Problem-Solving to Create a Better Judging Program

By Stan Kulikowski, VP Judging, stan.kulikowski9@gmail.com

The year is flying by with almost half of our Nationals completed by the time you receive this newsletter. You’ll find registration forms for the Grand Nationals in Bettendorf, IA, and the Hershey show in this issue. I hope that you all plan to register early for these events. Registering early really helps the chief judges and the rest of the staff that help organize our Nationals to properly plan all aspects of the event.

When I first took the reigns of judges training from Dain King, I realized that I had much more to learn especially about early cars. Then, as VP of Judging, I was able to get a firsthand look at how the paperwork moved the entire way through the system and how hard it is for a judge to remember details about a car that was judged several weeks ago when I had questions raised by an owner. I really had to think about how to solve those issues to better serve our members.

Well, I’m a physicist by education and an engineer by work experience, so I put my problem-solving skills to work to figure out how to make things easier. First, I needed to recruit some additional resources. Enter John Harvey as an instructor. By adding John as a resource, we could ensure that two schools could be offered at most Nationals provided that the region could arrange to have two rooms available.

Next came what we called the Advanced Judging School for judges with more than 25 credits. John’s article will provide more information on how that school was constructed. I was overwhelmed by the positive responses to the program that John put together and am glad we were able to have the resources to put this into motion. This isn’t where the journey is going to stop though. There will hopefully be more positive changes in the coming years.

The addition of the Advanced School is already showing improvement in the paperwork that I get after the event. I will get close to 400 requests from owners each year from all our events. The improvements that you have made through the first three shows this year have made my job easier to give feedback to the owners. And that is what this hobby is all about – helping car owners improve the quality of their restorations, so that we can continue to preserve our history.

Looking for a Few Good CJE Instructors

By Stan Kulikowski, VP Judging, stan.kulikowski9@gmail.com

As you are all aware, the CJE program is an important part of our judges training program. Many thanks to Tony Scarpetti who does a fantastic job managing it for us.

The CJE program doesn’t function without dedicated and experienced judges who are willing to pass on their knowledge to the rest of our judging fraternity. This is where I’m looking for some help from the rest of you. If you have at least 25 credits and are willing to teach a CJE course to your fellow judges, please contact me. You don’t need to prepare a lesson since we have documentation for many classes already available. I can supply copies of the course materials to you, so that you can review them prior to teaching at a Nationals.

We all have different experiences on the judging field that can be shared with new judges. Help us continue to improve the integrity of our judging system by passing on your knowledge to the rest of the team!

Annual, Milestone & Extra CJE Credits Explained

By Bonnie Kulikowski, Chairman Judges Records, bonnieshepp1925@gmail.com

The CJE program was designed to further and maintain the consistency level among AACA National Judges. If you participate in a CJE seminar, you earn one CJE credit and chip for that calendar year. You should circle the word “Annual” on your participation card.

When you reach a judging credit milestone (e.g., 10, 25, 50, 75, etc.), you can earn an additional CJE credit after completion of another CJE seminar during the calendar year of your milestone. You should circle the word “Milestone” on the participation card.

Judges are encouraged to continue learning by attending additional CJE seminars throughout the year. No credit is awarded for these “extra” CJE’s; however, we should continue to take advantage of every opportunity to advance our knowledge on the various subjects offered by CJE instructors. You should circle the word “Extra” on the participation card.
REMINDER FOR ALL GRAND NATIONALS JUDGES:

All Grand Nationals judges will have field judged at least once in the past 2 years, attended a judging school once in the past year, and have at least 10 field judging credits prior to the Grand Nationals.

2023 Advanced Judging School

By John W. Harvey, Judging School Instructor, johnwharvey@comcast.net

Last fall, Stan Kulikowski (VP Judging) asked me if I would develop an all-new Advanced Judging School. I knew that the new school would need a complete overhaul from what we had in the past. I wanted to design a school unlike anything I had seen in my 22 years of AACA judging.

The search for the appropriate photos for the new slide presentation began immediately. The National show in Hershey provided a lot of photo opportunities. That was good news for my presentation, but also meant we had a lot of problems with the vehicles being shown.

We rolled out the new school at the 2023 Annual Convention held in Williamsburg, Virginia. The new school is for all judges with 25 credits or more. It is designed to be an interactive presentation with a lot of emphasis placed on the most problematic items a judge will face on today’s show field.

Regardless of the amount of preparation and subject knowledge, instructors are always faced with a variety of challenges. Late arrivals, phones ringing and students napping are just a few of the things that can make a class difficult to teach. Of course, if the presentation is lacking good content, the students are easily distracted.

Since I don’t want to look out at the audience from the front of the room and be disappointed, I try to move around the room to facilitate discussion and to eliminate naps and phone usage. This also permits me to make eye contact with the judges who are the heart of our judging system.

Yes, we still have an occasional phone disruption and at least one eyelid that seems to let gravity rule the moment, however, these judges have then been subjected to “volunteering” to answer the next question asked. This “volunteer” method seems to be having an impact during the classes.

As of the writing of this article, the new school has been offered three times and the attendance has been wonderful. The new school is scheduled to be offered again this year in Waterloo/Auburn, Hamilton and Bettendorf.

The feedback from the judges who have attended the new school has been very positive. I have continued to get photos in 2023 and update the presentation as needed. I look forward to seeing all of you at future Nationals.

Judges can register online by visiting https://members.aaca.org
**By Land, Air, or Sea, Hershey, PA 2023**

By Ron Rubinstein, Chief Judge Hershey, superbird1@comcast.net

I once again have the honor and privilege of being your 2023 Chief Judge for this year’s AACA Eastern Fall Nationals in beautiful Hershey, PA. Once again, judging will take place on a FRIDAY – Friday, October 6, to be exact! Judging School, the race car condition run, and the high wheel exhibition will therefore take place on Thursday, October 5, 2023. The show will formally begin on Tuesday, October 3, which means that we will all get to enjoy the show for the same number of days as always. If you’re still working like I am, you get to take an additional day off!

For this year, I have maintained the same phenomenal weather committee that gave us a beautiful show day last year! This year’s committee promises sunny skies and light winds with a hint of chocolate. If you sign up to judge at this year’s show, you will have the unique opportunity to judge the finest antique cars, trucks, race cars, motorcycles, fire apparatus, and military vehicles in the world!

This year, the registration deadline for judging is Friday, September 15, 2023. PLEASE register early as this gives you the best chance to get your preferred class. Judging School is scheduled for Thursday October 5, at 2:00 p.m. at the Giant Center with CJE classes to follow.

For parking passes, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Ron Rubinstein, 256 E. Kercher Ave., Lebanon, PA 17046. Please note that even if you register online, you will still need to send me a self-addressed stamped envelope to receive your parking passes.

Throughout the week of the show, we will be available in the Folder Distribution Tent on the Chocolate Field to answer any questions you might have. Please feel free to stop by and say hello.

Finally, THANK YOU in advance for signing up to judge at Hershey in 2023! Without YOU, we do not have a show! Have a great summer and stay safe!

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**2023 Grand Nationals, Bettendorf, IA**

By Fred Bartemeyer Jr, Chief Judge Bettendorf, fbartemeyerjr@q.com

The Mississippi Valley Region is excited to host the 2023 Grand Nationals in Bettendorf, Iowa. The Isle Casino Hotel offers a facility that will allow our participants to enjoy every aspect of the show all at the same location. The judging activities including Judging School, Team Captain School, Judges Breakfast, Judges Admin and the show field will all be located close together at the Isle facility. Arrangements have been made to have tables set up near Judges Admin inside the air-conditioned Isle for our judging teams to complete their paperwork after judging on the show field.

I am looking forward to serving the AACA and our region as a first-time Chief Judge for a Grand Nationals. Our region has planned several unique activities including a tour of the I-80 Truck Museum restoration shop Friday morning, where some beautiful work is performed. The ever-popular Riverboat Cruise on the Mississippi River is scheduled for Friday evening. Please consider bringing your judging expertise to the Quad Cities USA for a great event and join me to judge a successful Grand Nationals. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions regarding judging or our event.
Thank you so much for being an AACA Judge! We couldn’t do this without all of you!

Thank You DPC Owners & Judges
By Dain King, Judging School Instructor, dainkingv8@gmail.com

On behalf of the Class Judging Committee, I would like to thank all the DPC owners and judges who took the time to complete the questionnaires distributed at Charlotte and Gettysburg. I would also like to thank the members of those regions for getting the questionnaires to the owners and judges.

The questionnaire responses were quite enlightening. Several topics were highlighted, and some novel ideas came forth. Every response will be read and shared with every member of the sub-committee, established to improve the DPC experience. Your responses have already opened some eyes, so thank you very much.