

The October MAFCA Board Meeting Highlights describe some of the issues discussed at our daylong meeting. They do not, however, highlight the weekend of work mixed with pleasure that was packed into this long weekend. The board meeting was held in Kansas City with our host Jim Spawn, editor of *The Restorer*. Jim arranged a tour of Boelte-Hall, the printing company that is responsible for printing our wonderful magazine. They were as happy to have us visit them, as we were to be there. I was impressed with how friendly the employees were as well as their commitment to Boelte-Hall. The length of employment is approximately 20 years for their employees. That says a lot for the company and its quality of work and it shows in the quality of the magazine.

*The Restorer* will soon be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The deadline is fast approaching to include your chapter in this commemorative issue in the Chapter Salute. Time is running out so don't delay. If you have misplaced the form, call me or MAFCA headquarters to get a form.

Included in the current issue of *The Restorer*, as well as a copy included in this packet, is a feature on Chapter's General Liability Insurance. There have been numerous inquiries and mis-information regarding MAFCA's liability insurance coverage. Hopefully, this article has highlighted the most often asked questions and cleared up any misconceptions regarding coverage. It is suggested that each chapter keeps a copy on file to refer to in the future.

Have you purchased your new MAFCA Roster yet? I was really excited to see in a recent issue of *Old Cars Weekly*, a feature story entitled Alice and her Model A Retrace History. The story relates a 100th Anniversary drive to St. Louis, commemorating the first long-distance tour sponsored by AAA, by Alice Megaro. In the article, Alice states that the three indispensable items for the trip were: her AAA map, a cell phone and her membership roster of the Model A Ford Club of America. Need I say more? The roster is a valuable tool to carry on any long or short trip, in a Model A or modern car.

It is getting close to the end of year 2004 with 2005 just around the corner. Every MAFCA members has received a renewal notice for their 2005 membership. Membership in MAFCA runs on a calendar year. Please encourage your members to send in their renewal notices as soon as possible in order to avoid any delays receiving *The Restorer* magazine while maintaining uninterrupted membership with MAFCA. I have now received membership longevity pins for 25 and 30 years, wearing both proudly. Chapters will soon be receiving their renewal forms for 2005. There has been an addition to the renewal form...a box to include your chapter membership count. The response to my request to notify either MAFCA or myself of your membership count was great and we have decided to monitor how the count changes from year to year. Take the time to include that information as well as check the areas indicating if you would like to receive a copy of *The Restorer* and a pin for your current president. Don't jeopardize your chapter longevity; send in your MAFCA renewal as soon as possible.

As you can probably tell from my previous columns, our youth are very important to me, as they are the future of MAFCA. I read with interest information in newsletters from other chapters regarding their youth programs. In a recent newsletter of the Shade Tree A's, an article appeared updating members on their Youth Program. They not only

encourage involvement of their young people, they help them both monetarily and with a mentor. The requirements are that they are club members (either individually or with their parents), are actively involved in a restoration of an antique vehicle, help with at least two club projects and submit reports to be included in their chapter's newsletter.

What a great program. This type of program helps the youth with their restoration but also starts encouraging their chapter participation in order to keep them as active chapter and MAFCA members for years to come.

In a recent newsletter from the George Washington Chapter, there was a follow-up article on one of their meetings, which featured one of their longtime members. They had a young man as a guest speaker at their July meeting named George Smolenyak, Jr. who attends McPherson College in Kansas. This is the only United States College is the only accredited four-year college that offers a degree in automotive restoration technology.

George presented a few of his adventures at McPherson College and his "finds" of Kansas antique field-fresh cars.

Farther down my stack of newsletters that I was reading I found another article about McPherson College. It was interesting to find out that they offer one-week summer courses in the restoration of old cars. The article told of two couples who attended courses in upholstery and welding. The week sounded like lots of fun along with gaining lots of knowledge and experience. In fact, one couple is thinking about attending next year to take courses in wood graining and wood shop. What a great weeklong "vacation". Want to learn more about the program? Go to "<http://www.mcpherson.edu>".

Their web site is very interesting and even notes that car enthusiast Jay Leno supports the program, offers information about C.A.R.S. (College Automotive Restoration Students) and their annual car show. This program is over 25 years old, established by classic and antique car collector Gaines H. "Smokey" Billue.

This reminded me of another tidbit I had read months earlier. I looked through my notes and found information regarding a young member from the Twin Cities Model A Club named Sam Nelson. Sam presented a clinic on the Hubley models explaining the various models, many of which are Ford products. Sam showed models that he raced at National Model A Meets. What a great way to include young to participate in their chapters by having the young teach the young.

This same article mentioned the Henry Ford Trade School at the Highland Park Plant. Young students attend classes in the morning and work in the plant during the afternoon. If you know of a young member who would like to pursue a technical curriculum in school, this would be another place to consider.

As I've mentioned before, I truly enjoy reading newsletters from all over the world. In an effort to do more than just "look through" foreign publications, I searched out someone to help in translation. An exchange student only offered minimal help. Fortunately a friend met and recently married a wonderful man originally from France. I have now gained another friend...and translator. Charles is great and can translate a number of languages. He reads two different foreign newsletters for me (and totally enjoys them too); highlights each feature and totally translate those that I find interesting. What a treat.

I hope to see many of you at the National Meeting in Augusta, Georgia. Until then, enjoy Henry's fabulous lady.