2025 HCCA Board of Directors Meeting – Meeting Minutes

Location: HCCA Tent, Hershey, PA, 4.30pm EDT

Date : Monday, October 6th, 2025

1. **Call to Order (1628) -** **Doug Tomb**

2. **Pledge of Allegiance -** **Don Plumb**

3. **Board Member Roll Call -** **Rusty Berg**

☒President	Doug Tomb
☒ Vice President	Jim Skillicorn
☒ Secretary	Rusty Berg
☒ Treasurer	Kim Simoni (had to leave at 1721)
☒ Chairman of Board	Russell Holden

☒ Vince Altieri
☒ Don Azevedo
☒ Daniel Case
☐ Jeff Chattin
☒ Terry Cole
☒ Jim Diener (Joined After Roll Call)
☐ Jamie Holmes
☒ Peter Jakab
☒ Jeff Lesher
☒ Don Plumb

4. **Recognition of Guests -** **Rusty Berg**

Trees Simoni
Mark Cerroti
Don Poffenroth
Mike Yeakel
Keene Brewer
Chris Holden
Lindsey Jackson
Robert Caldeira
Bruce Tschida
Tracy Lesher

Rob Williams
George Dorris III
George Dorris IV
Steve Jackson
Eric Larson
Chris Paulsen
Matt Goist
Bill Black
John Memmelaar
Walter Hardin
Dan Sutton

5. Previous Meeting Minutes

Friday, July 18th, 2025, 2:30 PM EDT
Motion to approve (with or without amendment)

Motion to Approve: Jim Skillicorn
Second: Don Plumb
Vote: Unanimous Acceptance

6. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve (with or without amendment)

Motion to Approve: Rusty Berg
Second: Don Plumb
Vote: Unanimous Acceptance

7. Committee Reports

8. Old Business

9. New Business – tabled prior to the meeting

10. New Business from individual Board Members

Please note no new business will be accepted as part of the Round Table concluding the Board meeting. Comments at the Round table will be wholly related to the current meeting only.

Please submit any item of new business preferably in writing prior to the commencement of the board meeting with a proposed motion (Notice of Motion) where necessary for the consideration of the Board.

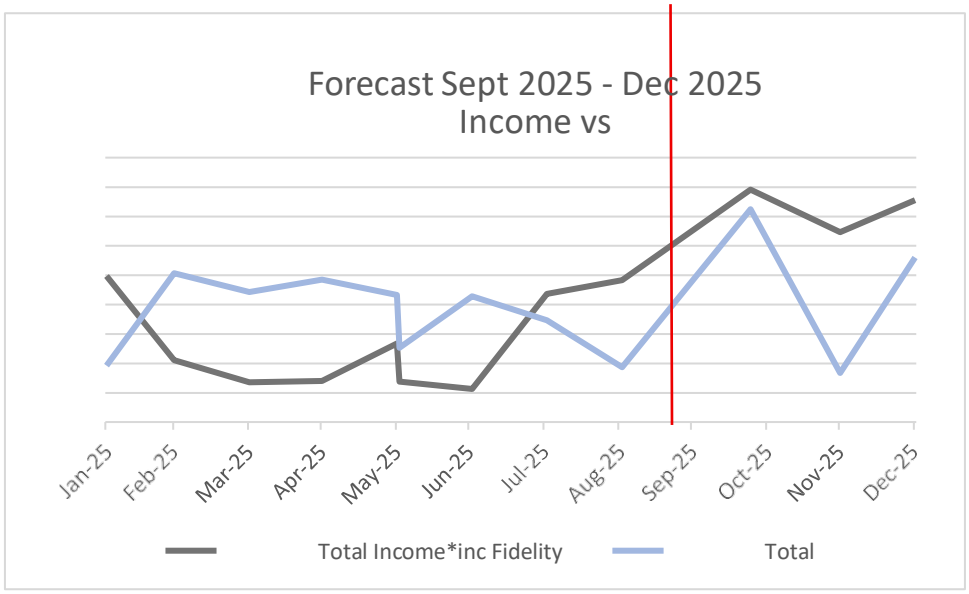
11. Round Table/Adjournment

Committee Reports

Finance – Kim Simoni - Chairperson

Finance Committee Report – September 25, 2025

1. We are tracking to expectations, as we move through our new fiscal year, which ends Dec 31, 2025. Recall that our biggest uptick in income comes from membership renewals, the majority of which occur in October (many at the Hershey Meet) and resulting from the mass renewal mailing Lindsey sends out that month.



2. The chart above shows actual income and expense through the end of August. September – December is forecast based on ***2024*** actuals. If this holds true, looks like we will finish the year ~ $5700 in the red overall.

3. We've had a number of one-time large-ish expenses so far in 2025 which don't occur every year:
   a. Accounting fees for two year-end closes ($2,340)
   b. Legal fee for Trademark research ($2,770)
   c. Federal UBI (Unrelated Business Income) Tax – estimated ($2,493) which is net income or loss from advertising income from Gazette. This is offset by the amount of time Tracy spends putting the advertising pages together.
4. A suggestion was proposed to introduce an "Insurance Contribution" charge for each car on a HCCA tour of $10. This would help support the club insurance benefit.

Respectfully submitted, Kimberly Simoni, HCCA Treasurer

Discussion:

Kim reported that the numbers in the chart are through August, as she had not received the September numbers in time for the inclusion in the report

The graph shows a forecast through the end of the year. It is showing that the numbers look to be trending towards a loss at the end of the year of around $5,700. This is related to loss of membership, the year end closing fees for both years, the trademark research, and a special incremental tax charge

Kim requested to follow up on the 10 dollar insurance fee in the new business.

Doug confirmed that the topic would be discussed in new business.

Kim also requested an update around the topic of the membership drive that had been discussed previously. Doug confirmed that would be address in the New Business discussion.

Regional Groups & Registries – Jim Skillicorn - Chairperson

As reported at the July Board Meeting, all regional groups were pleased to hear from National HCCA board members and hope for continued interaction. The greatest common concern by all regional groups is the reduction of membership with most stating their members are aging out.

The National Board of Directors needs to determine a course of direction with "what works" and provide this to all regional groups via the Gazette, the HCCA website and follow-up phone calls. Even the most active regional groups feel the successful future of HCCA is based on National board interaction and heavy recruitment efforts.

Jim Skillicorn

Discussion:

Jim reviewed the work done by the committee and summarized in the report. He reported that the committee has been working on compiling the information around what has been working for various regional groups. Jim did report that some of the focus is shifting not just to younger groups (although there will still be focus on that), but also to expand to focusing on folks who are close to retirement or a looking for a hobby and have expendable income (average age around 60).

Jim handed the floor to Russell to report on the Southeast Australian Creepy Crawly tour. Russell reported that is a large increase in interest in the slower earlier cars (i.e. high wheelers) in Australia. He reported that interest is driving a lot of success in setting up tours for the folks there who are bringing cars out that you would not generally see on the road.

Jim followed on with some activities that Salinas Valley Region did for the Monterey Car week and the focus the folks did in trying to get folks of an older age involved (not turning away anyone younger) and mentioned that there was interest in folks that had non-horseless carriages as collector cars but now could see the appeal, and that there seemed to be a good feedback from the activity.

Communication – Danny Case – Chairperson

I know I have not called a specific meeting on communications as yet. Our group has the oversight of the areas below. Please advise if there is anything that has been reported to you that we need to address.
The only issue we had which was brought up at the Gilmore was the one of administrative access for Chris Paulsen on the FB account which did occur as I followed up with him.

- Website
- Social Media
- Publicity, Marketing, & Advertising

Discussion item: The HCCA needs a Social Media Administrator.

Responsibility would include the HCCA Website, Facebook, Videos, etc.

Club brochures to hand out need to be provided for every Board member. An initial supply of 25 brochures should be sent to every Board member to hand out at events they attend this year.

Discussion:

Danny invited Chris to comment on the status of the Facebook page. Chris reported that things are going well, that he is now the administrator, and the amount of traffic remains relatively high. It was clarified that his role is to ensure that we don't get any content on the Facebook page that we do not want.

Doug and Danny commented on the potential for a social media administrator, possibly someone who has a background in that kind of activity who would like to hone their craft as a volunteer. Through the discussion it was proposed to look for a volunteer. Possibly to put an ad in the Gazette and on the website. There was discussion with feedback from the audience (Tracy Lesher) about what the specifics of the role would be. Doug clarified that the specifics of the role would be to focus on the content of the social media (Facebook and Instagram) promoting the image of the club, and sharing items like safety tips (i.e. pull off to the side if you have a large line of cars behind you on a tour). It was decided to place a call for applicants in the Gazette and on the web page.

Doug and Jim Skillicorn pointed out that it was decided in prior meetings to send out packets of club materials/brochures that can be handed out at events. Jim will get the list of active groups to Lindsey so that work can progress.

Web Report:

The HCCA Website needs an Administrator, to develop and approve Web content.
Web content is to be provided by the Club, this is not the job of the WebMaster Peter Gariepy.

Discussion:

Doug commented that there needs to be a web administrator to help coordinate ensuring the content that is on the website matches the goals of the club.

Russell reported that goal is to find one person (as a volunteer) from the club to make sure that the content is available and ready for Peter Gariepy to post on the website. The goal would be for the administrator to screen/gatekeep the material before it goes to Peter.

Lindsey and Tracy volunteered to start this role to help screen content to Peter.

Lindsey and Doug will add a blurb to the National News and Gazette asking for content to be sent to office@hcca.org

Classified Ad Revenue:

Per Don Plumb:

I have had several people tell me that the classifieds on our website are not as user-friendly as they used to be. Pictures help hugely in the ads. We need to strongly encourage their use. Could photos be included free or at very low cost, even if we had to increase the basic charge for an ad?

Per Danny Case:

> I know on the other car clubs that I am involved with you do get to add pictures. As an example, the Model A news allows 4 pics! Maybe too much but maybe we could compromise!! Here is their req't:
>
> *Up to four (4) images may be included with the ad. These images must be included as separate files, specifically not imbedded in the ad.*

This needs discussion at the meeting to see what we can do for member ads.

Russell reported that the website charges $25 for one photo and $35 for five photos. It does look like folks are working around these by posting more than one item per photo.

The goal of these changes is to try and drive volume to the website.

Discussion:

Doug mentioned that this would also be discussed as a topic in New Business and proposed to move on.

Activities – Vince Altieri - Chairperson

Verbal Report at the meeting.

Vince reported that the sales over the summer have been pretty brisk, and also commented that there are new calendars available for sale at the tent at Hershey ($10)

Vince reported that folks are posting tours on the calendar, but are not necessarily contacting him about them

ABC tour will be first week of June in 2026 in Georgia.

Jim Skillicorn has requested that another board member take over his responsibilities as HCCA Calendar Coordinator for the HCCA Website, It is essentially listing contact information so that questions can be answered (roughly 3 calls a month)

Danny Case volunteered to take the role on.

Don Azevedo reported that the Western Gaslight Region is reactivating and will be doing a tour in Exeter CA April 6 – 9, 2026. He reinforced that smaller four cylinder car (i.e. Cross Drive Franklins are welcome as well).

Dixie Slo-riders will have a tour at the end of October.

There was a question from Eric Larson coordinating the ads from the website to the gazette. Tracy and he discussed the coordination of events.

Vince commented that the tour in the UP of Michigan by Tom and Lois Deptulski had to be cancelled due to health reasons. Rusty proposed that Vince reach out to Midwest Brass and Gas to see if this could be picked up. Rusty also offered to reach out to Midwest Brass and Gas as well.

Don Plumb asked about establishing a National Tour in August 2027 hosted by James Zordich, Silverton/Silver Falls Oregon (named the Silver Falls National Tour)

Motion by Don Plumb that the tour in Silverton/Silver Falls Oregon area be designated as a National Tour.
Russell Holden seconded the motion
Unanimous Vote in Agreement

Russell brought a status update about the Harrah's Homecoming Tour, which was established as a National Tour at the meeting at the Celebration of Brass. The tour coordinators are working with the National Automotive Museum (former Harrah's collection), the staff there are putting the tour together, establishing the tour routes, coordinating the goody bags. The event is shaping up to have a lot of good activities. Russell commented that he has written an article for the Gazette for Tracy highlighting the impact of Harrah's work and his collection on the hobby itself. The goal of this tour is to celebrate this impact. Don commented there will be special recognition for former Harrah owned cars and also for folks who toured with Harrah. There will also be a special show for all Harrah owned cars up to 1929.

Dates will be July 27 through August 1, 2026.

Strategic Planning – Russell Holden – Chairperson

No written report.

No report

2025 Nomination Committee – Russell Holden – Chairperson.

Verbal Report at the meeting

Russell reported that the candidate bios are posted in the Gazette and recognized Don Poffenroth for volunteering to run for the board.

National News – Doug Tomb – Chairperson

Verbal Report at meeting – No major items to report.

Lindsey commented that the News are now including the links to tour registration pages, allowing for easier signup for the members.

By-Laws & Governance – Jeff Lesher – Chairperson

October 6, 2025 By-Laws and Governance Committee Report

Insurance Committee:

Our push to have the regions and chapters confirm they want to subscribe under the current D&O insurance coverage for $25 per year has been very successful. Based on this annualized approach managed by the HCCA Office and Executive Secretary, we will reduce our overall out of pocket costs for D&O coverage by $2075 for the upcoming year by eliminating those groups that do not want to subscribe and receiving $25 from those that want the coverage. In 2024 we paid out of pocket coverage for 83 groups at $25 per group, with the new program and cleaning up the list to reflect 74 active groups, we have 52 groups that are paying $25 per year for the coverage. The remaining groups are not listed under the D&O coverage.

Legislative:

Much focus was put on California Senate Bill 712 that would have exempted vehicles 35 years old and older from emissions testing. The bill was nicknamed Leno's Law – due to his support and promotion. The bill ultimately failed due to concerns over implementation costs and insurance

verification needs. We did not publicize the proposed bill as California currently exempts vehicles built prior to 1976 from emissions testing and it did not directly impact our vehicles.

By-Laws:

The By-Laws Committee met July 24th with Doug Tomb, Peter Jakab, Jamie Holmes and Jeff Lesher in attendance. Jim Skillicorn and Jeff Chattin were excused. Topics included a review of our corporate articles and current By-Laws related to the voting classifications for spouses. It was determined that our current By-Laws follow the corporate articles in defining a single vote to an active member. For a spouse to also receive a vote, they would need to have an additional membership, but could share the ownership of a qualifying vehicle.

Below is a proposed amendment to Article VIII – Section 5 to be voted on related to the defined process for ballot submission to guarantee we are in compliance with the new format that uses a fold-over mailer insert in the Gazette mailing for the ballot submission. The elimination of the pre-printed outer envelope and unprinted inner envelope plus separate ballot by combining into a single insert saves the club almost $300 per year.

Current:

Article VIII - SECTION 5: ELECTION: An election shall be held each year to replace retiring directors. After approval by the board of directors, each candidate shall be directed to submit a photograph and brief biography to the Horseless Carriage Gazette editor, no later than July 1, for inclusion in the September-October magazine. The committee shall direct the Executive Secretary to prepare a ballot of not-fewer than five (5) candidates. The Executive Secretary shall, on or before August 15, prepare a mailing list of members in good standing, and eligible to vote, for a ballot insertion in the September-October Horseless Carriage Gazette. This insertion shall include: an envelope addressed to a certified public accountant selected by the board of directors, with the Club Office as the return address, a plain envelope to contain the returned ballot, a ballot having the names of the nominees with space for a write-in candidate and voting instructions which shall include a notice that all ballots must be received by the certified public accountant not later than December 15. Voting members shall elect by a plurality vote five (5) directors, each serving a term of three (3) years.
Cast ballots must have five (5) names selected or they will not be considered valid and will not be counted.

Proposed:

> **Article VIII - SECTION 5: ELECTION:** An election shall be held each year to replace retiring directors. After approval by the board of directors, each candidate shall be directed to submit a photograph and brief biography to the Horseless Carriage Gazette editor, no later than July 1, for inclusion in the September-October magazine. The committee shall direct the Executive Secretary to prepare a ballot of not fewer than five (5) candidates. The Executive Secretary shall, on or before August 15, prepare a mailing list of members in good standing, and eligible to vote, for a ballot insertion in the September-October Horseless Carriage Gazette. This insertion shall include the ballot addressed to a certified public accountant selected by the board of directors, with the Club Office as the return address. The ballot having the names of the nominees with space for a write-in candidate and voting instructions which shall include a notice that all ballots must be received by the certified public accountant not later than December 15. Voting members shall elect by a plurality vote five (5) directors, each serving a term of three (3) years. Cast ballots must have five (5) names selected or they will not be considered valid and will not be counted.

Once approved, this can be confirmed by vote at the last meeting of the year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Lesher – Chair
Jeff Chattin
Peter Jakab
Jamie Holmes

Discussion:

Jeff verbally reported that the review of the spousal voting rights found that the bylaws are in compliance with the articles of incorporation. One vote per eligible member. He reported that there is not a mechanism at this time to have the spouse be able to vote (other than to have a separate membership for the spouse). At this time the topic will be tabled.

Jeff commented upon the savings and the status of the D&O Insurance push and the interactions with the regions who followed up with Lindsey about acquiring the insurance.

Jeff also verbally reported on the status of Leno's Law in California which did not pass, but also would not have had any impact on the HCCA and their members because of the age of the automobiles (Leno's Law covered newer automobiles than 1915).

The summary of the bylaws update is that the proposed changes to the bylaws will remove the envelopes and save cost.

Motion by Russell Holden to accept the proposed update to the bylaws.
Seconded by Don Azevedo
First Vote: Unanimous approval for the initial update to the bylaws. Final vote to be scheduled at the next meeting.

International Club Relations – Russell Holden – Chairperson

No Written Report

Russell reported that he will be meeting with contacts in New Zealand and the contacts at the Veteran Car Club of Great Britain at London to Brighton and the contact in Germany starting in November to reestablish the sharing of information. He reported that Gazette has been shared with the groups and are working to share their magazines with us

International Postage Committee – Jamie Holmes – Chairperson

No Report

Russell reported some updates, that the current world situation is impacting the ability to negotiate with the respective postal services and that for the time being the discussion around this will need to be put on hold until there is some stability.

Horseless Carriage Gazette – Kim Simoni – Chairperson

No Written Report

Web & Gazette Advertising – Doug Tomb – Chairperson

No Written Report

Educational Committee – Peter Jakab - Chair

The Education Committee continues to refine the organization of educational material on the HCCA website and the YouTube Channel, and add new material. Some of these changes have already been made to the website, and a great number of new videos have been placed on the YouTube Channel. The committee is still working through some structural questions for how material will be organized and accessed on the website, as well as procedures for gathering and vetting new material. We hope to make some important decisions regarding these issues at our next meeting on October 21, 2025. It has been difficult to meet as a group recently because of individual schedules, but we are set to do so in October.

Peter Jakab
Chair, Education Committee

Peter commented that there is some overlap that needs to be hammered out between the educational content and the standard website content that is handled by the website committee. He reported that the committee will finalize this overlap in the next meeting of the committee.

Old Business

HCCA Member Category– Don Azevedo

Background:
Membership requirements in the HCCA are clearly stated in the By-Laws. One requirement of concern is the requirement to own a horseless carriage to vote. This requirement is understandable for those of us able to operate vehicles. I have known two individuals that could not drive anymore and refused to sell their last horseless carriage. They were long-time members of HCCA and were in good standing. They wanted to retain the privilege to vote.

I suggest we honour our senior members by relaxing the horseless carriage ownership as a requirement to vote.

Pros:
Would demonstrate the significance the HCCA places on our senior members.
Would make available more horseless carriage vehicles.

Cons:
Require an amendment to the By-Laws.

Recommendation:
That the Board amend the By-Laws by adding a new category of membership named Honoured Senior Member. The requirement would be a minimum of 80 years of age and a continuous member of the HCCA for a minimum of 25 years. Ownership of a horseless carriage is not required. The dues requirement would remain the same and the Honoured Senior Member would retain all voting privileges.

Tabled pending review of previous meeting minutes for vote.

It was confirmed that two votes have been done for the update. Jeff needs to update the bylaws and make the amendment. Don Azevedo will draft the wording for an update to be posted in the National News and the Gazette.

##

Gazette Scanning Effort by Russell Holden:
Ongoing effort, but slowed down by grants expiring.
Verbal update to the meeting.

Russell provided an update that the completion date has been pushed back from the original April date due to the cut of some funding at the foundation. Russell is following up with this and will update the board when more information is available.

##

HCCA publish a "how to" informational guide, online and/or Gazette, on putting on tours.

The committee has not finalized the document, and the suggestions need to be coalesced into one document. In progress.

##

2026 Tour & Convention – Jim Skillicorn
Verbal Report to the meeting

Jim recognized

Don Azevedo
Elizabeth Hale
Chris Brewer
Rob Caldeira

Jim reported that the convention will have educational activities, a fashion show, and a proposed Edwardian swap meet to help with period costuming

Jim reported that Friant as the selected area will be a fantastic location

Don Azevedo reported that they have contacted various suppliers that the club utilizes (i.e. Hagerty, Restoration Supply, etc) and have invited them to come to event where they will have a table to help share some of their wares, and are also reaching out to the suppliers to help sponsor the events. This is more in keeping with the concept of a classic convention. This is bringing back some of the classic activities that fit more than just a tour. He reported that touring will be hilly so make sure the car will be capable of it.

Jim reported that the California Rendezvous has been the template for this event and was a good way to practice.

Rob Caldeira reported that the team is working to collaborate with the Bakersfield Swap Meet and Steven Chase's bridge tour.

##
Museum of the Horseless Carriage Report – Don Plumb

Don gave the verbal report.

He gave a brief background with the beginning of the museum, and the tie in with the club. He commented that there were some difficulties after the passing of Bob Ladd and the following leadership.

Don commented that there have been some leadership restructuring where various board member resigned including active members of the current HCCA board.

Don did comment that Russell and Doug resigned from the museum board for personal reasons. He reported that Chris Paulsen will also not be renewing his leadership position, so the HCCA representation on the board is reduced.

Don reported that the new President of the board is Jim Hart, and that the group has the blessing of Bill Parfett who is on the board of the Gilmore.

Don reported that the financial review has occurred, and that no malfeasance was found. The group has restarted fundraising activities, rehired the fundraiser and are pushing forward to break ground on the museum in 2026. The general feeling is that the things are now on a very positive track. He reported that a buckboard from 1895 was donated by the Ford family to the museum.

Don reported that Celebration of Brass VI is under planning.

Jeff Lesher reported that the website is now up to date and looks to be very complete.

Don reported that the relationship between the museum and the club was always intended to be very close. He commented that the core focus of the club has been touring, but in reality there is significant spread just beyond the touring, and made the passioned plea for moral support of the museum.

Action sheet from each Board meeting – Russell Holden

Now that the summer, and the high touring season are over, a running Action sheet from Board meeting to Board meeting needs to resume in use.

1. After each Board meeting the Secretary will update the Action sheet and emails this to all Board members and contractors within 3 weeks.

2. That the Action sheet has:
    - Items to be undertaken
    - Person or committee responsible for undertaking the task
    - Finalization date expected
    - Date it is estimated to be presented to the Board as a report.

##

Doug will send a copy of the action sheet to Rusty.

New Business

Activities – Vince Altieri - Chairperson

Doug would like to reintroduce the $10 per car, as an HCCA tour "Insurance Contribution", for each car on a National HCCA car tour. This modest fee has one main purpose, to help to cover the cost of the HCCA Insurance benefit we provide for all Club members and their activities. Club insurance is a huge benefit for our members, and their Regions, and it makes sense for it to be funded by those using the benefit.

Jeff commented that he wanted to see this to be reinstated for National Tours.

Motion by Russell Holden: Reintroduce the $10 per car fee for a car on a HCCA National Tour, listed as a liability insurance coverage fee.
Second: Jeff Lesher
Vote: Unanimous approval at the meeting.

Finance – Kim Simoni - Chairperson

At the last Board meeting in July, a suggestion was made for the need for a Membership Committee, so that board level attention will be paid to address the decline in membership in the club.

The responsibilities of the Membership Committee will include reaching out to the Regional Groups, and find out about how our regions recruit and maintain membership in their own area. The Membership Committee will work on sharing successful approaches by the regions, to maintain and increase membership in their local areas, with other regions.
The committee should strive to strengthen the ties between the local regions and the national club, so the regions can benefit from the resources at the national level.

Discussion

Doug commented that the club has been losing roughly 3% of membership annually. He also commented on the effectiveness of the past membership initiatives such as the $19.15 membership. He discussed the need to form a committee as proposed by Kim to generate other ideas to entice new members to join the club. Jim Skillicorn did note that some regional groups were experiencing a decline after the year gift membership because the recipients didn't really have any "skin in the game" He stressed the importance of following up with members after the fact.

Motion by Russell Holden: The President and Treasurer nominate five board members to establish a membership committee with the directive to focus on improving retention of members and acquisition of new members.
Second: Don Plumb
Vote: Unanimous approval of the motion.

Communication – Danny Case – Chairperson

Classified Ad Revenue:

Pictures help hugely in Classified ads. We need to strongly encourage their use. Could photos be included free, or at very low cost, even if we had to increase the basic charge for an Ad?

Low cost, but effective Ads, will attract users to our classifieds. As we have learned in the past, higher prices do not drive more revenue for the Club. It is higher volume of Ads, that attract people to an Ad site, and that generates more revenue.

Low cost, free picture Ads (2 max), will drive interest in our classifieds, and will result in more Web Ad revenue for the club.

Action Item: Russell Holden proposed that the web committee come up with a model for improvements to the ads to be reviewed at the next meeting.

Round Table

Audience Comments:

Keene Brewer commented that he had heard that there were about 1500 open spaces at the event.

Board Member Comments:

Vince Altieri
Don Azevedo
Rusty Berg
Daniel Case
Jeff Chattin
Terry Cole
Jim Diener – Southern California group will be supporting the Bakersfield swap meet and he will get with Kim regarding merchandise
Russell Holden
Jamie Holmes
Peter Jakab
Jeff Lesher – Any questions for the Hangover (over 60 cars) see him
Don Plumb
Kim Simoni
Jim Skillicorn
Doug Tomb – Please don't park on the grass in the case of rain. He commented that the a portion of the Red Field will be relocated as reported by the coordinator of the Hershey Region of the AACA.

Adjournment (1812 EST)

Motion to adjourn by Rusty Berg

Seconded by Jim Skillicorn

Next HCCA Board of Directors Meetings

Date: Monday, December 15th, 2025
Time: 7:00 PM EST, 4:00 PM PST, The next morning in Australia.
Location: Zoom.