2023/2024 Horseless Carriage Club
of America
Board of Directors Meeting #4

Friday, March 15, 2024

The 4th Horseless Carriage Club of America National Board of Directors meeting was held at the Westin Hotel, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Call to Order-Mike Reid, 11:08AM EDT

Pledge of Allegiance-Don Plumb

Roll Call-Jim Skillicorn
Mike Reid-President, present
Russell Holden-Vice President, present
Doug Tomb-Treasurer, present
Jim Skillicorn-Secretary, present
Andy Wallace-Chairman of the Board, present
Jon Rising, not present
Jeff Lesher, present
Kim Simoni, present
Vince Altieri, present
Terry Cole, present
Peter Jakab, not present
Don Plumb, present
Rusty Berg, present
Jeff Chattin, present
Danny Case, not present

Recognition of Guests-Jim Skillicorn

Bill Ottemann	Lindsey Jackson	Christine Holden
Anne Ottemann	Scott Grooters	Beverley Tomb
Richard Cutler	Tracy Lesher	Keene Brewer
Alan Travis	Wayne Simoni	Tricia Wallace
Mary Travis	Matt Goist	Rick Quirin
Jack Miller	Jim Diener	Jack Miller
Drena Miller	Donna Diener	

Approval of January 8, 2023 Minutes
Motion 1st-Russell Holden
Motion 2nd-DSoug Tomb
Unanimous vote

Approval of March 15, 2024 Agenda
Motion 1st-Don Plumb
Motion 2nd-Andy Wallace
Unanimous vote

Old Business

• **Website:**
Mike Reid stated that there needs to conduct a website committee meeting to review the current website, particularly those features that were present on the prior website and ensure they are operational on the new website. This committee also needs to develop the process that will facilitate the new member category of Digital Gazette only.
Doug Tomb is the committee chair and will coordinate the next committee meeting.

• **Members advertising on the website:**
Mike Reid stated that there needs to be follow-up from the November 20th meeting and a committee needs to be formed investigating Ed Archer's concerns *visa vie* the cost for members to advertise on the HCCA website.
Tracy Lesher stated that she has not received any complaints.
Doug Tomb will add this to the website committee meeting agenda.

• **Establish committee to define awards nomination criteria:**
Mike Reid stated that there is a need to establish a committee to define the rules regarding the nomination and awarding of both the Marion Welsh and Art Twohy awards.

Committee Reports:
• **Financial**-Doug Tomb

Fiscal Year Financial Results for the Fourth Month (October, 2023 – Jan, 2024)
The end of the fourth month balance in the Club checking account was $97,300. The balance in the Club investment account was $184,900.
For the 4 months of 2023/2024, income exceeded expenses by $ 42,337.42
Revenue when compared with the prior year period, decreased by 1 % ($1,900).
Expenses decreased by 1 % ($1,800) when compared with the prior year.

The Board of Directors can focus on stabilizing, or increasing, our membership levels, developing a firm foundation for club revenue from varied sources (other than just membership dues), and providing support to our regional groups.

The top areas for Fiscal Year 2024 revenue to date: Membership (72%), Gazette income (13%), Donations (4.6%), Investment Gain (4%), Merchandise (2.9%), Website Income (1.8%), Other (1%).

The top areas of Fiscal Year 2024 expenses to date: Gazette expense (27%), Other National expense (29.8%), Gazette Printing expense (23.5%), Website expense (14.8%), Club Insurance (4%).

The Club must continue to focus on maintaining an even financial footing. With the increased activity and participation, the club must re-energize membership and encourage participation.

• **Regional Groups & Registers**-Jim Skillicorn
Jon, Rusty and Jim are still contacting all regional groups; east, central and west respectfully, to learn about the specific needs of regional groups and to offer Board member assistance. Added to this is the explanation of the updated hcca.org calendar, specifically on how to add their regional event information.

•**Premiere Car Events**-Jim Skillicorn
Kim and Jim continue to examine what car events throughout the U.S. could be classified as "premiere" car events. They are also looking at what the HCCA Board of Directors should dedicate as support to a regional group that would be the host regional group at these events; merchandise, public information handouts, recruitment brochures, banners, tents, and/or financial support. At the prior Board of Directors meeting, each Board member was asked to provide input. Jim will contact Hagerty Insurance to inquire about sponsorship participation.

• **Update on hcca.org Calendar Project**-Jim Skillicorn
Peter Gariepy and Jim have worked together on updating the hcca.org calendar. When HCCA members log in and click on events, they will see all submitted events. Jim's contact information is listed here and right below is a button to submit events for posting. To the left is a list of National, International, Regional-East, Regional-Central, Regional-West and non-HCCA. Check the desired box and view the corresponding event information. Rusty (central) and Doug (eastern) were tasked with posting an event in their respective areas. Rusty's submittal was populated in Regional-East and Doug's was populated in non-HCCA.

After clicking on the "Submit Your Event" button, an event submittal form pops up that needs to be completed, to include selection of which category of event; National, International, Regional-East, Regional-Central, Regional-West or non-HCCA event. This designation will direct the system accordingly. As more events are added, the calendar will list regional events and non-hcca events only in their appropriate areas. And, on initial viewing of events, only National events will be seen until clicking on a different category. As regional groups become accustomed to this process, and as many events are submitted, each regional group will have their own area under their corresponding category. Example: Click Events, Regional-Central, Mid-West Brass & Gas.

• **Web Report**-Russell Holden
Russell has had several discussions with the HCCA Web Master, Peter Gariepy, since the last in-person board meeting in Hershey. Peter has been working through the previous site specifications and upgrading the site using proven "plug ins" rather than then need to write custom codes as we previously utilised. Members may now update their own information. The information becomes "live" as soon as the member hits save. Members may now add or remove a vehicle and include a photo and details; this facility now includes the make and year of the vehicle, easily searchable for other members looking to reach out to like-minded owners.

The only area that has been somewhat more complicated to overcome was the "member privilege" of the 48-hour classified window. This was very popular with members and has been the subject of the most feedback to Russell as the Chair of the Web Committee. Peter is working on re-initiating this feature, without the use of custom code, and will have this online as soon as it is operational.

The webmaster previously had control of the payment system for online payments. Peter has re-organised that process, removing the webmaster from this and providing control of the financial transactions to the HCCA Office, The website now uses a credit card processing system at stripe.com.

We now have an index of all the contents of the previous Gazettes. Peter has suggested that we scan all previous Gazette's into a word searchable format and have these available in the members only section to further assist members in finding details and other information they require.

• **Activities**-Vince Altieri
Vince Altieri reported that Tom and Lois Peptulsk are looking to host a National Tour in upper Michigan with 40 cars. They look to have participation from Northern US and Canada.
Kim Simoni reminded that there is a written request process in place for Board of Director consideration and approval for a "National" tour.
Jeff Lesher suggested that this tour could be the "ABC" tour for 2025.

Vince Mentioned that he has been contacted by Kelly Copeland from VMCCA regarding putting on a 1 and 2 cylinder tour.
Jeff stated that she has put on a 1 and 2 cylinder tour previously in Ohio.
Doug mentioned that the first tour they put on was from a pamphlet on how to put on a tour. He said he'd send this to Vince.
Bill Ottemann stated that when he was the HCCA president, the VMCCA was pre-1916 and has become very active.
Russell stated that tour guidelines and the National tour application would be added to the hcca.org website.

Vince said that the 2025 Brass & Gas will be in Maine with Karen Tomko in charge of the tour.
Vince added that there is HCCA merchandise in the meeting room lobby and they have several new items. Everyone thanks Vince, Kim and Lindsey for their merchandise work.

New Business

•**Gazette Scanning Proposal**-Russell Holden

Scanning of the Gazette from 1937 through to 2024 and beyond will provide the ability for members to search each Gazette by word. This program would dovetail with the indexing project by allowing members to search individual Gazettes by specific word. The #1 draw back of this program is that the scanning process irreversibly damages each magazine. The early Gazette paper copies ranging from 8-16 pages, particularly through to 1945, are very rare. As such, it is proposed that these magazines are scanned by hand to ensure that they are not destroyed.

The HCCA has 87 years of magazines (6 per year). The estimate of cost for this project would be approximately $5,000 which could be recovered by requesting donations via a marketing campaign in the gazette, web site and via email.

Russell recommended the following:

1) Advertising through the Gazette, website and direct email to members for a loan of a complete set of Gazettes 1937 – 1945 for scanning with the Gazettes to be returned to the owner once the scanning is complete.

2) Advertising through the Gazette, website and direct email for donations of a set of Gazettes 1946 – 2024 for scanning, recognising that the scan process will destroy the gazettes.

3) Conduct a fund-raising program, again through the Gazette, website and direct email requesting a $10 donation from members for the Gazette scanning program. And, inform the members of the benefits of being able to search through individual Gazettes by word.

• **Lost Tire Sizes Report/Proposal**-Russell Holden

Russell reported that there has been a lot of work that has been done with the major tire manufacturers for brass era vehicles to see what obsolete sizes can be re-introduced to the market. The commercial reality of the matter is that a production run of 50-100 is a bare minimum to be able to supply tires to the hobby at any sort of reasonable pricing. There are a number of moulds that these suppliers hold that could, if there was the confirmed demand, be made available in a reasonably short period of time. Other sizes may require a dedicated mould to be produced which would add to the cost of the tire and lead time required to supply them into the market. Members have raised concerns on the longevity of the current tires from a wear perspective and that is a subject that the HCCA Board could take up with the major suppliers. Sales of tires is a volume business and as soon as they wear out, there is a “re-sell” process that assists these manufacturer to remain in business. Feedback from members indicate there needs to be a greater balance between the compounds that were used 20-30 years ago which wore well for 1000’s of miles and the new compounds which sit on the road very well, but wear out in 100 to 1000’s of miles.

Coker Tire's new manager of operations, Matt Millsaps, has requested the opportunity to address the HCCA Board on this subject and will speak in detail about the process and member requirements at the session on tires to be held at the Coker Tire Museum Tuesday afternoon.

Russell recommended the following:
1) Utilizing both the Gazette and the HCCA website to conduct a survey of the members requesting feedback on missing tire sizes that would assist members with originality and drivability of their vehicles.

2) Provide that feedback to the major suppliers and work with them to have as many new sizes placed into production as is economically viable.

3) Work with the suppliers to have a better balance of wear and road manners placed into the compounds of the tires in the production process to give greater tire longevity.

Rusty Berg and Jeff Chattin suggested that this same information be provided to/from other like groups of car clubs.

1st Motion-Russell Holden
2nd Motion-Kim Simoini
Unanimous vote

• **Letter received from a HCCA Member Dom Denio**-Vince Altieri
DISCUSSION OF A PROPOSED FORMATION OF A LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE FOR ANTIQUE CAR CLUBS
I believe and am concerned the antique car hobby may soon come under the aim of the federal and/or some state governments to ban the use of antique autos on public roadways as self-driving vehicle technology advances, become more popular and accepted.

As board members of the HCCA, the MTFCI and the MTFCA, I would like you to consider raising this issue for discussion by your Board of Directors sooner rather than later with our clubs. I believe we need to have representatives from all of the antique car clubs be designated as members of a newly formed so called Legislative Action Committee to meet and discuss how to preserve our rights to use our antique cars on the public roads we pay taxes to use and maintain. If the discussion of these Boards agree that this issue has merit and I would also suggest the other clubs be approached to join in this effort before government officials come up with some plan to outlaw vehicles.

Some of the other clubs that I believe could be included are the Antique Automobile Club of America, the Vintage Motor Car Club of America, the Classic Car Club of America, as well as the numerous other car manufacturer specific car clubs.
PROPOSED ACTIVIES OUTLINE
1. Analysis to get people's attention
Determine the financial impact if/when Antique Cars are prohibited
2. Contact Stake Holders: to raise awareness and get personnel to work with us

Insurance Companies, T Part Suppliers, Antique Car Restorers, Coker Tire, & others who have benefitted financially form the Antique Car Hobby
3. Identify: to reach out for assistance
Government Representative who are Antique Car friendly
Wealthy Donors who are Antique Car friendly
Hotel Representatives who are Antique Car friendly
Other Company Representatives who are Antique Car friendly
If you or any of your other board members need to reach out to me for more information, just let me know.
Thank you for your service to our members and for your time to listen to these concerns.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Demio

Doug Tomb stated that SEMA (Specialty Equipment Market Association) has many lobbyists who are involved with monitoring and keeping up to date with this issue. The risk to car hobbyists is that there may be no more need for auto parts stores. Doug added that it may be in our best interest to provide balanced questions and proposals that are well thought out.
Jeff Lesher stated that the Board of Directors should appoint a Board member to take the lead on this topic and establish lobbying for the hobby.
Kim Simoni said that we need to be multi-dimensional and be clearly definitive.
Rusty Berg added that antique auto parts and insurance companies should be involved.
Mike Reid stated that he believes that we are not on State or Federal radar at this time.
Jon Rising mentioned that in the aviation industry, there are organizations (AOPA, EAA, etc.) that provide legislative involvement regarding various aviation-related issues.
Jeff Lesher said that the Board should first make a motion, under new Board assignment. To establish a legislative representative to liaison, maintaining current status on the future of this topic as it progresses. Jeff offered to be that HCCA representative.

1st Motion Jeff Lesher
2nd Motion Rusty Berg
Unanimous vote

• **Museum of the Horseless Carriage**-Matt Goist (President)
The president of the Museum of the Horseless Carriage, Matt Goist, addressed the HCCA Board of Directors and the attending audience with an update on the museum project and their own board of directors. The following is a summary of items he spoke about:

Inception, 2019 under the direction of Bob Ladd
Preserve HCCA history and brass era automobiles
Current status of the museum at the Gilmore
Board of Directors as of October 2023
Matt Goist-President
Chris Paulsen-Vice President
Bradley Kline-Treasurer
Russell Holden-Board Member
Other Board member positions are open

Continuing capitol campaign for museum structure
Logo change
Remain in good standing with the IRS
July 18-20 Celebration of Brass IV
July 21-23 Tour
Publicizing strategies

Russell Holden asked about brass cars being expanded to post 1915. Matt stated, "No" and that the pre-1916 requirement will remain intact. Russell suggested that other HCCA Board members become involved with the Museum of the Horseless carriage and consider their Board of Directors assignment.

Round Table

Andy Wallace-Andy's last meeting, thanked the Board and the HCCA membership
Daniel Case
Don Plumb-Looking forward to the new HCCA year
Doug Tomb
Jeff Chattin
Jeff Lesher
Jim Skillicorn
Jon Rising-Suggested Hagerty become involved with Jeff Lesher on emissions subjects
Kim Simoni
Peter Jakab
Russell Holden
Rusty Berg
Terry Cole
Vince Altieri
Mike Reid-Thanks the Board and the guests in the audiance

Adjournment

1st Motion-Doug Tomb
2nd Motion-Kim Simoni
Meeting adjourned 12;44PM EDT

Future HCCA Board of Directors Meetings

Friday, March 15th, 2024
Following the 2023 BOD 4th Meeting
Westin Hotel, Chattanooga, Tennessee.