

Report of Jack White - AHCA Delegate for Capital Area Austin Healey Club  
Austin Healey Club of America Delegates Meeting – November 9-10, 2019 –  
Indianapolis, Indiana

The AHCA currently has 46 local/regional clubs in the United States and Canada with 2,439 individual members. The club also has 431 national members who do not belong to a local club. The 2019 meeting was attended by delegates and submitted proxies representing 34 clubs.

Each year, attending delegates give a brief oral report about developments in their clubs over the past 10 to 12 months. I reported a current CAAHC membership of 90 which represented a decline from 2018. Follow-up with non-renewing members identified aging and related car sales as common reasons for leaving the club. An internet survey conducted by AHCA earlier in 2019 revealed that 71% of the respondents were between the ages of 60 to 70. Noted in my report was the impending retirement of Bruce Phillips, the Healey Surgeon of Takoma Park, Maryland. Capital Area members have greatly appreciated Bruce's long-standing time and attention as a club resource for all things technical and mechanical about Healey cars.

### **National Officer Reports**

#### Safety

It was noted that hill climbs are becoming more popular in recent years and these events require close attention for driver and observer's personal safety. Liability waivers signed by drivers in all speed events are essential to protect local club sponsors. Preservation of Healey engines is enhanced by fueling with ethanol-free gasoline. Find a nationwide, state-by-state listing of these stations at "pure-gas.org".

#### Conclave

In the longer term, the AHCA may consider scheduling a conclave every other year. The conclave committee considered Yosemite National Park for 2021 but concluded high room expense and low room availability would be barriers to successful attendance. The 2021 Conclave will be held jointly with the AHC Association. After discussion, the delegates voted to authorize the national officers to agree on a location with the other sponsor and then seek an approval vote from the AHCA delegates. The conclave committee presented awards to the two leaders from the Austin Healey Club of Minnesota who were instrumental for the massive success of the 2019 Conclave in Deadwood, SD. Plans are fully developed for the 2020 Conclave at The Plantation in Crystal River, Florida hosted by the Austin Healey Club of Tampa Bay.

#### Club Support

The committee continued the practice of requiring financial support from some local clubs that allow their members to opt-out of AHCA membership. Each such person must pay an annual fee of \$5.00 for their coverage of liability insurance purchased by the national association that benefits all local club members. The committee also continued

efforts to get more of the smaller local clubs to send a delegate to the annual meeting in November.

### Promotion

The AHCA use of Constant Contact has been a great success. Twelve internet communications were sent in the first year and these emails were opened by 62% of the recipients. The membership survey in mid-year drew 669 responses including 18 responses from CAAHC members. The committee also produced two designs of promotional cards for recruiting new members. An image of one of the cards is included at the end of this report. The promotion committee is greatly in need of more help. Contact me if you would like to volunteer any amount of time to support the national club.

### Insurance

The AHCA is now insured by The Hartford for general liability and directors' and officers' liability coverage. The coverage applies to all national and local club functions and governance activity. A certificate of insurance coverage is available to any local club holding an event where "proof of insurance" is sought by a venue.

### DMH Fund

The Donald M. Healey ("DMH") Fund is a separate legal entity promoting education for automobile restoration and preservation. The fund has a present balance of \$31,000 currently focused on scholarship grants at McPherson College – the only institution in the country to offer a four-year degree in auto restoration. Two students will receive modest financial aid from the DMH Fund in 2020.

### Regalia

The AHCA attempt to promote "logo" jewelry for Austin Healey enthusiasts was unsuccessful in 2019 with no sales. The program cost to AHCA was nominal and an evaluation will be undertaken in 2020.

### Membership

The national membership director started the annual dues renewal cycle in early November. Each local club membership director will receive a renewal report every two weeks in 2019 and continuing into 2020.

### Healey Marque

The delegates voiced strong appreciation for Reid Trummel; editor for the past 14 years. The magazine appearance and page length have been an ongoing success for readership enjoyment. The "Marque" is now paying for occasional periodic content from a select group authors known to and validated by Trummel. Sustaining print advertising in the magazine is a continuing financial challenge in recent years as advertisers concentrate on social media. Later in the meeting the delegates voted a small increase in the editor's annual compensation.

Distributed at the meeting was the annual AHCA calendar produced by Trummel. CAAHC members will certainly appreciate recognition of one of our members in the January month photo. The 1965 BJ8 owned by Paul and Leslie Gnatt since 1989 is beautifully presented in the new calendar.

### Healey Museum

As advised in 2018, the AHCA made a donation of \$5,000 in 2019 to the Healey Museum in the Netherlands. The donation is a joint undertaking of \$2,500 from the national club and collection of \$2,500 from the sum of smaller donations sent by local clubs to the national treasurer. The delegates approved another donation of \$2,500 to the museum in 2020 with further matching from local clubs.

### Membership Directory Future Publication

Delegates held a long discussion of conceptual options for the membership directory. The printed directory was not produced in 2019 due to a cascade of database issues and delayed production snags that foreclosed a timely mailing to members. AHCA members received this news at midyear with the option to consult the most up-to-date directory on the national website at “healeyclub.org” Pros and cons for sole internet directory access versus every year or alternate year printing were thoroughly rehearsed by the delegates. Delegates settled on bi-annual printing of a new directory book beginning in 2020. The membership database will remain accessible at all times on the website. Target for the 2020 membership directory is May 1 in the mail.

### Future Conclave Outlook

Leading contenders for the 2021 Conclave site are Santa Fe, New Mexico and Branson, Missouri. The 2022 Conclave will be co-sponsored with the Austin Healey Sports & Touring Club. Meeting planners are evaluating sites in the Pennsylvania Pocono Mountains area.

### National Officers Election for 2020

All currently serving officers (except a new officer for VP Club Support) were re-elected for another annual term.

Questions or comments about this report are welcome.

Jack White ([white.esq@gmail.com](mailto:white.esq@gmail.com))



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BE A PART OF THE  
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*The Austin-Healey Club* of America

(AHCA) is the world's largest network of Healey experts, owners and admirers. Our membership of more than 3,000 enthusiasts is ready to welcome you and help complete your Healey journey.

Whether you've owned a Healey for years, are shopping for one or used to own one, this is the place for you. With more than 40 local clubs throughout the United States and Canada, you're probably not far from a dynamic group that plans drives, dinners and other fun events where all are welcome!

Your membership provides you access to this impressive network as well as resources like our 40-page, full-color monthly magazine, membership directory, calendar and online technical and historic resources. Plus, if you're shopping for that perfect car, being a member is a smart investment. You'll be the first to hear of cars coming for sale and monthly classified listings provide great purchasing opportunities.

Learn more about our Club, our local network of regional affiliates and explore some of our online resources at [HealeyClub.org](http://HealeyClub.org).

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