

**2018 AHCA Delegates Meeting  
by Dick Storrs – CIAHC Delegate**

Opening Remarks:

Gary Feldman (President) welcomed the delegates; honored the veterans present; introduced new delegates; introduced Peter Sturtevant as the nominee to replace Edie Lowery (retiring secretary); recognized Chuck and Edie Anderson for their long service to AHCA, and noted that the F1 driver parade would be auctioned off on Saturday night.

Roll call was taken, followed by the approval of the meeting minutes for: Conclave 2016, the Fall Meeting 2016, and Conclave 2017.

Area Club Reports:

Reports were given for the following clubs: Alabama; Golden Gate; Sarnia Bluewater (Ont); Quebec; Manitoba; So. Ontario; Capitol; Palm Beach; Tampa Bay; Illini; Atlanta; Midwest; Central Indiana; Bluegrass; S.E. Michigan; Minnesota; New England; Carolina; Triad; Miami Valley; Mid Ohio; N. E. Ohio; Ohio Valley; Oklahoma; Oregon; Gulf Coast; North Texas; South Texas; Bonneville; Wisconsin; Mid Tennessee; Smokey Mountain; Tide Water; and the At Large delegate.

The best attended event was still the Holliday/Christmas Party. Many clubs did driving tours, visited wineries, went to plays, held Valentines parties, and participated in regional meets in promoting the social aspects of club membership. In the area of local club leadership, and to avoid stagnation in the leadership positions, some clubs are trying to rotate the office holder positions, as well as expanding/experimenting with club social activities.

Officers Reports:

VP Safety (Don Klein): SEMA information is available on the website. If anyone has questions they can check with Don. Of special note, Don mentioned the “Top Tier Gas” that the Country Mark Tech Session presented at Conclave and how beneficial Top Tier Gas is in the effective operation of Austin-Healeys. Also he reminded us that tires should be replaced when they are 10 years old. If waivers are needed for club events, they can be obtained on the “Member” area of the website (also mentioned by Fred Dabney - Insurance)

VP Club Support (Bruce Gearns): The subject of “local-only” membership was discussed, which provides insurance coverage for people who are only members of the local club only. The rate for “local-only” members remains at a reasonable \$5 per year. The long term goal is to convert these types of membership into full memberships. Free trial memberships will continue to be offered to first time potential members, so that they can “try-before-they-buy”.

The efforts by active clubs to work and encourage neighboring less active clubs will continue in 2019. This will also include clubs that appear, or declare, that they are struggling to retain members and participation in club activities. It is understood that our club membership is aging along with the cars, and ideas are welcome and successful ones need to be shared so that they can be applied by other clubs.

Central Indiana will work with Northern Indiana and Central Illinois has suggested a

joint get together at the New Port Hill Climb next year.

VP Promotions/PR (Ben Moore) The website for 2019 will be refreshed, without any major changes. However, calendar will allow for a request form to be submitted, so that events can be added more efficiently. This will also allow local clubs to get events onto the calendar so that they can be seen by the other clubs regionally and nationally. This permits club sponsored regional events to be more easily viewed by other clubs. Use of the website for communication with current and future members will allow for: easier distribution of Registration forms/data; delegate reports; let potential new members find us; and link to FaceBook and Instagram.

Printing of new promotional cards is in progress. These will be distributed to the local clubs through the delegates (~100/club). These will provide information about joining AHCA, the benefits of membership, and information about free first year membership (covering national dues only).

The “Constant Contact” program is being promoted to permit directed information to be distributed to different groups with AHCA. This would have information directed to just the delegates (for instance) that pertains to their office. Another example might be distribution of data and information to people attending or responsible for conducting a regional event (such as September Round-up). This could also be used to let people receive topical information pertaining to the BN-7/BT-7 Registry. Constant Contact is a secure program capable of distributing file, picture, and video content. It also is useful in communicating polls results, links, and measurable results as well. So far in early use this program has had higher participation use data, than found in similar applications (2505 active contacts – 64% pay rate – 23% click rate – 54% desk top vs 46% mobile use rates) [Not sure why all this data is important – my age – but when compared to others, this is much higher and more active than average; which I am guessing indicates it is useful to our club members. OK]

VP Conclave (Neil Anderson): He will assist all host clubs to continue the tradition of Conclave. Topics currently under discussion include: a) moving Conclave to cooler months (fall/spring); b) multi-club execution/implementation of Conclaves going forward; and c) continue to find highly desirable destination for future Conclaves.

2018 Conclave Report (J. Frakes): The Conclave attendance and high lights were reported. Of special note was the \$7900 sent to the AHCA national and \$5000 given to Riley Children's Fund. Responses from the delegates and officers were very positive and expressed many thanks to the Central Indiana Club for a very successful Conclave.

2019 Conclave Report (Eileen Wetzel): The Minnesota Club is hosting Conclave in the Black Hills, SD; **September 6 -11**; in addition to the require events, there are great driving tour opportunities and unparalleled scenery; Deadwood and Rapid City are under review for locations; it is a far drive, but affords a chance to visit a great location in the USA. They requested that other events reschedule to accommodate this change in the calendar. An Austin-Healey Parade through the town of Deadwood is now planned – sponsored by the town of Deadwood – and will precede the car show. Current registrations are now 197. A Caravan drive from the East Coast to Deadwood is not now planned due to a lack of interest.

#### Secretaries Report:

Peter Sturtevant's profile was given. Everyone applauded Edie Lowery for the job she has done for the past years as secretary.

#### Treasurers Report:

Bev Sealand provided a report that indicates we are solvent at this time.

Insurance - DMH Fund: Fred Dabney indicated that J. C. Taylor will continue as broker in providing insurance to the club, through Formost Insurance. No incidences to report on. Our "policy" is not handed out but a certificate, which provides proof of insurance, is. Our current level of insurance provides \$5,000,000 of liability at driving events. Participants are required to sign a waiver at such events to insure coverage. The Certificate is provided when requested. Where a club has a tour, insurance covers such club sanctioned events, as well as club officers.

The DMH board has awarded one scholarship (\$2500/yr) to a student at McPherson College, who is majoring in Auto Restoration. Clubs are encouraged to donate to the DMH fund, where current assets are about \$20,000. The auction of the F1 Parade lap drive at the Canadian GP and some recent donations are not reflected in the DMH Fund assets, but will result in an addition of more than \$5000.

#### Healey MARQUE:

Reid Tremel reported that the MARQUE in 2017 was produced at \$7700 below budget. During 2019 three issues will be 48 pages in length, as opposed to the normal issue length of 40 pages. This will allow for publishing some unique historical articles, including ones focused on Donald Healey and photos never seen before. Publishing in 2019 will include the addition of 2 paid contributors.

Commercial Ad Manager, Laurie Wilford, reported that while ad revenue was less than expected, it did not impact the costs to produce the MARQUE. The downward trend of paid advertizing continues, which parallels trends in all print media. Electronic advertizing is on the increase.

Regalia: Steve Bell reports that a new commemorative "Healey" signet ring (Herf Jones) is now being offered at the Regalia site. A correct ring size is required when ordering this item. The Grill Badge Project netted a \$400 profit.

Membership: Mike Schneider reports that the current total membership is 2973. Renewal registrations were sent out initially in late September; 350 have renew so far. The alphabetic index will be restored to the 2019 Directory and will add \$2800 to the cost for shipping. Mike recommends renewing on-line where possible.

Beth Lunney is retiring a the person who does the Directory layout. A new person is needed to fill this position of responsibility.

### Other Reports/General Discussion:

AHCA Car Registries: (Gary Feldman) The AHCA sanctions most registries, but some are non-sanctioned, and as such are not under obligation to follow AHCA guidelines. All registries are independent, controlled by an administrator, and can be as detailed as desired by the administrator. The only guideline requirements by AHCA are: 1) that registry data be kept private and 2) a back-up copy of registry data be maintained with AHCA (to prevent inadvertent loss of data). An administrator can only be required to provide registry information by: legal action; request of a documented former owner; or by permission of the current owner.

Driver Awards: (Gary Brierton) Driving awards are available in 2000 mile levels: Gold (8000 mi); Silver (6000 mi); and Bronze (\$4000). These are awarded for single and multiple drives. Additional mileage above Gold is also recognized by additions to the initial Gold level award.

Austin-Healey Museum – Netherlands: (Gary Feldman) To raise funds for the AH Museum, the AHCA is going to match club contributions, up to a total of \$2500.

September Round-up: (Dave Roberts – Miami Valley) There is not going to be a September Round-up in 2019. Another of the area clubs may elect to host, but Miami Valley is unable to host at this time.

Conclave proposals: 2020 (John Jacobs - Ohio Valley) and 2022 (Jim Revel – Bonneville)  
2020 – Ohio Valley has offered to host the 2020 Conclave in the event that no other club comes forward to host. During discussion it was learned that the 2020 South East Classic would occur about 3 weeks prior to the proposed date in mid June. At this point it was proposed that SE Classic morph into 2020 Conclave (to be held on the west side of Florida – in Crystal Springs). Since much would need to be approved by the club it was decided to table the discussion – leave it to the officers to carry on and make a decision – then put it to a vote (by email) by the delegates.

2022 – Bonneville proposes to host the 2022 Conclave in Park City, Utah – time TDB. Help from national and/or area clubs will be needed. It's in the preliminary stages.

The proposed AHCA budget was amended and passed by the delegates. At Cliff Hudgins suggestion, an additional \$1000 was added to fund activities that address the concerns of: contacting inactive/struggling clubs; lack of Conclave proposals; and future changes in AHCA to meet the changing member demographics.

AHCA 2019 National Officers: All previous officers were re-elected to their offices, with the exception of Edie Lowery who was replaced by Peter Sturtevant as Secretary.

### Break-out Discussion Group Reports:

- \* Future Conclaves may need to change in one or more of the following ways: alternate years; every 5 years; only held when proposed by a club (that would meet the proper planning time needs); and modifying a current regional event into a Conclave. The desire is to retain the every year format and go to “destination” locations, if possible. The 2018 model of cooperating area clubs is also desired as a way to lessen the burden

of putting all the effort on a single host club. It may be good to review or select areas of the USA as destinations first, then seek support of area clubs. It may be necessary for AHCA to take on a stronger financial support role. It might be necessary to limit the number of registrations at a Conclave.

Comments were made that: a) AHCA members don't like to drive long distances; b) AHCA members will only drive if it's 50 miles or less; c) Conclaves are too long; d) not all the events are necessary, make it a shorter event; and e) let's go somewhere interesting – like someplace we'd like to vacation. It was brought out that AHCA members do enjoy driving as evidenced by the involvement of the regional events, when Conclave wasn't enough or too far away or took more time than available vacation permitted.

- \* Club Support focused on struggling and inactive clubs. These are clubs rarely present at the delegates meeting, Conclave, or regional events. Typically they have lower membership. Leadership vacancies may occur, or the leadership doesn't change often. If the 80-20 rule prevails (only 20 to 30 % of the club is really active) then participation, planning, leadership, and activity dwindle where the club is small. Aging (cars and members) is having it's effect as well. Finances were not found to be a problem, as data shows all clubs to be solvent.

Some suggestions for change included: tech sessions that help older members keep their cars reliable; tech sessions that help in transitioning the car from one owner to the next (trying to keep it in the club or within AHCA); change up social events; women's interest activities; transition of officers to smooth out the process of change and provide an “in-place” back-up; “give-away” prize drawings at events (IE. Gift card); indoor, weather independent, events like bowling or karting; and keep events simple, focused on a single activity, not chained into multiple activities on the same day.

- \* The Future of AHCA was discussed and covered some of the problems mentioned under the Club Support and Conclave groups. Some of the additional concerns involved the subjects of: cars increasing in value along with the age of the owners; ability of young members being able to afford to own a car; finding younger members for whom the standard activities have relevance and interest; and what process/programs might convert owners into members – members into participants – participants into planners and - planners into leadership.

Some of the resources available to reach out to potential members are the Web Site and the Healey Marque. These are our bright and shinny tools with which to attract new members, but we will need effective activities and programs to keep them. Also, we shouldn't be in a hurry to drop the mantle of leadership responsibility on them at the beginning.

2019 Nominations Committee: Bob Yule, Steve Bell, and Jim Richmond were voted to be the nominations committee for 2019 by the delegates.

Next Years Meeting:

The delegates voted to return to Indianapolis next year.