farmall C that was purchased new by my Great-Grandmother and had never left the family Farm until we moved it to our place. The Round-

up was a very well-done show with lots to see.

As I announced in the last newsletter, I will be retiring the end of December this year, and as Jeff announced in his article, Michelle McGill has been named to take the secretarial/financial/editorial position starting in 2024. I wish her the best and know that she will be great person for you to work with.

I will have one more newsletter (October) to publish prior to retirement, so you will hear from me one more time!

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

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