

One of my final tasks after serving on the MAFCA Board of Directors for the past four years is writing this column. I have been honored to serve this wonderful organization, and I have been teary eyed that I need to step down. Other MAFCA members now have the chance to serve MAFCA as a director and I do have the option of returning to the Board of Directors again. I am trying to tie up all loose ends for my replacement to make a smooth transaction. With that said, there are a number of announcements below for chapters to remember.

Please send your chapter newsletters via e-mail for consideration in newsletter judging. Not only does it save the chapters printing and postage, but it also saves the MAFCA office postage when they forward the newsletters to the Chapter Coordinator via regular mail. There is no need to send a hard copy to the MAFCA office. A special e-mail address has been set up for newsletters to go directly to the Chapter Coordinator. In the future, send your chapter newsletters to chapters@mafca.com. If needed, you can check out the MAFCA website at www.mafca.com for the policy that listed the requirements for judging. You'll find it in the DOWNLOADS area in the POLICY folder.

Please continue to encourage any chapter members who are not members of MAFCA to join the national organization. Their membership includes our award-winning bi-monthly magazine *The Restorer* and includes free classified ads. They can also advertise on the MAFCA website, get technical help to restore their Model A or to keep it in tip-top shape. Membership also gives voting privileges in National elections of directors and offers participation in National and Regional MAFCA events. Encourage MAFCA membership...it is a good thing!

Look for the policy that outlines the requirements used for judging chapter websites posted on www.mafca.com. Check it out. Then send an e-mail to the MAFCA office at info@mafca.com or at chapters@mafca.com to have your website considered next year for judging. It only takes a request once and your chapter's website will be considered each year. With many chapter websites and more developed each month, the only requirement for consideration is a simple e-mail request. The first year, over 35 websites have asked to be considered in judging. Is your chapter's website on the list? Send in your request today.

The MAFCA Chapter Registration Forms were mailed out the beginning of November. Please send back the form to the MAFCA headquarters in order to have your chapter remain in good standing. There is no fee involved. All that is needed is the completed form to update chapter information regarding officers, chapter address, etc.

Also, don't forget to also update your information for the MAFCA website. Chapters should review their chapter information, and if there are any changes needed, particularly the contact (many e-mail addresses have changed) and new chapter web site addresses. Both the MAFCA office and the website like to keep the information current. Webmaster Rick Black has made the process easy. Just go to the "CHAPTERS" page and click on the UPDATE link.

Thinking about getting involved in era fashions? It is now easier than ever to take part in another aspect of the Model A hobby. If you are attending the Turlock Swap this January, you're in for a treat. Judy Lewis, Patti Jones and Trudy Vestal will present a seminar on the new MAFCA Fashion Category, "Model A Image". Learn how the new category works and what you need to do to enter this category. See examples and find out how to take an off the rack garment to make it have the era look. It is much like the Original and Reproduction judging categories, except there is more flexibility. You are able to mix and match old and new with no scrutiny of fabric or construction. The main focus is "The Look". Men's, Women's and Children's clothes will be discussed. To find out more, please join us in Turlock Saturday, January 26, 2008 at 11:30 AM. The seminar will take place before the NCRG meeting, in the same location. This is a great opportunity to learn how to have the Model A "look".

It has been obvious that young members mean a lot to me as a director and to our hobby. I was pleased to read in recent newsletters articles regarding young Model A'ers. As an example, Piney Wood A's has a new Honorary Member. Kyle Hayes, an 11 year old sixth grader, attended a Christmas party at the home of his Sunday school teachers, John and Joyce Grivet. John showed his Model A to Kyle's class and for Kyle, it was love at first sight. Since then, Kyle has participated in many chapter events. John has been teaching him how to shift gears. John and Joyce are wonderful mentors for Kyle and the Model A hobby.

It seems that often the Model A bug skips a generation. Shade Tree A's has an example in their October newsletter. An article titled "Grandpa and Grandson, Together" by Tonya Gordon tells how her son Michael, age 12 loves to learn new things. One of his favorite things is to tinker around with projects in the garage. When Grandpa George Gordon purchased a 1928 Model A, they could hardly wait to get started fixing it up. The bond between grandpa and grandson has become amazing, working on a project they both love. The bond for the Model A hobby seems strong as well.

The November newsletter of the Columbia Basin Model A Club had their President, Bev McGillicuddy talking about naming her cars. Now I know why I have enjoyed her articles, as I name my cars also. Another interesting item in the newsletter was a photo of member Marshall Hauck who was explaining internal combustion engine technology to a Boy Scout troop. There are automotive badges that can be earned by Boy Scouts. Contact a troop in your area and volunteer to help the boys with these badges. It just might ignite a spark an interest in Model A's that will last a lifetime.

That's it for now. I've enjoyed talking to many of you throughout the past four years, so feel free to keep in touch by e-mail at sgrundie@sbcglobal.net or telephone me at 262-513-0447 (CST) evenings or weekends. If any chapters want to continue to send their newsletters via e-mail (so there is no expense involved), please do so. I've enjoyed reading about activities in chapters throughout the country.

Stephanie Grundman
2007 Chapter Coordinator