

Report of Delegates Meeting
Austin-Healey Club of America ("AHCA")
November 11-12, 2017 – Indianapolis, Indiana
www.healeyclub.org

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www.capitalhealeys.org

I have been your AHCA Delegate for the past seven years and represented our club in a variety of organizational issues to improve the AHCA annual conclave, website, communication formats, governance, elections and a host of other matters. The delegates convene each November to review financial operations, receive officers' reports, elect or reelect officers and adopt new governance procedures, as warranted.

The AHCA has 47 local chapters plus 500 national members (not members of any local chapter). Our club has a current membership count of 103 and is one of the seven largest clubs with more than 100 members.

At the outset of this year's meeting, there was a call for recognition of prior military service on this Veteran's Day – November 11, 2017. A majority of the 28 attending delegates (including me) stood for this appreciation.

Officer and Leadership Reports

President – Completing his first year in office, Gary Feldman expressed strong appreciation for the time commitments of the national officers, appointed officers and committee leaders. He reported that one local club had disaffiliated with AHCA in 2017 due to disinterest in the national liability insurance program. Some members of that club rejoined as AHCA national members. Later in the meeting, on an upbeat note, the delegates approved and sanctioned a new local chapter in Florida – the Palm Beach Austin Healey Club.

Club Support – The national club has a comprehensive liability insurance program to protect AHCA and its local clubs from financial loss due to potential lawsuits from driving events as well as coverage for directors' and officers' liability. The insurance has a substantial policy limit of \$5.0 million. Nearly 20 local clubs have some "local" members who do not belong to the national club. Some of these clubs are too small to exist without the involvement of other British car owners and enthusiasts. Previously, the AHCA has assessed an annual charge of \$5.00 for each of these local members who are protected by the national insurance program. This equitable arrangement has offset the national program paid premium expense by \$17,000 over the past five years.

Safety – The AHCA is a member of Specialty Equipment Manufacturers Association (“SEMA”) which is a national leader in automobile safety promotion. One of the key issues for classic cars is regular tire replacement. Regardless of nominal or extensive annual driving miles, the safety standard is full tire replacement every 10 years or sooner due to heavy tread wear. The AHCA urges local clubs to use a waiver form available on the website to help shield driving events from meritless liability claims.

Conclave – The national club is reassessing the Conclave format followed for the past 40+ years. Topics for evaluation include moving future Conclave dates to spring or fall and encouragement for consortium sponsorship by several local clubs rather than one “host” club as the traditional arrangement. It was reported that the 2017 Conclave held in Waco, Texas had disappointing attendance of 92 paid registrations and 55 cars brought to the event. The Waco volunteers made exhaustive preparations and hospitality arrangements and were dismayed by the low participation. The event had a breakeven financial outcome thanks to backbone support of 14 sponsors.

The 2018 Conclave will be held July 15 to 20 at the French Lick Resort in southern Indiana. Multiple clubs in the Mid-West are supporting this Conclave destination. Registration is available at:
www.AustinHealeyConclave.com

Planning for the 2019 Conclave is moving forward for a destination in the “Black Hills” of South Dakota lead by the Minnesota Austin Healey Club. The tentative dates are September 8-13, 2019. Delegates were treated to a slide show of the amazing natural geographic features found in this part of the country.

Treasurer – The AHCA has comprehensive financial management and controls long in place. Tight expense management and budgeting is a hallmark of the club. The customary fund balance for AHCA is about \$100,000. The annual operating budget for 2018 was approved during the meeting with an income goal of \$187,000 and disbursements at \$192,000. Approved by the delegates for 2018, and after, were nominal increases to travel expense reimbursement ceilings for delegates and officers in light of steady airfare increases year over year.

Secretary – The AHCA has completed its goal of converting historical paper records to digital files. The club purchased a document scanner as a lower cost alternative to contracting with a vendor. The project completed cost over two years was just over \$4,000.

DMH Memorial Fund – The Donald M. Healey Memorial Fund is a joint undertaking by AHCA and the Austin-Healey Sports & Touring Club. The Fund has a five-person board of directors and a key charitable goal to grant tuition scholarships for automotive restoration students. The average scholarship award will be about \$2,000. The fund expects to award several scholarships in 2018.

Healey Marque – The AHCA is very fortunate to have Reid Trummel as long-time Editor of *Healey Marque* magazine. The annual production budget for 2017 was \$110,400 for 11 monthly issues. Actual expenses were 5.8% under budget. Typical monthly print run varies from 2,800 to 3,150. Advertising revenue was budgeted for \$24,000 in 2017 but slumped to \$17,500. One of the larger advertisers reorganized its advertising program away from car club magazines.

Membership – As of November 2017, the AHCA had 3,030 members. The national club has been slightly above or below 3,000 members for more than five years. The Membership Director told delegates that 2018 dues invoices would be mailed in early December with a dues payment deadline of January 15, 2018. Timely printing and mailing of the AHCA Membership Directory has been hampered by late dues payment in past few years. The directory is a key membership benefit that is compromised when renewing members are not included because of failure to pay dues on a timely basis. The AHCA website offers total convenience for online dues payments.

Delegate Participation – Meeting attendees had an extended discussion focused on attracting more delegate attendance in 2018. Nine clubs were flagged as not attending the delegate forum for many years. The AHCA has a digital “delegate handbook” on the national website. Approved at this meeting was a motion to get a printing cost estimate for distribution of the handbook to all local clubs. Several attending delegates agreed to reach-out to the passive local clubs to act as a “buddy” and/or mentor.

Sprite 60th Anniversary – Delegates and officers highlighted for discussion the 60th anniversary of Austin-Healey Sprite production to be celebrated on May 20, 2018. The group was enthusiastic to motivate their local clubs to hold some form of anniversary celebration.

Officer Elections – All current officers were nominated for re-election and elected by unanimous voice vote of the delegates. The delegates awarded several one-year honorary memberships for leadership dedication on Conclave 2017 and the 2017 Delegate Meeting.

Delegate Meeting for 2018 – The AHCA Delegate Meeting will return to Indianapolis on November 10-11, 2018.