

CHVA 2010 National Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2010

President B.K. Showalter called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

Board members present: Eric Beeby, Bob Higday, Bennit Roberson, Tony Romano, BK Showalter, Tom Stacey, Harvey Williamson.

BK thanked everyone for attending and explained that board member Kathy O'Connell was not present because her husband Tom was very ill and in the hospital. Kevin Stilley had to stay home to repair tornado property damage. Alphy Norman and Paul Schneider were held back by the long distance to travel.

BK explained that Gary Bossuot had resigned his last year on the board as Treasurer and that Paul Schneider had stepped into fill his board slot while our newly elected board member Kathy O'Connell assumed the Treasurer job.

BK introduced our AEV magazine editor Charlie Smith who was present. He brought several picture albums covering our CHVA past events. In addition to being our magazine editor, Charlie is also our club historian.

Tom Stacey who in addition to being our CHVA Vice President is also our Webmaster, pointed out that he had pictures of our new national web site on display.

Rather than read the minutes of our last board meeting BK asked if he could pass around copies and then take a vote on accepting them as written. It was agreed and they were approved.

BK brought up the issue of voting. He reported that the vote last year had a 42% response that was a big improvement over the previous 10 to 15%. Bob Higday reported that he is researching voting systems that can perform our vote with less cost and work on our part. Until we can reach more members with e-mail we will have to rely on the Post Office to handle our voting process. At this time it appears that it will cost about \$700, the same as last year.

Tom Stacey made a point that getting internet service can be had through cell phone access for those who do not have good service. It is available through Verizon and AT&T with an "Air Card" for about \$60 a month. Tom has been working on getting e-mail addresses from all members who now have them, so he can expand the Web Site change notification that he sends out.

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BK reported that CHVA membership is down 9% in this last year, which is the worst ever. He acknowledged that Gary Bossuot provided a very complete analysis of our membership records. He offered that one of the things that seemed apparent was when potential or new members attended a meeting or event, they were not made to feel welcome and therefore our retention is not what it could be. Not only do we need to bring in new members, but also we need to keep them.

Bob Trueax took the floor to offer his thoughts on future National Tour planning. He thinks that it would be good to limit tours to 7 days, maybe running from mid-week to mid-week, travel time to get to tour start needs to be considered. He also would provide each destination and then break up into groups of 10 to avoid long lines of cars. He would let each group get to the destination in their own time.

Harry Ozols then offered his thoughts about tours. He thinks that limiting tour length to 7 days can present a problem for tour leaders, by restricting their options of locations to visit. He also offered that limiting the group size to 10 might take away from the overall experience and enjoyment.

Pat O'Bryne then commented that he wouldn't like to see a limit on the number of days for a tour.

Dick Benjammin the 1982 winner of the most "U" turns thinks that the group size maybe better at 15 or so. He also feels that 70mph is too fast for the older cars,

Tom Stacey thinks that New Members will most likely still be working for a long time and therefore, tours need to be tailored to their needs.

Sherry Prickett noted that tour participants have the choice of driving old or modern iron, and that is as it should be, especially for new members.

Randy Wright said that he doesn't choose to drive his old car because of the lack of creature comforts.

BK agreed that there are good points in every argument and thanked everyone for their input. He also noted that it takes at least 2 years to put together a National Tour.

BK confessed that he used arm-twisting, intimidation and the seed of an idea to get a volunteer for the 2012 National Tour. He then introduced Dick Klaas as the planner and leader of this Tour. Dick explained that the tour would cover the Piney Woods

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area of East Texas, then into Arkansas. More info will be forthcoming. Terry and Judy Borgmann will assist.

Mary Jean Flory offered the opinion that once people do a National Tour they are pretty much hooked. We see the same familiar faces each year on the tours. People can belong to many car clubs and still have no friends, but that is not the case with CHVA.

Frank Snyder then commented that it is the cars that bring us together, but it is the people who bring them back.

Harry Ozols then appeared in full Pirate costume to layout the 2011 National Tour highlights, with emphasis on The Search for the Fountain of Youth. While Harry gave his spirited account of the Florida Tour, Dolly Hebert distributed handouts that provided details about the tour.

Eric Beeby thanked Kathy O'Connell for taking on the Treasurer job, and he thanked Jerry Gorley for taking on the Membership Follow-up job. Eric had a very full travel agenda and was unable to participate in board duties.

Bennit Roberson thanked everyone for his or her prayers and support during his relocation to Washington State to care for his daughter in her time of need.

Harry Ozols discussed CHVAID and how it can help fellow members. He suggested that a web page link would be beneficial so people on a cross-country trip could readily find help near their location.

Bob Higday discussed the need to add more content to the National Roster. He would like to see e-mail addresses and cell phone numbers included. He would also like to have a hard copy of the roster printed on an every other year basis.

BK closed the meeting at 9:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Higday
CHVA National Recording Secretary