



Winter
2024

“Your Region and Chapter’s Newsletter Resource”

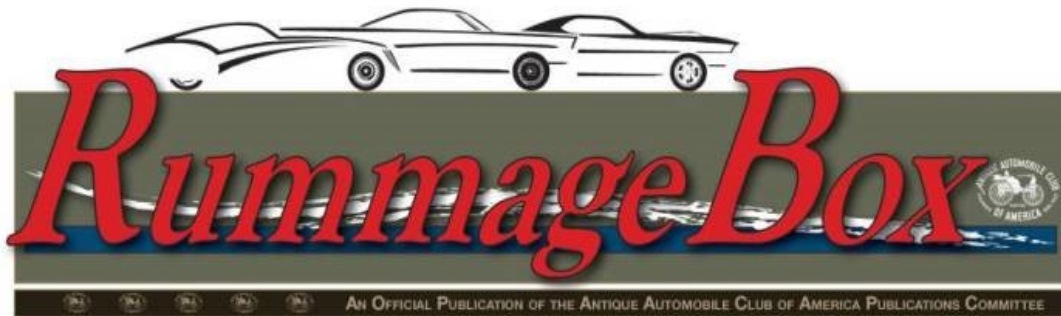
THE RUMMAGE BOX

IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA

Debbie Nolen,
AACA VP Publications
5805 Centralia Rd,
North Chesterfield, VA 23237
804.839.5405
dpnolen1@gmail.com

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A Publication of the AACA Publications Committee



Giving Back: Consider Hosting a National Event

By Wayne Tuck, VP - National Activities

Many of you have attended AACA National Events. Whether it has been a National Meet or Tour I’m sure you have found it to be an enjoyable event. Participating in a National Show and experiencing the pride and accomplishment of receiving a first place junior award, senior award or grand national has brought joy to thousands of our members over the years.

National Tours offer the opportunity to visit interesting places, spend time with fellow members and enjoy the fellowship while experiencing the joy of driving our antique cars.

If you haven’t taken advantage of these opportunities you’re missing out on a lot of fun activities. The reason these opportunities exist is that a Region steps forward to host an event!

I constantly hear excuses such as “there are no events in my area” or “we need to travel too far to participate in that”. The reason for that is your Region has not hosted an event.

Maybe it has been many years since your region has hosted an event. If you are considering hosting, there is assistance available from AACA National. We can provide the guidance you need to host a national event. If financial concerns are holding you back there is some good news. **The AACA National Board of Directors has approved a \$5000 grant to any region approved to host a national show that has not hosted for more than 10 years!**

Maybe the time has come to start giving back. For more information regarding hosting an event contact:

Wayne Tuck,
VP-National Activities.
Phone 609-240-1561
or email: rwtuck@comcast.net



The First Step Is to Be Inviting

By Phillip Cole
AACA Secretary/Treasurer

At our recent AACA Annual Convention, I saw a good friend whom I had not seen in a few years. He was bubbling over with excitement about the growth of his region. He told me, “We decided it was time to reinvent our region meetings and other activities in the post-Covid Era. So, we drew up a plan and the first step is to be inviting!” He went on to tell me how last year they had gained three times as many members as they had received in the previous two, simply by being more inviting. Inspired by his enthusiasm, I did some research as to how all of us can be more inviting through our meetings and activities. Thinking about your own region, answer the following four sets of questions:

- ◆ **Is it easy to “bring a like-minded friend” to your meetings and activities?** Do you encourage your members to invite like-minded car enthusiasts? Is the process simple or far too complicated?
- ◆ **Are your meetings and activities family friendly?** We say we are a family-oriented organization, but what would happen if a young couple showed up with their baby? The members of my region are more than happy to hold a baby while their parents eat and listen to the program or participate in an activity.
- ◆ **Are your meeting times inviting to people with different schedules?** Is your meeting time leaving out a whole group of people, like those with 9-5 jobs or early bedtimes? Could you change your times and places to attract more people—existing members and new!?!
- ◆ **Does your newsletter/website/social media have an inviting outreach quality?** Would they be a vehicle for your members to share with their like-minded friends and acquaintances? What would you do if someone showed up at your event which they found on your website?



Rummage Box Editor's Note

By *Debbie Nolen,*
AACA VP of Publications

I'd like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Matthew Hinson, who recently stepped down from the Publications Committee, and most specifically as editor of the Rummage Box. Over his 31 issue run at the helm of the newsletter, Matthew collected many valuable and informative articles, presented the thoughts of the AACA Board of Directors and made all available to the Regions and Chapters' newsletter editors, webmasters, and AACA membership. Thank you for your years of service as an evaluator in the AACA NAAP newsletter editor program and on the Publication Committee at large. Matthew, we appreciated your shared thoughts and insights over the years and wish you the best in your future endeavors.

Rest assured, in the coming months, you'll still receive the same quality insights and abundant *Rummage Box* resources from your AACA Board of Directors with some interesting developments as we move forward into the Spring and our Touring and Nationals season! Stay tuned on that radio dial!



JOIN THE FUN!!!!

If you haven't seen or gotten copies of our new high quality AACA National Quad-fold Membership Brochure, WOW! You're missing out! It is an amazing promotional piece, up-to-date and chock full of information guaranteed to excite and entice new members while fully explaining with detail practically all aspects of the AACA – everything you ever wanted to know at your fingertips in ONE location!

Reach out to National AACA to get your copies as it's a MUST have - easily accessible for distribution at cars and coffees, fun runs, your local meets, anywhere you want to support your region or chapter's membership initiatives this year!



Tell Us What You Want!

By *Dave Anspach*
AACA Executive Vice President

Last Fall we held the election for your Board of Directors and re-elected 5 veteran directors and 2 new ones. For those who participated in the process, THANK YOU. Don't forget to do it again this Fall. The election of your representatives on the Board of directors is extremely important.

There are however, other steps in this process. First of all is to contribute. Every one of us has abilities and talents in one area or another. There are hundreds of activities that take place on the local, Regional, and National level. Take part in what ever capacity you can. Please don't say you are too old or tired. I have seen people get involved in a National show at 101 years old!! A National show or tour has something for EVERYONE to do. Not doing a National? Every Region and Chapter has dozens of jobs for every person who is a part of it. All that is needed is for YOU to be willing to chip in!

Okay, so you've decided that you can't physically do anything for your club... No Problem. Tell us what you want! Many of those who can't physically chip in have years of experience and can use their brain to help the club. Talk to other members of your local Region and/or Chapter about what can be done to bring in new members and to keep those members you already have. I have been president or VP of 3 different Regions now and I have always valued those people who told me about the problems we have. Think about it. How does any company know what to do to improve unless customers complain about what is wrong??

And don't point out what is needed to improve just on a local level... Contact your directors and talk with them. There are individual VP's that cover almost every area of concern. In addition, there is a VP of Regions and Chapters for every section of the Country that can help when your particular issue might not fit in any specific area of concern. Every issue of the magazine has Director contact information in the front. USE IT! Every Director is happy to hear from you. We represent you so it is important that we hear what it is that is important to you.

Many of you have just come home from the National Convention. There in the membership meeting a number of people who had concerns. I can honestly say that many of those areas are already being worked on. Let's keep it up. Tell us what you want and need and help us to help you to grow our club!





Automotive Genealogy

By Myron Smith
VP - Region & Chapters
Development & Support - Western
Division

My wife and a paternal second cousin are interested in genealogy. The cousin has built family trees for our Smith family, my mother's Butler family and Barb's family-the latter 2 being no relation to her at all but she loves doing it. I enjoy looking at other research but don't have time to do it myself. This has no bearing on cars but got me thinking another thought "I wonder what happened to an old car I looked at one time"

While sitting at a stop light recently, I remembered a really nice black 1956 Chevrolet Bel Air 4 door that would have made a great HPOF car. It used to be parked at that intersection. I wondered what had ever happened to the car. It probably would have been mine except the dealer was so nasty I refused to deal with him. That got me to thinking also about a very nice 1955 Chevrolet we looked at one time that also disappeared probably never to be seen again. It can be interesting tracing our cars 'roots' and with state motor vehicle agencies being more and more restrictive in the information they let out it has become more and more difficult to research a car's history.

Some things are just meant to be however, I have a 1959 Impala 4 door hardtop which from the owner's manual I knew had come from the town where my son Nathan and I had both attended high school. At the local town fall festival I took the car and left a sign on it asking that if anyone knew the original owner, to please contact me, as I would like to know the car's history. No one responded. The next year we took the completely stock 1959 Chevrolet to a Good Guys event. Before I even got parked, a couple of guys walked up and started asking questions about the car, including "Was the a/c in it when you got it? Is it a 348 engine and was it in it when you got it?" After the questions were answered he said, "my Dad had one just like it." I responded "I know the original owner's name" and told him what it was. He then responded "That's my Dad's car. I was really upset when I found out he had sold it. I've tried to trace it and the county sheriff friend told me he couldn't tell me where it was even if he ran the records." I found out there had been very little time between when his dad sold it and when I bought it from another party.

Another of my cars a 1942 Ford I bought in 1976 from it's original owner. I offered it on loan to that county's museum for the winter which they readily accepted to put it outside their WWII POW display in the museum. As we were delivering the car to the museum, one of the local museum workers asked. "Did this car come from a little old lady who lived by the tennis court?" "I said "yes." He responded "I never thought I'd see this car again." I have owned the car for 41 years, and he remembered the car. It made my day.

A friend and his Dad restored a Model T Ford, which the dad then took to California when he retired. My friend got to wondering about the car and was hoping to get it back. He was able to trace the car and when he found it, it was in a used car lot in California. He bought it and brought it back to Nebraska where he now enjoys it. A lot of memories are tied up in it.

Another friend wanted a car like he and his wife had had when they got married. A 1964 Ford Galaxie 500 2 door hardtop. He bought a similar car to restore, then was rummaging around a salvage yard about 50 miles from his home and on top of a stack of cars headed for the crusher was a 1964 Galaxie 500. It was HIS car! His bought it and his restoration project suddenly changed.

Some look for early cars and have tried to trace them down from old car magazines, including ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE. Some searches do not have happy endings. Another friend has searched and searched for the 1967 Caprice coupe that he bought new—To no avail whatever happened to it will probably be as big a mystery as the two that got away from our family: a 1941 Pontiac, and a 1958 Apache Pickup. All that I have are photos. So, on cold winters nights or too Hot summer days, see if you can research where your car has been or where one of your previous ones is now- it's interesting.

2024 AACA National Activities

- Founders Tour - March 17-23, 2024 - Lafayette, Louisiana
- Special Winter National - March 17-23, 2024 - Puerto Rico
- Grand Nationals - April 5, 2024 - Charlotte, North Carolina
- Southeastern Spring Nationals - April 4-6, 2024 - Charlotte, North Carolina
- Eastern Divisional Tour - June 9-13, 2024 - Fredericksburg, Virginia
- Eastern Spring Nationals - June 20-22, 2024 - Saratoga Springs, New York
- Western Divisional Tour - July 10-13, 2024 - Big Horn Mountain, Wyoming
- Special Eastern Fall Nationals - August 22-24, 2024 - Hampton, Virginia
- Western Fall Nationals - September 12-14, 2024 - Loveland, Colorado
- Revival AAA Glidden Tour® - September 22-27, 2024 - Fairfield, Pennsylvania
- Eastern Fall - October 8-11, 2024 - Hershey, Pennsylvania
- Southeastern Fall Nationals - October 23-26, 2024 - Huntsville, Alabama

Always check our website for any schedule updates, www.aaca.org.



It's time to visit the AACA Website—aaca.org

By Vicki Bolton - VP Judging Administration

When was the last time you went to the AACA website? It is a great tool for members and prospective members! The website is now full of helpful information and links. Members can quickly find many useful things including printable applications for members as well as one for military applications under membership.

ABOUT MEMBERSHIP REGIONS PUBLICATIONS EVENTS NEWS CONTACT [Join/Renew Today](#)

Members can now join and renew online simply by selecting the **Join/Renew Today** Button. The area for Regions is where you can find information about the closest region or chapter. The webmaster and editors can also find logos here for their websites and articles. There is a link to the various forms that a region may need from time to time.

The **Publications** drop down displays the list of publications that can be viewed. You will find the AACA Policy & Procedures Manual and the AACA Bylaws in this list. You are talking to a prospective member and don't have your magazine with you? No problem, just open the website on your phone and open the magazine from Publications. Or maybe you have a question about judging? You can review the judging guidelines in Publications. You will also find a very concise vehicle classification document. Two very important publications in this section are the *Speedster* and the *Rummage Box*.

If you are not getting the *Speedster* in your email, you should update your email with Headquarters. The *Speedster* is a great way to stay in touch and get the very latest news. The *Rummage Box* is full of articles that the newsletter editors love to use in their newsletters.

Choose **Events** to see the National Show and Tour Calendar. You can also see the local event calendar. You were not able to go to the Annual Convention? Did you know that you can see the National Award winners including the Master Editor and Master Webmaster awards? Just go to Events and select the National Awards, then click the first paragraph and it will take you to the presentation of all the National Awards. Maybe you want to see who won in the last Nationals, just select Nationals Results and you can see the winners for the last 10 years!

Contact is also a great repository of information. Here you can look up your current directors and just click on their name to send them an email. Committee Assignments are listed here as well. You can review the committees so that you will know who to contact if you have a question about one of these committee areas.

Please take some time to get to know your website. It is full of interesting tidbits and helpful information!



"America's Automotive Library" Identifies its Oldest Artifacts

By Steve Rossi
VP - Public Relations & Event Planning

The Chris & Kathleen Koch AACA Library & Research Center has identified its oldest antique automotive artifact. The collection includes *A Handbook for Steam Users Being Rules for Engine Drivers and Boiler Attendants* by M. Powis Bale, from 1890. In addition, a February 14, 1891, issue of *Scientific American* features an analysis of the 3-wheeled Butler Petrol-Cycle from Great Britain.

According to Library Director Jen Wolfe, "Since automotive history is an inexact science, trying to pinpoint the first piece of automotive material ever published is impossible...though Duryea is credited with producing the first American automobile in series by 1896." Some believe that Panhard began producing promotional literature...in color...during 1892 (from *Panhard & Levassor: Pioneers in Automobile Excellence*, by David Beare). Which the AACA artifacts predate.

The Smithsonian's Smith Hempstone Oliver contended that the first automotive catalog appeared in 1888/1889, from Philadelphia's Moto-Cycle Manufacturing Company which featured Lucius D. Copeland-designed steam cycles and steam carriages. Along with typewriters (*The Bulb Horn*, May-June 1966). Either way, as a function of the publication timeline above, "America's Automotive Library" is at the forefront.

The AACA Library & Research Center was established in 1977 and houses some 3+ million individual automotive artifacts at its Hershey, PA headquarters, and is the largest and most comprehensive institution of its kind. In addition, the Library also oversees nine single-marque collections withing its climate controlled, secure and professionally managed facility which includes a state of the art fire suppression system.

The Library is free and open to the public. Research requests are included with AACA membership (for the first two hours at no charge, per year), while additional photocopies, scans and reproductions are further available for a fee. Donations such as literature, books, artwork, manuals, periodicals, toys/models, etc. are welcomed and encouraged. Upon receipt of materials, the Library will provide the donor with a letter acknowledging the gift.

See www.aacalibrary.org for more information

AACA LIBRARY & RESEARCH CENTER 
"America's Automotive Library"



The 2023 AACA Annual Report

From the President Fred Trusty, 2023 AACA President

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the 2023 AACA National President. One year ago I set some goals for the year. We've made progress in some areas but there's still a lot more work left to move us into the digital age.

Website and Digital Marketing:

The new AACA website went live in April. The good news is that people now have the option to pay online when they register for National Shows and coming soon members will also have the option to register and pay online for tours as well.

The new website (aaca.org) opens with a great video of the Hershey Swap Meet but websites have to continually be updated with new content or they become stale. This issue falls under the general heading of a digital marketing plan so I would rate this objective as a partial success.

Annual Convention:

The bylaws were changed in 2022 so that we have the flexibility to locate the Annual Convention anywhere as long as it is in the first quarter of each calendar year. The objective is to know where and when we are going three years in advance, which gives us more negotiating power with hotels/venues and gives our members plenty of time to make travel plans. Next year the annual convention will be in Charlotte, NC, and negotiations are under way for a location for 2026. Is this year's convention a success? You will have to be the judge of that so please give us your opinion.

Touring

AACA began as a driving club in 1935. The judging system didn't come about until many years later. It is my belief that touring offers what today's younger generations want, a chance to drive their cars. There are plenty of younger people interested in the old car hobby but with jobs and families they don't have the time or finances to participate in multi-day tours. AACA National has to provide a plan for the regions and chapters that encourages families to drive their cars on affordable half or one day weekend tours. I would rate this objective as "It's time to get back to our roots."

Long-term Strategic Planning:

The board has just embarked on a mission to design a long-term strategic plan, something that should have been done long ago. It's no secret that just like most car clubs and civic organizations, AACA membership has been on a slow steady decline since our peak in 1998. The last six years the decline increased to about 4% per year but the good news is that for 2023 the decline was only 1.85% so I hope we are about to turn the corner from membership decline to membership growth. AACA is still financially healthy, but it's imperative that we think of new and innovative ways to attract new members. Just like a website becoming stale, some of the things we do have become stale. Just because that's the way we've always done it, doesn't mean it's the right thing to do now. Younger people want events with excitement and fun, not

just sitting in a lawn chair at a car show. But the most important thing we can do is to support the backbone of AACA, the regions and chapters. Any major growth will have to come from the regions and chapters which are like spokes in a wooden wheel. Each spoke has to be sound in order for the wheel to carry the load.

Also, I truly believe that the club has to support itself on dues and advertising revenue alone and without debt. Any capital projects should be funded with donations or other external funding.

I've always considered myself to be just an average guy trying to have fun with my cars while at the same time doing my part to promote the old car hobby, but I never imagined it would go this far. It's been an extremely busy year for me, but now I look forward to becoming a "Past President" so I can go back to having fun. To all the people I've met this past year, thank you for the memories. I hope to see you again, down the road!

Executive Vice President Jack Harris, 2023 Executive Vice-President

2023 has been a progressive year for AACA. We have made significant improvements to our website and are constantly working to make it more inviting to draw in new members. You can now renew or join AACA online. Starting in 2024, you will be able to register and pay by credit card for national events directly from our website. The traditional method of registration will continue for those who prefer to mail in a registration form and check.

I continue to be amazed by the efforts and dedication of our national headquarters staff. Our CEO, Steve Moskowitz, has assembled an incredible staff. Their knowledge, skills, and work ethic are an inspiration. They have all worked very hard to make this year's annual convention a remarkable experience.

Our Board is working very hard to develop and utilize a plan to enhance and increase membership. We want AACA to grow and secure our spot as the leading car club in the hobby. I firmly believe the most important part of this initiative will be to motivate you, our members, to become active ambassadors for AACA. I know my own active involvement with AACA began when I was personally invited to a local chapter meeting. I have talked to countless fellow AACA members who tell me the same story.

Serving as 2023 Executive Vice-President has been a very rewarding experience. I am greatly honored to serve as your 2024 President and look forward to working with our 2024 Board of Directors.

National Awards Jim Elliott, Vice-President

During the 2023 season, there were 2,385 vehicles judged and evaluated at seven Nationals by the National Awards Committee. National Awards Committee members also participated in seven National Tours.



*Nat'l Awards, Con't...*The National Awards Committee consists of twenty-one members and are some of the most experienced senior master judges in AACA. They meet in Hershey at the end of the season to review all the vehicles nominated during the year. The team votes to determine the National Award winners. This year there were 225 vehicles nominated for one or more of the prestigious National Awards. We invite everyone to visit the AACA website, click on meets and scroll down to National Awards to become more familiar with the various awards and sponsors in our world-class judging system. National Awards have been presented since 1945. The actual awards are on permanent display at our new National Headquarters in Hershey.

Additionally, a state-of-the-art kiosk accompanies the permanent trophy cases in the lobby where all previous award recipient names can be viewed for your enjoyment.

The National Award competition is extremely intense, making the decisions very difficult. On February 10, there will be 58 winning owners and vehicles that will be recognized for their accomplishments at the National Awards Banquet in Chantilly, Virginia. National Service Awards will be presented to organizations and individuals for their contributions to the success of our hobby and the club. There will be Master Editor Awards and Webmaster Awards presented to members for their contributions to their respective Regions and Chapters.

I want to thank the National Awards Committee members for their dedication and support to maintain this successful program. Pat Buckley at AACA Headquarters has been extremely helpful to the Committee and me with the administration of this program.

It has been my pleasure and an absolute honor to have served the AACA in this assignment.

Youth Scholarships **Debbie Nolen, Vice-President**

As one of the ways we can strengthen our old car hobby and continue its appreciation from one generation to the next, the AACA award and scholarship program recognizes students who demonstrate academic studentship paired with an active interest and participation in the antique car hobby. Whether their interests have been shown through restoration, preservation, and/or ownership of antique cars, AACA supports its commitment to qualified candidates with several types of \$1500 awards, with privately funded scholarships also awarded periodically.

All Scholarship awards are presented as part of the AACA Annual Convention each year in conjunction with AACA's national awards. This year we were blessed with a highly competitive applicant group of 29 scholars and old car hobbyists and AACA is honored to award the following scholarships listed below. I especially want to thank the 2023 members of the Youth Scholarship Review committee who were amazing in their evaluation, perceptions, and fairness in dealing with a strong applicant field. The committee included Julie Aubrey, WY; Tracy Ricketts Leshner, PA; Patrick Gamble, PA; Dave and Marilyn Chiotti, CA; Scott Kopp, PA, and Pat Buckley,

The AACA Region Nominated Young People's Scholarship Award

Olivia Belk, Denver, NC/East Tennessee State University (Nominated by the Hornet's Nest Region, NC)

This award recognizes an individual who is nominated by an AACA region or chapter, has made a significant contribution to its successful operation and/or has demonstrated a sustained active interest in owning, restoring, or preserving antique vehicles or automobilia.

The AACA Scholarship Award

John Schwear, III, Sugarloaf, PA/ Pennsylvania College of Technology, Williamsport, PA

Weaver Goldman, Hershey, PA/ Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA

This award is granted to encourage individuals to further their education and stimulate interest in AACA and the history of vehicles in general.

The Louise Bianchi Chiotti Memorial Scholarship

Mary Rose, Ridgeway, OH/ Wilmington College, Wilmington, OH

This award was instituted and funded by Dave and Marilyn Chiotti to honor Louise and as a way to continue to support youth in the automobile hobby.

The John and Janet Ricketts Leadership Scholarship

Elizabeth Bodvin, Hanover, PA/High Point University, NC

This award is in recognition of AACA's first female national president, Janet Ricketts, who served in 1999 and is granted and funded by the family of John and Janet Ricketts in appreciation of their love for AACA and their belief in service to the club.

The Hershey Region Automotive Restoration Scholarship

Richard Metclaf, Katy, Texas/Southern Illinois University – Carbondale, Ill

Tyler Chin, Williamstown, NJ/Ursinus College, Collegeville, PA

This award is granted by the Hershey Region AACA to students to further their education and stimulate interest in AACA and automotive history. One or more awards may be presented each year. Selection will be made by the AACA Scholarship Award Committee, the then current President of the Hershey Region and the current chair of the region education committee.

National Activities **Wayne Tuck, Vice-President**

2023 finished the year with eight nationals and seven tours. As we enter 2024 we still need to find regions to host the Sentimental Tour and Reliability Tour. We already have four tours scheduled. With nine nationals on the schedule for 2024, we still have one additional national pending.

We are thankful to the regions that step up to host national events. Hosting a national event is not as difficult as many regions believe. It can be both fun and profitable with the added benefit of attracting new members to your region or chapter.



Nat'l Activities, Con't... National headquarters can provide a blueprint for success and provides a director liaison to assist along the way.

Most of us have interesting attractions in the area where we live. Why not share some of the proud history of your location and consider hosting a national event? There are opportunities open for 2025, 2026 and beyond. Looking forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events

Membership

Paula Ruby, Vice-President

Membership of AACA is like what gas and oil are to an automobile. Without the gas and oil there would not be a running motor and the motor is the heart of soul of Membership building. I would like to welcome you to YOUR National Convention in Chantilly, Virginia. Increasing our membership is the responsibility of each and every current member.

As Vice President of Membership, I am here to help each and every one of our members to offer the gift of membership to your friends and family. Some of the many tools that are at your fingertips are tri-fold brochures, the Mustang cut-out and the Military Program. This program can be offered to anyone who is presently serving or has retired from the Military. It will give them their first-year membership dues "FREE". All of the material can be obtained by just calling Headquarters and they will be happy to send them out to you.

Membership building is something that we need to do on a daily basis. Think of the many people that you talk to at your local gas station, car parts stores and food markets. Let us remember that males are not the only people that have cars, there are a lot of females that love and show their cars as well. Let's not forget the girl and boy students in our trade schools as well.

Let's keep the motor running and make 2024 the year of the Challenge. The challenge being that each present member finds at least one new friend and give them the gift that never stops giving of Membership to AACA.

Judging

Stan Kulikowski, Vice-President

2023 was another successful year for AACA Show Fields. The table below shows the registrations at the nationals and the judges from each event.

Location	Vehicles Registered	Judges Registered
Miami	177	92
Charlotte	256	161
Gettysburg	514	170
Waterloo	137	113
Hamilton	166	103
Bettendorf	175	92
Hershey	995	310
Total	2420	1041

The Senior Master/Advanced judging school has continued to be well attended. Many senior master judges are attending this school multiple times just because there are different topics raised through questions asked at the school. The curriculum continues to evolve as we find trends of incorrect deductions. The illustration of common deduction and paperwork errors from 2022 have been significantly reduced. John Harvey and Dain King have been instrumental in keeping the judging curriculum relevant to both new and experienced judges. We plan to continue the Senior Master school in 2024.

I want to thank all of the judges who volunteered time for not only judging on the show field, but also those who take the time to bring questions to the judging schools and provide documentation from their personal collections to help John, Dain and myself improve our judging system.

Online Event Registration

Starting with the 2024 Special Winter Nationals, the online registration for Nationals now is accepting payment via credit card.

Steps to take:

1. Go to members.aaca.org
2. Type-in your six digit member number and pin number
3. Select the Nationals you want to register for
4. Register the events for this show
5. Click on Check Out
6. Click on Credit Card button
7. Proceed with credit card payment

NOTE: You must pay for each Nationals separately.

National Headquarters/Library & Research Center David Landow, Vice President

Shortly upon the completion of my service to the Club as the real estate and development consultant for AACA's new National Headquarters and the AACA Library, Past President Wayne Tuck appointed me to the national board of directors, where it has been my privilege and pleasure to serve as VP of both facilities. My service to the board will conclude in February 2024, whereupon I look forward to continuing as a Senior Editor of *Antique Automobile*.

Innovative and well-executed design elements incorporated into the new Headquarters and Library continue to serve the national staff and visitors well, exceeding all best expectations. The building's extensive amount of glass provides for expansive views and permits abundant natural light to stream into every substantive interior area of the building, creating an uplifting environment in which it is a pleasure to work, engage in research at the Library, and enjoy the many automobiles on display in the atrium. If you haven't yet traveled to AACA's Headquarters, add a visit to your bucket list; you'll be glad you did.

At the Library, Jennifer Wolfe has settled into the Library Director position extraordinarily proficiently. Jen and the capable Library staff continue to respond to research requests. They process and curate mountains of





Natl Headquarters, Con't...new documents and significant literature collections regularly donated. Their support of our members and other researchers is unrivaled in the antique automobile community. In 2023, Library staff filled 1,016 research requests, 479 of which came from on-site visitors. Some requests involved more than 40 hours of work. The librarians raised \$19,000 at the annual Hershey "Yard Sale," where they successfully coordinated simultaneous first-time events presented by the Buick Heritage Alliance and the Society of Automotive Historians. Too many other initiatives were accomplished by the Library's staff to list here, but some of the highlights include a new organizational process for literature donations, expansions of the Fisher Body Craftsman's Guild exhibit and the Library's flat filing system, and deployment of a new website.

Fiscal responsibility continues to be the mantra in efficiently operating and maintaining AACA's Headquarters building. Steve Moskowitz's performance in this regard has been superb. Some of the more significant initiatives completed at Headquarters include the creation of an emergency management plan to fill unexpectedly vacated job positions, addition of a new history center kiosk in the atrium, deployment of a new website and more user-friendly events registration process, introduction of an expanded benefits program for members, and perhaps most importantly, a renewed and intense focus upon the quality of the Club's events to guarantee the most enjoyable participant experience possible.

Despite all the impressive work that the staff at National and the Library accomplishes, it is you—the Club's members—that make it all happen. This is your club, so please be sure to support and enjoy it by participating in the variety of events offered and by getting involved. AACA's future is in your hands!

AACA National Headquarters & Library Steve Moskowitz, CEO

Each year seems to bring new challenges and new advances for our club. We all know our number one priority is gaining new members which hopefully EVERYONE in the club will take some responsibility for and get us at least one new member or bring a past member back to the fold. That is our challenge and we must not be deterred. To that end, the club had a special meeting at this convention to discuss that one topic. A huge investment has been made by the club and its directors to ensure we have significant time to formulate a solid plan to help us over the next 5 years.

On the technology front we completed online registration payment to begin with events of 2024. Our software engineer continues working on the testing of the site. In your national headquarters there is a new digital kiosk dedicated to the history of our club and the automobile. You can quickly browse the kiosk by decade. The oral history center is well on its way to completion and will be done hopefully early in 2024.

Our library continues to move in a forward trajectory. Aply led by our new Director, Jen Wolfe, the staff is working very hard on the myriad of tasks necessary to keep

heart my call to not wait forever or until it is too late to donate their literature so we have been dealing with a record number of great donations.

The AACA staff, all of them, have had a huge impact on this year's convention. Along with the leadership of Steve Rossi the staff has done much of the heavy lifting. This is no small task considering they have their "day jobs" as well. I hope that by the time you read this you will feel that the 2024 convention was a booming success.

I am hopeful that the 2024 "Hershey" will have the same glorious weather that 2023 had! Despite rumors that either are irresponsibly or maliciously spread there is no truth that there are any plans to discontinue this event. RMSotheby's will be holding their annual auction here again and we will be announcing a special hotel rate at the Hershey Lodge thanks to the support of RM. It will be a huge cost savings for our members. It is hopeful that the region together with AACA National can find ways to make Hershey even better in the coming years. The good news is we will be working on it!

We are carrying a lot more merchandise and hopefully you bought everything we trailered to Chantilly! Never fear we have more "back home" so check out store at www.aaca.org. Oh and spend some time on the site checking things out and visiting our very active forums.

Finally, thank you, our loyal members, for attending the convention and your support all year long. One of the very best parts of working for AACA is our interaction with you. We truly appreciate the support and dedication to our cause and all the kind words sent to our staff. They deserve it!

AACA National & Library Staff National: 717-534-1910/ Library: 717-534-2082

Steve Moskowitz - aaca1@aaca.org - CEO

Karen White - kwhite@aaca.org – membership, merchandise, regions' national membership payments

Pat Buckley - pbuckley@aaca.org - accounting, IT, website, and national activities brochures and registration information

West Peterson - stelviogt@yahoo.com - editor *Antique Automobile*

Matthew Hocker - mhocker@aacalibrary.org - Assistant Librarian & Cataloger, Volunteer Coordinator

Stacy Zimmerman - szimmerman@aaca.org - magazine advertising, marketing, editor *Speedster*

Lori Shetter – lshetter@aaca.org - general office, membership

Sue Eitnier - seitnier@aaca.org - region insurance requests, region reporting forms and national activities requests

Amoi Goldman - agoldman@aacalibrary.org - Reference Librarian & Outreach Coordinator

Jon Curtis - jcurtis@aaca.org - awards and trophies

Jen Wolfe - jwolfe@aacalibrary.org - Library Director



Public Relations/Event Planning Steven Rossi, Vice-President

The practice of managing and disseminating information to create a positive perception is known as public relations. For 2023, AACA welcomed the most recent 25-year-old and older antiques through a "Class of 1998" Press Release...along with press releases for the new 1/2-year Membership Allowance, the Zenith Award, the Eastern Fall National Meet and more.

In addition, we broke new ground by adding narration to the Friday morning assemblance of Show cars ... which we affectionately refer to as "Morning Glory" ... at the Hershey Meet. Thanks to the kind cooperation of the Hershey Region. An *Antique Automobile* (Jan./Feb. 2024) feature, called "Aging Demographic + Information Overload," was also developed to encourage membership engagement in support of the Club's wellbeing.

All told, 1,349 traditional media stories and 345 social media mentions were realized. Which translates to \$19 million in Advertising value. Our official Facebook Organization page is up to 12,257 followers while the AACA Group page enjoys 24,166 members. Some 3,546 also follow us on Instagram.

Meanwhile, we very much accelerated our Annual Convention intentions through an interdisciplinary Board of Directors and Headquarters Staff team effort with coordinated process. Our 2024 Annual Convention & National Awards Banquet in Chantilly, Virginia, was engineered to provide utmost value and enjoyment at reasonable cost with accommodating and refined convenience.

Our premier host hotel, the Westfields Marriott Washington Dulles, was named Marriot's Premium Hotel of the Year. Two generous sponsorships came our way in response to our demonstrated commitment to elevate the event. The NB Center for American Automotive Heritage served as Presenting Sponsor while J.C. Taylor graciously supported the newly initiated Casino Night. Two additional, anonymous donations...which were quite significant...kindly materialized, as well.

A continuing series of full-page *Antique Automobile* ads, ongoing *Speedster* support, three AACA e-Mail blasts and a hard copy promotional mailer (donated) to all members served to promote the 2024 Convention. With over 500 members in attendance, 36 Seminars and Meeting Sessions were presented. Over 20 Vendors registered for the Trade Show and attendees were treated to a visit to the Udvar-Hazy Center of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum. There have been 4,500 Views on the AACA Forum Convention topic. The local AACA Bull Run Region actively supported the cause and congratulations to all the National Award Winners!

Finally, the 2025 Annual Convention is already contracted and under development. It will be held at the Embassy Suites Charlotte-Concord/Golf Resort & Spa in North Carolina from February 6-9, 2025. We look forward to seeing you there!

Publications

Phillip Cole, Vice President

Publications had another good year with our newsletter evaluations program. Fifty-nine Newsletter Achievement Awards Program (NAAP) applications were received, and thirty-five editors will receive the Master Editor award, twelve Excellence awards, and seven Distinction awards. As a part of the NAAP, two new evaluators (sixteen in all) were recruited and oriented to lessen the work of all. The evaluators were divided into five teams, four for online uploads and one for U.S. Mail only. We continue to correspond with our editors and evaluators on ways we can improve our NAAP system.

As a result of discussions with three previous VPs of Publications, a Publications Panel seminar was offered at the 2023 Annual Convention for all editors and officers of our chapters/regions. This event was well attended. The panel consisted of three experienced editors from various sized regions/chapters and the current VP of Publications to address how to have an effective newsletter and successfully navigate the NAAP process. Encouraged by the positive response to the seminar, a list of "Helpful Hints" was sent to all applicants for the 2023 NAAP. As you read this report, plan to go back home and remind any new editors that the Editors Manual is available on the AACA website and pertinent articles from your national directors can be found on the website under the Rummage Box.

The Publications committee continues to believe that our newsletters are the glue which holds members of AACA together from the chapter/region level all the way up to the national level. Our publications serve to keep all of us inspired and informed to fulfill the mission of AACA. Please take the time to thank your editor for all that she or he does!

2024 AACA National Directors

- ◆ Jack Harris, President - jmhcpa@northstate.net
- ◆ David Anspach, Executive Vice President - aacadave1054@yahoo.com
- ◆ Mary Bartemeyer - mbartemeyer@yahoo.com
- ◆ Vick Bolton - vickibolton@bellsouth.net
- ◆ David Bowman - bowman_d@bellsouth.net
- ◆ Jeff Broadus - jeff@broadus.com
- ◆ Phillip Cole - pcole@wnccumc.net
- ◆ Jim Elliott - aacajim@cox.net
- ◆ Keith Flickinger - keith@thenbcenter.com
- ◆ Greg Jackson - gjackson15@gmail.com
- ◆ Ron Jury - ron@rdjury.com
- ◆ Stan Kulikowski - Stan.kulikowski9@gmail.com
- ◆ Richard Lentinello - aurelia528@yahoo.com
- ◆ John McCarthy - packardmotors@aol.com
- ◆ Debbie Nolen - dpnolen1@gmail.com
- ◆ Jeff Oaks - joaks@ec.rr.com
- ◆ Steve Rossi - SLDMRossi@aol.com
- ◆ Paula Ruby - paulaspackard@hotmail.com
- ◆ Myron Smith - myronsmith@windstream.net
- ◆ Fred Trusty - bearcamp1988@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AACA National PR, Steven Rossi, 248-470-5788, sldmrossi@aol.com

AACA National CEO, Steve Moskowitz, 717-350-5484, aaca1@aaca.org

AACA National Marketing, Stacy Zimmerman, 717-534-1910, zimmerman@aaca.org



2024 AACA Annual Convention Attendance Accelerates By 21 Percent

Host Hotel Sold Out; Attendees Exclaim Best Convention Yet!

Hershey, Pennsylvania, February 20, 2024 – They say that Virginia is for lovers. Lovers of antique automobiles, that is... From February 8 through 10, 2024, some 600 AACA (Antique Automobile Club of America) members visited the award-winning Westfields Marriott Washington Dulles hotel in Chantilly, Virginia (which was sold out!) to partake in what's known as "The Oscars of the Antique Automotive World." Over the course of three days, the heritage and enjoyment of 25-year-old and older, original automobiles was celebrated. AACA is the only enthusiast organization that's dedicated to any and all authentic collector cars.

Compared to 2023, overall participation grew by 21 percent. The AACA Annual Convention... which also serves as the National Awards Banquet... was sponsored by Allentown, Pennsylvania's NB Center for American Automotive Heritage. J.C. Taylor Antique Auto Insurance also graciously contributed to the cause.

The 2024 convention kicked off on Thursday with a visit to the spectacular Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center at Washington Dulles International Airport. Attendees who visited the museum also got to enjoy an exquisite luncheon on the Executive Mezzanine, overlooking the Space Shuttle *Discovery*. That evening, the National Board of Directors welcomed convention-goers to a come one-come all pizza party.

A series of 30 seminars followed on Friday and Saturday, including topics from navigating auctions to carburetor basics and recasting steering wheels. In keeping with the visit to the Udvar-Hazy Center, there were also sessions titled *The Invention of the Aerial Age* and *Wheels and Wings: Automobile Pioneers and Aviation*. Meanwhile, a trade show was running simultaneously with 20 AACA vendor-partners displaying their wares.

In between, AACA's First Lady held a special luncheon which transitioned topics from horsepower to horses by alerting the audience to the critical concern of horse rescue via the Days End Farm mission. That evening, the hotel banquet area was reinvented into a speakeasy casino, where participants got to play with Monopoly-type money to win prizes at the end of the festivities. It proved to be a great bet because the room was full all night long!

Saturday was devoted to AACA's incomparable Judging Schools, along with more seminars and trade show. After an afternoon General Membership Meeting, with prizes also distributed for trade show participation, the red carpet was rolled out and velvet ropes were extended. A pair of giant Oscar statues stood at attention for the National Awards Banquet that evening. In addition to scholarship presentations, Editor/Webmaster Awards and Region & Chapter recognition, 58 special National Awards were presented to owners of the best-of-the-best antique automobiles chosen from the past year's National AACA shows and tours.

Annual Convention continued...

As AACA continues to accelerate ahead, planning is already underway for next year's Annual Convention & National Awards Banquet. It will be held February 6-8, 2025, at the Embassy Suites Charlotte-Concord/Golf Resort & Spa, so mark your calendars now!

[Click here](#) to view the 2023 AACA National Award Winner's slideshow.

About AACA: Founded in 1935, AACA is dedicated to the authentic antique automobile experience and recognizes any and all vehicles 25-years-old-or-older. It's known as the most inclusive antique car club in the world. It honors cars, trucks and motorcycles produced in America and throughout the world. With more than 45,000 members, it is also one of the largest clubs of its kind. For more details about the AACA, please visit their website: www.aaca.org.

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The AACA, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, has served as the country's premier resource for the collectible vehicle community since its formation in 1935. Through its national office, publications, online forums, Library and membership, the Club has assisted countless individuals, historians and collectors, along with other libraries, car clubs and museums, in the quest to preserve and enjoy the antique automobile experience.

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If you would like higher resolution photos or additional photos, please email Stacy, szimmerman@aaca.org.

