

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

From George Christmas, President and SE Regional Director

Well, winter is over, although it was very mild here in South Carolina. Now we battle the pollen and allergies that go with it. Those winter projects should have come together really well with the mild weather. The 2016 show season is going strong. I know everyone is eager to show off that winter project or just ready to be out of the house. Whatever the reason is, it is time to visit with old friends make new ones and enjoy all the old iron on display.

The National Show will be hosted by Branch 52 in Wasilla, Alaska this year. The members are working hard to put on an outstanding show. Please come and show your support June 10-12. I am told that is the height of tourist season in Alaska. Wasilla is 45 miles north of Anchorage and rich in agriculture, mining and railroad heritage. I hope to see many of you there.

Everyone should have their memberships and dues paid by now. It is very important when you report your members that you include their name, address and phone number. These are important pieces of information. Please note the information needed on the **BRANCH MEMBERS FORM**. It is also required for the insurance coverage to be in effect for each member. It is also required that each branch complete the **BRANCH DIRECTORS UPDATE FORM**. This form serves to help us identify who can be contacted at the branch. It verifies the officers for the D & O insurance. The form is set currently that if there is not a change for a specific position you can fill it in with the word "same," submit it, and the form will let the secretary know the correct contacts for your branch.

It would be a good idea for each branch to have someone to visit the web site on a regular basis. The web site is the easiest and fastest way we have to reach all the members. There are web pages set up for each branch. These pages can be used to post pictures, show schedules your branch will attend during the year and general information about your

branch. You can include things like history of the club and specific items the club collects. If your club does a good bit of charity work, you can tell all about that too. You may even inspire other clubs to do the same thing or give them an idea of their own. The web pages are a great way for the clubs to learn about each other too. As small as the world seems to be at times, some folks don't get to travel around the United States, and having the ability to see clubs from other states or even in their own states through the use of a branches web page can be a treat. You know they say a picture is worth a thousand words. There are many members who would be glad to share the knowledge they have with others. The web pages may also help contact with someone with a rare part needed to complete a project. It may also be a way to get more exposure for your branch to get young folks interested in the hobby.

Please note we have made some updates to the frequently asked question section of the web site. One question raised this year was concerning reporting events, specifically tractor drives. The insurance committee worked closely with our insurance agent to get clear direction concerning these and other events. We currently are not required to report the events we intend to participate at. However, the board strongly recommends you report your events via the web site. Also, for tractor drives to be considered branch sponsored events, the branch meeting minutes should reflect it was discussed and approved by the membership to be covered. If the tractor drive is organized by a nonmember, it must be approved by the branch as a branch activity for the branch members to have EDGETA insurance coverage. If you have any questions concerning coverage, please contact one of the directors. We will be glad to answer any of your questions.

I mentioned in the January newsletter that the board had made the suggestion to lower the number of members required for branches to renew to 10 members. The number of members to form a branch will remain at 20. Our membership has been

declining due to some branches not able to maintain the minimum 20 members to renew. This will come on a ballot for your branches to vote on because it is a bylaw change and has to be approved by the membership to be in effect. As an order of housekeeping, the ballot will contain an item for approval from the membership concerning the secretary/treasurer's salary. Due to the decline in membership, the secretary/treasurer's salary has also declined; however, she still devotes the same amount of time to the job. The board of directors voted at the 2015 annual meeting to change the salary from 20% of the membership fees to \$9500 or 20% whichever is greater. The secretary/treasurer spends at least 20 hours a week on the association's business.

I always end with a thought on safety. It is extremely important we do all we can to make this hobby safe for the spectators, but also for ourselves. We need to make sure we are following the guidelines set forth and posted on the web site for everyone to view at any time. We must practice safe handling of equipment so we don't injure ourselves. I recently was loading a tractor for a show and realized if the weather conditions changed, loading that tractor would not be safe. I had to change the way I loaded it plus decide on another tractor to take with it since the load would be stacked differently. This is only one example of thinking ahead to what may happen "if." We must constantly do that. That type thinking will keep us ahead of the game and safer. Please remember safety is everyone's business. If you witness another member in an unsafe practice, behavior, or display, you need to bring that to the branch safety officer's attention so it can be corrected. I recently went to a show which was not an EDGE&TA show. Some of the things I saw really scared me. I wondered how anyone could think some of the stuff going on there would have been safe. There were multiple people riding on the same tractor. There were moving displays not roped off. There was a large crowd and a lot of unnecessary movement on the show grounds. It only takes one incident to change the course of a show. Please make sure you are following the guidelines to make your show or display wherever you are, safe for you and the spectators.

I look forward to seeing some of you at the national and regional shows this year.

George W Christmas, President and Southeast Regional Director

Insurance Update, March 2015, By Dick Tombrink, NW Regional Director

Spring is here and the show season is starting. Remember to keep thinking safety in all that you do. Don't let your guard down. It is better to take two minutes to think about what you are about to do than to have an accident and wish you had thought it through.

Most of you have sent your EDGETA dues (\$12 per year per member) to Carrie Jo. If you have not, please send them as soon as you can. Remember after you receive dues from your branch members, be sure to send them to Carrie Jo within 30 days so they have insurance coverage. This is a requirement of our by-laws.

Recently the insurance committee has been dealing with an issue that started with a question from a branch where several members would decide to have a tractor drive and would go ahead with it without it being discussed and approved in a branch meeting. Some branch members thought it should be discussed and agreed to by the branch. The way our FAQ's were written it was acceptable to do that.

I ran the question by our insurance agent for his take on it. His response was, "In light of the recent accident in PA, The Underwriter & Claims have clarified their position on this: It must be an activity of EDGETA. This would be for either sponsored or non-sponsored events. They really do not want to have coverage for individuals running around on their own. It needs to be an activity the branch is doing." The incident in PA was an accident where a tractor was rear-ended on a public road. From what we know, the incident was not connected to an EDGETA event. At this time, to our knowledge, no claim has been filed against our insurance. But it got our insurance carrier's attention.

From our insurance agent's reply, it not only covers tractor drives, but also members going to other non EDGETA events. Now these situations must be discussed in a branch meeting and agreed that it is a branch activity for the members to have coverage. To have documentation, we have added the requirement that it must be documented in the branch minutes prior to the event. We are calling it an EDGETA activity, not an EDGETA sanctioned event like a branch show where all exhibitors, etc. must be members.

As a result, we have gone through the FAQ's and below are those that were deleted or modified. Several were deleted because we no longer report

events as we were required to do under a previous insurance carrier. The modified ones address the issue explained above. These changes have been made on the EDGETA website.

Changes to the FAQ's on the EDGETA website are as follows. (These are the old item numbers, since the changes have renumbered some FAQ's.)

Number 2 was **deleted** since we do not have to report events anymore.

2. If individual EDGE&TA members go to a non-sponsored event should this be reported?

No. Every EDGE&TA member has Liability Insurance anywhere they go. They must follow the EDGE&TA Safety requirement if they expect coverage

Number 3 was **deleted** since we do not have to report events anymore.

3. If we take our Branch Owned People Mover to a non-sponsored event does this have to be reported?

No, you no longer need to report it as an Event.

Number 20 was **modified** as follows:

20. When EDGETA members go to a non-sponsored event, do they have EDGETA insurance coverage? Rev. 2-29-2016

Yes, if the branch approves it as a branch activity and it is noted as such in the branch minutes prior to the event.

Number 22 was **modified** as follows:

22. Is an EDGETA group tractor drive considered an event? Rev 2-29-2016

Yes it is considered a Branch EDGETA event. But prior to the tractor drive the minutes of a Branch meeting must show that it was discussed and approved by the membership to be covered by our EDGETA insurance. If it is organized by a non member, it must be approved by the Branch as a Branch activity for Branch members to have EDGETA insurance coverage.

Number 23 was **deleted** since it is covered in number 22. It is no longer applicable as written.

23. If a non-member organizes a tractor ride for a group of friends, including some Branch members, are the group members covered?

Yes. The EDGETA members are covered; it is the same as an EDGETA member attending a non EDGETA event; they are covered by EDGETA insurance as long as they follow the EDGETA safety requirements.

Number 25 was **modified** as follows:

25. We can “what if” things to death but are concerned about the increase in tractor drives where members may be the organizer or just a participant.

Basically, are there instances where the member is not covered? Rev 2-29-2016

If organized by a Branch member and the tractor drive is not approved as a Branch event in a Branch meeting prior to the event, the members do not have coverage. If it is organized by a non EDGETA member, and the tractor drive is not approved as a Branch activity in a Branch meeting prior to the event, the Branch member does not have coverage.

I hope everyone has a great and safe show season this year.

Dick Tombrink, NW Regional Director



From Don Young—Vice President and SW Regional Director, Safety Chair, Youth Driver Cert.

Spring has arrived. It's warming up. Locally, a few shows have already passed. The Branch 206 show in January was a great one, with many exhibitors, swap meet participants, and numerous spectators. Friday was kids day; they arrived by the bus loads. There was so much food, so no excuse for being hungry.

A new Tractor Supply Company opened up, and

we had a nice display of tractors. A group of members had a tour of the Nethercutt Car Museum where we viewed many beautiful early automobiles. In California, you can attend a tractor show every weekend. I'm looking forward to attending the National Show June 10-12 in Alaska hosted by Branch 52.

Take time to view our website periodically, as there are changes being made. Review the safety rules that apply to you. "Safety does not take a day off."

Don Young—Vice President and SW Regional Director, Safety Chair, Youth Driver Cert.

From Wayne Timchuk, NE Regional Director

Well, as I sit here at the computer and look out the window, this reminds me of some old fashion springs we had years ago. I can remember a good many years ago that by this time of the year I had my seed oats planted, and they were up and growing. We've had a very mild winter this year. The most snow we had was 3 inches; all other snowfalls were basically a trace or gone the next day. Now rainfall in my area was a different story. We had plenty of rain. I know some of my members in the Northeast region up in New England probably wish they didn't have so much snow!

I didn't get much done as to fixing some more old machinery. As most of you know, the older you get, the harder it is to do things. And it takes a lot more time. I didn't get to any shows yet this year, but I'm starting to look at some of them coming up in May and June. I'm going to change some of the stuff on my trailers and probably won't hit as many shows as normal. There are so many shows in Ohio that I am going to pick and choose. There's a couple of large shows that I normally go to, but this year I'm going to hit a few of the smaller shows. The big shows are usually a mad house and confusion. We have a few small shows; they are friendly and people oriented; sometime they're a lot more fun.

Now I know some of the shows in the Southwest have already started, so hopefully you people have done your safety checks on your equipment and your vehicles and are off to a good safe summer season. For the rest of us, we are just starting to get stuff out and organized. So now is the time to check for things that need to be repaired and/or replaced. **Remember SAFETY START'S WITH YOU!!! AT HOME!!!!**

As we start the season, remember to be sure your trucks and trailers are thoroughly inspected and repairs are made to make them safe on the road and on the showgrounds. When you see somebody loading or unloading machinery, tractors and anything else, stop and ask if you can give them a hand, especially if they're loading or unloading on a trailer. If you see anything that looks unsafe or is unsafe, report it to somebody in charge; don't hesitate. Accidents just don't happen; they are caused by either human mistakes or equipment failure--mostly human mistakes. Take time and do it right

Well, in closing I'm wishing all our members a safe and enjoyable summer show season. And if we have to have rain, let it be during the week and not on the weekends. I hope to see all my old friends and make a lot of new ones. That's what this is all about.

Wayne Timchuk, NE Regional Director

From Buster Brown, Director-at-Large

It is our busy time of year for shows. Branch 206 is in Wellton, AZ 30 Miles east of Yuma. We had a show there in January. I think there were people from 15 or 16 Branches present. This show seems to get bigger every year. They also have a small swap meet which is tractor, gas engine or antique related. It is also getting better and bigger. There is also a tractor pull, but it is very short on tractors. Also, they pick up a few new members every year. This Branch seems very solid.

I also attended two shows in the Phoenix area. These shows are put on by AEDGE&TA. One was in Glendale, AZ about three weeks ago. The other one was last week-end in Apache Junction, AZ. The show in Apache was great. I think the crowd was the largest I have ever seen in AZ. I have been a member in Phoenix since they started years ago. At this time, I am working with the steam crew. They voted to have a new Boiler Built on their 65 HP Case. The engine leaves for Minnesota in a couple of weeks for the boiler. There is a lot of talk about this club joining the National EDGE&TA. I think this will happen. They have about 30 percent EDGE&TA members now, and they use a lot of our policies.

Years ago there was a show in Quartzsite, AZ 90 miles north of Yuma. It was very big. That man died and the show stopped. A man bought the property and is trying to get show going again. This

year was the first show. It was the weekend immediately after Wellton. I think this will work, as people coming from far away in motor homes can spend 2 weeks on the desert and take in 2 shows. This was a nice little show for the first year. I'll have more on this next fall.

I have had a few phone calls from Branch Presidents and like hearing from them. I also have made a few calls asking for information on what should be changed to make EDGE&TA better for everyone involved. Feel free to call me anytime, even if it is just for a visit. I enjoy hearing from every one.

Remember--Keep Smiling: It is good for your health.

Buster Brown, Director-at-Large



From Clyde Brummett, SC Regional Director

Spring shows have begun, and I know many of you are busy getting ready for your shows as well as making plans to attend other shows. It is a busy time for most of us. With the pressure to get things done, I am prone to get in too much of a hurry, and when I do, I am more prone to have accidents. At my age, pressure and hurrying usually brings bad results, like falling down my front steps a few days ago. My schedule has really ramped up recently. Our hobby should never become a burden or risk. That being said, there never seems to be enough willing volunteers to do all that needs to be done. If everyone does their part, then everyone can enjoy. I frequently hear the complaint from branch officers that a few people do all the work. As a retired pastor, I have to say that often was true in churches I pastored. Let me encourage each member to try to do their share. So much for the sermon. I will take another look at my own priorities

My home Branch 37 in Gentry, AR will be having our spring show in two weeks. I will be plowing a couple of acres on our show grounds this

week and preparing the ground so that we can plant corn during the show. With the help of some engine experts in our branch, my Cushman Binder engine is finally in the process and hopefully will be ready for our fall show. I am also working toward restoring my Dad's 1948 Dearborn planter cultivator. I am in need of a picture of the original fertilizer boxes which were made of wood and have rotted away. If anyone has a picture, I would appreciate if you would share that with me.

The South Central Regional show will be at Pochontas AR. Please notice that the show date has been changed from May 14 to May 28. I hope to see many of you there.

Our reservations are made for the 2016 National Show in Wasilla/Palmer, Alaska June 11-12th. I know that is a long trip, but hope you can go. Our friends in Alaska have planned and prepared for a great show, and we are looking forward to joining them. If you cannot make the trip to Alaska, I hope you will be able to attend some of the great shows closer to home

I would like to once again express appreciation to all of our branch officers as well as all EDGETA members. I would also encourage our branch officers to review the safety rules and policy and procedures on the EDGETA website and keep your members advised of any changes.

I pray you will have a safe and enjoyable summer and while doing so, do unto others as you would have them do unto you have them do unto you.

Clyde Brummett, SC Regional Director



2016 DUES ARE \$12 PER MEMBER

From Carrie Jo Parmley, Secretary/Treas./ Editor

Hope all of you had a Happy New Year--by now, 2016 is well under way. I've received membership

dues from many of the branches. However, there are still those who need to send their dues. The new membership year begins April 15, 2016; unless memberships are renewed prior to then, members will not have membership coverage until those dues are paid.

One housekeeping chore that we need to take care of is the **updating of new officers and directors. This must be done at the beginning of each year, even if you maintain the same officers.** Go to the EDGETA.org website, scroll down to the blue tab “Update Officers” and enter those. Do the same for Directors. If the information is the same as last year, just enter “same” in the blank for the name of the person in that office. If their address, phone or e-mail changes, please make that change. **Any and all changes must be entered.** This year, I have had a number of branches that did not get their buttons, stickers, etc. when I mailed them the first week of February because officers had not been updated for some years and the supplies were mailed to the person I had on record. If you do change officers or update records after that date, you may need to contact the previous office holder for supplies. Some were lost because they were delivered to the address we had on file, and no one was there to claim them. **Please be sure that someone in your branch takes care of updating officers on the website each year.**

Dick has already stated that the new year for EDGETA begins April 15, so please get your membership information turned in so that you will have continuous covering the membership offers.

Our website provides a wealth of information and assistance. For those who need a spreadsheet to enter membership, there was a new one posted early last year, which allows 24 members and information per page. This new form is much less cumbersome and cuts down the use of paper and postage for those who need a form. Go to EDGETA.org, scroll down to “Branch Members Form” and fill in the blanks. You may save it and attach it in e-mail or print it and send it with the check. There are also many other pieces of useful information posted on the website. If you should see an area where the links are not correct, please contact me and we will get that corrected. Josh, our webmaster, is very efficient in getting changes made for us.

Thanks to all of you who work so diligently to

get your information to us accurately and in a timely manner. It is a very big responsibility for you to keep and maintain the membership for your branches.

Spring is here and the National Annual Meeting is June 11-12 in Wasilla, AK hosted by Branch 52. They have been working hard to have a good show and to make all those who are traveling to Alaska feel welcome and make the experience memorable. Alaska is beautiful and I know it will be a good show.

Carrie Jo Parmley, Secretary/Treasurer/Editor



**2016 – Annual National
EDGETA Show & Meeting**

June 10-12, 2016

Branch 52 – Wasilla & Palmer, AK

**South Central Regional, May 28, 2016
Host - Branch 185, Pochontas, AR**

**Southwest Regional, May 27-29, 2016
Host - Branch 209 – Santa Margarita, CA**

**Northwest Regional, July 3-4, 2016
Host – Branch 74 –Missoula, MT**

**North Central Regional, Aug. 19-21, 2016
Host – Branch 79, Winfield, KS**

**Northeast Regional, September 16-18, 2016
Host – Branch 162, New Manchester, WV**

**Southeast Regional, October 22, 2016
Host - Branch 226, Hartselle, AL**

***2017 National EDGETA Show & Meeting
June 8-10, 2017***

Host – Branch 42, Fruitport, MI