



Holiday Extra

Holidays, 2025

Newsletter of the CEN-TEX Division 4, Lone Star Region, NMRA  
[www.centexnmra.org](http://www.centexnmra.org) [www.Connections2026.com](http://www.Connections2026.com)



## Superintendent's Report

Greetings Division Four members,

It's hard to believe it has been an entire year since I started on this adventure. It seems like it was just last month at times. So much has been accomplished this year due to your efforts and support. We have had many good clinics and presentations at the meetings, tons of your projects to view during show and tell, and a number of impressive layouts to tour. Plus I've gotten to meet many of you! As you are all aware, we are hosting the Lone Star Region convention in 2026. Early Bird registration is open at [connections2026.com](http://connections2026.com). I would like to acknowledge the hard work and time put in by our Convention Committee and volunteers. There is no way we could have accomplished what should be 2+ years worth of planning and coordination in the last 11 months without your dedication. I'm honored to be a small part of this with you. All that being said, we still have a need for more volunteers to help out at the convention itself. If you are interested in helping out the Division and gain AP points at the same time, please contact myself or Joe Dumas who is our volunteer coordinator.

As we start the new year we also have to elect a Division Director. At the last meeting it was proposed that I continue in the position, which I will be happy to do. However, if there is anyone else who would like to run for the position please let me know.

Going forward my goals for this coming year are as follows:

1. Put on a great convention
2. Have at least 1 clinic/presentation and a layout tour for every meeting
3. Do more youth outreach to try to bring in younger members

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I know that is not that many goals in number, but I feel it is enough in quality.

I'll close by saying that I want to wish each and every one of you and your families a safe and Happy Holiday season, and I can't wait to meet more of you next year!

Best wishes,  
Doug

## Editorial

As the holiday season rapidly approaches like the Mopac Eagle, we can reflect on the fact that for many years the railroads were the main means of travel for families to get "home for the holidays." If I am free around 4:30 pm I tune into Virtual Railfan's live stream of Horseshoe Curve to watch Amtrak's westbound Pennsylvanian round the curve. I then at around 5:11 pm, I switch to their new camera at the Johnstown, PA Amtrak station. At Johnstown, while the train blocks the platform, the train is close enough to the camera you can see inside it. I sometimes wonder how many of the people on that train are going home to families for the holidays.

Happy Chanukah to our Jewish readers and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! See you on the 11th!

Russ T. Rale



Russ T. Rale at 2 1/2 years old rerailing a MOW car.

## THE MASTHEAD

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## LSR Convention

Hosted by Division 4 CenTex

[www.Connections2026.com](http://www.Connections2026.com)

Wyndham Garden Inn, June 18-20, 2026

Volunteer Now!

