

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE—January 2011

Congratulations to the new members on CHVA's National Board: Kevin Stilley (our one incumbent, now **National Tour Coordinator**), Jerry Gorley (**Membership Follow-Up**), Dick Klaas (**Officer at Large**), and Angie Peterson (**Promotion Manager**). To those being replaced, we thank you for your service.

I am concerned that in our recent election only 300 votes were cast, roughly 150 fewer than we had in 2009. That means half the membership failed to mark a ballot. There are those who will say that the number of voters doesn't matter because every candidate on the ballot was a good choice. I can agree with part of that; the candidates were a super bunch, but *everyone* in the club *should* have returned a ballot.

To improve future participation, our computer gurus will continue trying to set up improved voting methods. This may include use of the Internet, so those of you who have not sent Bob Higday, Tom Stacey, or Gary Bossuot your E-Mail address, should do so right now. **Today!** That is important, too, because good communications to the membership will keep the club healthy and foster interest in national events such as our tours.

With that in mind, I recommend that you study 2011's tour activities now available on our website. It is apparent that Dolly Hebert intends to keep us busy every moment we spend in Florida this coming May. She now has the hotels sites selected and available for booking. Do keep in mind that she will handle your reservations and collect the funds for all our accommodations. I do recommend that you complete the forms and mail your check or forward credit card funds via PayPal soon. Instructions are now available on the website. No Internet connection? Contact your club director; he or she may be able to help, or phone Dolly at 650 637 1760 (Home) or 650 580 6337 (Cell); she will gladly assist you with the reservations. **This will be a grand tour for anyone who has not spent a long visit in Florida recently, so make your reservations now.** And, don't forget--practice piratical expressions and try on your pirate outfit in front of a mirror before you head southeast. (I do recommend that you do those things at home--alone.)

The drive to Florida from the western states is long. Some CHVA'ers are already making plans to travel as a group. For more info on that, check with those from your local club or contact Bob Trueax. Bob is an old hand at leading these cross-country jaunts and to my knowledge, like Bo-Peep, he has never mislaid his "flock."

And, finally, remember that we have tours in the mill for 2012 and 2013. Since touring in our older vehicles is the most appealing activity we have to offer potential members, tell them about Florida in 2011, East Texas in 2012, and our 2013 "UP by the Riverside" tour along the Mississippi from Mark Twain's hometown far enough north that one might require our resident translator to comprehend the meaning of "Ehhh" versus "Ehhhh."

May is not that far in your future, so warm up those AEVs! BK