

# BECOMING AN ERA FASHION JUDGE

By Marie Robinette

The love of the Model A is widespread, from coast to coast and around the globe. With the passion that the car enthusiast has for their auto, there is a tendency to want to “dress up” in era clothes. The era fashion aficionado wishes to appear as though they just stepped out of a catalog during the 1928 to 1931 era. This can be achieved in either an original or a reproduction outfit.

Becoming an Era Fashion Judge can be a rewarding experience. First, be sure that your MAFCA membership is current. Then begin by ordering the *Fashion Guidelines* from the MAFCA office or use the back-page order information available in every issue of “*The Restorer*” magazine. This will be the single most comprehensive source of information available as the *Fashion Guidelines* is a culmination of years of research. Fashion articles and illustrations have been thoroughly researched, documented, and recognized by the MAFCA Era Fashion Committee.

As you progress through the six open-book tests, you will gain knowledge and confidence. The six test areas include the Fashion Judging, Major Garments, Headgear, Coordinated Apparel, Accessories, and Footgear. Test 1 should be completed first, sent to the EFCC for grading and when approved, Tests 2-6 should be completed. You must complete and pass each fashion test before you are eligible to judge in that fashion area. Fashion Judges will receive a Judges Certification card for each level attained. All fashion judges must judge in at least one National or two other sanctioned meets in any five-year period in order to keep their certification current

You may wish to take the free open-book tests just to increase your knowledge or to become an Era Fashion Judge. These tests can be found at [the MAFCA web site](#). Print one test at a time or complete all six and return them to the Era Fashion Committee Chairperson (EFCC) at the MAFCA headquarters. You will be notified when you have successfully completed the exam(s) and will then be qualified to participate as a Judges’ Apprentice.

This experience will enable you to become proficient in identifying the unique differences in fashions during each of the Model A years. Start by volunteering at a MAFCA Sanctioned Regional, National or other meet. Upon completing your first Apprentice Judging, while working with more experienced judges, you will advance to a Judge level. The *Fashion Guidelines* will outline the judging experience you will need to advance from Apprentice to Judge, Senior Judge and Master Judge levels. You may also endeavor to become a member of the Era Fashion Committee. The EFC encourages your participation.

By getting involved in era fashions, you could quite likely establish long-lasting friendships with other members in your local chapter having the same interest. Era Fashion information will never be completed, it will continuously be updated as new resources are being discovered almost daily. The EFC accepts, for review, documented updates to the Fashion Guidelines at all times. You can send documentation to the Era Fashion Chairperson c/o MAFCA headquarters.

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