

2011 Dallas Volunteer Car

In Dallas in 2011 for the first time in LCCA history, a car was produced exclusively for Convention Volunteers. For all prior conventions, that year's convention car was given to volunteers as a memento of their efforts to put on our convention. To insure those cars would be physically available at the 2011 convention for volunteers, the LCCA turned to its repaint vendor, Weaver Models and asked for assistance to produce a car that would take that place of the up to then traditional gift of the annual convention car. As an added benefit, as these were left over cars, repainting was a less costly option than a new car.

This car was made from mint car bodies left over from another LCCA project. Noting the wording on the window "US Horse Artillery Transport" really makes no sense in the context of a LCCA volunteer car for our 2011 Dallas Convention. Weaver models was requested to repainted 6 of these cars, put a star in the window (obviously to celebrate Texas) and provide samples. They were so well received, that Lou Caponi, our product person at that time, requested that 65 additional cars be repainted. By that time, the first chrome sheet metal car was no longer available, but a larger, more three-dimensional star was provided for the second production run. Both car bodies have the same budget sensitive one-color paint scheme with single-color lettering. There was little info on the car, but it did proudly announce the Dallas 2011 Convention and its status as a volunteer car. All cars came with Lionel box and an outer mailer. The outer mailer had no writing but did have a single label identifying it as "Volunteer Car". There were no outside markings to identify one car with another. Neither the inside box nor the outer box had any number

Dallas Volunteer Car – Little Star. 6 of these were produced. At the time of distribution, it was not announced that two versions of this car were produced so the location of other little star cars other than the sample shown here is not known.

Dallas Volunteer Car – Big Star. 65 of these were produced. At the time of distribution, it was not announced that two versions of this car were produced, and volunteers generally given the small fraction of Little Stars, received the Big Star version.

Of note about 2011 LCCA car production, a number of other cars were produced during the same time. The convention early registration gift was also a mint car body commemorating "Remember the Alamo" with a cannon and cannon balls in the windows. The convention car for 2011 was the Texas Special Milk Car, the first car in the popular LCCA Texas Special train set. The 2011 on site car was a beautiful Santa Fe window car filled with actual shredded paper money from the Bureau of Engraving. The 2011 Banquet Car honored Richard Kughn's service to the hobby. 2011 was an exceptionally good year for LCCA cars, and all remain popular with collectors and operators today.