

In Memoriam - Victor F. Bodek (RM-1482)

January 7, 1949 - April 6, 2018

Victor Bodek joined LOTS in 1989. By 2019, he would have been a dedicated member of LOTS for thirty years. Victor was a regular attendee at our national Conventions, a member of the Board of Directors from 2007-2013, including serving as Board Chair for three years, and leading the club through the many vicissitudes of hobby-type



organizations. From 1999 until his passing, Victor was the LOTS Car Shipping Agent. He stored and shipped all the orders after the preorders had been shipped to the club for distribution. Victor was a very hardworking gentleman who was dedicated to the Lionel Operating Train Society and many other train and community organizations. Victor had a deep and passionate love for both toy trains and prototypical trains, and was a man of conviction and strong opinions. As a member of the Board, he was never reluctant to offer his opinions on the cars that the Car

Committee was designing and proposing.

There was a part of Victor that not many LOTS members may be familiar with: he was a fantastic cook and gardener. His cherry tomatoes won several first place ribbons at the Sterling Heights area county fair. He even baked a fantastic apple pie. When he attended LOTS Board meetings, Victor would bring along a pie or two. We could not have asked for more of him. So good buddy, RM-1482: *Adios, Au Revoir, Auf Wiedersehen* to you as you board your seat in that great railroad in the sky. Keep those locomotives running smoothly until we meet again, my friend! **Ed Mazur, RM-3123**

Victor was an ambassador to the hobby in many ways! LOTS was blessed to have him as a long time Member and part of the leadership team. Victor made time to help, no matter what the task involved! One of Victor's last text messages to me was that I shouldn't worry and that the LOTS train shouldn't stop because he had to have surgery and might have to be in the hospital for a few days. He was so determined to get things done timely and efficiently. "Keep it simple, Paula and remember: I don't like red shirts!" Larry and I will miss spending time with him, delivering Jack-in-the-Box deep fried tacos to him and hearing about all the fun train groups, trips, and events he was always attending.

Larry Smith, DM-5978 and Paula Smith, RM-5330



What can one say about this man? That he was generous, helpful, honest, hardworking, and knowledgeable about trains and many other things. He would assist you with anything you asked him to help with. He always had an idea brewing in his head and was willing to work with you on your suggestions. When I was a director for LOTS, I could always turn to Vic with a question, and his advice was always right on. We thought a lot alike, and would ask each other for advice even as late as last year when we talked last. I will miss Vic more than anyone could ever imagine for his smile and quick wit. God bless you, Vic, and keep the trains running up there on high.

Frank Kammer, RM-1767

Victor was a leader and energetic member in toy train clubs as well as a railfan at full-size train events. He expressed his love for our hobby in many ways. With LOTS, besides being a Director, Victor was the Car Agent, contributed articles to *SWITCHER*, and volunteered whenever and wherever needed. Close to home, he was President of the Glancy Trains for the Detroit Historical Society and Museum. His enthusiasm was shown by attendance at the other national club conventions and shows all along with numerous real train events. Although slight in physical stature, "Mr. Vic" was a giant in spirit -- always with a whimsical smile and a good friend to so many of us. **Don Carlson, DM-4735**



I've known Victor for many years. Among the many memories I have with Victor, there is one that really stands out. We finally received the approval to move the Historical Lionel showroom layout from Lionel's Headquarters in Chesterfield, MI to Long Island. Among the many challenges of moving a layout 700+ miles across the country was the limited time we had to remove all the accessories and pack them up for the move. This problem was solved when we asked Victor if he could lend a hand. Almost anybody who knew Victor would agree that if you asked him to do anything which involved trains he always gave you a cheerful "yes"!! Victor spent countless hours in the next two months removing all the accessories



Photo: Bob Mintz

and carefully packing them in boxes making so they were ready for the move. Victor saved us valuable time. He wanted to be included in this historic move and he said he wouldn't pass it up. Victor will be a big loss to the toy train community, and an even bigger loss for all he did for LOTS. He will be missed. May he rest in peace in train heaven.

Al Schwartz, RM-1732



I first met Vic in 1991 at the Dayton, OH LOTS Convention. We would hang out together at every LOTS Convention since then. We also used to hang out together at the TCA York Train Meet. We would talk on the phone and text almost every day. The last time we talked on the phone was Easter Sunday night -- I could tell by his voice he was nervous. I will miss Vic very much. He was a really great friend! May Vic Rest in Peace. **Mike Rotolo, RM-2760**