

EDGE&TA General Meeting Minutes at Shawnee, Oklahoma National Show 6-21-2025

The Shawnee Tractor & Engine Club hosted a breakfast for both their local members and visiting National directors and officers. The meeting was held in the morning prior to the tractor show. We assembled under a tent, where breakfast consisting of biscuits and gravy, bacon, sausage, and eggs was served.

After eating, Shawn Singleton, president of Shawnee Tractor & Engine Club, called the meeting to order. He thanked everyone for attending and helping with the show preparations. Discussed how the weather, particularly the rain, created challenges in preparing everything.

National Officers' Present:

Jeff Fenske	Director at Large and President
Ronald Hanson	Southwest Director and Vice President
Mike Pollock	Northwest Director
Travis Brown	Eastern Director
Tina Brown	Secretary/ Treasurer
David Scibek	Central Director

New Business:

Jeff then called our meeting to order by welcoming everyone to the show. He introduced himself, then each officer shared their name and expertise. We stated we were available to help however possible. Jeff talked about our 4–5 years without accidents and stressed the importance of enjoying hobbies safely. He also informed everyone that with fewer branch members, affording the \$3 million insurance policy may be difficult.

Tina, the new secretary/treasurer, reminded members to send dues to the updated address since many had used Michele's old one. We found that representatives from at least eight branches attended the meeting: Branch 8 (Kingsburg, CA), Branch 21 (Klamath Falls, OR), Branch 30 (Lancaster, CA), Branch 52 (Wasilla, AK), Branch 138 (Wylie, TX), Branch 202 (Eagleville, TN), Branch 254 (Tuttle, OK), and Branch 260 (Shawnee, OK). EDGE&TA currently has 131 branches and a new branch in Yakima, WA.

David spoke about the youth driver program, noting that each participant will get a "tractor license". Mike shared information about his trip to the regional show in Wyoming and his interactions with new people, their tractors. Travis highlighted the steam school that he is involved in and the hopes to educate more people on operating steam engines.

General Meeting Minutes continued....

Ron then told everyone about the latest winners for 2025 in the Hall of Fame. They were Brenda Bartleson from Branch 28, Doc Comstock from Branch 16, Tree Ford from Branch 202, and lastly but not least, Jeff and Glynn Fenske from Branch 8. All the people were chosen for their outstanding work in the local branches.

We did not read the minutes from the past National Show in Medina, Ohio.

Jeff then adjourned our meeting by thanking everyone for coming and having a safe year.

EDGE&TA Board Meeting Minutes at Shawnee, Oklahoma National Show 6-20-2025

We gathered at our campsite where Glynna and Tina prepared a charcuterie board for everyone. Jeff called the meeting to order.

National Officers' Present:

Jeff Fenske	Director at Large and President
Ronald Hanson	Southwest Director and Vice President
Mike Pollock	Northwest Director
Travis Brown	Eastern Director
Tina Brown	Secretary/ Treasurer
David Scibek	Central Director

New Business:

Ron (Hall of Fame) stated that plaques would be distributed at the show the following day. The group agreed to update the Bylaws so that each region will have one Hall of Fame inductee, with nominations submitted by a branch officer. If a region does not have an inductee, another region may receive a second inductee.

David (Youth Driver) reported that his secretary would prepare 8 printed cards for the youth driver program.

Mike raised the issue that his director's term ends next year and questioned whether he should retire. In that case, plans would need to be made for a new director. He expressed willingness to serve as an advisor. Travis indicated that there would be no concerns if everyone viewed Mike as suitable.

The 2026 National Show is planned for Huntley, Montana, in the Northwest Region. For balanced representation and participation, regions have been divided into four areas, with the National Show rotating among them annually. This creates a four-year rotation cycle, giving each region the opportunity to host the event.

Travis suggested modifying the Bylaws so that any individual operating a steam engine at a tractor show must either attend a mandatory steam school or be supervised by someone who has completed steam school. He offered assistance to other regions in establishing steam schools.

Board meeting minutes continued...

The possibility of joining EDGE&TA without being part of a local branch was considered. Approval relies on the insurance company, as insurance coverage requires all members to adhere to EDGE&TA rules.

Tina provided reports on 2024 financials, membership, and expenses. In 2024, receipts totaled \$122,162.00 with 5,963 members. Currently, receipts are \$92,880.00 with 4,644 members for the 2025 year.

The group briefly addressed losses incurred during Michele McGill's tenure as secretary and the decline in membership. It was decided to end Director and Officer Assistance to local branches effective January 1, 2026, to be announced in the next newsletter.

Strategies to increase club membership and encourage participation were discussed. The directors' expertise across various fields was noted as a resource. David spoke about his involvement in CAT and International clubs and mentioned that their events were both social and educational. He recommended seeking sponsors to support advertising efforts for EDGETA. Social media platforms such as Facebook and YouTube were identified as ways to attract younger audiences, given the declining number of older tractor club members. Travis agreed to pursue a Facebook group for National Early Day Gas Engine & Tractor Association. Is it a good idea to launch a YouTube channel, and is it possible for us to find sponsors?

The average member age is approximately 70, and most equipment dates from the 1930s to 1960s; interest in newer tractors was questioned. Mike and David agreed to pursue sponsorship opportunities. Another suggestion was to distribute free items to promote the following year's show.

Jeff then adjourned our meeting.