



THE SPARK PLUG

The Area 1 Director's Newsletter to the Members and Regions of the Vintage Chevrolet Club of America

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The Spark Plug newsletter is published quarterly by Jim Karras, Director for Area 1 of the Vintage Chevrolet Club of America.

The opinions and writings expressed herein are solely those of the author and not of the Vintage Chevrolet Club of America, Inc.

Area 1 Director's Message

Hi Chevy friends:

I am honored to have the privilege of serving as your representative on the VCCA board of directors. I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can over the next three years of my term as the Area 1 director.



This is an exciting time to be taking a position on the board of directors as the club is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. As you know, the celebratory festivities are being planned and while much of the planning has already been completed by the previous board, there are still many things to consider during the next few months. David Miner and his committee have done an excellent job preparing for the Flint Meet. My wife Sabrina and I are looking forward to heading east in July and I hope to meet some of you then.

In order to communicate to the members of Area 1, I plan on publishing the Spark Plug newsletter on a quarterly basis. As new editions are readied for publication, the goal will be to bring you the very latest news of the VCCA both at the board level and within Area 1. I hope to share activities and issues from each region in Area 1 and I also want to keep those VCCA members in Area 1 who are not a member of a local region abreast of news relevant to the VCCA in general.

Along with the quarterly Spark Plug, I have also published a website dedicated to VCCA Area 1. The URL for this site is: www.area1vcca.org. My thoughts for creating this website are that while there may not be enough news of interest for a more frequent publication schedule of the Spark Plug, at times there may be the need for immediate communication. A website is a perfect venue to achieve this without much expense.

Please give me a call or send me e-mail if I can be of assistance.



"The World's Best Chevrolet Club"

Dedicated to the restoration and preservation of Chevrolets

www.area1vcca.org

Jim's Board Assignments

As of January 1, 2011, I have been assigned by Don Williams (VCCA President) to two tasks so far. The first one involves serving as the board representative to the Non-geographic Chapters of the VCAA. Presently, the only group that has formed under this provision in the VCCA's bylaws is the VCCA Chat Group Chapter.

The Chat Group Chapter was first talked about on the VCCA Chatter internet forum in 2007 and by 2009 had around 35 members. The Chat Group Chapter is an official Chapter of the VCCA and its only Non-geographic Chapter chartered to date.

Upon the creation of the Non-geographic Chapters provision it was the Board's intention to permit VCCA members who owned specific models of Chevrolets to associate under the auspices of the VCCA with other VCCA members. Examples of anticipated Non-geographic Chapters include Tri-Five Chapter, Corvette Solid Axle Chapter, Corvair Chapter, 490 Chapter, 4 Cylinder Chapter, Early Six Chapter, Impala Chapter, etc. The whole concept is new and hasn't been actively promoted by the VCCA. While the concept wasn't designed for the Chat Group Chapter, the group's organizers realized the new provisions for such entities within the VCCA fit their needs and as a result applied for and received recognition as a Non-geographic Chapter under the new provision.



As an active user of the VCCA Chevy Chatter Forum, I am happy to serve as the representative to this unique group of VCCA members and encourage everyone to visit the Chevy Chatter Forum. To visit the forum, go to www.vcca.org/forum/.

The other assignment I received is to chair a new VCCA committee that was created to keep members abreast of legislative and regulatory issues being considered around the nation by various governmental bodies. The new VCCA Legislative Committee is currently busy developing a Mission Statement and recruiting members. The original idea for this committee came out of a motion offered by Forest "Chip" Sweet a VCCA member from Texas who has been active in National VCCA events and issues for many years. Chip is also serving on the committee and we would like to have one to three more VCCA members join us to serve on the committee. If you are interested please contact me.



The committee has already established a working relationship with SEMA and will soon be reaching out to the Historical Vehicle Association another national automotive enthusiast governmental watchdog group with a mission to keep vintage automobiles on the road.

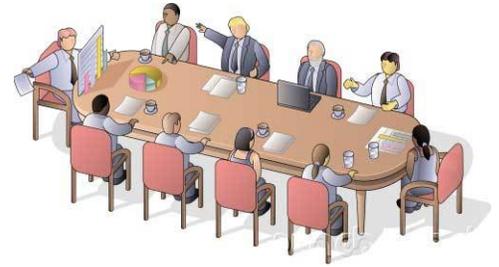
As issues emerge that the committee feels are of interest to our membership, we will report about those issues on a monthly basis in the G&D. Additionally, if any members become aware of a local issue and wish to make other VCCA members aware either simply for the purpose of increasing awareness or to create a broader range of support regarding a particular view on a given issue, members are encouraged to contact the committee chair so the committee can review the issue for further consideration.

Locally, the committee will also be approaching the Association of California Car Clubs a California-based automotive enthusiast watchdog group that focuses on issues affecting the hobby in California. We hope to have a member from the Auburn Region join us on our committee as he is active in the ACCC. 

Issues Before the Board

Interestingly enough, the Board of Directors continued its work through the holidays and the annual transition of its members. Beginning with this year, the Board was reduced by two members as a result of the passage of Motion 10-22 earlier this year which provided for six At-Large Director positions being eliminated over three years with two of the six positions expiring as the respective terms end.

One of the items already being discussed among various board members is the issue of the potential for a lack of directly-elected representatives to the board. Because Area Directors are elected only by the members of their respective Areas, some members are concerned that some, if not all, of the board members could gain positions without being elected as many Area Board positions are awarded to single candidates that ran unopposed. This phenomenon wasn't as problematic with At-Large Director positions as these positions were voted on by the whole membership.



The reason the board adopted Motion 10-22, which resulted in the Board being reduced by 1/3 of its former size, was for several reasons. First, conducting business with an 18-member board is a challenge. Second, the expenses associated with maintaining such a large board given the need for travel, lodging and other items became cost-prohibitive. Third, several of the board members were concerned with the actual roles of the At-Large Director positions and it appears there was a feeling that the positions were duplicative and unnecessary. The Board voted unanimously in favor of Motion 10-22 which in my opinion is telling.

However, now there is support from some board members to revisit this issue in response to Motion 10-27 which has been filed and is designed to restore two of the six At-Large positions. At this time, it appears the board will take up Motion 10-27 at the Annual Meeting in April.



In the meantime, other associated issues have been discussed by several of the board members in response to Motion 10-27 that might continue to be considered in the mix. One such item is the potential consideration of re-alignment of the current VCCA Area Boundaries. Under the current boundaries, some Area Directors have as little as four regions in their areas while others have up to 15 regions spread over multiple states. Moreover, the number of members within each Area varies.

This is a complex issue and will take some time for the Board to consider. My personal take is that I like the balance of having At-Large board members' with a national perspective as well as Area Board members' with a specific geographic perspective. However, as of yet, I am not sure what the right number of board members for the VCCA should be or how the area boundaries should be drawn. I look forward to participating in the discussion in the upcoming months.

Another issue before the Board relates to the publishing of the Registration Form in the G&D for the VCCA 50th Anniversary Meet in July. This issue came before the Board as Motion 10-26. The reason this became somewhat controversial was due to the fact that a prior motion was passed by the Board which eliminated the publication of all registration forms for all events and meets (both local and national) in the G&D. After that motion was passed, it soon became apparent that motion didn't have an exemption for the upcoming 50th Anniversary Meet. Given the significance of this monumental event, a majority of the 2010 Board members supported Motion 10-26 and the motion was passed. Therefore, the 50th Anniversary Meet Registration Form will be published in the G&D - most likely beginning with the March issue.



Contacts and Resources

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