

The History of the C.S.T.A.
Calumet Suburban Transportation Association, Inc.

In 1936 there was a transportation club known as the “South Suburban Traffic Club” (SSTC), which was mainly comprised of members from the railroads, truck lines, and industry transportation people. Most of the membership hailed from the suburbs south of metropolitan Chicago, hence the name, “South Suburban Traffic Club”.

Around the same time, 1939 to be exact, another transportation club was formed in northwest Indiana, the Calumet Region, as it was commonly called. Thus was born, the “Calumet Transportation Association” (CTA).

For the next fifty years the two organizations, very similar in nature and goals, operated independently; however, because of the tremendous growth of the transportation industry, most people ended up being members of both clubs. All of this came about because most transportation people were serving customers in both the Calumet Region, but the south suburbs of Chicago as well. In fact, former Secretary/Treasurer of the C.S.T.A., Don Akers, was president of the CTA in 1971, and also president of the SSTC in the same year.

In early 1990 the two organizations, CTA and SSTC, decided that competing for the time of the same transportation related people was not in the best interest of either club and was becoming counterproductive, in some cases forcing people to choose between the two clubs. There was a joint decision at that time to merge both of these organizations and their memberships into one association, an association that could combine the two clubs’ ideals. With that in mind the name of the new club was decided by utilizing some of each organization’s name, thereby forming the “Calumet Suburban Transportation Association, Inc.”.

A new set of by-laws was adopted and the purpose of the new club was defined as follows:

“To provide an association of members employed in or having common interest in the transportation industry in the Calumet Region with an opportunity to meet on a regular basis and exchange ideas and experiences in order to create a better understanding of common problems in the transportation community and those that it serves, to improve business conditions of the transportation industry in general, to promote better business standards in transportation: and to educate those interested in the transportation industry on current issues which may influence the industry in general.”

With these goals and ideals in mind an election was held in 1990 and the first president of the newly formed C.S.T.A. was chosen, John Mogle, Steel Dispatch, Inc.

1990-1991	John Mogle	Steel Dispatch, Inc
1991-1992	David Laveck	Galaxy Steel & Tube Co.
1992-1993	E. Gordon “Gus” Ellicott	Elgin, Joliet & Eastern RR
1993-1994	Edward Johnston	Conrail
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1995-1996	Michael Miller	Great American Lines
1996-1997	Alex Karagias	Welded Tube Company
1997-1998	Tom Kilmurry	M.T.I. Trucking
1998-1999	John Szamatowicz	I.H.B. Railroad
1999-2000	David Dickerson	Roll & Hold Warehousing
2000-2001	Jane Leggitt	Bowling Transportation
2001-2002	John Szamatowicz	I.H.B. Railroad
2002-2003	Paul Hackett	Kreher Steel

The Club currently has a membership of almost 400 and is very well organized in it’s annual selection of events to help achieve all of it’s goals.

While Don Akers has retired from his recent duties as Secretary/Treasurer, after almost fifty years of serving the three organizations in an executive capacity, he is still the best source of information on any history questions regarding the transportation clubs of the Chicagoland region since 1950.

Respectfully submitted,
 David Dickerson
 December 4th, 2002