

Unfortunately, within the past two months I have had two chapters contact me regarding the future of their chapter. Chapters that consisting of members in their upper years are finding that there is no one willing to take on the responsibilities as board members or on volunteer positions such as newsletter editors. If that sounds like your chapter and before disbanding your chapter, consider taking steps now to change your chapter direction before it's too late.

I don't have all the answers. In reading chapter newsletters, I do see that many smaller chapters have a large board of directors. Consider cutting the number of members needed to run the chapter. Combining duties could help lessen the inability to get willing members. It's easier to have five members take on annual chapter responsibilities than nine or more. Perhaps chapter members could get their grandkids involved, even on a small scale. Maybe having the newsletter produced by-monthly would make the job easier. Try to encourage younger members to get involved. Young people raising families and having demanding careers do not always have the time to spend in organizations. I feel the age to focus on are those in their mid to late 40's. Children are raised, there is more disposable income to spend on a Model A and also time to join and volunteer in a chapter.

One chapter has already formed a committee to make changes in their chapter to insure its future. Is what your chapter doing now appropriate for the future? Is your membership declining? Are there members who can take on chapter responsibilities in future years? Do you need to make changes before it's too late? Look at your chapter's needs and find solutions now. Don't wait until your chapter is in trouble.

Speaking of chapters, has your chapter sent in their 2012 Chapter Registration Form? Keep in mind that your chapter will be considered inactive if registration for the current year has not been received by September 1st and will not receive any of the benefits of being a MAFCA Chapter. Those benefits are important. One benefit is the insurance provided by MAFCA's insurance carrier. Also keep in mind your chapter would lose its longevity status.

Check with your chapter leaders to make sure the appropriate chapter person has received and returned the Chapter Registration Form. Keep in mind that starting this year, MAFCA will charge a Late Fee of \$10 to chapters who fail to return their registration by February 28th. It pays to renew early to retain your chapter insurance and save the registration fee.

With the start of a new year and new chapter board members in place, make sure to let the Webmaster know of changes in your chapter's address and key people. Keep in mind that a Chapter Listing will no longer be in each issue of The Restorer – it will be printed only once a year in the April/May issue. This will give The Restorer editor more room. The complete chapter list can always be found on the MAFCA website, www.mafca.com.

Have you checked out the MAFCA store lately? I purchased the new MAFCA Afghan. It's soft, made with 100% cotton with a background and a gold MAFCA logo. Also new is a Travel Mug. It's stainless, a nice contour shape with ribs for easy gripping and is convenient 16-ounce size.

With 2012 just around the corner, check out the MAFCA calendar for vacations ideas. There is the MAFCA National Tour, the MAFCA National Convention as well as many regional activities, perhaps near you. There is nothing like driving your Model A and joining in the fun with other Model A'ers around the country and the world. The 2012 convention has already received a number of international registrations. There are Canadian members coming as well as a large group from New Zealand. Next December, the MAFCA National Banquet and Meeting will be held in South Carolina. This is one of the outstanding travel areas in the US. Plan ahead to attend as many events as you can.

While you are out and about in your Model A, either local or long distance, don't forget that safety is vital in today's world. Don't forget to pack a fire extinguisher and make your Model A as visible as possible. There are reflective emblems that can be placed anywhere on your vehicle that can be seen one mile away. Safety is a major consideration so anything that improves visibility is a plus. Be Seen...Be Safe.

I recently read a great article in the Wheels & Waves section of *The Post and Courier's Lowcountry Classifieds* from September 30th of this year. It recapped **Jack and Mary Crabtree's** World Race 2011 experience. The race was from New York to Paris. The event turned out to be part tour and part goodwill mission. The nationwide rally participants drove Corvettes, Beetles, Ford coupes, etc. leaving New York on April 14th. The Crabtrees, in a 1929 Model A Speedster, completed the Asia to France leg, rolling into Paris on July 21st. Jack Crabtree wrote an article for the magazine *Secrets of Speed* titled, "New York to Paris: I still can't believe I actually did this." Some of the photos are amazing. The Crabtree's Model A was shipped back early in September and they have already driven it to an event in Salt Lake City and back. They are proud that South Carolina had more participants in the World Race than any other state. Close to 40 people started the race and the five Charleston area car enthusiasts were **Jack and Mary Crabtree, Dennis Barfield, Howard Streets and Tom Jameson**. If you want to see more about the trip, go to <http://www.crabtreeracing.com>. You can also see the article in the Post and Courier at <http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2011/aug/20/wraccrbbar>.

At the Gilmore Auto Museum's 1st Annual Model A Day, my husband experienced some chest pain. Upon arriving back home, it was determined that he had a blockage in one of his arteries. After a stint was inserted, he is feeling much better. However, I have decided to spend more time with my husband, camping and enjoying our life together. My grand-girls also want more of our time and what could be better than that.

I also need to spend as much time as possible with my mom. My mom has been declining for years and I want to be there at her end...as she was there in my beginning. So what I am saying? Everything happens for a reason. I feel that with working full time, I need to take a step back and come back to MAFCA when my mom is at rest. I have enjoyed and honored to be a MAFCA director for six years.

I will see you in June at the 2012 MAFCA National Convention. Webmaster **Rick Black** and I will be presenting a seminar for chapters on websites and newsletters. If I don't see you around the convention grounds, consider joining us for the seminar.

Stephanie Grundman, 2011 Chapter Coordinator