

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

# NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

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October-November-December 2021

Editor, Carrie Jo Parmley

## From Jeff Fenske, President/Director-at-Large/Insurance

Hello everyone. Hope you are staying healthy. We offer condolences to those of you who have lost family and friends this year to Covid. We have heard from several branches who have lost numerous members to this terrible virus. We were so disappointed when it looked like we were making progress and then it came back to bite us again. Try to stay healthy and stay safe.

We are in beautiful, green Tennessee where we just attended the National Show in Eagleville. We had a great time there and I even drove a couple of steam tractors around the grounds and in the parade. We enjoyed the tractor pulls and the spark show from the steam tractors after dark on Saturday night. Thank you Branch 202 and our SE Director, Travis Brown, for putting on the show. And thank you, Travis, for letting us camp out in your park like back yard. The 2022 National Show will be held in Republic, MO on September 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. Put this on your calendar and hope to see you there.

We have heard from different branches about problems with members drinking alcohol during a show. I have told them that their EDGE&TA insurance is void if any member has been drinking or is drinking while inside any display area or driving tractors. Not only is it dangerous but it presents a bad image to our spectators. After the show shuts down for the day it is fine to socialize and enjoy beverages.

As you all should know by now, we have been trying to get Director and Officer insurance for the branches. This defends the Directors and Officers from lawsuits that could occur from them performing their duties for the branch. Emails were sent with an application to fill out and send in if your branch chooses to take out this insurance. It is voluntary and up to each individual branch.

As of this date we have 138 branches and 6,519

members. This is up from last year and we are hoping that when the country gets going again, we will have even more.

At the National Show Board Meeting the Directors decided to increase the amount that the National gives to each branch that hosts a Regional Show. The amount will now be \$500 instead of \$300. We hope that this will help and be used for advertising or other things to gain bigger attendance. Each National Show will still receive \$1000.

You guys go out there and have some fun, go to shows, drive your tractors, and run your engines. **PLAY SAFE AND STAY SAFE !**

## Jeff Fenske, President and Director-at-Large and National Safety Officer

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[EDGETA.org](http://EDGETA.org)

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## From Bob Craig, Vice Pres. & NC Regional Director, Youth Driver Certification Officer

Greetings from the North Central Region. At the end of August, we attended the North Central Regional Show in Haviland, Kansas; they are Branch 50. They are a small group bent on surviving. Friday evening, they had entertainment and a BBQ for their town. Saturday there was an

auction to raise funds for their club. They had an operating sawmill and threshing, also a Universal Engineer's rock crusher. We certainly enjoyed our time there.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of September, we attended the National Show in Eagleville, Tennessee. It was good to see the directors that we talk to on the phone in person. They had a busy tractor pulling area. There was sawing and threshing all run by steam on the east end of the grounds where we were located, and one of the best food courts ever.

Our home show, Branch 16 in Republic, Missouri, started the next Thursday, September 16-19. We were blessed with great weather. The number of spectators seemed to be down a little, which is to be expected after coming down off a shut-down year from Covid in 2020. The tractor pulls did not disappoint. Friday night the lights were off at 2:30 am, and Saturday night they went until after 11:00pm. And best of all in the shows we have attended, there have been no accidents!

There are 3 new members to our Hall of Fame. I will not give their names at this time, as I know none of them are aware.

We have had several youth driver certifications this summer; it's good to see that. Let's keep them coming.

Please continue to have a safe, accident-free season. Hope to see you folks somewhere down the road. Bob

### **Bob Craig, Vice Pres., NC Regional Dir. & Youth Driver Certification**

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### **From John Roderick, SC Regional Director**

I know all EDGETA members enjoy attending tractor shows. We load a tractor or two and sometimes travel more than 100 miles to attend a show that only lasts one day. We unload our tractor and immediately begin to walk around and visit with friends from other branches or just meet new people. Do we really go to show our tractor or meet new people and share stories – or maybe lies? I have learned over the years, you never know who you are going to meet at a show. I have met some remarkable people at tractor shows. These individuals always seem to have good advice as to how to repair your tractor or just a really good story about themselves or someone they know.

I recently attended the South-Central Regional Show in Arkansas. I was sitting at a table talking with the Branch #90 President, Mr. Bill Garner, when Richard Kuper sat down. I learned Richard was originally from Hereford, Texas where he was farming 3,000 acres and running a crop-dusting service. He has a 1928 Chevrolet truck he spent 24 years restoring. He built the fenders himself but says he is not a body man. Right! He brought seven tractors to the show which are immaculate, and he has more at home. He has built a rotisserie to mount tractor and truck frames in so he can sandblast and paint the bottom easier. I asked what he built it from, and his answer was "Oh, just parts out of my junk pile".

Mr. Kuper says he is writing a book entitled "Confessions of a West Texas Barnstormer". One chapter only has one sentence. I, of course, asked what the sentence was, and his immediate response was "I didn't mention the Federales in this chapter because they are probably still looking for me." I definitely want a copy of this book.

Then I met Mr. Ed Vann. Mr. Vann owns the oldest known Chevrolet car in Arkansas. He offered to take us for a ride in his 1914 Chevrolet and you better believe we took him up on it. After a short ride, he told us about finding the car in a building which was falling down. The engine was stuck, and he tried everything to free it with no success. Finally, someone told him to build a fire under the engine. Well, he couldn't build a fire under the car because of the wood in the body of the car. He decided he would place an electric heater under the engine and build a type of funnel around the heater to force the heat towards the engine block. He also placed a 40 lb. barbell on the crank. A few weeks later he heard the barbell fall and the engine was free. It always amazes me what creative things people think of to solve a problem with just a little imagination.

A couple of years ago, I met Mr. Charles Parmley. Charles is a retired Agriculture Science teacher and restores Farmall tractors. He is so good at what he does, I bought a tractor from him myself. If you want Charles to restore a tractor for you, you will have to get in line. He also sells parts for the red machines. If it's a Farmall part, he knows exactly what it fits. If you want some help or advice about your tractor, all you must do is ask. He will help anyone at any time.

We meet all these individuals who are very good

at what they do, but every now and then, we meet someone who can repair anything from tiny steam engines to automobiles and everything in the middle. About 12 years ago, I met Allen Cunnyngham. He is one of those individuals. Allen and his wife, Cathy, own a 1951 John Deere MT. Except for the chrome on the plows, it looks like it just came off the showroom floor. He can almost cover the hood of your truck in certification cards from various schools he has attended. Everyone in Branch #138 knows if you have a problem with your tractor, automobile, weed eater, mower, chain saw, or tiny steam engine, just call Allen. He can fix it and will tell you a few stories when you go to pick it up. He has helped me so many times and has become one of my best friends in the process.

I just want to add that I recently I attended the National EDGTA Tractor Show in Eagleville, Tennessee. It was hosted by Branch 202. A big “thanks” to Travis Brown and all the members for a great show. It was well attended and featured a thrasher and sawmill powered by antique steam tractors as well as several other steam tractors, many beautiful antique tractors, and a wonderful tractor pull. There were events for all ages. It is evident these ladies and gentlemen appreciate old iron and antique machines.

Those of us who have been attending tractor shows over the years have all met these individuals. They know their business and are always willing to help or share a funny or amazing story to go along with their expert advice. The ones mentioned in this article are just a few who I have had the privilege of meeting. I hope this article will serve as a tribute to all those who are so willing to give of themselves.

**John Roderick, SC Regional Director**

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**From Morrie Robinson, NW Regional Director**

Fall is in the air and it’s beginning to show. In a couple more days, the fall equinox occurs with

equal daylight and equal night time. Consequently, here the evenings are cooler with some fog and the usual rain and wind, which is why we are the Evergreen State. Rain is good; it eliminates smoke and helps suppress fires. We would love to be able to send some of the rain south to those big fires.

For me, the engine and tractor shows are beginning to wind down for the year. This year it was good to see so many friends and catch up on what they have been doing the last 2 years.

As fall sets in, that means shop time. I’m not too sure about you, but I seem to have more projects - maybe they tend to multiply on their own during the summer, or is it that “I don’t want them all, just the one’s I haven’t seen.” I’ve often heard it’s a disease, but what a great one it is.

The NW Regional was held in mid-August at Huntley, Montana, Branch 29. It’s a great show with a good number of exhibitors and public attendance. I especially liked the homemade pies; wow! were they good.

I had taken a small model gas engine that decided it was only going to run for a day. No amount of coaching would get to run. Fortunately, there was another model engine owner so we had fun running small steam engines on air.

Each year a couple makes a branding iron with current year and a special feature all branded on fresh cut shingles. There’re so many exhibits to see and talk with the owners of them, the days seem to fly by. Looking to attend a Montana show, think of Huntley, about 30 miles east of Billings.

Be safe, keep in touch, and be healthy. Morrie R

**Morrie Robinson, NW Regional Director**

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**From Travis Brown, SE Regional Director**

Well, it wasn't the largest show we had, but it was a good one nonetheless. Everyone gathered at Eagleville for the National Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor Show September 10-11. We had five steam engines there, several hit and miss engines, a couple of dozen tractors and what seemed like two hundred pulling tractors. Luckily the pull falls under a different insurance. I can't imagine trying to referee that bunch. Both days featured perfect weather. We had a little trouble getting the thresher working, but after a belt replacement, we got it happy after several hours of work and

threshed two loads. The sawmill got cranked up Saturday and turned out some nice walnut. We had a nice 9-11 Memorial at 12 noon. We had our National Board of Directors' meeting Friday up on the hill overlooking the grounds. Saturday we also had a meeting of most of the board and any other EDGETA members. At Eagleville, we had Directors Morrie Robinson, Ron Hanson, Robert Craig, John Roderick and President Jeff Fenske. I enlisted Ron and Jeff into helping run our 1921 Keck Gonnerman steam engine. I am pretty sure Jeff is headed home to sell his collection and buy a steam engine after this experience.

Missing was David Millsap, who is soon to find his director duties have been amended to include being the official doorman at the next National Meeting. You know the saying, "you snooze, you lose." He's just lucky the vote to amend him to be the official foot washer failed for lack of a second. I won't say who made the motion.

I hope to see you soon at a show. It seems like some shows are doing great and others are hanging on. I hope as the pandemic eases due to all the factors out there our shows continue to prosper. We are already planning next year's events.

### **Travis Brown, SE Regional Director**

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### **From David Millsap, NE Regional Director**

As I sit here on the Grand Strand of South Carolina, better known as Myrtle Beach, watching the waves crash while waiting on our fearless leader and leaderess, Jeff Fenske, I am thinking of what a wonderful summer it has been.

I'm sorry to have missed the National Meeting in Eagleville, but I helped lay to rest a very dear friend over that weekend.

I'm, hopefully, going to be able to attend the NE Regional Meeting in Woodburn, KY later this month. Soon the 2021 season will be "in the books," and we should and will be planning for 2022.

Branch 249 had a decent display at the Washington County, VA fair this year, and we pulled the trolley (people mover). That is both a rewarding (seeing little kids and sometimes older kids faces and listening to comments about the Old

Putt-Putt) and nerve-wracking experience as one can imagine. Like I said, it's worth it all just to see smiling faces, even if one little dude told his grandpa "I've never seen a fat Amish before!" As Art Linkletter once said, "Kids say the darndest things."

Stay safe and have a wonderful Fall season. PLEASE REMEMBER--harvesting is underway in most all areas of the country, so please be alert to slow moving vehicles and pass this advice on to your "urban" friends and neighbors.

Till next time,Sappo

### **David Millsap, NE Regional Director**

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### **From Ron Hanson, SW Regional Director**

Hello Everyone,

Hoping that you're able to start getting out and enjoying some club functions and shows this summer/fall.

It was unfortunate that we could not hold the SW Regional Show as planned in Gardnerville, NV this year. Due to the fires in the area, the Fairgrounds were taken over for the firefighting operations in the area. Fortunately, there are plans to hold the SW Regional show there next year. The date for that will be June 4-5, 2022. So, mark your calendar for the SW Regional Show to be then.

It was nice for me to be able to attend the National Show this year in Eagleville, Tennessee. They sure do like their Steam Traction Engines back there! There were 5 of them roaming around the beautiful show grounds. Some of them were belted up to a sawmill they have there, and they were also belted to a Threshing Machine Demonstration. The members there really liked showing them off! They also like their Antique Tractor Pulling—2 nights of late night pulling, FUN!!!

I do want to give a shout out to Branch13. There were 4 members from that club that made it to the National. Thanks for coming.

The last thing that I would like to ask the club branches in the SW Region to do is to add me to their Newsletter mailing list. I would appreciate it, as I'm interested in what is happening with the clubs.

### **Sincerely, Ron Hanson, SW Regional Director**

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

Hopefully, all of you are doing well. It has been a very strange year for all of us. However, many shows and activities are opening up across the country. Our branch has sponsored a tractor ride and participated in a several local shows and displays in our region. In July, we attended the Red Power Roundup in Illinois, and we held our Branch 124 Show on September 10-11, with very good participation.

On another note, “Thank you” for doing a good job of submitting your membership and dues for the year. Most of you are aware that the insurance auditor randomly comes to my house to examine the individual Branch# records to verify those members submitted with payment and the method we use to show the proof of payment. He is also interested in the process I use to record membership and the number for which we’ve paid as of that date. This may help you to understand why I insist that your record of membership exactly matches the check included. For examination purposes, a copy of that check is stapled to the list sent by the branch. That’s why we request a “clean list” from you. All of our guidelines are included in the By-Laws which are posted on the EDGETA website.

Also, at the beginning of the new year, it will be time to update your officers and directors on the website. It is very helpful for us to have current information.

If you should have questions, I’ll be glad to try to answer them or refer you to the appropriate director for the information.

Remember that our website, EDGETA.org, is an excellent source of information for instant answers. Utilize it when you have questions. We work hard to keep the information current and readily available to our members.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a Safe and Happy New Year.

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

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**NE Regional Show—Oct. 9, 2021**

***Hosted by Branch 252***

***Warren County Antique Tractor & Engine Club***

**Woodburn City Park, Woodburn, KY**

**2022 National Show**

**Sept.15-18**

***Republic, MO***

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