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**SPRING 2026**

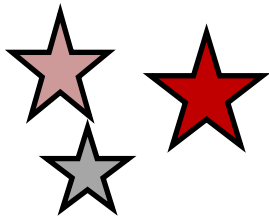
# Rummage Box

*An Official Publication of the AACA Publications Committee*

## THE RUMMAGE BOX

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

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**Chock full of information from your AACA  
National Directors and Club Member's submissions on a wide variety of  
topics for your use!**

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## 2026 IS OFF TO A FANTASTIC START!

*By Vicki Bolton,  
2026 AACA President*



Of course, the year started off with the annual convention in Chantilly VA. We returned to the Westfields Marriott in Chantilly. This hotel knows how to treat us right. If you have never been to the annual convention, I hope you will consider coming to the 2027 convention which will be at the Valley Forge Casino Resort in King of Prussia Pennsylvania. This will be a new venue for us and should be an exciting event.

The next event was the Special Nationals in Puerto Rico. The Puerto Rico Region provided some incredible activities for us to enjoy during our time on the island. We visited the La Marquesa Forest Park where we saw beautiful parrots and other birds. We also enjoyed a dinner at the Capitol in the Old San Juan district.

Our next trip was a short one to Cartersville GA where we toured the Savoy Automobile Museum. Have you ever seen cars stacked three high on car lifts? We saw this incredible sight on a behind the scenes tour at the museum.

Charlotte this year provided an extraordinary experience since the show was inside the racetrack. For the more adventurous, there was even an opportunity to take your car around the racetrack.

Our last trip was to Las Vegas where the region hosted the Western Annual Grand Nationals and the Western Spring Nationals. Prior to the car show, the region scheduled a tour of the Maloof private car collection where the collection featured an assortment including Cadillacs, Buicks, Duesenberg and even Rolls Royce.

All of these Nationals featured beautifully restored cars, but they also included the activities that I have talked about. AACA Nationals are not just car shows but include carefully planned activities that allow the attendees to experience some of the local culture and attractions. The local regions that host these events share their home with the attendees. These activities and Nationals help bring us together as friends, as fellow car enthusiasts, and as AACA members. These activities can expand our car community, which can help increase our membership.

I hope that the next time you attend a Nationals that you will consider attending some of the activities that the Region has planned. They have worked hard to plan these activities for your pleasure.

Do you have local attractions that you like to share with others? I hope that you will think about hosting a Nationals or a tour to share your community with your fellow car enthusiasts.

It is an honor to be the AACA President for 2026 and I hope to see you down the road!



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## Grouper, NOT the fish!

*By Steve Moskowitz, CEO,  
Antique Automobile Club of  
America*

AACA is always looking to increase benefits to our members, regions and/or affiliates. As such, you may remember our friends at Grouper, who have supported AACA members in the past and share our commitment to building strong, connected communities. Due to circumstances beyond Grouper or AACA's control the original programs offered to our members are no longer available. So, over the past few months we've explored different ways to work together, and we believe we've now found a model that truly fits our members and adds lasting value to the AACA experience.

That next step is Hello by Grouper, a national healthy-living platform now available to AACA members as a new member benefit. Designed to support healthy habits, meaningful connection, and lifelong learning, Hello offers practical tools and engaging experiences you can access anytime — from fitness and arts classes to puzzles, educational talks, wellness trackers, and interest-based communities. The platform helps members stay active, engaged, and inspired between AACA events.

You'll also find our dedicated AACA Community Space — a place to connect with fellow members — alongside a broader national community already enjoyed by thousands across many organizations.

If you haven't signed up yet, now is a great time to explore. It's already included in your membership — why not make the most of it?

Join Hello by Grouper: [[join.hellogrouper.com/aaca](https://join.hellogrouper.com/aaca)]

Once you've signed up, download the iOS or Android Hello by Grouper mobile app to access Hello on the go!



## Great news for Region/ Chapter Websites!

**This article will prove to you how seriously we take our hosting of your websites.** The following is a summary of steps recently implemented by our new IT management team.

We are very pleased as they have dramatically improved some of the speed on individual sites. As follows:

- Brute force login attacks: One IP address alone made over 7,500 attempts against the WordPress login page in a single day. We are blocking the confirmed offending IPs and adding rate limiting on the login page to stop this category of attack going forward.
- Malicious scanner traffic: Multiple IPs were systematically probing the sites for known backdoor and webshell file names. These are being blocked at the Cloudflare edge before they ever reach your server.
- AI crawler abuse: OpenAIs, GPTBot and Anthropic's ClaudeBot were collectively making over 33,000 requests per day to the Events Calendar pages, following date links that extend into the year 3000 — a known issue with the Events Calendar plugin that creates an effectively infinite loop for crawlers. We are challenging these bots on events pages to cut that traffic significantly.
- XML-RPC blocking: A legacy WordPress endpoint that is commonly abused for attacks is being blocked entirely, as none of your sites use it for legitimate purposes.
- Additional hardening rules are in place to block probing for exposed configuration files, database backups, and PHP file execution in the uploads directory; the same type of vulnerability exploited in a malware incident on another client site earlier this year.

Since full deployment, we have validated and tested the success of the hardening. In the past hour, CloudFlare has mitigated (blocked) 2.1K server requests which represent roughly 45% of server requests per hour. Server load is in an incredibly low range now combined with the server CPU/RAM improvements last week. In addition to security, CloudFlare now provides several performance

## Great News, Con't...

- Brotli compression and auto-minification of HTML, CSS, and JavaScript are enabled at the edge.
- Browser cache settings are optimized to reduce repeat page load times for returning visitors.

We also discovered and resolved an issue where WordPress sites were triggering each others background tasks over HTTP, generating approximately 20,000 unnecessary requests per day to the server. This was resolved by moving to proper scheduled server-side cron jobs.

All in all, we believe we've reduced server requests by between 65% and 85% in this go-round.

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## **\$5000 Grants Available to Regions/ Chapters to Host National Events that have not hosted in for over ten years....**

The AACA National Board realizes that the financial risk involved with hosting a national show or tour has caused many regions and chapters to be hesitant to volunteer to host a national event. Some regions simply do not have the funds available.

At the National Board of directors meeting in Hershey PA 2023, the board approved a \$5000 grant to any region receiving board approval to host a national event that has not hosted one for more than ten years.

There are many opportunities to host one of these events. We have winter nationals available and will schedule up to three years in advance. Spring and Fall National shows are available to schedule for Eastern, Southeastern, Central and Western Divisions, also up to 3 years in advance.

Touring Events share the same opportunities. Founders Tour, Sentimental Tour, Vintage Tour, Reliability Tour, Glidden Tour and all four Divisional tours have available openings for your region to reserve for up to three years in advance. Don't miss this opportunity to host a national event. Take advantage while the national board has this offer open! For more information, contact Greg Jackson, your 2026 VP for National Activities.



## **East, West, North, South ~Where is Next?**

**By Greg Jackson**

**2026 VP National Activities**

2025 resulted in eight total nationals for the year. One in the Southeastern, two in the Western and Central regions and three in the Eastern division. Two Grand National meets were hosted, one in the Eastern Region and one in the Western Region. Tours for the year included the Vintage Tour (Model Year 1931-earlier), the Eastern Divisional Tour (Model year 2000 & earlier), the Central Divisional Tour (Model year 2000 & earlier).

The calendar has come together for 2026 with 14 events including the convention. We have embraced out of the box thinking with new ways to put on events, including having our National Headquarters sponsor two events, the National Board of Directors sponsoring one, and hosting two Grand National events in both the East and West. The first Winter Nationals in three years was hosted in 2026, which will also was the first meet held in the state of Georgia in 24 years. The Sentimental tour (Model Year 1928-1958) will make a return to the schedule after a four year absence.

Financial assistance is available for Regions and Chapters that have not hosted a national event in 10 years, please contact National Headquarters or the VP of national Activities for more information. Always check [aaca.org](http://aaca.org) for the most up to date schedule.



## Helpful tips for your Club's Membership Tent...



*By Jeff Oaks  
2026 VP National  
Membership*

Springtime is on its way out and everyone is getting out with their old antique cars, ready for another year of fun. The local Chapter and Region shows are also underway and I have been asked if I have any useful tips to help with their local membership tents. Well from experience and listening to others, there are a few handy ideas that seem to work well:

- Have a tent and table set up in a high traffic area on the show field. A great number of our new members come from the enthusiasm and spirit of the show.
- Have a banner that says Club Information and Membership or something to that effect for easy recognition and clarification.
- Strike up a conversation. Find out if they own an old car, and what is their favorite era? Are they looking for something? Are they a member?
- When you have inquiries about the club, have information readily available to pass along about the AACA and your Region. There are Trifolds available for this very purpose with some good info listed. This will give them an idea of what our club is all about.
- Ask the local membership to donate (recycle) old AACA National and Region magazines for the show. Display them for prospective members to look at and take a few with them.
- There is always interest about your local level. An idea that works well is to make up a local fact sheet to pass to those interested. This should include parades, picnics, outings, and other annual events. Include websites for AACA National, your Region, and Chapter. A couple of small photos are also an eye catcher. Include info for a contact person.
- Make sure the information on your Website is up to date!

- Another useful thing is to have a few copies of AACA calendar events at all levels. I laminate them and put them on the tabletop. It is very useful in promoting the club.
- Talk up the Tours. This is a great way to have fun with others, drive your cars, visit places you've never been, and see the countryside
- Do not forget the Complimentary Memberships and Military Memberships for first time AACA members. I must add one word of caution as there has been disappointment using a Complimentary at a show and never seeing them again. So the challenge is to make sure they show true interest by attending a meeting and showing genuine interest.
- Finally, if a person loves antique cars and wants to keep up with the hobby, owning a vehicle is not a requirement to be a member of the AACA.

There are many other ways to promote membership but maybe this list of ideas will help ...

Promote your local Region and the AACA. There are plenty of things to enjoy on all participation levels throughout the year!

I am looking forward to each of the 2026 events on our AACA calendar and hope to see you there! See you soon...

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- National Tours All Over the Country
- Extensive Automotive Library
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## Rummage Box Editor's Message



**By Debbie Nolen**  
**2026 VP Publications and**  
**Region/Chapter Websites**  
**Development & Support**

Welcome to 2026!

We are all ambassadors for the hobby and the AACA! Each newsletter editor and webmaster works to keep us all inspired and informed, leading us to easily assist in the overarching mission of AACA. Our Theme is MEMBERSHIP!

Ultimately it's all about connecting each reader and viewer by sharing our unique experiences, not only with each other locally, but with the National AACA audience as well. We all support the essential purpose and value of a newsletter, large or small, magazine or folded - it is truly the lifeblood of their club, region and the AACA, connecting us all together in the love of the old car hobby and fellowship with one another...and other editors from all over the country.

Jeff Oaks, our Board VP for Membership is leading a team that has been highly successful and his message here in is a primer in effective membership recruitment at events!

What's truly important is the fact that we never know when an opportunity to create excitement in fellow automobile enthusiasts and desire to be a part of the AACA — read Neil Lauver's article on how his search for specific hard to find parts in Korea and beyond for his vehicle's restoration led to an unexpected friendship from overseas with participation in the 2025 Fall National in Hershey, PA.

Just as importantly, is the influence that the AACA extends throughout the car hobby...Recently during the Greenbrier Concours d'Elegance, a special automotive discussion with Q & A was held with participants.

The panel included two-time AACA President, Tom Cox as moderator, our CEO, Steve Moskowitz, our publication *Antique Automobile* editor in chief, West Peterson and Greg Stanley, the host of the Collector Car Podcast and author of a new book, *The Enthusiasts Guide to Collector Cars*.



Discussion was lively with membership in clubs and the future of the hobby was a hot topic from all perspectives. Excellent discussion and again, another opportunity to share AACA and create excitement in both current and future members!

So, as mentioned earlier, we are each AACA Ambassadors and never know when the opportunity will present itself to be a positive influencer in the hobby! Seize it!

### Old Cars Weekly Golden Quill Awards 2025

The Golden Quill Award is awarded annually to high-achieving editors of club publications in the old-car hobby. High achievers have set the pace for Old Cars' 2025 Golden Quill Award winners, who, in this case, represent outstanding collective achievement within the AACA family.

Congratulations to editor West Peterson, of our *Antique Automobile* magazine, on receiving a 2025 Golden Quill Award. To share recent remarks in *The Speedster*: "This honor reflects not only his skill as an editor and storyteller, but also the high standard of quality that *Antique Automobile* consistently delivers to our members. His work plays a key role in preserving and sharing automotive history, and we are proud to have that level of excellence representing AACA." Bravo, West!!





## Sharing Keeps the Story Alive

**By Charlotte Dahlenburg**  
**Great Southern Region**  
**Newsletter Editor**

There's something special about old cars. It's not just the chrome or the curves, or even the sound of an engine that doesn't quite purr the way new ones do, it's what they represent. These machines carry more than just people, they carry memories. Some are deeply personal, the first time behind the wheel, a long summer road trip, cruising to your favorite diner with the windows down and music up. Others reflect the broader journey we've taken as a society, the innovations that pushed the industry forward, the missteps that taught us hard lessons, and the trends that defined entire generations.

In every restored panel and every original detail, there's a story waiting to be told. Some of those stories are well-known: iconic models, historic races, design breakthroughs. But just as important are the stories that live quietly in the hearts of everyday enthusiasts. Stories of rebuilding a car with your grandfather; of breaking down on the side of the road and finding help from a stranger; or of finally tracking down the vehicle you always dreamed of owning.

That's the real heart of this club. Yes, we love the cars. But more than that, we love what they mean. We're memory keepers, in a way. We help ensure that the past doesn't disappear beneath the dust and rust. can't remember everything. But together, we can preserve the memories that matter most, the ones that connect us, inspire us, and remind us why we do what we do.

So here's my ask to you: send in your stories to your local region or chapter newsletter editor or share with the entire AACA club. Tell us about the car that got away or the one you finally found. Share a road trip memory, a restoration saga, or even a photo with a few lines about what it means to you. Big or small, every story adds to the rich tapestry we're building and once it's shared, it lives forever.



## Take a Tour - Lots of Exciting Things to Do!!

**By Dave Anspach, 2026 VP Touring,**  
**2025 Past President**

It's touring season!! The AACA calendar has a lot of exciting tours this year, with a lot of interesting and historic places to visit. Here is a listing of this years tours.: The first tour this year is the Sentimental Tour. Hosted by the Oakland Pontiac Worldwide Region For cars built between 1928 and 1958,

It tours the area around historic Mechanicsburg Pa. It includes visits to the AACA Museum, The Army Heritage Center, Lake Tobias, Easten Museum of Motor Racing, and the Rolls Royce Museum. With Don Barlup as Tour Chair, it will surely be one of the best.

Next on the schedule is the Southeastern Divisional Tour. The only Divisional Tour this year open to all cars 25 years of age or older, it is hosted by the Great Smoky Mountain Region and Little Detroit Chapter, it tours the area around Flat Rock N. C. The tour begins in the beautiful Orchard country in the area that has over 150 Orchards of over 5,500 acres. The tour then proceeds into some of the historical areas which includes stops in the Carolina Carriage, Benson Memory Lane Auto Museum, Hendersonville Airport, and the Johnson Farm. The tour has come early and Stay late features and is chaired by seasoned Tourmasters Hulon McCraw and Mike Block. Don't miss this one if you have one of the more recent AACA tour cars!!

Third on the 2026 list is the Founders Tour. For Cars from 1932 to 2001, this tour is based in the heart of Americas most historic area, Williamsburg Va. Hosted by the Historic Virginia Peninsula Region, it centers around Williamsburg, Va. the heart of the American Revolution. The tour visits the Jamestown settlement, Colonial Williamsburg, historic Yorktown, a plantation along the James River. This tour will feature true colonial flavor and great fun and food for everyone. Led by tour co chairs Scott Dayton and Greg Smith, It will surely be one of the highlights of the tour season.

The final tour on the calendar is the jewel of each year's tour season, the Glidden Tour. This oldest continuously running on any tour calendar is for cars built before WWII. It is jointly sponsored every year by the AAA, AACA, and the VMCCA with the AACA board of directors serving as the hosts for this year. This years Glidden will cover over 500 miles of Delaware, Maryland, and New Jersey. Over the mostly level ground of the first state, The tour will visit Historic Lewes Delaware, the Fort Miles Coastal defense Museum and Park, and Travel on the Cape May Lewes Ferry to New Jersey. You will also the air Mobility Command Museum, the Delaware Agriculture Museum, and take some laps on the Dover Motor Speedway NASCAR track. Finally you will visit the Mount Harmon Plantation and the Massey Air Museum and end up back at the Bally's Casino Resort for a closing Banquet. Chair Dave Anspach, Tourmaster Kyle Blake, and Registrar Vince Delisi all welcome you to sign up for a tour that is one not to be missed!!

The 2027 Tour looks pretty sparse right now. Please consider getting your Region to sign up for hosting a tour. It is a fun and fulfilling way to show your fellow club members what a great area your region is in. Contact me of Greg Jackson for more information on hosting a tour!

## Why are the Regions and Chapters Important?



*By Vicki Bolton,  
2026 AACA President*

I asked a question at the Regions and Chapters dinner in Chantilly - How many have you already attended a region or chapter event this year?

The response was amazing!

And that activity level is why the regions or chapters are so important to the success of AACA.

They bring us together to share our common interests. In the business community that is called networking. Networking is what we are doing when we get together for dinner, a tour or a car show. We gather together at these events to swap stories, enjoy the cars, and maybe stretch the truth a tad now and then.

Whatever the reason, it is important that we gather together to stay connected because that is how we keep the regions and chapters active. The networking that happens at those events helps strengthen friendships and it helps us to learn about our cars and keep them on the road. The people in the car hobby are some of the friendliest and most helpful people you will ever meet. If you go to an event and have a problem, you can depend on someone being able to help. One of our region's members helped us put our Corvair back on the road and I know some of you have experienced that same generosity.

And putting the cars back on the road is the name of the game because our cars were built to drive and driving them helps us get the exposure that we need to grow the regions and chapters. That growth is what sustains the local and national organization.

How often have you stopped for gas, and someone will come over and ask about the car, or maybe you come out of the grocery store to find someone eyeballing your car. That time is the perfect time to ask them to your next event. They come or maybe not, but the important thing is to ask...It may not happen the first time or the second time, but sooner or later it will happen, they will come and that very person may be the very person who will help you grow your region and chapter.

My region, the Great Southern Region of Alabama, located in Birmingham, was almost on it's last legs and the covid hit us hard but with a few new members we began to have meetings again. Then in 2024 we had a small car show. Last year we had two car shows, a repeat of the same car show that we held in 2024 but this time with increased attendance and a second car show in a different location with even better attendance. We have been asked to repeat both car shows this year.

Now some of you are saying that you don't have enough people, you don't know how to have a car show. But guess what? You don't have to have a big event to have a successful event, the important thing is to get together and have events. Find a local attraction and do a Saturday tour to visit that attraction. And you know that ice cream is always a big hit for car people so take a tour to an ice cream place, or see if you can have a car show at the ice cream place. You might start with only 5 cars, maybe a dozen and that is ok because it means you are doing something. One event will lead to another event and those events will lead to more people and more events.

You may have noticed that I have not mentioned the word membership yet and that was deliberate because I think sometimes, as soon as we hear the word, we think oh not another lecture on membership. But Membership is important to our organization both at the local level and at the National level and I think the simplest way we can increase the membership is by focusing more on our local activities hosted by the regions and chapters.

Regions and chapters are the way we share the hobby with each other and with our communities. When you host a Nationals or a tour, you are sharing your communities with other members and that is how we foster growth in our hobby.

Thank you for all you do. I know that sometimes it is hard work, but it can also be fun and rewarding.

I look forward to seeing you and talking with many of you at one of the many activities this year.



## The Long Reach of AACA – From Eastern Asia to Hershey ... and Beyond

*By Neil Lauver, Historic Fredericksburg Region, Virginia*

Countless factors have no doubt created high degrees of difficulty over the decades for owners and restorers of AACA-compliant antique cars. And, this includes finding and obtaining original factory parts for cars originally built overseas that were introduced into but not built in the United States, and especially factory parts from foreign car manufacturers with a short history in the US market (at the time the given car was produced) ... coupled with limited initial models that didn't share parts ... with those few models having short-interval production runs owing to incremental mid-model changes and upgrades (in the attempt to rapidly increase market share here) ... and where the foreign car manufacturers moved on to new US model-introductions - ceasing the (overseas) parts shipments to the US for the earlier models, resulting in the depletion and/or elimination of the initial replacement parts from the manufacturer's US-based Parts Distribution Centers (PDCs) thereby making room for the manufacturer's newer models' parts. And, this certainly was the case for the latest Eastern Asian AACA-compliant restoration undertaken by the author – the preservation and restoration of a South Korean 4-door sedan originally built in Ulsan, South Korea for sale into the US market (which shipped from South Korea to Port Newark, NJ, and was then tractor-trailer to a dealership in Mechanicsburg, PA, before being sold new to a dealership in Fairfax, VA.

As the restoration of the South Korean-built sedan began, the parts supplies from the US PDCs (via a local US dealership) proved readily available and relatively inexpensive. However, as the restoration years progressed and the foreign car manufacturer continued to introduce more new models to the US with ever increasing features, the manufacturer's gain in market share (and quality and costly legal issues) resulted in higher and then higher still prices for the original remaining parts (at the PDCs). And then during the pandemic, PDC supplies of the original parts seemed to *disappear almost overnight* (as though they were purged), even though appreciable preservation and restoration work on the car

remained. And this also was the case across all the related US dealerships – the needed original parts no longer existed in the dealerships' stocks. Additionally, there were no back-order purchasing options via the PDCs. And, this is where the long reach of and for AACA reveals and demonstrates itself ... and gets quite interesting.

After innumerable attempts to determine remaining parts availabilities with little avail in countries and territories where the same or similar Ulsan-built cars were shipped (Canada, Australia, Europe, United Arab Emirates, and Puerto Rico) and after being told the US parts would not be available in Korea nor anywhere else and were no longer being produced, the author reached out to an Ebay seller in South Korea inquiring about assistance in obtaining the needed original factory parts - from a large parts listing constructed and supplied by the author (i.e., not listed by the seller and not listed on Ebay nor elsewhere).

The seller – who proved to be an amazing person – began researching the author's initial sub-list of supplied part numbers, and soon got back saying the (initial list of) parts *were available!* (yes, in South Korea – *the parts still were there after all these years*) and identified the pricing of each part and the total shipping ... and purchased the items through the South Korean logistics distribution (similar to the US PDCs) ... and then sent pictures of the parts – *still in their original factory packaging!* Then, the author immediately made payment and the seller immediately shipped the initial parts, and *the parts arrived the next day.* Original, pristine, factory parts still sealed from the day they were manufactured with the exact US part numbers on their original labels - labels with historical significance and which pre-date the manufacturer's new modern labels and logos. This process then repeated another 6 to 7 Ebay cycles - with the seller tracking down in South Korea nearly every original factory part that was needed and that was no longer available anywhere in the US (nor identifiable as available elsewhere).

Along the way, the author introduced AACA to the South Korean Ebay seller, mentioning the criticality of obtaining the original South Korean factory parts for the restoration to meet AACA's requirements for authenticity. This and other related conversations led the seller to mention that he was part of an engineering team in Korea in his advanced studies program

The long reach of AACA, con't ...

Upon receiving a picture of the seller's race car, the author shared more information with the seller about AACA and its judged classes – including the race car classes and condition runs.

And this, in turn, led the author to share more information with the seller about AACA and the annual Eastern National Fall Meet in Hershey, as well as the Meet's schedule in October. As it happened, as the months were proceeding, the seller had secured an engineering job with a major Korean airline, starting his career.

And, the seller further mentioned that he would like to attend Hershey, and would be able to fly over to the eastern US on the airline's employee discount program. As the October AACA Meet neared, the Ebay seller worked his flight and travel details, and arrangements were made for the author (and his wife) and the seller to meet in PA and to attend AACA's Eastern Fall National Meet together. This then occurred, with the young engineer from South Korea having a rich and rewarding and thoroughly enjoyable experience walking the car and vendor fields and auction tents



at Hershey, absorbing the early automotive history that was on display.

As a pre-plan to cap off the meeting at the AACA Eastern Fall Nationals, the author and his wife drove the restored South Korean-built sedan (which has earned its National First Junior) to Hershey, where the gracious Ebay seller not only got to see the car he supported, but got to sit in it and start it ... and be photographed in it.

How cool is all this? And how cool is it when graciousness and creative problem solving are wrapped in the same individual - as this very fine young man.

And how cool is it that this is what ambassadorship of AACA yields. Unity ... shared passions ... productive results ... and friendship across continents.

And what a great combination to have in a new member of AACA – a young, talented, enthusiastic

engineer who travelled all the way from his homeland in South Korea to visit Hershey and to see the car whose AACA-restoration he facilitated ... and who understands and appreciates automobiles and aircraft and has a keen interest in their histories ... and is willing to help anyone anywhere in the world.



It was time to freshen up our cut-out Membership Car. The Mustang has been around for several years so we now have a new card based on a Camaro and in several colors!!! HQ has a supply, just reach out!

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
 AACA offers remote research done by library staff to anyone who is interested - Go to fill out a research request form to get started\*. \*Fees may apply.

**AACA LIBRARY & RESEARCH CENTER**

## “Someday” ...

**By Fred Trusty**  
**2026 VP Regions Development & Support - Central Division**



Willie lived in southern California for about 30 years before moving back to Louisville to help with the care of his elderly mother. He knew that I liked unusual cars so in early 2018 he told me one of his friends in California had a 1955 Pontiac Chieftain two-door wagon that he was going to sell. Asking an antique car addict if he would like to buy another old car is like asking an alcoholic if he'd like another drink. I thought about all the shows I've attended over the years, and I can't remember ever seeing a Chieftain wagon so naturally I said yes, I'll have another drink. It was a southern California car that Richard had purchased about 30 years ago with the intention of restoring it, “Someday.” Now, I'm sure none of you guys have ever purchased an old car with the intention of restoring it “Someday” only to find out that someday never arrives.

Richard emailed me lots of pictures, so I had a very clear understanding of the car's condition. The transmission and the 287 V8 engine block were there but everything else was missing. Other than the rusted floorboards it is a very solid body so we made a deal. Willie was planning a trip back to California to visit friends and pick up some items that he still had in storage, but that trip was over a year away. Richard agreed to store the car for me until then. Willie used his truck with my trailer and I paid for his fuel, so it was a good arrangement for both of us. Before tearing into another project, I decided to start collecting some of the harder to find parts first. Using the classifieds in the Pontiac club magazine *Smoke Signals*, AACA forums, *Hemmings Motor News*, and eBay enabled me to find a lot of parts. Front floorboard replacements and a NOS front grill trim filler were easy finds. Then I started looking for replacement taillights. One of mine was missing and the other was in very poor condition. I searched the internet for months and finally found a set on eBay that was solid but needed to be re-chromed. They were a “Buy it Now” price of \$1200 which I considered crazy money, so I kept looking. A few weeks later another set

popped up on eBay, but this time it was “Auction” style with a starting bid of \$150. I placed my \$150 bid and as the seconds ticked down to the end, I had my hand ready on the mouse like a gunfighter ready to draw his pistol in an old western movie. To my surprise, no one else bid on them. I sent them out to be re-chromed and they look great now.

The hardest part to find on these cars is what's called the paint divider strips. These are two “S” shaped chrome trim pieces about 1” wide and 12” long that attach to the body between the taillights and the bumper. They are made of pot metal and attach with small studs on the back. It's almost impossible to remove one without breaking the studs off. They are unique to the Chieftain wagon and almost impossible to find. I think I called every old car salvage yard in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. One yard told me I was looking for the rarest of the rare. I had one that was barely hanging on the car but in very poor condition. All but one of the studs were broken off and there was a big chunk out of it, but I thought I might be able to find a company that could copy it and make them using the 3-D printing process. If I was going to produce say, 100 of them, it would have brought the price down considerably but how many people own a 1955 Chieftain two-door wagon?

The next idea was to have them machined out of metal but again, it was cost prohibitive. I don't know why I didn't think of this to begin with, but I decided to place a “Parts Wanted” ad in *Smoke Signals*. A couple of months later a gentleman near Knoxville, TN called and said he had two of them in “fair” condition so I bought them sight unseen. While I was waiting for those trim pieces to arrive, an elderly man in Marietta, GA called and said he had one that he had pulled off a car in the 1960's just before it went to the crusher. He lived just a half mile off I-75 and it just so happened that we were going on an AACA tour in Florida in a few weeks, so on the way to Florida we stopped by his house, and he gave me the piece, for free. He was a very nice man in his mid-80's and had been a Pontiac fan most of his life. But you know what they say, “You get what you pay for.” So now I had two sets, one in very rough condition and the other not much better. I was shocked when I got the invoice for the repair and chrome plating.

Next, I turned my attention to getting an engine. I bought an engine and Hydramatic transmission out of

“Someday,” Con’t...

a ’55 parts’ car. A short time later I saw an ad in Smoke Signals for a ’56 engine and transmission so I made the trip to the little town of Prairie Du Rocher, Illinois, population 650, and met Dave, another lifelong Pontiac fan. I’ve never seen so many Pontiac parts in one place. He told me that “Someday” he was going to sell some of those parts.” I bought his ’56 engine and transmission.

Then about a year later, I saw an ad in Smoke Signals for a ’55 NOS short block. Dennis bought the engine in the early ’70’s for a project that he would get to “Someday” and just like Richard, someday never came. As luck would have it, Dennis’ friend that lives in Georgetown, KY was going to be visiting Dennis in Miami, so they put it in his truck, and he brought it back to Kentucky. It’s now on an engine build stand in my shop. I took the heads off the first ’55 engine that I bought and had them re-worked. I also used the oil pan and some other parts from the ’55 engine. I still have the ’56 engine and Hydramatic transmission that I plan on selling “Someday.”

That brings us to the transmission. I looked for someone to rebuild the Hydramatic for over a year with no success. I finally found a man that said he could do it, so I dropped it off. Two years later it was still sitting in the same spot in his garage. He said he was going to get to it “Someday” but I could tell his “Someday” will never come so I brought it home. When we were moving the NOS block from Matt’s truck to mine, he asked what I was going to do with the engine. I told him I was restoring a 1955 Chieftain wagon but still needed to find someone to rebuild the transmission. He told me about a shop that might be able to do it. I called and they didn’t want the job but gave me the name of Ross Brothers Transmission shop in Jeffersonville, IN. I called them and when I told them what I had, they couldn’t believe it. A customer had just dropped off two Hydramatic transmissions with the intention of building one good one. They hadn’t seen one in many years and now they had three at the same time. I was very lucky because some of the unused parts were exactly what I needed for my transmission. What’s the chance of that?

I haven’t worked on the project for several years now but I plan on finishing it “Someday.”

Here is some advice: “Someday” can be a very elusive animal. Let it get too far ahead of you and you’ll lose it forever, much like Richard and Dennis. I’m confident that I will catch my “Someday” and when I do, I’ll write a follow-up article about my just restored 1955 Pontiac Chieftain two-door wagon and all the fun I’ve had with the project.

The antique car hobby is much more than just cars; it’s the people you meet along the way.



## One Man’s Junk is Another Man’s Treasurer, Part I

*By Fred Trusty*

I was talking with a friend who said that he finally found someone that would haul his Camaro off for scrap. In the early 1990’s he owned a daily driver 1979 Camaro base coupe with a worn out 305 engine.

Since he worked at a Nappa Auto Parts machine shop, he could perform machine work on his own car for free, after hours of course. He bought a used Chevy 350 and being young and into cars, he wanted more horsepower so that meant a racing cam, a 750 Holley dual pumper carburetor, and of course a large airhorn. Got to have an airhorn to be cool. He never got around to finishing the bodywork so he drove it for a couple of years with the body in various colors of primer.

The problem was that it was difficult to drive because of the racing cam. He could barely keep it running at stoplights. Pop the selector in neutral, rev the engine up to keep it running, and then drop it in drive when the light changes. The car needed a stall converter but he didn’t have the time or money because by the time Jeremy finished the engine, he had graduated with his engineering degree, had a full-time job, got married, and just bought a fixer upper old farmhouse.

So, he parked the car in the small wooden barn on the property and that’s where it sat until he told me about it in late 2018. He said the body was solid with only the usual rusted areas behind the rear wheels. Using a piece of rubber fuel line, we connected a gallon gas can to the carburetor,

## One Man's Junk, Con't ...

installed a new battery, and poured a little gas into the throat of the carburetor and it started. It ran very rough but we were able to drive it onto my trailer.

Then Jeremy told me to pull up by his garage because he had some more things he wanted to get rid of. He threw in two already machined small block Chevy blocks and a crank. Then he threw in a set of American Racing aluminum mag wheels.

Stay tuned. More to come in Part II.



## ~Adding a Call to Action... PLEASE READ THIS!~

**Steven Rossi**  
*VP Public Relations & Event Planning*

So you're getting ready for your next Meet or Tour, and promotional material has been prepared. Including website updates, event flyers, etc. etc. All the usual details are there...such as date, time, location and more. But did you forget something?

How about a dedicated call to action? Such as specific communication that's intended to prompt an immediate response and get folks engaged. Thereby compelling the audience to...act! Beyond just attending.

A call to action for non-members in particular can be as straightforward as: "bring this flyer to the event... join the club...and get free admission." Other such promotions as "join the club today and get a free hat" can be quite effective, as well. Such a call adds even more perceived value and serves as an enticement but with a constraint...particularly if it's positioned as a limited time opportunity. Both sides, therefore, have to give to get. A call to action can be as simple or creative as you might imagine.

Having gotten an audience motivated with not only the chance to attend...but to enjoy further benefit... will establish a foundation of goodwill. So, you're then positioned to capitalize on it by proactively pitching and fulfilling a call to action.

In the meantime, I hope my very basic call above got you to at least...READ THIS!

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## Unique Awards to Make Your Event Special

*By Jack Harris,  
2026 VP AACA Finance and Budget*

A unique way to make your local car show stand out from the rest is to create a special award to give out to the participants. We all go to a lot of car shows and receive plaques or trophies. With a little creativity and imagination, you can come up with a remembrance that highlights your event and gets people coming back in the future.

This might be based on where your car show is located or what type of event your car show is associated with. This September my Furnitureland Chapter of the NC Region is hosting our 42nd consecutive annual car show on the grounds of the NC Transportation Museum in Spencer, NC. NCTM is located on the grounds of the former Southern Railway Maintenance Facility, which currently house a lot of train cars, cabooses & locomotives. As a result, we selected a rail theme for our award trophies. Each year we select a different type of rail car as our award. Many times we select an actual rail car which has recently been restored by the Museum.



A local furniture factory produces the blank award each year. I start out by creating a pattern which they use with their CNC router to cut the shape to be used that year from MDF. I then select a different color which they paint the blanks. Next step, I go to the local FastSigns franchise to have them develop a decal with the graphics and car show date, etc. to be applied on the train car. We have several work nights for our club members to complete the award plaques.

The result is a very unique award that people can take home to hang in a train order along the top of the wall in their garage. We also provide each of our sponsors with one of these train plaques, one of which has mounted them on the wall in his office.

Another special example is a trophy I received from the Cape Fear Chapter of the NC Region. Several years ago they hosted their meet on the grounds of the Battleship North Carolina docked in Wilmington, NC.



The Battleship at that time was having to replace some of the original teak decking, and they were offering the old decking for sale. The Chapter snapped up some of this historic teak wood and created an amazing

plaque for their show winners.

As an elementary school child, I remember the State raising the money to bring the Battleship North Carolina back to Wilmington. We had fundraisers at all the local schools across the state help complete the relocation. So to me, having a piece of this historic battleship is so very special! It is one of my most special treasures hanging on the wall of my garage.

Another example is based on what the car show is part of. For many years, my Chapter hosted the car show at the Lexington, NC Barbecue Festival. This is a very big deal here in the South and one hundred thousand plus people attend the Festival. The car show is a big attraction and draws many people over for a look. We created trophy plaques for this event in the shape of a pig.



We have had several variations over the years and everyone really looked forward to them. This can be as simple as purchasing small plaques from Hobby Lobby and adding a pig decal with the information on it, to ordering the plaques in a pig shape with decals applied.

As you can tell I am a frequent customer at FastSigns!





## ~Making the Ask~

**By Steven Rossi**  
**VP Public Relations and Event Planning**

If you attended the Eastern Fall National Meet in Hershey, PA you may have noticed that the Public Address (P.A.) system was put to good use during the Flea Market to gently solicit new memberships and renewals. It was an old school; proactive measure used in sales and fundraising that's referred to as "Making the Ask."

Making the Ask involves consciously asking for the purchase or commitment after establishing rapport by personally engaging with the prospect or audience... thereby gaining insight into their interests and understanding their desires.

Garnering an opportunity to simply make the ask means that you have already generated enough AACA interest and awareness to attract participants to your events and activities. So the stage has been set.

But simply leaving membership applications on a table and expecting enthusiasts to gobble them up is not enough. Take such passive tactics and actively rev them up by injecting personal energy into the process. And use all the tools at your disposal to do so. Like a P.A. system if one's available.

Maybe new members aren't joining because they're not being asked? So don't be shy, be the one to...ask! And don't be put off by rejection, it's a normal part of the process.

Speaking from experience, you might even have a bit of fun in the process. Ask me how I know!

## When YOU Come to a Crossroads....

**By Phillip Cole**

**2026 Executive Vice President**



In the Spring of 2000, I attended a communications workshop for nonprofit groups, churches and civic clubs in Nashville, Tennessee. The main topic of this workshop was "Life in the 21 st Century". Looking at the list of speakers, I couldn't help but notice that one

speaker had given his session a different topic, "Survival in the 21 st Century". I made a point of arriving early for his session, because his topic had really caught my eye. He began with a surprising prediction, "Over the next twenty-five years, one out of every four nonprofit groups will cease to exist!"

Sadly, in my own community I have witnessed the truth in this gentleman's prediction:

Churches have closed their doors; civic groups have ceased to meet; and, community projects are no longer supported. And yes, we have seen a slowing of loss in AACA membership which has been overcome.... But that's not the end of the story.



Now, entering the second quarter of the 21 st century, as members of AACA we find ourselves at a crossroad. Are we going to continue to just survive or are we going to flourish and move forward? I would ask that we all follow these three aims to help us move forward:

**Reaffirm our Mission:** The mission statement of AACA clearly states that we strive to be "America's Premier Resource for the Collectible Vehicle Community." Our mission statement should be the core value of who we are and where we are going.

**Embrace Change:** Coming to a crossroad means we may have to make some daunting decisions. But if we want to flourish and move forward, we must be willing to embrace change and encourage growth.

**Be Supportive of AACA:** Moving forward and overcoming road blocks that confront us are always best achieved through supportive community. We should all be supportive at the local level through our regions and chapters and at the national level through our national events. And yes, the best way to form and grow our supportive community is to encourage others to join us.

One of my favorite poets is Robert Frost. I recently discovered a concise but powerful quote where Frost gave advice about facing a crossroad: "The only what out is through..."

As we seek to flourish and move forward in the coming days and years as members of AACA, let's buckle up and drive straight through.





**2026 AACA National Activities**

**Annual Convention February 5-7  
Chantilly, VA**

**Special Nationals March 19-21 Guaynabo, PR**

**Winter Nationals March 26-28  
Cartersville, GA**

**Southeastern Spring Nationals April 9-11  
Charlotte, NC**

**Western Spring Nationals/Grand Nationals  
April 23-25 Las Vegas, NV**

**Eastern Spring Nationals May 28-30  
Indiana, PA**

**Southeastern Fall Nationals June 11-13  
Oak Ridge, TN**

**Sentimental Tour June 15-19  
Mechanicsburg, PA**

**Central Spring Nationals July 23-25  
Green Bay, WI**

**Southeastern Divisional Tour August 5-8  
Hendersonville, NC**

**Grand Nationals/Zenith August 19-22  
Allentown, PA**

**Founders Tour September 9-14  
Williamsburg, VA**

**80th Revival AAA Glidden Tour® September  
20-26 Dover, DE**

**Eastern Fall Nationals October 6-9  
Hershey, PA**

***Always check our website for any schedule  
updates, [www.aaca.org](http://www.aaca.org).***

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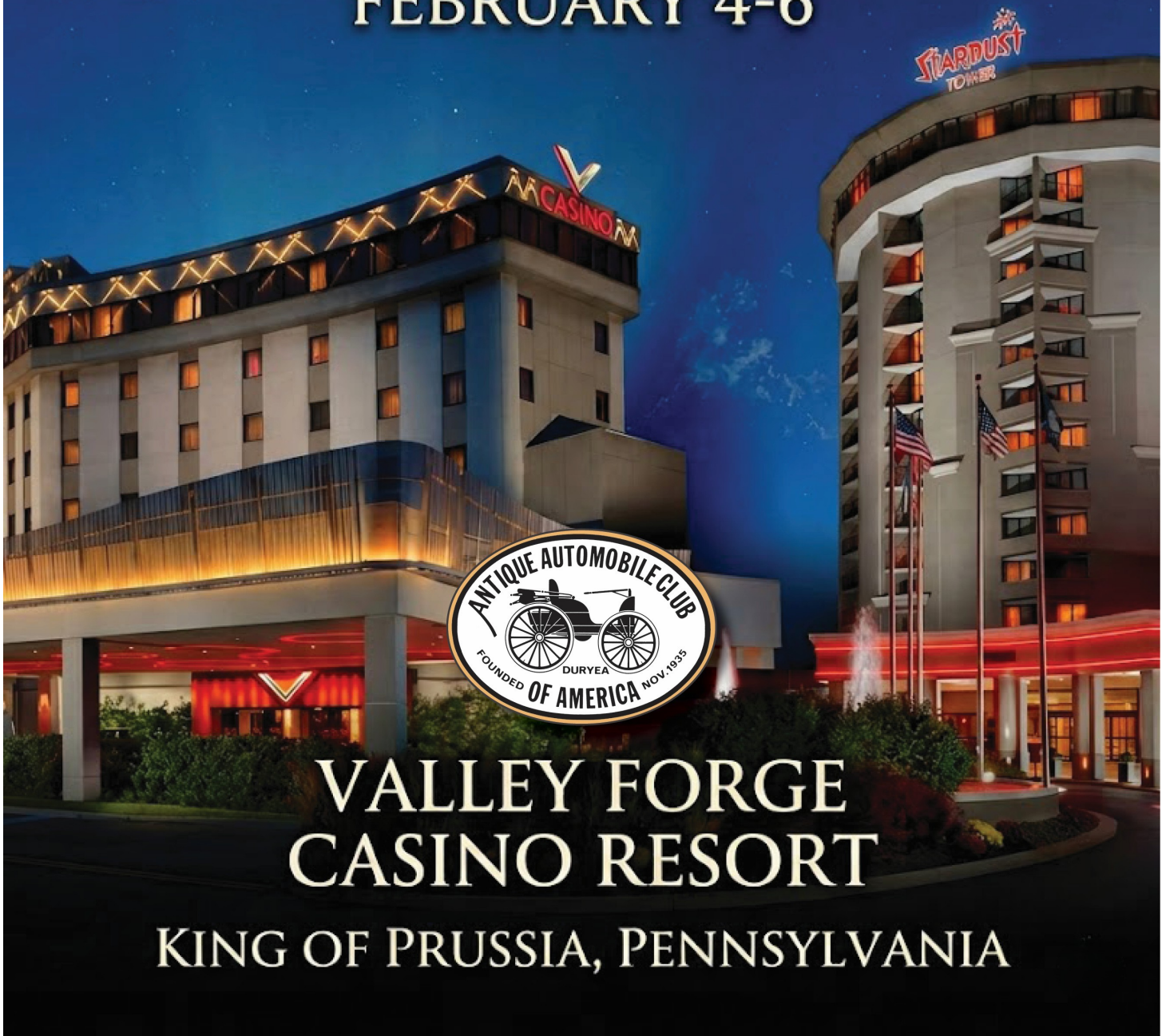
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# SAVE THE DATE!

2027 AACA  
ANNUAL CONVENTION

FEBRUARY 4-6



VALLEY FORGE  
CASINO RESORT

KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA



## Antique Automobile Club of America 2025 Annual Report



### From the President Dave Anspach, 2025 AACA President

It has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve as your 2025 National President. Your First lady and I have attended EVERY National show and Tour this past year. From Maine to Galveston and Tucson to Charlotte we had the opportunity to talk to and enjoy the company of members all over the AACA Nation. It has been an exhausting yet enjoyable time. From May to October, we were not home in Virginia for more than 9 days at any time and in October we were only home 9 days the whole month!! Thank you to every member that played any part in an event anywhere!!

We had a good year for AACA Tours with some unique ones in San Antonio, Texas, as well as in Maine and the Vintage Tour in Pennsylvania. All 3 of these were what are often referred to as “10 pound” tours. Tours are often rated by participants by the food quality and the amount of weight you gain by being on the tour. This year’s tours were over the top when it came to that. Add the VMCCA hosted Glidden Tour® which was also a gastronomic pleasure and if you went on them all, you needed a diet to get back to your Spring weight.

AACA shows also had a great year. Charlotte, Tucson, Beckley, Auburn, Dayton, Hershey, and Galveston all staged great events. The activities done as part of these have so many memorable times that it will be a lifetime of memories for us. As part of all of them, the awesome responsibility of serving on both the National awards and Zenith award teams was one that kept me busy at every national meet.

The great fun at each Nationals started early every show day with being at show field entrance before cars came in to hand out dash plaques. That was followed each show with awarding 100-year plates to every car over 100 years old entering the field for the first time. That was followed with National awards and Zenith judging which, on most days, took me up to a quick shower, and change of clothes



to get ready for the Awards dinner. Of course, the great joy at every show is the awards. The pure pleasure of every award winner makes all of the hard work more than worthwhile!!

But before you all begin to think it was a year of fun and games, it was also a year of hard work. Your National Board has worked tirelessly on ideas to increase membership. We have represented the AACA at numerous shows, cruises and concours events around the Nation. In addition, there has been extensive work in having other car clubs become affiliate members of the AACA. The Club’s Social Media efforts continue to produce positive results. Recognition of the Club on the internet is at an all-time high and continues to increase. In addition, the work by every member in keeping membership in mind all the time has resulted in a number of new members. All of this work has stemmed the tide in membership decreases and has started to move the needle toward the positive!!

The staff in Hershey continues to work tirelessly in service to the Club. Our members never fail to mention that whenever they call our office, the call is answered and whatever problem they have is quickly and efficiently solved. We are truly blessed to have such a group of skilled and dedicated people.

The Club continues to be on solid financial ground. This is from a combination of careful management of funds, skillful investment, and the generosity of our members. Every member needs to continue to keep the Club in mind while doing their estate planning. Every contribution to the Club, no matter the size helps to move the Club forward.

So, going forward, we have a lot more to do. 2026 looks like a great one for shows and tours. Get out there and participate!! Go to a show, take your car, judge, help out, go on a tour (even if you don’t have a car, you can ride along with someone), there is something for everyone to do. Be a part of the fun.

I have reached the end of my year as your president. Thank you for allowing me to serve you. I’ve still got a lot to do!! I hope to see each one of you “somewhere on the road” in 2026!!

### Executive Vice President

#### Vicki Bolton, 2025 Executive Vice President

It has been an incredible honor and pleasure to serve as your 2025 EVP. It has been a busy year as the Nationals were held across the country in North Carolina, Arizona, Texas, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana and of course Pennsylvania. I thoroughly enjoyed visiting new places and meeting new people as I traveled to these places across the country.

Your Board of Directors travels to the Nationals to serve you and our hobby. They are a very dedicated group of

people that serve and travel at their own expense. They work tirelessly on your behalf to improve our club and hobby. The Directors work throughout the year attending meetings and taking care of the duties related to the position that they hold on the board. As Directors of AACA, we are here to serve you and I hope that if you have questions, recommendations, or comments about the club or the hobby, you will not hesitate to contact one of the Directors. You can find the Director contact information on our website by choosing the navigation button, then select the drop down under the contact us option and choose the officers roster.

I am looking forward to continuing traveling to new places but more importantly meeting and talking to members all across the country.

### **National Awards** **Jim Elliott, Vice President**

The National Awards team consists of twenty-one of the most experienced judges in our Club, each with a minimum of 100 field judging credits.

Every car attending a National show or tour is evaluated for a potential nomination for a National Award. This year over 200 cars were nominated from approximately 2,200 participating vehicles. From the group of 200, each of which was a deserving candidate, 71 vehicles were chosen to receive a National Award trophy at the awards banquet to be held on Saturday evening.

In addition, eighteen service awards will be presented to honor regions, club members and organizations for outstanding contributions during the year in supporting and promoting the antique car hobby.

Each member who participated in a National show or tour enhanced this hobby and strengthened the National Awards program and for that effort, I thank you

### **National Activities** **Greg Jackson, Vice President**

2025 resulted in eight total Nationals for the year. One in the Southeast, two in the Western and Central regions and three in the Eastern division. Two Grand National meets were hosted, one in the Eastern Region and one in the Western Region. Tours for the year included the Vintage Tour (Model Year 1931- earlier), the Eastern Divisional Tour (Model year 2000 & earlier), and the Central Divisional Tour (Model year 2000 & earlier).

The calendar has come together for 2026 with 14 events including the convention. We have embraced out of the box thinking with new ways to put on events, including having our National Headquarters sponsor two events, the

National Board of directors sponsoring one, and hosting two Grand National events in both the East and West. The first Winter Nationals in three years will be hosted in 2026, which will also be the first meet held in the state of Georgia in 24 years. The Sentimental tour (Model Year 1928-1958) will make a return to the schedule after a four year absence.

Financial assistance is available for Regions and Chapters that have not hosted a national event in 10 years. Please contact National Headquarters or the VP of National Activities for more information. Always check [aaca.org](http://aaca.org) for the most up to date schedule.

### **Judging** **Dave Bowman, Vice President**

This has been my first year as Vice President of Judging after having served as a Chief Judge for many years. The experience has been rewarding from assisting in the evaluation of cars as needed and meeting and responding to the questions and requests from many of our Nationals participants.

In 2025, our members showed 1,950 vehicles including 271 Original Class and 151 DPC Class vehicles. We added 39 new judges through the system. Our dedicated judging staff earned 2,047 credits for judging these vehicles. Many of our judges attend all the Nationals held each year at their own cost. That is quite a commitment, and it gives us consistency in judging throughout all our Nationals. Please take time to thank our judging staff, including our Judges Administration staff who pulls all the results together before the awards banquet.

Thanks to all of you who have attend our 2025 events and we look forward to seeing you in 2026.

### **Judges Administration** **Vicki Bolton, Vice President**

This past year the Administration Team managed the administrative duties for eight Nationals. Members of the team attend every Nationals to process the paperwork to determine the award winners.

Our duties include checking in the team captains and reviewing their paperwork. After the initial check in, paperwork is reviewed again by the administration members serving at the pre-check station. Scores are then entered into the Meet Program on the computer. The winner lists are printed and checked by the post-check station. All scores are reviewed three times before the scores are finalized.

The team starts the day at judge's breakfast and finishes up sometime after lunch. Sometimes the day can be long, but the work is very rewarding as we finish up and know

### Admin, Con't..

The team starts the day at judge's breakfast and finishes up sometime after lunch. Sometimes the day can be long, but the work is very rewarding as we finish up and know that the winners will be excited to receive their much-deserved award at the banquet.

I hope that you will consider serving with the Administration team if you enjoy processing paperwork and like working with numbers. I know that you would find the work very rewarding.

Please consider thanking one of the Administration Team at the next Nationals.

### Online Event Registration

You can register online for all Nationals and Tours. Steps to take:

1. Go to [members.aaca.org](http://members.aaca.org)
2. Type-in your six digit member number and pin number
3. Select the nationals or tour 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
8. You will receive an emailed receipt and confirmation.

**NOTE: You must pay for each Nationals and tours separately.**

### Region and Chapters Publications and Website Development and Media

**Debbie Nolen, Vice President**

The Publications and Region/Chapter Website Development and Media committees both continue to grow and update the NAAP and the WAAP Achievement Awards Programs. Both groups continue to firmly believe that our publications, digital media and websites are the life beat and glue which holds members of AACA together from the chapter/region level all the way up to the national level, connecting us all to one another no matter the distance that separates us. Each serves in different ways to keep all of us inspired and informed to fulfill the mission of AACA. Please take the time to thank your editor and webmaster for all that she or he does!

**Publications** ~~ This year brought a successful update to the NAAP scoring and evaluation system which recognized improvement in many of the publications offered to our regions, with sixty-one NAAP program applications received. Ultimately there were sixty program participants. Eighteen editors will receive the 2025 Master Editor award; twenty will receive Excellence awards; nineteen editors will receive Distinction awards and one Merit award. To facilitate this program, there were a total of fourteen newsletter evaluators. I would like to thank the committee for their efforts and expertise in service to AACA: Terry Bond, Phillip Cole, Charlotte Dahlenburg, Michael Kissinger, Cindy Robish, Greg Jackson, Juli Aubrey, Brian and Lisa Munsey, Marianna Kopp, Dick Bettle, Jim Revett, Roger Frazee, and Jean Hawa, with a special thank you to Pat Buckley for her indispensable assistance throughout this year in the process!

### Region/Chapter Website Development and Media

~~ This year brought a successful update to the WAAP scoring and evaluation system which recognized improvement in many of the websites offered to our regions, with forty-six WAAP program applications received from regions and chapters. Ultimately there were forty-five program participants and fourteen webmasters will receive the 2025 Master Webmaster award; fifteen will receive Excellence awards; twelve webmasters will receive Distinction awards and two will receive Merit awards. I anticipate that the program will continue to grow in 2026. We certainly could not be able to provide this program to recognize the achievements of our webmasters without the willing assistance and expertise of our evaluation team: Terry Bond, Bob Stein, Phillip Cole, Charlotte Dahlenburg and myself. I especially want to thank National staff, particularly Pat Buckley, for all their hard work.

It was a great year for both our NAAP and WAAP programs and great improvements were realized in the overall quality and consistency across our regions and chapters. As you read this report, plan to go back home, welcome and remind all editors and webmasters that your VP of Publications and Region/Chapter Website Development and Media and every BOD member is always available when questions arise or just to assist in any way possible—we are all a part of the greatest antique automobile organization and as such we all have a part to share in our continued growth and success in the AACA .



## National Headquarters Steve Moskowitz, CEO

Another year has come and gone, and rather quickly, I might add. It seems each year flies by so quickly, yet the year has been filled with all sorts of activities and success for our club. Naturally it is you, our members, who make all this happen and we are deeply indebted to your loyalty and to your willingness to participate in our activities. Besides our charter, to protect automotive history, we have an obligation to make our club as enjoyable as possible for our membership and we truly strive to do so.

As you will read in other reports, we have invested heavily in digital marketing of our club. Our social media outreach has grown to heights you would never have imagined a few years ago. Although at this point it has not made a huge difference in our membership, we expect to keep hammering away and sooner rather than later we will see the results that we hope for. In the meantime, we continue to ask you to do your part in helping us grow the club.

It has been our dream to welcome with open arms other car clubs who desire to have an affiliation with AACA. We have made numerous presentations over the years to clubs who warmly received the idea. In 2025 we have two clubs who have taken advantage of our offer, and we hope it will make their clubs much stronger and us as well. It is a step in the right direction and shows the tremendous leadership and acuity of those clubs. Look for more great things to happen as a result of this collaboration.

This has also been a very good year for generous donations by our members whether it be monetary or the donation of cars. We have received some spectacular cars that hopefully will remain in our collection and others that will be sold to benefit the operation of our club. More and more members are contacting us about the proper way to ensure that someday any donation to the club is bulletproof. I wrote an article about this subject in the most recent issue of our magazine but feel free to call me if you have any questions about estate planning in regard to AACA.

Our staff continues to grow, which is a good thing for the membership. We now have more people to assist in the library and on the club services side. It will also free up staff to concentrate more on their assigned duties and allow others to tackle much-needed functions for membership. The bonus is that some of our new hires have brought skills to us that have helped make what we do here even more professional.

In conclusion, I think AACA is set for a great 2026 with spectacular events and a team that is going to work hard to ensure everyone has a great year. Finally, while my surgery recovery is ongoing and I cannot make the convention this year, I am there in spirit and will miss seeing so many of my friends. I hope during the year we can make up for it. Have a great convention!

## Library & Research Center Jen Wolfe, Library Director

In the last twelve months, we've continued to make good progress toward some of our long-term goals in the library. In 2025, staff fulfilled 734 research requests, with about 35% of those coming from in-person visitors to our building. About 70% of the total requests came from current AACA members, and a good part of those are completed within the 2-free hours membership benefit.

The library raised \$1,870 during the Annual Convention week, and \$15,645 during Hershey Fall Nationals. We are grateful and humbled to report just over \$38,000 in donations from our club's Regions, and individual donors throughout the year. Additionally, we took in 150 individual donations of material (with some folks donating items multiple times throughout the year), helping to grow our unique and diverse collection.

Our volunteers were on fire this year! We even had two new summer interns who helped us work on some important projects, such as digitizing the newly acquired Duryea collection, and writing for the library's column in *Antique Automobile*. In total, volunteers collectively clocked over 1,700 hours of time over the course of the year. To put it into perspective, that amounts to 213 eight-hour workdays, the better part of an additional full-time librarian at no cost to the organization. The work provided by these volunteers is therefore extremely valuable and appreciated.

We welcomed a new librarian, Jim Kapoun, onto the staff last January, and he's been embracing the experience of working in an automotive library. We have utilized our larger team this year, in part, by shifting and condensing some areas of the archives in order to make room for new material. As the collection grows this free space becomes harder to find, so we've gotten creative and accustomed to thinking outside the box. All this work behind the scenes has allowed us to better serve our members and others in the car community, and we hope to continue to make strides in 2026 as well.



## Public Relations/Event Planning

**Steven Rossi, Vice President**

2025 proved to be a very active year for AACA communications and activities, which not only bolstered Club awareness but further enhanced our image as America's premier provider of the "authentic" antique automobile experience.

Most significantly, with all the building blocks in place from the year before, the Digital/Social Committee hit the ground running and gained incredible traction during 2025. By the time October's Eastern Fall National Meet arrived in Hershey, PA, AACA enjoyed over 2 million online impressions via 1+ million accounts through our Facebook and Instagram offensive. Which drove more than 500,000 page views on our aaca.org website...97% of which were new visitors! So, we've been working hard to create a buzz about AACA...with an emphasis to Join!

Accelerating further still, our online effort expanded into the realm of first-hand testimonials and video creation...much of which was captured at Hershey, to highlight the essence of AACA membership. Not specifically...nor merely...to promote the event itself. This effort was fulfilled through our month-to-month cooperation with the ever-progressive Creative Web resource that we've engaged.

Speaking of Hershey, with the gracious support of that Region, we accelerated our onsite messaging at this preeminent event. In addition to narrating the Friday morning "Morning Glory" procession onto the Show Field in the interest of furthering our non-profit mission to provide antique automobile education, the Hershey Region gave us "airtime" over the Public Address System during the flea market. As a result, we were able to proactively solicit new memberships and renewals on both the National level and for the Region throughout the flea market and car corral. It was the first strategic communications collaboration of its kind in AACA and Hershey Region history, which we look forward to fostering as time marches on.

There's also now a *buzz about* our Annual Convention because we've likewise become more ambitious in its planning and execution. The Convention Committee

got out earlier and more consistently than ever to advertise and energize its promotion. By the time you read this we'll be in Chantilly, Virginia, where no doubt a good time will be had by all. The word "all," by the way, has become a rather tantalizing term for the Team when it comes to membership participation at this prestigious soiree. To accommodate everyone at the award-winning Westfields Marriott Washington Dulles, we had to expand the contracted Room Block twice before 2025 came to a close because we kept selling out.

Though be aware that while participation quantity remains an important parameter (we do have to pay the bills, of course), the Committee is predominantly focused on the quality of the event. For every two minutes we take to talk about quantity, we'll spend at least twenty discussing quality. To ensure that it's engaging, informative, entertaining and affordable... and therefore serves as a vital investment for future Annual Conventions to come. Because it's become... the place to be!

But wait, there's more. We continue to push Press Releases out to motivate the media in our favor, and this past year was no exception. Such news-they-could-use included the Zenith Awards announcement, Eastern Fall Nationals highlights and the newly recognized Class of 2000 (now 25-years old) antiques.

In summary, 2025 Public Relations & Events deliverables injected new energy to create additional awareness of and contemporary demand for the AACA experience, particularly among a broader and younger demographic. To help grow membership and drive long-term prosperity.



## Regions and Chapters, Western Division

### Mary Bartemeyer, Vice President

Regions and Chapters are the heart of the AACA. Without them and their support we would not be able to enjoy the fruits of the Antique Automobile History. Our Regions and Chapters help preserve, restore, and educate the public as a whole through our tours and nationals. Many of them back educational pursuits through scholarships and providing input to encourage local school automotive and young adult restoration projects. Getting our word out to the public is crucial to keeping our hobby alive. It's up to you, a member of a Region or Chapter to keep our hobby alive. To put the passion into our youth. Our National Headquarters is there to assist you or find who your local Division Board Member is. Hosting a Nationals or Tour can bring great benefits to your local economy and the Region/Chapter treasury. Again, pass your passion for your automotive history along through your Region or Chapter. If I can help, please feel free to contact me.

## Regions and Chapters, Southeastern Division

### Phillip Cole, Vice President

One of our biggest issues in D&S is getting regions/ chapters to file their national reports to the National Office. It is necessary that this be done annually. In 2025 all but three of the twenty-four SE Division non-reporting regions/ chapters did respond by April. Thanks to the National staff for all their hard work in providing the needed information for these contacts and their frequent updating reports.

We did have consultation emails with the members of the Committee of Development & Support from the South Eastern Division, setting two goals:

1. Find interested persons to work with us from Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and South Carolina.
2. Encourage the regions/chapters of the Southeast to regularly put on a Winter National. Ira Shapiro from Florida did make contacts with several regions in Florida.

During the summer thanks to a prompt from Greg Jackson, I was able to talk with the president and secretary of the Lake Allatoona Region and answer their questions. The end result was the March 25-28, 2026, Winter Nationals in Cartersville, Georgia.

Through April to August, follow up contacts were made with four groups who had contacted the National office about starting a new region or chapter from Tennessee, Georgia, Florida and North Carolina. The end result was the new Volunteer Region in Tennessee. I have made several contacts with the leadership of the East Tennessee Region and the new Volunteer Region to ensure a smooth transition for both regions. The Volunteer Region's charter was presented in January, 2026; and, they are moving forward with their June 11-13, 2026, SE Fall Nationals in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

In September, I made contacts in North Carolina in reference to starting a new chapter in the North Carolina Region in the Elizabeth City area, which is in the northeastern corner of NC including much of the Outer Banks.

Back and forth communications between your region/ chapter and our National Office staff are vitally important.

## Legislation

### Fred Trusty, Vice President

For the past year, the Legislation Committee has been looking at several issues that affect the old car hobby. The one that seems to have the largest impact on our hobby is the availability of non-ethanol gas. Trying to make sense of the hodge podge of laws across the country is like trying to herd cats. Some states sell non-ethanol fuel while others outright ban it. I think every old car enthusiast supports clean air but from a commonsense point of view, how much of an impact do our old cars really have on the environment?

AACA is a historical society. Our vehicles provide a living history of the evolution of transportation. Many of our vehicles are driven very sparingly, especially in winter months, which means that they are in storage for prolonged periods of time, sometimes years. E10 and E15 gasoline blends have nowhere near the shelf life of Ethanol free fuel. Once Ethanol fuel begins to age, it attracts water which then rusts out various components in our vehicles. In addition, Ethanol, is not compatible with many of the rubber components in our vehicles. Ethanol fuel also tends to be more volatile than pure gasoline which can create vapor lock in our fuel lines which in turn can cause our vehicles to stall during hot weather. Left in our fuel tanks long enough, it forms a black tarry residue that is very difficult, if not impossible, to remove.

Non-Ethanol fuel is more costly than E10 and E15 so it is unlikely that anyone with a modern car would be willing to pay the additional cost associated with this fuel, meaning there will be no impact on the environment from this aspect.

Legislation is an area that a lot of people steer clear of. Numerous members have told me they don't read the Legislation Corner Articles in Speedster because they don't want to be involved in politics, they just want to enjoy their antique cars. Fortunately, we live in a country where everyone is free to make their own choices but ignoring issues that negatively affect our hobby does not make them go away.

We realize that the Legislation Corner Articles in Speedster are not exactly exciting reading but staying informed of the legislative landscape is an important part of preserving the old car hobby. If you are interested in what you and/or your local region or chapter can do to help with our effort to preserve our hobby please contact me.

## Touring Fred Trusty, Vice President

In a post-Covid world, it is challenging to find regions to host tours. High inflation over the past 4 years has made it difficult to lock in costs. To help regions and chapters host tours, AACA has initiated a grant program to help cover some of the startup costs such as deposits and other up-front expenses involved with hosting a tour. Beginning January 1, 2026, AACA is offering grants of \$3,000 for any AACA 3-day divisional tour with a minimum of 30 cars and \$5,000 for any AACA National 5-day tour with a minimum of 30 cars. Note that this is a grant, not a loan, and it applies only to AACA 3-day divisional tours and 5-day tours.

The Touring Committee is always looking at ways to introduce members to the “other side” of the hobby. Going on your first tour can be intimidating. Not knowing anyone and driving your old car far from home can be stressful so for those that are new to touring, a suggestion was made to assign a veteran tourer, a mentor, to help new folks navigate this new adventure. This is also a great way to make new friends. Another idea that we hope to implement this year is drawings for door prizes at tours.

If it’s been a while since you’ve been on a tour or if you’ve never been on one, this is a good year to tour. The Sentimental Tour, June 15 – 19, in Mechanicsburg, PA, is for cars built between 1928 and 1958 and honors the greatest generation. Next is the Southeastern Divisional Tour, August 5 – 8, in Flat Rock, NC, for cars 25 years or older. Next is the Founders Tour, August 9 – 14, in Williamsburg, VA, for cars at least 25 years old. And last but certainly not least is the famous Glidden Tour®, September 20 – 26, in Dover, DE, for cars built before 1943. The Glidden Tour® is the oldest tour in the U.S., beginning in 1904 and can best be described as a unique touring experience.

I have so many wonderful memories of tours plus I’ve learned so much U.S. history and historical technical information. This is just a drop in the bucket of the many places I have visited while on tours: Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Natchez, Niagara Falls, WWI Memorial, battleships, aircraft carriers, submarines, aviation museums, former nuclear weapons air base, potato farm, breweries, potato chip factories, Tabasco Hot Sauce Farm and factory, Indian mounds, state capital buildings, a mulch factory, small town museums, Brushy Mountain Penitentiary, hydro-electric plant, Airbus plane factory, crawfish farm, and more incredible private car collections than I can remember.

I could describe touring to you all day long but you won’t know much fun touring can be until you go on a tour yourself. Cars were built to be driven. If you’re interested in touring or have questions please contact me. But be warned, touring can be addictive.

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