

57th National Meeting of EDGE&TA, June 8, 2017

Branch 42-Fruitport, MI:

Mark Scholten from Branch 42 welcomed the EDGETA Board, members, and all guests. He then introduced the National President, George Christmas. Clyde Brummett led the opening prayer followed by the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance. George thanked Branch 42 for hosting the show this year. He then introduced the members of the Board of EDGETA as follows:

NE Director, Wayne Timchuk
South Central Director, Clyde Brummett, Sr.
North Central Director, Bob Craig
Northwest Director, Dick Tombrink
National Show Coordinator and Northeast Advisor, Morrie Robinson
Secretary, Carrie Jo Parnley

George then announced the names of those Board Members not in attendance as follows: Southwest Regional Director, Don Young and Director-at-Large, Buster Brown, both not in attendance for health reasons.

Roll Call of the branches indicated there were 8 Branches in attendance: Branch 42 MI, Branch 29 MT, Branch 16 MO, Branch 124 TX, Branch 129 SC, Branch 26 WA, Branch 103 OH, and Branch 37 AR.

George then reported that currently we have 157 branches, we had 3 branches drop out in 2016 and no new branches. Currently there are approximately 7,605 members so far for the 2017 year. We ended last year with a membership of 9,450 members. George reported that reasons given were mostly from lack of interest in the hobby. There was 1 drop out because of insurance costs.

Committee Reports:

Safety and Youth Driver:

In the absence of Don Young, Safety Director, George reported that we had no accidents reported last year. George complimented Branch 42 on their moving exhibits being blocked off safely. No other directors had comments on safety. He reminded members that all youth from ages 12 to age 16 who do not have valid driver's license in the state where they reside must have a Youth Driver Permit from EDGETA. All of the information is on the website.

Steam:

George briefly reported on Steam in that there is a big steam event in Denton next month, but it seems that steam is following guidelines for safety very well now.

Insurance:

Dick Tombrink also mentioned that the steam issues had been quiet for some time. After the big accident in Ohio several years ago, they are making certain all safety guidelines are being followed. Dick then explained the insurance fees included in the dues in that \$8.00 of the dues are for insurance and the other \$4.00 is for office supplies, postage, secretary, webpage maintenance, and travel for directors to National and Regional Meetings.

Someone asked the question, "Do all members of a club have to join EDGETA?" Dick responded that if they are going to be a member of the branch, then they must be a member of EDGETA. It would put the branch in jeopardy if they had an accident. There was a discussion about those who want to be a member of the local organization but do not operate machinery.

Website:

George then addressed the website, inviting all to visit the website. All of the current information regarding dues, membership, insurance, safety, show dates, etc. are there. Also, there is an extensive page of FAQ's that can be very helpful in answering questions that may arise.

Membership & Newsletter:

Carrie Jo restated information that George had given that we had 7,605 members as of the end of May. She reminded members that all branches must update their officers and directors at the beginning of each year, gave information on times the buttons and stickers are mailed annually, and explained the process for acquiring additional membership cards, stickers and buttons. She also reminded members that they should get their membership to EDGETA by March 15 each year. No one has any benefits after April 14 annually unless their membership has been received by EDGETA.

She also reminded members that the quarterly EDGETA Newsletter that is mailed to all Presidents and Safety Directors is on the website for all members to read and research at any time.

Annual National and Regional Shows:

Show Coordinator, Morrie Robinson, explained the realignment of the National Show locations. In the past, the US was divided into 2 sections, with the division being west of the Rocky Mountains and east of the Rocky Mountains. Starting this year, the US is divided into 3 sections with the Northeast and Southeast Regions being in 1st division, the North Central and South Central Regions being in 2nd division and the Northwest and the Southwest Regions being in the 3rd division. The Region hosting the National Meeting will not have a Regional Meeting that year. So, this year since the NE Region is hosting the National Meeting, there will not be a NE Regional Meeting.

The process started on the East Coast division this year with Branch 42 hosting the National Show. In 2018, Branch 107 in Emporia, KS, the North Central Division, will host the National Show, so there will be no North Central Regional Meeting in 2018. Changes were made to give everyone an opportunity to attend a National Meeting closer to home.

All of the information is on the website, along with all of the Show Dates by Regional and National Shows.

Directors:

George encouraged members to run for Director positions. Directors are elected on a rotating basis by regions. It is always announced in the EDGETA Newsletter, which is posted on the website. Also, on the Administration Page of the website, each of the director's terms of office is posted by their name. Anyone interested in representing their home region may submit a resume by the date shown in the Newsletter and on the Website. Also, the Director-at-Large may be from anywhere in the US, and that position is also listed with the dates of the terms of office. All of the election information is placed on a banner running across the top of the EDGETA home page prior to time that resumes are due.

Hall of Fame:

George congratulated all of those who have been inducted into the Hall of Fame and announced that this year, we have 10 recipients. It is an honor to be nominated for the award and selected by the committee. Applicants to the Hall of Fame have given significant support to the organization in many ways. He asked members to think about nominating someone for the Award. They are presented at either a Regional Meeting or at the National Meeting if they can attend.

The applications must be received by the Hall of Fame Committee Chair 120 days prior to the National Meeting. The information is always included in EDGETA Newsletters and on the website in time for members to select candidates and submit their applications.

George then turned the meeting over to Mark Scholten, who announced that there would be a potluck dinner immediately after the meeting.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned.