

## CENTRAL ELECTRIC RAILFANS' ASSOCIATION

CERA Form 104

### General Information & Application Sheet

Revised to Dec. 1, 1940

1240 EDISON BUILDING

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

#### Development:

During recent years there has been an increasing interest among the public in the operation and functions of electric railways giving urban, suburban and interurban service as well as those on which trunk line traffic is drawn with electric motive power. People have become aware that the study of the history, equipment and means of doing business of transit railways is a fascinating subject and makes a very satisfying hobby whose many forms include inspection trips, photograph collecting, model building and investigation of the subjects of timetables, train operation, car construction and maintenance, track, signals, power, traffic, regulation and history, to name but a few of the intricacies which combine to make railroading one of the most enjoyable forms of human activity.

A group of dyed-in-the-wool railfans in the summer of 1938 banded together to form the Central Electric Railfans' Association to sponsor inspection trips, meetings and publish bulletins and to engage in what other activities as would be of interest to such folks. The bulletins act as a permanent record of some of the properties on which CERA has made inspection trips as well as of many other roads of the past and present, and proved of value not only to local enthusiasts but to railfans in all parts of the country, so that a separate class of membership, Subscribing, was established for those who simply wish the bulletins.

Such are the functions of CERA, with one important addition: CERA will by its actions and by the attitude of its members endeavor to increase PUBLIC GOOD WILL TOWARD AND INTEREST IN ELECTRIC RAILWAYS.

#### Government:

Control of the activities and policies of CERA is by popular vote of the Active members, who elect the Board of Directors under the constitution of the club to administer its affairs. CERA is incorporated, not-for-profit, under the Laws of the State of Illinois, and consequently is not directly affiliated with any other club, association, operating or supply company, altho persons connected with such are welcome in CERA. The only absolute requirement for membership is Bona Fide interest in Electric Railways.

#### Membership Requirements & Fees:

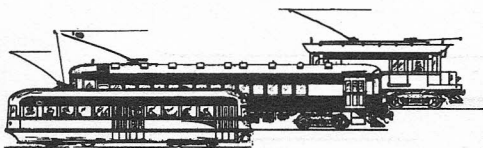
**ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP:** Formal application, examination as to experience and knowledge of railfan matters, election by previous Active members and annual fee of \$1.50, entitle holder to share in government of CERA, covers notice of trips and meetings and a share of the general administrative expenses, and includes a year's subscription to the bulletins. Railfans in the Chicago area intending to participate in meetings and trips regularly must obtain ACTIVE membership; others may obtain Subscribing membership. Visitors are welcome at meetings, without obligation.

**SUBSCRIBING MEMBERSHIP:** Application passed by the Board and annual fee of \$1.00 entitles holder to a year's subscription to the bulletins and covers a share of the general administrative expenses of CERA. No definite number of publications is guaranteed; the funds from this class of membership are completely spent for the purpose of issuing bulletins and the number thus depends on the number of subscribers and on the nature of each bulletin. During the 1939 year there were nine publications; during the 1940 year, 12 bulletins and 4 supplements.

**ALL MEMBERSHIPS RUN CONCURRENTLY**, beginning on December 1 and ending November 30 following, regardless of time of year application is filed. This arrangement greatly reduces the clerical work and enables men joining at any time during the year to get all the bulletins issued since the start of that year. Collections of CERA are entirely for its own support and, since it is a non-profit group, these are set at the absolute minimum which CERA reserves the right to alter in future years should the members find it necessary. Also, memberships will terminate promptly on the expiration date unless duly renewed.

Remittances, inquiries for additional copies of this circular or for other information pertaining to CERA may be addressed to:

CENTRAL ELECTRIC RAILFANS' ASSOCIATION  
1240 Edison Building ----- Chicago



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**CENTRAL ELECTRIC RAILFANS' ASSOCIATION**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

## REGISTRATION OFFICER

Central Electric Railfans' Association  
Room 1240 Edison Building  
Chicago, Illinois

Date Application Made \_\_\_\_\_

(Kindly letter in ink or type out this application to insure legibility.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City &amp; State \_\_\_\_\_

The following information is requested as a guide to the type of activity of greatest interest to railfans, and is for CERA records only.

Present Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Age this date \_\_\_\_\_

Employed now by a railroad or r.r. supply house? \_\_\_\_\_ In the past? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, state name of company \_\_\_\_\_

Type of work done by you in employ of this company. \_\_\_\_\_

Other railfan groups of which a member \_\_\_\_\_

## Check off your especial interests:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fan trips & riding trains  | <input type="checkbox"/> Model Railways                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picture taking & collecting  | <input type="checkbox"/> Timetable & form collecting         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historical records & literature  | <input type="checkbox"/> Car equipment, design & maintenance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Signals & maintenance of way   | <input type="checkbox"/> Power supply & distribution         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Train operation, book of rules, orders & methods of handling electric trains |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other, as follows: _____   |  |

## Check off type of operation most interesting to you:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> City street railways | <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban, Rapid Transit railways |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interurban lines     | <input type="checkbox"/> Main line electrification        |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial traction              |

Please state how you learned of CERA: \_\_\_\_\_

If particularly interested in certain railways please name them: \_\_\_\_\_

(Members are invited to contact the Publicity Officer if they have material or would be able to assist in the preparation of future CERA descriptive bulletins and data sheets.)

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP APPLIED FOR: (For requirements see opposite side of this sheet.)

A. Active Membership, Chicago &amp; vicinity, current fiscal year\*, annual fee \$1.50 \_\_\_\_\_

B. Subscribing Membership, elsewhere, for current fiscal year\*, annual fee \$1.00 \_\_\_\_\_

\*CERA Fiscal year, the same for all members regardless of month of application, runs from December 1 to November 30. For example, 1939 Fiscal Year was December 1, 1938-November 30, 1939; 1940 Fiscal Year, December 1, 1939-November 30, 1940; 1941 Fiscal Year, December 1, 1940-November 30, 1941, etc. Fees should be remitted with application, to save time.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

DO NOT FILL OUT BELOW THIS LINE

Application received _____	Examination: _____
Entered on Records: _____	Election: _____
Publicity: _____	Sent initial pub'ns: _____
Finance: _____	Remarks: _____
Registration: _____	
Date membership seniority from: _____	If membership lapses, give dates: _____