

CTCI General Membership Meeting 2008-07-30
Wednesday, July 30, 2008
Portland, Oregon

President Sue Smith called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM

The Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag was recited

Sue provided some opening remarks welcoming everyone to Portland.

She commented that CTCI is one of the premier car clubs in the U.S., with our own building (paid for), stable membership, dedicated board and officers. We are thankful for our vendors

Roll Call

Pres. Sue Smith
VP Scott McGilvray
Sec John Sailors
Treasurer Jim Hack

Region 1 Al Robinson
Region 2 Gwen Stadstad
Region 3 Cathy Stubbs
Region Ed Brown
Region Joe Cole
Region Bill Somsak
At Large – Jerry Wotel absent
At Large – Sue Smith
At Large – Scott McGilvray

Rose City Thunderbirds members were recognized. We had a wonderful welcome party last night; she thanked Roger Kelley and Cliff Noxon for doing a great job as co-chairs. Dave Van Winkle and Frank Stubbs were recognized as Concours Chair and Chief Judge.

Sue also recognized the following:

Rich & Lois Martin – National Concours & Rules Chairman
Gil Baumgartner & Scott McGilvray – Authenticity Chairmen
Frank Stubbs & Marty Bierman – Judges Training
John Sailors – Scoring Chairman

Tech editors
Jim Dinunzio
Don Hyde

Lin Somsak – EarlyBird Editor (26 years)
George Barlow – Office Manager

At the February 2008 Board Meeting the board elected to start approving General Membership minutes as soon as they are available; however, the 2006 minutes from Wichita need to be approved. Secretary John Sailors mentioned that one grammatical error had been noted by Joe Cole, and had been corrected. Bill Brown (Coshocton, OH) moved and Roger Kelly (Vancouver, WA) seconded that Wichita meeting minutes be approved as presented to the board and corrected.

Aye – 7
Nay – 0

All members are welcome to receive copies of minutes; they just need to ask George in the office or John Sailors for a copy

Jim Hack – Treasurers report

Q2 2008

Income	\$29,000
Expenses	\$59,000
Net	(\$30,000)

For 6 months ending June 30, 2008

Income	\$225,368	Planned	\$227,350
Expenses	\$140,850	Planned	\$143,440
Net	\$ 84,518	Planned	\$ 83,910

Membership Ending June 30, 2008-09-03

Paid 5,834	Paid last year 6,010
New in Q2 – 77	From CTCI Sponsors – 32
New for year – 153	From CTCI Sponsors – 62

Jim commented that we normally get about 100 new members each quarter, so we are running a little lower than normal.

Cash Assets

Checking	\$ 49,776
Other	\$315,300

2009 Regionals

Sue talked about the 2009 Regionals that have already been sanctioned by the Board. She invited a representative from the Tulsa and Vancouver, BC clubs to talk about their convention.

Region 5 Tulsa Region 5

Joe Cole and Tom McCartney

Joe spoke of the beautiful hotel, Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center. It is a new facility with plenty of parking, banquet space and nice rooms. Scheduled dates are July 3-6, 2009.

Tom let us know that there a lot of things to see in Tulsa arrive early and visit the town. New events center, River walk, aquarium, casinos, Discoveryland, Air and Space Museum. Pre-registration forms are available in the Vendor room.

Discoveryland out-door presentation of Oklahoma! will be on the agenda. It is rated among top 10 performances in the country.

A new museum has been built in an old house which features Miss Belvedere (1957 Plymouth that was buried as a time capsule for 50 years).

Region 3 – Barry Miller

Region 3 convention will be held in Richmond BC, near Vancouver. They will build on their previous success. It will be at River Rock Casino a 2 year old non smoking resort. It is about a 30 minute drive from the US/Canadian border, just a few minutes from the airport. Tours may include an aquarium in Stanley Park, and a museum full of cars (about 150), as well as radios, TV's and other stuff.

Scheduled dates are August 18-20, 2009; which is a Tues-Thurs. Mid week was selected to help travel time to and from and for the cost of rooms.

Passports are necessary to get across the border. A new Passport Card is available for slightly less cost.

Room rates are good through end of Feb only, so book early. At end of convention a side trip to Whistler would be worth while (site of 2010 Winter Olympics). Scenic Highways are available for tours. Third option may be an Alaska cruise for those interested.

Sue asked if other clubs are interested in presenting bids for other 2009 Regionals. None yet, we (the Board) need to work on the other regions.

Sue asked if any clubs were prepared to bid for the 2010 International Convention. There are none at this time.

2009 Board Nominations

Sue addressed the 2009 Board Election – Resumes for CTCI director positions (Regions 2, 4, 6 and one At Large) are due by end of day August 1st. Those can be delivered to her or George here at the convention up to midnight Friday the 1st. Those that have submitted resumes so far are:

Region 2 – no one yet

Region 4 – Mickey Harris

Region 6 – Bill Somsak

At-Large –

Marty Bierman

Sandra Hood

Committee reports

Joe Cole – Promotions Committee

The decline in membership has been discussed by the board in years past, and during the board meeting a committee was appointed to address this and make recommendation to turn the trend around.

The committee consisted of George Barlow, Ed Brown and himself. They have supplied the Board members with a report today.

A questionnaire was sent to all active clubs for their input, very little response was received. They have found that the best promotional tool the club has is individual, personal contact between people. He thanked the office for the work they have done in developing a Promotional kit that clubs can use, and for their work in keeping track of new members and their sponsors. He praised the vendors for the work they do in recruiting new members.

He feels a lot of their work will be rolled into the 3/5 year plan committee. Sue noted that she has seen a lot of Thunderbirds being sold by older members to other CTCI members. This is great, but it does not generate a new member.

Bill Somsak – 3/5 year plan

As with companies we must have a plan for where we want to be in the future. The committee consisted of Bill Somsak, Gwen Stadstad, Martha Lazdins and Lin Somsak.

They did research with other clubs as to where we are today, and where we should be.

They noted that the needs of the club change as the age of the members increase. The activities of the club need to be addressed with the aging of the club. He requested that the members give their opinions to the board.

He stated that a 5 year plan should never die; we need to update it each year. The membership will be hearing more about this from the Board and through the *EarlyBird*.

Cathy Stubbs – Web site committee

The previous committee last year did a good job, but the board hit a snag near the end of the year and did not get final Board approval. She and Al Robinson have been studying what the site should contain and what it should look like. They have surveyed the board as to their wishes and are looking into a new web site that can be maintained by our office staff for the bulk of the maintenance.

If you have input please talk to her or Al.

General items from the floor.

John Hanson – WA

He addressed the board okaying membership minutes – he wants to know why the membership shouldn't have the right to vote on it. He suggests the minutes be published in the *EarlyBird*, and then have the minutes approved at the next membership meeting.

Sue asked the Secretary how many pages that would take; response was 4 or 5 pages. It would also take another ballot.

Sandra Hood – Texas

She feels the minutes should be on the CTCI web site, and the Secretary should email them to chapter presidents.

JJ Grabner – PA

Anyone who wants minutes can write CTCI and request copies.
Sue asked the feeling of those here their opinion regarding whether the minutes be in the *EarlyBird* or on the website. Those present overwhelmingly favored the website vs. the *EarlyBird* for publishing the General Membership Meeting minutes.

Susan Mathieson – CA

She feels that when they are posted on the website we should state that they would automatically be approved by a certain date unless amended by the membership.

Ted Money – Larry's Thunderbird Parts

He feels there should be a note in *EarlyBird* that the minutes are on the website so people don't have to keep looking.

Roger Hull – Oregon

He asked if CTCI sends materials to those advertising Thunderbirds for sale in the *EarlyBird* to promote CTCI to those buying the car.

Sue responded that members get CTCI applications at least once each year in the *EarlyBird* and can call the office for any more they want. Members should also contact CTCI to get any promotional information they want to use at local club functions. She commented that chapters and individuals should drive membership in their area.

Mickey Harris – NC

The decline in their area prompted him to contact CTCI for promotional material, they increased their membership and got old members back in.

John Shriver – Texas

Maybe meets should be in the spring or fall to get away from the heat.
Sue commented that this is a valid point, but many can't get time off other than summer. However, times have changed and maybe more are available during other times of year.

A hand showing revealed that those in attendance were about split on this.
Sue pointed out that CTCI is now providing \$500 seed money, door prizes, and AV grant to off set cost of AV equipment if the host club requests it.

Bob Jasinski – Michigan

We must be careful of bad weather in fall or spring in some parts of the country.
Joe Cole

Hotel room rates have about doubled in the last 15 years, a lot of hotel rates are typically better in the summer.

Bill Brown – Ohio

Asked if there is truth to rumors of animosity among board members, he wanted to know if there are any issues.

Bill Somsak said he knew of no issues and that he has enjoyed working with the board. He feels the entire board is aware they are working for the general membership.

Sue noted that we can disagree on an issue, but we still respect each other.

Doc Dockter – CA

Doc is a 5 ½ year CTCI member, never had so much fun in his life. He felt that the CTCI endowment to McPherson was a good idea; however, he knows that it has been voted down twice and possibly for good reason. He understands that it may be brought up again using general fund money rather than '97 Thunderbird money.

He talked about McPherson and its history as a liberal arts college with its automotive department which features antique automobiles. He discussed the various shops available within the restoration training shops. Metal, wood, interiors, engines, etc.

He feels CTCI has the funds to contribute to this school. It would bring CTCI national recognition. He listed manufacturers and employers that sponsor and send students there. CTCI could establish an endowment, the principle would be maintained allowing the interest to provide scholarships.

Sue addressed that CTCI has not participated in charitable giving in the past. Many local clubs have, but not CTCI. Do we want CTCI to be a charitable organization?

Bill Brown suggested the board should come up with a policy

Lin Somsak – CA

She was asked last night at the Welcome Party how we are structured as a non-profit. Sue responded that we are a non-profit social, not a non-profit charitable organization. This does not stop us from donating to anyone.

Charles Gaffney – PA

He doesn't think we should see this as a charitable situation, but as a means of reaching younger people via the college.

Tom Stocks – TX

Once an endowment is established it is there forever, and the funds cannot be used for anything else. He reminded us that 10 years ago we were in financial trouble and we could be again in the future.

Sue responded that was not entirely true in that during most years we operated with a balanced budget. During the years that we were paying off the building we did operate with a negative cash flow. Operating costs went up during that same time. The board decided to not raise the dues until the building was paid off. Since then we have been increasing our net cash balance each year.

Ed Sauer – NM

He feels we should stabilize membership before we donate money. Maybe dues should be lowered to attract members rather than raising them.

Sue responded that lowering the dues may force us to rescind the balanced budget mandate the board operates with.

Cathy Stubbs – WA

If we were to drop the dues to \$30 that would only pay for one \$15,000 endowment, would a \$2.50 drop in dues really make a difference for members?

Sandra Hood – TX

Noting that we have fewer clubs doing conventions we may have to have CTCI host a convention. Then our money would be used in that manner.

Sue noted that is a possibility in the future.

Susan Mathieson – CA

If we want to donate money it should be on a yearly decision basis rather than establishing an endowment. She feels McPherson is a good cause, but a direct donation may be better than an endowment.

Steve Bonifant – AR

Can the club establish a foundation? Then if members donate to the foundation they would get a tax deduction.

Sue responded that we would have to set up a separate organization to establish, and operate, a foundation.

He also asked if members can get a packet as to how to put on a convention.

Several responded that we currently have that available on the club website.

JJ Grabner – PA

Could CTCI keep the money within CTCI to help support a member's family to McPherson?

Sue responded that this is a fine idea, but it does not give CTCI any exposure.

Al Leibel – TX

Maybe we could add a line on dues form to allow people to donate to an endowment that CTCI would handle as a donation. This would allow those who want to make a donation to do so; people would not be able to get a deduction.

Sue questioned if CA law would allow us to be a middle man to collect and transfer money to McPherson without an endowment or a foundation being established. The question really is do we want to establish an endowment that members can contribute to.

Al suggested that we look into the other option of allowing people to contribute to McPherson through CTCI.

Dean Allstrom – WA

He would like to know the amounts that we are talking to dedicate for McPherson funding.

Sue said the minimum is \$15,000 to get a named endowment. The interest off of that would support a student in the range of \$300 – \$400 per year as a scholarship. We could stipulate that if a CTCI members' child or grandchild is attending McPherson they would get first opportunity at the scholarship.

Mo Hanson – TX

Mo asked how many graduate each year out of the McPherson automotive program. Doc thinks about 30 per year graduate to work on old cars, not necessarily Thunderbirds.

Cary Klimen – MD

He stated that he hopes the board would put their recommendations before the members for a vote.

Ed Brown – FL

He stated that McPherson has had Thunderbirds in that past couple of years.

Sue asked the membership on an advisory basis only if CTCI should be a charitable organization.

Pretty much a split opinion was shown of those present.

Allowing only one vote per family how many

About 24 feel we should, about 35 feel we should not be.

Sandra Hood – TX

She has checked the McPherson web site, it lists only 1 or 2 graduates, and where they went to work, each of the past several years.

Sue feels this is a little nebulous since many do not want their name listed on a website, or in particular where they went to work.

Ed Sauer – NM

Asked where the board is on this matter, how do they feel?

Sue reminded us that the board has been split, and that McPherson has been voted down twice; also that there is not a motion before the board now, and that the board has not been discussing this again until this meeting.

Ed Brown – FL

Feels we should be discussing this, we are a large organization with good assets and apparently have the possibility of the IRS reviewing our status.

Roger Van Hoy – WA

He understands CTCI is a non-profit social organization; however, he understood the question just asked of the members should CTCI be changed to a non-profit

charitable. Sue explained that is not the discussion; the discussion is should we donate some of our funds to charitable organizations be it McPherson or something else.

Sue asked how the board personally feels about charitable giving
4 yes, 4 no

Peter Eisenberg - SC

In his years in the club no one has come up with a reasonable use of the '97 Thunderbird money other than McPherson. 100% of those he has talked to here (Portland convention) have been in favor of donating to McPherson. He doesn't understand why the board is reluctant to make this donation.

He feels this will get our name out to the public.

John Sailors – OR

John discussed that during the 2008 Board meeting the Board voted to use the '97 Thunderbird money to make improvements in the *EarlyBird*. Lin was authorized to add color pages, when she has sufficient material, to each issue which will cost us about \$1,000 per issue. Since the sale of the '97 Thunderbird money was stipulated to benefit all members it has been discussed several times that the *EarlyBird* is really the only way to do that. There is nothing in the email that Peter sent around the club that is incorrect; however, it does not include all of the information available.

Sandra Hood – TX

Asked Jim what our CPA has to say about this. He addressed that our CPA with no prompting suggested that we look into donating some funds prior to the IRS or CA approaching the club.

When Ed made his suggestion we asked an attorney for his opinion. That was part of the original proposal.

At this point it is only speculation that we may be audited.

Cathy Stubbs – WA

We each individually face these same decisions – do we sit on our own accounts or donate to our children now. CTCI must make the same decision – do we want to donate some to charity now, or give all of it to the Detroit Public library when the club closes at some time in the future.

Tom Stocks – TX

How did we go from \$30,000 to \$400,000 in a few years?

Sue responded that the club has been frugal in its spending. It costs us less to operate in our own building than in a rental building as in the past. Plus Jim Hack has done a good job investing our funds, and George does a good job purchasing for us. Also the club is no longer reprinting out of stock *EarlyBirds*.

Lin Somsak

Pat Brothers from Oregon said that they would like to see the roster changed to include phone numbers and email addresses. The board approved this for next the roster

during the February 2008 Board meeting; there will be a change in the next dues renewal for members to opt in or out of printing their information.

Lucy Clark – CA

Lucy asked if the board has considered putting the roster on CD. The board decided not to because it would be too easy for it to be copied.

Bob Starks – CA

The American Motor Cycle club had to split into two clubs (a profit and non-profit club) because of IRS situations.

Sue thanked all for their comments and re-iterated that the Board is here to serve the membership.

Gwen Moved the meeting be adjourned

Second by Bill

Meeting adjourned 4PM

Respectfully Submitted

John Sailors

Secretary