

From the Driver's Side

Gary Feldman, president of AHCA, opened the Fall of 2019 Delegates meeting with a video. It was a video taken at a Jaguar sponsored gymkhana in which one of the drivers over ran the stop block at the end of the course and hit a course worker that was standing in the wrong spot. The course worker was seriously injured but survived and is doing well now. The reason for showing the video was to place an emphasis on safety. The video did an excellent job of doing just that. Gary then asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of all of our fellow Healey people that have passed away this year. He mentioned Ann Johnson, George Koeber, Martin Jansen and Smith Brody because these people were known nationally.

Gary then thanked Jim and Jo Switzer, Dick Storrs and the Indiana Club for all their help in organizing the fall delegates meeting. All of the officers arrive on Thursday and leave on Sunday. The delegates arrive on Friday and leave on Sunday. Taking care of lodging, food and transportation for all that time requires a lot of planning and organization. Jo with some help from Jim have that down to a science. Dick Storrs has built a reputation for finding awesome sites for the attendees to tour on Friday afternoon between two officer meetings. One meeting in the morning and one in the evening. Dick has already announced he has tours lined up for 2021. No wonder the French Lick Conclave ran so smoothly.

The next order of business is to take roll call of the delegates and then roll call of the officers. Right after roll call concludes the next session begins where each delegate has a few minutes to brag about their club. Last year Gary instituted a monetary penalty for any delegate that brags about their club's Christmas Party. Every club has a terrific Christmas Party so in the interest of encouraging the delegates to limit their time and talk about something unique that other delegates will benefit from Gary established this new rule.

Golden Gate- has started providing more tech sessions. That seems to be very successful.

AHC Association has \$48,000 in the bank and donated \$1,000.00 to the DMH fund.

Bluewater- raised \$11,000 (Canadian) with a car show for the Salvation Army.

Manitoba - tech sessions have become very popular

Quebec-coordinate the Healey drivers for the Formula 1 race

Ontario-membership dropping slowly due to members passing away. Tech sessions are well attended.

Capital Area-recruiting new members is difficult-Bruce Phillips of Healey Surgeons is retiring in the coming year. He will continue to sell parts. They have had a lot of success at chasing lost members.

Tampa Bay-membership is down a little.

Palm Beach AHC-tracking members is like herding cats. They are just getting the social aspect of the club established

Atlanta - they host a lot of tech sessions which turn into social events. Slow decline in membership due to aging and health issues.

Central Indiana - membership stable, tech sessions are popular, 48-55% of membership participate in some activity through the year.

Bluegrass - very active club, tech sessions have been well received, still working on Springthing details,

Minnesota - membership stable, all of the energy for 2019 spent on hosting conclave. Huge round of applause from the delegates and officers.

Gateway - membership stable, wash up and tune up is very popular in the spring, most younger members are either restoring cars or working 80 hours a week.

Flatwater- down 10 members, had tour of Smith Motor Collection which is huge. Raised dues to sponsor local scholarships for trade school students, bring a kid to car show sponsored by Hagerty is huge success. Kids get T shirts, hat and get to judge the cars.

New England Region - the Wing concept is working quite well-club is divided in regions call Wings-each Wing has a leader and they host their own meetings, they have a technical conference call each month with 25-30 members on the call

Carolina - lots of tech sessions, best tech session was devoted to aligning headlights

Triad- membership down a little, working on getting members into leadership roles and getting remote members more involved

Miami Valley-membership stable, trouble getting members to monthly meetings, discussing how to revive club

Mid Ohio- membership stable- 2 members completed excellent restorations this year

NE Ohio- membership stable, combined three car shows into one and that was a success, 12-15 attend monthly meetings

Ohio Valley-membership stable, this club is the gymkhana expert in the AHCA, volunteer tech team will make at least two house calls per month - only cost to the beneficiary is coffee and donuts in the morning and pizza and beer for the afternoon. Old man's lunch (ROMEO lunch-retired old men eating out) is quite popular on every Thursday.

OK - very small club but have a very active British Car Club.

Smoky Mountain - down 3 members, All European Car Show is very popular, some people looking for driver Healeys not show cars

Gulf Coast - mourning the passing of Ann Johnson who was president of the APB group-Another Pushy Broad.

Tidewater - membership is up 10%, toured Farmville, VA which was the last battle in the Civil War (ed. note- otherwise known as the War of Northern Aggression)

There was a number of other club reports and for the most part the clubs had a stable membership, thousands in the bank and all is well.

Officers Reports

Safety - Don Klein - Hill climbs are getting more popular. Honda plant in Marysville, OH has a Heritage Center that can be rented and includes as awesome hill climb. If you are interested in finding locations that offer ethanol free gas check Pure-gas.org. Our membership in Sema will continue. Sema is an organization that monitors state and federal legislatures in an effort to protect our hobby. They send out a newsletter reporting on what they find.

Conclave - Neil Anderson - looks like for the next several years that there is a conclave in the works. May have to eventually consider having a conclave on alternating years. AHC

Association suggest hosting a conclave for 2021 at Yosemite but the facilities would not work out. No place to hold a gymkhana and the cheapest room rates started around \$250.00 per night plus there likely wouldn't be enough rooms available in the area. They are now working on four other possibilities. Since 2021 is just around the corner from a planning point the delegates voted to give the AHCA officers the authority to work with AHC Association in finalizing the details for 2021 with a final approval by the delegates probably by email. There was a push for conclaves occurring in either May or September. That bumps against many long standing regional meets.

Eileen Wetzal - Conclave 2019 - Eileen was presented by Neil Anderson with a mounted buffalo trophy and is now known as Buffalo Woman or Conclave Goddess or Tatonka woman. Many clubs helped in the background, which helped to make the conclave a terrific success. Eileen said she was the inspiration and Greg Lauser was the perspiration. You can go to dropevent.com to see all of the pictures from Conclave 2019. This is a site that the Conclave committee has paid for through the end of December.

Conclave 2020 - Bill Borja-excellent facility, they have the entire resort reserved. Have about 50 registrations so far.

Club Support - Bruce Gearns - A number of regional clubs in the AHCA do not require their members to belong to the AHCA. Since those members benefit from the insurance that the AHCA pays for an annual fee is assessed to each local only member of \$5.00. Bruce worked up an arrangement with the Bonneville club to offer their 7 local only members a free one year membership in the AHCA. Bruce was happy to announce that 5 of the 7 renewed for the following year. Bruce also worked on increasing the delegate attendance at the fall delegates meeting. Unfortunately some clubs do not participate in events with the AHCA and they also do not send in required reports for the fall delegates meeting. They are not required to send a delegate to the meeting but the AHCA bylaws require them to submit certain reports each year.

Promotion - Ben Moore - Constant Contact has proved to be a wonderful success. Constant Contact develops a myriad of statistics for each batch of emails sent out. The open rate, which is the percent of the recipients that actually opened the email, is 62%. That is a huge open rate. Typically 15% would be considered acceptable. Ben sent out a survey this past summer. The survey had 699 participants, which again is excellent. The survey indicated that 71% of our club is between 60-70 years of age, 77% respondents have attended less than 10 conclaves. Some of the reasons for not attending more conclaves is expense and attending regional events. The respondents mentioned the best thing about the club is the magazine and making friends, the AHCA is a well run club, lots of suggestions for conclave locations. Ben will be sending out more surveys in the coming months. Ben is planning on some minor work on the website for 2020 and a major rework of the website at some point shortly after 2020. Ben's final comment was that he is dire need of some help. Anyone with promotional or marketing experience please contact Ben.

Insurance - Fred Dabney - Fred has a developed a letter than can be sent to clubs or venues that require an explanation of our coverage. Our current coverage is one of the best in the car community. If a certificate of insurance is required for an event contact Fred and he will send

the certificate to the vendor and host club. Waivers are needed for regional and national events. A waiver is not required for a club drive or club meetings. The AHCA is changing coverage to the Hartford Insurance Company. Fred was able to negotiate a substantial reduction in the annual insurance cost. Our cost dropped from a little over \$9,000.00 per year to a little under \$7,000.00 per year and there was no change in coverage.

DMH - Fred Dabney- The DMH fund has a little over \$31,000.00. The DMH fund is not a subsection of the AHCA. It is a separate entity and thus we are able to have participation in the DMH Fund from the Sports and Touring club. The DMH Fund will give two \$3,000.00 scholarships this coming year for two students attending McPherson College. McPherson College is the only institution in the United States that offers a four year degree in Auto Restoration for a major. The students are required to take all of the usual classes that a typical degree program requires in addition to the hours required studying and doing auto restoration. The annual tuition is \$39,700 so \$3,000 doesn't make a big dent in that cost but it helps.

Editor - Reid Trummel - Once again the production of the magazine came in under budget. Reid is now paying a few contributors for their articles in the magazine and that has raised the quality of the content even higher. The cost for the 2019 production run of the magazine and calendar was only a few dollars higher than the cost 20 years ago. Lesson for this is be very careful in negotiations with Reid. Jake Jacobs commented that he was extremely impressed with Reid's ability to manage the many cost categories of the magazine. Unanimous agreement among all attendees with Jakes comment.

Advertising - Laurie Wilford - Selling advertising is getting more difficult. Print advertising is way down industry wide. We have been slowly losing advertisers over the last few years. They all want advertising on social media. That is in the works but not ready yet. Laurie offered to advertisers that they could create an editorial type entry that would be essentially an add He has had 5 respond so far.

Membership - Mike Schneider - Renewal invoices were received by most members earlier this week. I will start sending out renewal updates every two weeks so the regional club membership directors can keep up with the members that have renewed as well as those that have not renewed. I will start taking second email addresses from the membership. The second email address will not be printed in the upcoming Membership Directory but will be included in the update files sent out to the membership directors. I also hope to be able to get those listed on the searchable membership list in the members only section of the website. A 'club' filter was added on the members only list on the website last week. Longevity name tags are still being requested as the names appear in the Marque.

Healey Museum - Gary Feldman - AHCA donated \$5,000.00 to the museum for 2019. That would allow AHCA members to tour the museum at no charge. The AHCA put up \$2,500.00 of the \$5,000.00 and the other \$2,500.00 was donated from local clubs and individuals. We currently have an additional \$1,925.00 left over from 2019 that will go toward the \$2,500.00 for 2020.

Conclave Going Forward and Regional events- Gary Feldman and Neil Anderson- a regional event can get a quarter page ad in the Marque at no charge for their event. The website will soon have the ability for clubs to post events on the website. Only regional events can post on the website their schedule. The regional events are: September Roundup, Springthing, Texas Healey Roundup, Southeast Classic, Summit Meet, Rendezvous, California Healey Week, Rendezvous Golden Gate, Fall Windup, Northwest Meet and Encounter.

Enclave 2022-Pete Sturtevant- There is a joint Conclave/Encounter committee working on three sites for consideration, Poconos, Monticello, NY (near Woodstock) and Saratoga, NY. Right now Poconos seems to be slightly in the lead.

Membership Directory - Mike Schneider - There are basically three possibilities. 1) do not print a membership directory, 2) print a membership directory every other year, 3) print a membership directory every year. A membership list will be available on the website for all three options. There was a lot of discussion on pro's and con's especially for those who would be in an area with no internet service. There was a large majority that voted for the membership directory to be printed in 2020 and every other year thereafter. There was a question as to how the dues would be handled for the years the directory was not printed. I suggested that the savings be banked and used to postpone a future dues increase.

Edie Anderson - Edie and Gary Brierton developed a handbook for delegates, which is available on the website. A discussion was held to determine if there is a benefit to having a hard copy. It was determined that would be an excellent benefit and \$1,000 was voted in to cover the cost of the printing. Edie and Gary will be working on that and have them ready for the 2020 Fall delegates meeting.

Chuck Anderson - Chuck pointed out that the strength of any club is the communication amongst club members. Chuck feels that Reid has done an excellent job of maintaining a high standard of communication. Chuck would like for a motion to be made to give Reid a \$100.00 per month raise. Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously with a thundering applause.

Healey Challenge - there is word that the European Healey owners are chomping at the bit to have another Healey Challenge. Plans are in the works for it to happen in the fall of 2020. Stay tuned.

Conclave - Neil Anderson - Conclave 2021 alternate sites are being considered and evaluated. Sana Fe, NM has a Hilton Resort 9 miles north of town, car show in historic district, gymkhana and funkhana on hotel site, food is excellent, a balloon festival in Albuquerque-500 hot air balloons.

Another location under consideration is Branson, MO. Chateau on Tablerock Lake- 300 rooms-resort and convention center-lots of dinner theaters-hotel is 15 minutes outside of Branson. The third possibility is Lexington, KY, large college town - Griffin Gate Marriott Hotel 15 minutes north of Lexington, beautiful scenery, all facilities available for conclave needs

Sunday

Gary Feldman - \$4,100.00 was high bid last night during auction for the opportunity to drive a Formula 1 race car driver around the track prior to the Formula 1 race. This will be broadcast worldwide. A phone in bid from a New England Region member was the winning bid beating out Chuck Anderson Jr by \$100.00

McPherson College - Chuck Anderson Jr got a tour of the college on his way back from Conclave 2019. In addition to the usual four degrees available in most colleges a student could also earn a four year degree in woodworking, metal working or auto restoration. The student that received the DMH scholarship money in 2019 is restoring a Sprite to give to his mother. For the 2020 school year there will be two students receiving a scholarship from the DMH fund. One of the VP's for the college also has a Sprite. Fred will investigate how we can send extra copies of the magazine to the Library for the college.

Grow Our Clubs- How do we get people involved in the national and local clubs? Most national officers have been delegates at some time. That is a good training ground for the National but how can we help the local clubs? Gary Brierton suggested identifying the nominating committee in the front of the membership directory. That could broaden the scope of people willing to help at the national level and should flow to the regional clubs also.

Nominating Committee - Does it need to be modified? Each officers term is a one year term with the expectation that the president will serve 3 consecutive terms. There is no expectation for the other officers other than there is a hope they will serve at least multiple terms. Both Gary Brierton and Gary Feldman will have served 4 terms as Gary Feldman as agreed to stay on for one more year, which will be his fourth year.

Currently the nominating committee consists of all past presidents with the most recent being the chair of the committee. There is also three members from the general membership voted by the delegates to be on the nominating committee. They serve 3 year terms and each year as one rolls off another is voted in.

Treasurer's Report - Bev Sealand - budget as proposed was passed unanimously. We have a very large surplus this year. The current budget will have to dip into that slightly as we have a slightly negative budget. We don't publish budget details or reports. If you want specifics as your delegate. As a result of the large surplus there will not be a dues increase in 2020.

AHCA officer nominations- Fred Dabney - All current officers except for the retirement of Bruce Earns agreed to run again. Cliff Hudgins was nominated to take Bruce Earns position of Club Support. All nomination were accepted unanimously.

Honorary memberships - Fred Dabney - Bruce Earns, Eileen and Gary Wetzel and Greg and Nancy Lauser were nominated for an honorary membership. All passed unanimously.

Proposal made and accepted to meet at same hotel in Plainfield, IN on November 6 - 8 2020 for the fall delegates meeting for 2020.

Due to some confusion regarding the club by laws a committee was appointed to review the bylaws. Participants on the committee are Bob Gilleland, Gary Brierton, John May, Edie Lowery, Edie Anderson and Bonnie Ayer.

During our regular club meeting in November we will be electing officers for 2020. John Rice for president, Jack Burns for Treasurer, secretary position - open, Mary Lee for board of directors. This will also be a good time to register for the Christmas party.

Don't forget to keep the rubber side down and the top side shiny. Looking forward to seeing you at the November 26, 2019 meeting at Rooster's on Shelbyville RD.

Mike Schneider