­F­rom the Driver’s Side

**Saturday November 12, 2022**

**2022 Fall Delegates Meeting in Plainfield, IN**

Cut to the chase right away. The first few sentences will tell you about the most important decisions at this years fall delegates meeting.

The dues for 2023 for the AHCA will be $70.00. It had been 12 years since we had a dues increase. The delegates voted to not print a membership directory for 2023. The delegates also voted to provide a digital version of each Marque published for 2023 and post it in the members only section of the website. The delegates also voted to reduce the number of issues for the calendar year 2023. There will be eight issues published through the year. Now you will have to read the article to find out just how they will be provided.

It is snowing as the delegates are gathering in Plainfield, Indiana for the 2022 Fall Delegates meeting and the southerners think it is way too cold. As you read this keep in mind this is not written in award winning prose. The subject matter in one paragraph can jump all over the continent. For the most part everything is in chronological order. If it was separated by paragraphs the article would need about 10 more pages so my creative writing is an effort to keep things as condensed as possible.

Gary Feldman opened the meeting with some brief comments. He recognized the Veterans and thanked them for their service. He then mentioned some of the more active AHCA members that passed away in 2022. Ann Jones, Bill Denton and Rodney Martin. Gary asked for a moment of silence to remember those that have gone before us. He also mentioned that Fred Dabney had a serious fall recently and has a broken hip as a result of the fall. Some of our attendees had a difficult time getting to the meeting. Edie Lowery and Bill Borja, both from Florida, had a difficult time getting flights out of Florida. Both finally did make it.

The videographer that is providing the zoom connection for Saturday and Sunday is Evan Pennington. Jim and Jo Switzer also received a resounding round of applause for all their work to make the delegates meeting possible. Edie Lowery did the roll call for those attending in person and on zoom. Almost all of the delegates were present either in person or on zoom. It was an extremely well attended meeting.

The next order of business allowed the clubs that had something to report regarding the activities of their club to do so. I mentioned our plans for 2023 Springthing. Austin Healey Association of Southern California is planning a trip in June of 2023 to the Scandinavian countries. I did mention to one of the attendees that while in Sweden that he should see the ABBA museum. He seemed interested in that.

VP Safety – Jeff Porada – SEMA is still active and we are maintaining our subscription to their magazine. Jeff has been attending the monthly AHCA officer zoom meetings.

VP Conclave – Neil Anderson – He has had quite a few good conclaves since he took over this position since 2017. However, he is needing some help with finding a good location and a club to host it for 2025. He is working with a club that is considering hosting a conclave in 2024. 2023 is set for Crystal River, FL just an hour or so north of Tampa.

VP Club Support – Ray Donavon – All clubs have paid their ‘local only’ dues for members of their local club that are not members of AHCA for a total number of 499. Ray is hosting a monthly zoom meeting for the membership committee. The website is continuing to get new features. Bill Walton will be conducting a training zoom call for renewals on November 16. The training session will be recorded so if a membership director can not attend they will receive an email with a link to the recording of the training session. Bill Walton will host another training session for the area club treasurers on November 28. The training sessions will start at 8:00 PM eastern time. An invitation will be emailed.

VP Promotions – Pete Sturtevant – Pete talked about the functionality of the website and that more new features are being added each month. Each area club can have their own micro website on the AHCA website. Oklahoma is the first to take advantage of this feature. Check it out on the AHCA website by clicking on Club Finder and then clicking on Oklahoma. Another new feature that just became active is the Marketplace. Members can advertise Healey items for sale. The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) has been also activated.

Membership – Mike Schneider – I reported that AHCA has 2685 members and passed out a breakdown of the membership count for each area club. Reviewed challenges with getting the rebate reports to work. Thanked Linda Hakala for all her help in developing the reports. Revised Guide Sheets will be available soon. All renewals for 2023 have been turned off until the delegates vote on the dues. Mentioned that it is extremely beneficial for each area club to have their checking account linked in Club Express so they can receive the credit card payment rebates three times per month. Dues payments made with a check for local area club dues will be rebated twice per year as in the past. First rebate of the year goes out after the first quarter and the second rebate check goes out after the third quarter. All membersips expire on December 31 of each year. The difference between ‘pending’ and ‘expired’ is if a member’s membership status is ‘pending’ then that means that not all of their dues has been paid. Usually either the local area club dues or the AHCA dues is still outstanding. When the missing portion is paid then the status changes to ‘active’ and the member can access the members only section. If the member’s status is ‘expired’ then the only area that member can get into other than the public area is the dues paying section. The AHCA by laws require that if a member has not renewed by Feb 14 then their membership status will change to expired.

Regalia – Steve Bell – Steve needs help with distribution, art work and branding. He also asked the group if there is a need for AHCA regalia. There was a light response. Steve mentioned that Healey regalia is available all over the internet. He would like to have regalia that is unique and excellent quality. He would like to have a design team to help him along with an artist that could make drawings such as appeared in Chatter 30 or more years ago.

Secretary – Edie Lowery – Edie takes minutes of the AHCA meetings and then posts the write up on the website. As a result of a delegate vote in the Fall 2021 meeting all area clubs are required to provide the three standard reports by October 1 prior to the fall delegates meeting.

A few of the area clubs failed to provide the necessary reports despite attempts to contact them. Currently the area clubs have a combined checking account of over $360,000.

Treasurer – Bev Sealand – Bev reviewed the columns provided on her budget report. She explained what the numbers in each column represented. One of the somewhat confusing aspects of cash reporting is indicating an accurate number at the end of the year versus the budget. Even though we may receive 40-50% of the next years dues in December those dues receipts will show as income for the current year. As of right now we are on budget for 2022.

Advertising – Vince Barnell – Invoices for over $13,000 have been sent out for 2022. So far a little over $12,000 has been received. He expects the outstanding balances to paid soon. Vince is planning on creating a communications group to better contact advertisers, he is going to review and revise our advertising options. He is considering a bundle option for advertisers. They will be able to write one check and pay for advertising in the Marque, on the website and at conclave and even regional events. Vince has plans to modernize our advertising approach.

Healey Marque – Reid Trummell – He has been doing the magazine for 17 years and is still enjoying editing the magazine. This is the first year he has been over budget. Due to an increase in paper costs and postage the magazine is about $9600 over budget for the year. The budget for 2022 was less than the budget proposal for 2006. In the interim the magazine has grown from 32 pages to 40 pages. When Reid started editing the magazine it had 4 pages of color and now it has 40 pages of color. It is now mailed in a polybag. Reid says his experience shows that articles on history and technical topics are the most important.

DMH Memorial Fund – Bonnie Ayer – Currently the fund has a little over $45,000 on hand. The Fund currently provides two $3,000 scholarships to the McPherson College in Kansas. The two students receiving the scholarships are in a traditional undergraduate program that also includes all aspects of auto restoration. The income sources for the Fund include donations from the F1 Montreal Raffle that the AHCA hosts each year due to the generosity of the Quebec Club. Another source is from the money generated by members paying a fee to have their Austin Healey featured in the annual calendar. A little known source is also donations made by people that are donating money in memory of another person. Also some of the area clubs make an annual donation to the DMH Memorial Fund. Bonnie read a letter that she received from one of the students that benefited from the scholarships. Dave Roberts reported that he personally knows a student at McPherson College that is currently restoring a Sprite.

Non-Compliant Area Clubs – Gary Feldman – There are five clubs that did not meet the requirements set in the by-laws and will be recommended for suspension. For a club to be suspended means that the club will no longer be covered by any of the AHCA liability insurance plans. The AHCA members of the area clubs will be moved into the National listing instead of being shown as a member of the club. The clubs that are suspended are: West Palm Beach AH Club, Alabama AHC, Roadrunner AHC, Niagara Frontier AHC and Central Florida. A vote was taken by the delegates to give the AHCA officers the authority to move two affiliated clubs, Modified Healeys and Sports Boat Healey Club, to the status of a Registry instead of an affiliated club.

F1 Montreal Grand Prix – Roger Hamel – There will be a chance for AHCA members to send in a proposal to drive their Healey in the Montreal Grand Prix parade prior to the race. There will be further information released in the coming months. The current plan is to accept sealed proposals in March. The highest proposal will be the winner. A defined start date and time and ending date and time will be announced.

Insurance – Gary Feldman and Bill Borja – current coverage is costing AHCA about $20,000 per year. Several years ago the old policy was about $7,000 per year but that policy was determined to not meet the needs of the AHCA. The current insurance company has notified us that they are going to stop providing coverage to car clubs. Gary and Bill have been on the hunt for another insurance company. They feel they have found one that will work with us. Since we changed insurance carriers two years ago we also contracted with yet another company to provide coverage for the gymkhana competitions that some of the area clubs sponsor. We will continue with that insurance carrier for gymkhana coverage. Each gymkhana event requires an estimated payment of $250.00. For 2023 the area clubs hosting a gymkhana will be billed for whatever the actual cost is for the coverage.

Conclave – Neil Anderson, Pete Sturtevant and Bill Borja – Enclave 2022 had over 600 guests and slightly over 300 registrants. Several pre-production cars were there including two aluminum bodied big Healeys and one pre-production Sprite and the other special display was a Healey Boat. All of the articles and pictures have been provided to Reid for the January Marque which will have a lot of coverage of Enclave. AHCA received a share of the profit of the event in the amount of $4400.00 and the New England Club received $4400.00 also. The Sports and Touring Club received $8800 for their half of the profits. Del Border was scheduled to chair the gymkhana but due to family health issues he was not able to be on site. The Ohio Valley AHC volunteered and ran the gymkhana. The Ohio Valley AHC reputation for running a gymkhana is legendary. Pete Sturtevant and Linda Hakala received a resounding applause of thanks for all their work on Enclave. Enclave also endeavored to support a local charity. $16,000 was raised for the charity.

Conclave 2023 – Bill Borja – Neil Anderson - Pete Sturtevant and their supporting committee are providing a lot of help. The 2023 Conclave is scheduled for Crystal River a little north of Tampa on May 21-26, 2023. There will be all of the usual conclave events in addition to a jewelry making class. There will also be an opportunity to swim with the manatees. Bill Emerson will make his large collection available for viewing. There are 30 registrations so far along with 3 cars signed up for concours judging. The host hotel has 196 rooms and there is a back up hotel if needed. Resort fees are being waived for Conclave 2023.

Old Business – Gary Feldman, Mike Schneider – Membership Directory- the projected cost to print the 2023 Membership Directory is $15,000. Each of the vendors involved in making the directory were contacted and asked to provide a best guess quote for 2023 based on the size of the 2021 directory. That and a generous allowance for increases in postage are the basis for the $15,000 estimate. David Nock suggested getting a quote from the Marque printer for a Membership Directory printed in a similar size to the magazine. That will be pursued if the delegates vote to have a 2023 directory provided. Steve Bell mentioned that the 2021 Membership Directory has a lot of other information besides a listing of members. A straw vote was taken to assess the attitude of the delegates towards providing a 2023 directory. The straw vote had 15 in favor and 21 not in favor.

Assistant Treasurer – Gary Feldman – Gary announced that he has appointed Linda Hakala as assistant treasurer.

By-Laws – Bob Gilleland – Bob started out mentioning about the fiasco regarding shipping a plaque to the Healey Museum for Hans and Ria van de Kerkhof. They were honored with a lifetime membership several years ago and Bob arranged for a plaque to be produced and then shipped to them. The cost for shipping was about $96.00 and the plaque was eventually returned as undeliverable after floating around for over 4 months. Edie and Roger Lowery planned a trip to the museum and did present the plaque to Hans and Ria in person. They were quite overwhelmed and appreciative. Back to the by laws issue. Bob presented a change in the by laws that would provide for replacing a delegate on the nominating committee that could not complete their three year term. Steve Bell made a suggestion for some modifications and Bob agreed to the changes. Another reading was scheduled for Sunday morning. In order to make changes to the by-laws it takes two readings then a vote by the delegates. The first reading is during a fall delegates meeting and the second reading is then scheduled for the fall delegates meeting the following year.

Budget – Bev Sealand – The biggest budget item is the Healey Marque magazine. Some other national car clubs have gone to digital only and some have cut back to 6 issues per year as well as digital. A discussion developed regarding a two tiered dues structure in which a member could pay dues for a digital only copy of the Healey Marque or a higher dues and receive the digital and a printed copy of the magazine. The two tiered system was shunned by the delegates for now. Everything we have has gone up a lot in price. We have to either raise dues or reduce benefits. One thing is certain we can’t continue with the same benefits and same dues. Our dues has not increased for 12 years. Reid pointed out the budget for the Healey Marque has not increased since 2006.

Reid suggested three different combinations and the officers suggested a dues structure for each option. The first option was to keep 11 issues of the magazine at 40 pages of color and a calendar. That would cost about $130,000 per year. The second option was provide 6 issues at 48 pages of color each and a calendar. The projected cost for that is $80,000. The third option was to provide 4 issues with 40 pages of color and 4 issues of 48 pages of color. Four of the issues would cover two months each and the other 4 issues would cover one month each. There were several hours of discussion on the different options as well as several variations of other options that were offered as well. One other option was to have the magazine provided in digital format only. A few of the advertisers said if that happens then they would reduce their ad sizes and volume. The digital only was eventually determined to be a non starter. Reid pointed out that all three of the options he suggested included a digital copy of the magazine to all members available in the members only section.

Zoom Delegates meetings – a suggestion was made that we have only zoom delegates meetings. That was quickly shot down by the majority of the delegates. It was determined the personal interaction during and after the meetings was worth the effort and cost.

**Sunday November 13, 2022**

The day started with Edie Lowery call roll call of the delegates attending in person or on the zoom call.

The traditional Saturday night auction was conducted by Reid Trummell and Steve Bell. Gary Brierton had been the auctioneer for decades, however, Gary was on zoom and not attending in person. Reid and Steve must have taken lessons from Gary as they did an excellent job. A diorama was auctioned and Roger Hamel was the winning bid. However, Roger only had Canadian money so Gary Feldman had to cover Roger’s winnings. I am sure that will come back to haunt Roger. A lot of people in this club have very good memories.

Gary Feldman talked about the upcoming votes on very important issues. He reminded the delegates that they are representing the membership of their area club and to keep in mind the wishes of their membership.

Pete Sturtevant demonstrated on the large screen the ability for a member to print a pdf of a range of members of the AHCA which could be filtered by area club. Pete also showed a new feature which lists new members. Both were very well received by the attendees.

Marque Magazine – Reid Trummell and Gary Feldman – A short review of Reids presentation yesterday started this session. A flurry of motions were made, seconded and voted on. The end result was to print 8 issues of the Healey Marque magazine per year plus the calendar. Four of the issues will cover two months and four issues will cover only one month each. The four single issue months will be in the main driving season and the four double issues will be during the off months from the traditional driving season. The double issues will be 48 pages of color and the single issues will be 40 pages of color.

AHCA Dues – Gary Feldman – A motion was made to consider annual AHCA dues of either $65.00 or $70.00. The $70.00 dues rate won 24 votes to 12 votes for the $65.00.

Budget – Bev Sealand – a motion was made to accept the proposed budget for 2023 that will provide all of the items previously discussed and is projected to ad about $25,000 to the reserves for future years.

Conclave – Neil Anderson and Gary Feldman – a motion was made to allow the AHCA officers to review proposals for a 2024 conclave and make a decision to accept the best proposal. Motion carried 35 to 0. Neil mentioned he has a possibility for 2024 but needs help finding other options as well.

By Laws change – Bob Gilleland – this by law will set forth a procedure for replacing a delegate that is not able to complete the 3 year term they were elected to serve on the nominating committee. The nominating committee consists of all past presidents that desire to serve on the committee plus 3 elected delegates serving 3 year terms on a staggered basis such that each year one is replaced by vote of the delegates. The first reading of the by law proposal was approved 35 to 0. The second reading will be during the 2023 Fall Delegates meeting.

Honorary Memberships – Bob Gilleland - Pete Sturtevant, Linda Hakala and Bruce Ketchen were nominated and approved 35 to 0.

Lifetime Memberships – Bob Gilleland – Gary Feldman and Jim Richmond were nominated for a lifetime membership in the AHCA. The vote was 37 in favor to 0.

Nominating Committee Delegate Member- Bob Gilleland – There are two vacancies and Steve Bell and Bruce Gearns were nominated and approved.

Election of AHCA Officers – Bob Gilleland – Nominated are Roger Hamel president, Neil Anderson VP Conclave, Jeff Porada VP Safey, Pete Sturtevant VP Promotions, Bev Sealand Treasurer, Edie Lowery Secretary. Motion to accept the slate as presented won 37 to 0.

All other officer positions listed on the website are appointed.

Gary Feldman gave a very heartfelt retirement speech. The emphasis was on how much he regarded the fellow Healey people as his family. A standing ovation for Gary. He then handed over to Roger the ‘Mallet of Understanding’ that was made by Sonny Moore (Bluegrass). Roger in turn gave Gary the diorama that Roger bid on during the auction the night before. This was the main purchase that Gary loaned Roger the money to cover. (insert chuckle here) Gary had no clue at the time that Roger was going to present the diorama to him the next day. There is a little additional irony to this in that Gary was bidding against Roger for the diorama. (now laugh)

Second to last motion made of the delegates meeting – The delegates meeting for 2023 will be held November 11-12, 2023 at the same hotel in Plainfield, IN. This is only possible because Jo and Jim Switzer work so selflessly through the year to make all of the arrangements.

Final motion made to adjourn.

Happy Healeying,

Mike Schneider

Delegate for Bluegrass AHC, Inc.