

MINUTES  
BCA Board of Directors Meeting  
Tampa, Florida; October 21, 2000

Members present: Jeff Brashares; Bob Leets; Pete Phillips; Roberta Vasilow; Ken Liska; Cecil Don; Carl Finer; Bill Schoening; Jack Jones

Others present: Phil Strassner, Regional Coordinator; Judy Leets, Chapter Coordinator; Dick Taylor, Baker Press; Bob Snowden, Bugle Editor; Bruce Kile, National Tour Advisor; Pat Riley, V.P., Buick Foundation; Carol Serrone, Auditor; and members of the following chapters/divisions: Gulf Coast; Dixie; Sunshine State; Central Indiana; Gopher State; Fireball; Northern Virginia; Southern Arizona; Buick Town; Chicagoland; Buick Driving Enthusiasts;

The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. by Jeff Brashares.

MINUTES. The minutes of the Board meeting in Richmond, VA. on July 5, 2000 were reviewed. Carl Finer asked for a correction of the Buick truck value, changing it from \$25 to \$37.16 each. Roberta Vasilow asked for the "d" to be dropped from "Gran Sport". MOTION by Schoening, seconded by Finer to approve the minutes as corrected. All in favor.

The minutes of the general membership meeting on July 6, 2000 were reviewed. MOTION by Vasilow, seconded by Leets to approve said minutes. All in favor.

The minutes of the Board's July 23, 2000 conference phone call were reviewed. MOTION by Cecil Don, seconded by Schoening, to approved said minutes. All in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT. Roberta Vasilow presented the Treasurer's report through August 31, 2000. In Joel Gauthier's absence, auditor Carol Serrone was asked to comment on the recent financial reports. She stated that the club is using its financial reserves from long-term memberships to stay afloat, i.e., we are spending more than we are collecting. The reserves are \$6000 below what they were last year. MOTION by Schoening, seconded by Liska, to approve the Treasurer's report. All in favor.

Brashares stated that he wants to put the Treasurer's report and minutes on the BCA web site. This led to a discussion of whether or not this type of information should be available for all to see, and ways to ensure internet security if it is put on the web site. Vasilow was asked to look into placing these items on the web site. MOTION by Vasilow, seconded by Liska, to condense and print the first quarter's financial statement in the Bugle, with explanatory comments. All in favor.

BCA STORE. Carol Serrone stated that a physical inventory of merchandise left after the National Meet is needed. Merchandise prices have been increased to try to get the store to break even. Getting away from a salaried storekeeper would help. Serrone questioned the 94 work hours reported by the storekeeper for the month of August 2000.

AUDIT REPORT. Serrone reported on the audit which the previous Board had asked her firm to do for fiscal years ending in June 1998 and June 1999. Some clerical errors have been made in deposit slip preparation (corrected by the bank). Electronic transfer of funds is recommended, but the Bank of America's Hesperia branch does not offer this. Serrone also suggested implementing some type of purchase order system whereby prior approval is obtained before expenditures are made. She also expressed concern about a \$1025 charge from VAI Office Services for maintaining the membership database, which is supposed to be done under Val Ingram's contract, but the club is presently paying Mail Unlimited for this service. All other expenses/services from VAI checked out fine. MOTION by Liska, seconded by Finer, to approve the audit report. All in favor.

BCA OFFICE REPORT. Brashares read the written report which was submitted by Val Ingram. Aside from some extra work associated with the change of editors and mailing houses, all is going well.

BUGLE REPORT. Dick Taylor of Baker Press reported that despite the extra work on the transition, all magazines have gotten out in a timely manner, and former Editor Chuck Koch has been very helpful. Many people, however, are still sending their ads to Chuck, rather than to Baker Press. The poster in the September Bugle was intended as compensation to the membership from Baker Press for inadvertently coming up short on the number of pages in that issue (covers were incorrectly counted as pages). Taylor reported that their September issue was less expensive than the September 1999 issue (this was later pointed out by Jim Jaeger as being incorrect due to an error in addition. The actual cost is higher this year), and the National Meet issue was \$20,647 this year versus \$26,141 last year. It was noted that postage expenses had gone down some, due to more of the membership living closer to Florida than to California. Ken Liska noted that Bob Snowden is working as editor for \$800 less per month than the previous editor.

Paul Syrdal, Gopher State Chapter, stated that he had a large list of his members who have not received the September Bugle. Editor Bob Snowden replied that the mailing house gets its list from Val Ingram, and anyone not receiving the magazine should contact Val to see if their dues are up to date or their address is correct.

CHAPTER COORDINATOR'S REPORT. Judy Leets stated that she has recently sent out the annual chapter inquiry forms. She read the Hawkeye Chapter's response and stated that she considered it to be unresponsive. She suggested that all chapters should consider changing their slate of officers in January, making it easier to report all of the changes in the Bugle at one time. She asked if the Chapter Coordinator is authorized to contact non-chapter members to try to initiate new chapters, or just react to petitions sent in. Brashares suggested that she revise the Coordinator's Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to make it the way she prefers it to be. She also asked if two chapters, which previously split, could merge again. The consensus of Board opinion was that they could merge, but it needs to be in the SOP.

REGIONAL COORDINATOR'S REPORT. Phil Strassner reported that he and Cecil Don are working to start up the new West Coast region. Bob Beaton, Gulf Coast Chapter, asked about the plans for an East Coast region. Phil Strassner stated that it would be on paper by February. Bruce Kile, Dixie Chapter, expressed concern that if the Carolina Chapter is removed from the Southeast region to associate with an Eastern or Mid-Atlantic region, that the remaining region would be too small. Strassner replied that this is not being forced, but only being investigated. The Northern Virginia Chapter wants to be part of a region.

INTERNET REPORT. Roberta Vasilow reported that there is much participation in the four discussion areas on the BCA web page, with several thousand postings in each area. The web site address "Reatta.org" is being transferred to the BCA's web site. She stated that Peter Gariepy has not been paid for hosting the BCA's web site, and he has offered to do this for \$600 per year. Vasilow and Gariepy will work on getting BCA dues renewals done on-line, in hopes of picking up many web site visitors who are not members. MOTION by Vasilow, seconded by Schoening, to pay \$600 to Peter Gariepy for web site hosting fee. All in favor. MOTION by Vasilow, seconded by Liska, to continue investigating dues renewal process via the web site. All in favor.

TECHNICAL ADVISOR'S REPORT. Bill Schoening reported that we have 72 advisors. He would like to get some of the excellent advice into print and distributed more widely. In response to a question, Schoening replied that BCA numbers need to be provided when someone asks for advice, and that it is up to the advisor whether or not to respond to questions from non-members.

CHIEF JUDGE'S REPORT. This was postponed until the next meeting, due to the absence of Rick Schick.

ADVERTISING REPORT. Roberta Vasilow reported that advertising revenue is down. Our agent, Jim Cain, has his address listed in the back of the magazine.

BUICK FOUNDATION REPORT. Pat Riley, acting Foundation President, reported that there has been some turmoil due to the sudden deaths of President Roy Wager and Prof. Richard Scarchburg. Riley has volunteered his name for Foundation President in the election tomorrow. The Foundation Board will redefine its fund-raising efforts. Negotiations with the Sloan Museum and Kettering University will need to be face-to-face with teams, for real progress.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS. Dick Bury asked about the pre-qualification check, and why it was eliminated without the chapter and regions being allowed to comment on this. Brashares replied that it is being reinstated for the 2001 Buffalo National Meet. Phillips stated that he felt the pre-qualification checks were too rigorous in the past, and that it had gotten beyond the original purpose of making sure each show car was driven onto the show grounds. MOTION by Leets, seconded by Schoening, to reinstate the pre-qualification check for the 2001 National Meet. 8 in favor, one against (Phillips); motion passed.

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOP). Roberta Vasilow reported on her update of the club's SOPs, noting the recently adopted new procedures for spousal voting in Board elections, printing obituaries in the Bugle, membership recruitment award, and the newsletter award. She also reported on SOPs currently being written up on Regional and Chapter Coordinator responsibilities, Buick Foundation relations, and National Meet guidelines.

Judy Leets commented on SOP #23 (membership recruiting award) and asked that the language in the November 2000 issue of the Bugle be used. She also asked that SOP #18 (hosting a Board Meeting) be revised to suggest seminar-style seating rather than theater-style, and that host hotels have a rate under \$100 rather than \$75. On the same subject, Pat Riley asked that the host chapter also provide space for the Buick Foundation Board meeting, following each BCA Board meeting.

Larry Driscoll, Chicagoland Chapter, questioned the vote counting procedures used in this year's Board elections. After some discussion, it was agreed that Vasilow will send the counted ballots to the BCA office for its archival record. JoAnn Jones, Central Indiana Chapter, suggested that anytime an outside firm does work for the Board, that their report should be attached to the minutes. This led to questions and a discussion of the spousal voting procedures, which will be more thoroughly explained to the membership in an upcoming Bugle. Donna Palmer, Gopher State Chapter, asked if associate memberships for spouses had ever been considered. Brashares replied that it had, but there was opposition to the cost.

2000 NATIONAL MEET REPORT. Phil Strassner, N. Virginia Chapter, reported that there were 523 meet registrations, 311 cars registered, and 220 cars judged. Coffee mugs and collectible t-shirts did not sell well, but the chapter did make a healthy overall profit. There were some glitches, but overall, the meet was a success.

2001 NATIONAL MEET REPORT. Roberta Vasilow reported on behalf of the Niagara Frontier Chapter that 43 registrations have already come in and two of the hotels are full. A newly proposed "A-body" award, sponsored by that chapter, for 1961 and newer Skylarks, was passed around. Phillips noted that 1961 and newer Specials are "A-bodies", and asked why they are being excluded, since the words "A-body" are engraved on the award. MOTION by Leets, seconded by Jones, to approve this award for national meets. 8 in favor; 1 against (Phillips); motion passed.

2002 NATIONAL MEET PROPOSALS. Jeff Brashares announced that a Board conference call will be scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup>, 4p.m., Eastern time, to vote on accepting one of the numerous proposals that have now been received.

Schoening presented the Southern Arizona Chapter's bid, proposed for June 5-9 before the weather gets too hot in Tucson. The proposed Holiday Inn host hotel room rate is a relatively low \$58-68, with other nearby hotels and fast-food places within walking

distance. One tour would be offered to the Pima Air Museum (vendor complaints are a factor, if too many off-site tours are offered).

Strassner presented three Board-solicited proposals, explaining that these were initiated at a time when the Board had no 2002 National Meet proposals from chapters, and no prospects for same. His first proposal is for Greensboro, N.C., with a host hotel rate of \$99, and the Koury Convention Center as the venue. Since the host hotel has 1100 rooms, no back-up hotels are needed, but this means the BCA would not have control of the facility. No tours are planned.

Strassner's next proposal was for Greenville, S.C., with several possible dates available. Embassy Suites would be the host hotel at \$99/night. It is located on a large golf course. Tours would be offered to the Biltmore Mansion, the BMW plant, and to Anderson, S.C. The local Buick dealer has offered \$3000 towards a co-sponsorship of this meet.

Strassner's final proposal, also for Greenville, S.C., with several possible dates, features an all-indoor meet at the 600,000 sq. ft. Palmetto Expo Center, with the Hyatt Regency as the host hotel (\$89/night). Shuttle vans would be needed between the hotel and the Expo Center. The advantages of this venue are that everything including the car show would be indoors (climate-controlled, 24-hr. security). Bob Beaton, Gulf Coast Chapter, pointed out a possible disadvantage, if the local fire marshal requires batteries to be disconnected and gas tanks to be sealed inside the building. Strassner will check on this. Bruce Kile, Dixie Chapter, noted that the Embassy Suite hotel (previous proposal) is very isolated, and the Carolina Chapter does not appear to be very supportive of these meet proposals.

The next presentation was from Ralph Colter, Central Indiana Chapter. Meet dates would be July 11-13 in Kokomo, Indiana (north of Indianapolis). The idea is to try to make this a low-key, affordable meet, to encourage more family participants. There are 10 major hotels with rates from \$50 to \$86. All activities would be at the Convention Center, with shuttle bus loops between the hotels, the Convention Center, and several area tourist attractions (Automobile Heritage Museum, Grissom Air Museum, Sieberling Mansion).

The final presentation was from the Finger Lakes Chapter, which proposes to use the Holiday Inn at Batavia, N.Y. (site of the 1989 meet) with a nightly rate of \$89. Tours would be offered to Letchwood Park and the Harrison Radiator plant. Other area hotels range in price from \$69 to \$95.

Finer offered to collect and compare all of the above information, and pass it along to Brashares, who will have his secretary input it for a spreadsheet.

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE. Brashares read Wray Kniffen's report from the Hershey meet. 310 BCA members stopped by the tent and 14 new members were recruited. MOTION by Vasilow, seconded by Schoening, to pay \$153 for next year's

space rent and \$125 for snack expense. Finer volunteered to loan out the Minute Man Chapter's tent, thereby saving the expense of tent rent for this next year. All in favor.

**ROSTER REPORT.** The expense of printing and distributing the next membership roster was discussed at length, including many suggestions from the audience. The approximate cost to print and mail it is \$5 per copy. This is \$10,000 higher than one issue of the Bugle. After many comments, Schoening made a MOTION to add an optional check-off to the membership application/dues renewal form if a member wants to pay \$6 additional cost to get the roster; offer copies for sale through Bugle ads; distribute one free copy to each chapter director for their use. This was seconded by Cecil Don (no vote taken).

This led to more discussion of selling advertisements in the roster to help pay the cost. Brashares asked Vasilow to work with ad agent Cain to see what ads they can sell between now and the February Board meeting, by which time the SOP revisions should also be ready for inclusion. The Board will make a decision on the roster fee then, and still try to get it printed by late spring of 2001. At this point, Schoening WITHDREW the MOTION, Don WITHDREW his second. Schoening added that we need to consider putting the roster on a compact disc, and distribute it that way in the future.

**NEW BUSINESS.** Schoening announced that Buick logo artwork is needed for nameplate pins. Phil Strassner reminded the Board that all purchasing of BCA pins is supposed to be done through the N. Virginia Chapter, as they have a source for artwork and manufacturing of the pins.

Schoening suggested that the Board minutes need to be distributed to chapters in a more timely manner. He asked that the minutes be sent to Board members by e-mail, with corrections to be made and returned to the Secretary by a deadline, then corrected minutes should be sent to the BCA Office for distribution to the chapters, prior to final Board approval at their next meeting. Brashares will ask Val Ingram to distribute the minutes of the May 2000 Board meeting immediately to the chapters. MOTION by Schoening, seconded by Don, to place approved Board meeting minutes on the BCA web site. After more discussion, the question was called: 8 in favor, 1 against (Vasilow—feels it will not help in attracting prospective members). Motion passed. Finer then suggested placing the minutes as well as the financial statement on a secured web site. He made a MOTION to recall the question, and place minutes and financial statements on the BCA website when it is secured. This was seconded by Vasilow, and all voted in favor.

**NATIONAL PRE-QUALIFICATION CHECK OFFICER.** This was postponed until the February meeting, when the Chief Judge can be present.

**NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY OFFICER.** The need for coordination of National Meet photography was discussed. Brashares will contact Chief Judge Rick Schick for his input on this, and bring a recommendation to the next Board meeting.

400-POINT JUDGING AT REGIONAL MEETS. Phil Strassner presented an argument for this requirement, saying that it would provide better training for judges to participate at the National Meets, and help eliminate judging problems from inexperienced judges. Anyone with suggestions on this should call Strassner or Rick Schick. Dick Schoppe, Gopher State Chapter, stated that Schick has a judges' training program with slides, that can be loaned out to any chapter or region that wants to train judges for regional meets. Donna Palmer, Gopher State Chapter, noted that there are not enough people to judge a large regional meet. Bruce Kile, Dixie Chapter, stated that it should be up to each region to decide whether or not it wants a judged show.

GS CLUB LETTER. Vasilow reported on a letter received from Arthur Throckmorton, a member of the GS Club, asking for a formal affiliation between the BCA and the GS Club. It was noted that the GS Club is a private, for-profit business, and that Richard Lassiter, GS Club President, has been contacted, but does not seem to care one way or the other. MOTION by Leets, seconded by Schoening, that the GS Club be listed as a non-affiliated organization in the earliest feasible Bugle issue, provided that the GS Club reciprocates in kind. All in favor.

2003 NATIONAL MEET. Denny Meyer, Chairman of the 2003 National Meet in Flint, Michigan, has asked the Board to waive the BCA membership requirement for showing a car at a National Meet, for this particular show. The idea is to include all Buick-related clubs and make this the largest single-marque show in history. MOTION by Schoening, seconded by Leets, to waive the BCA membership requirement provided that our insurance coverage is not affected by this. All in favor.

NATIONAL MEET POLICY GUIDELINES. Brashares noted that Ron DeGroff began the work on this document, and he (Brashares) has completed it. There was some discussion about whether there should be a restriction on which month or months a National Meet is held. Brashares asked Board members to review the guidelines and return any comments to him by October 27, 2000. Liska read a statement asking for a National Meet Liaison person to guide and assist inexperienced chapters when they decide to host a National Meet. Brashares asked Liska to write this up and submit a Standard Operating Procedure on it for the next Board meeting.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIPS. Bill Schoening reviewed the efforts of Peg Holmes, Larry Gustin, Terry Dunham, and Roger Adams in saving and assembling Buick Motor Division's historic archival material during Buick's recent move from Flint to the Detroit area. MOTION by Schoening, seconded by Leets, to confer honorary BCA Life membership on these four individuals, and present this in person to them at the next National Meet. All in favor. Schoening will prepare the invitations.

MOUSE PADS AND POSTERS. Finer reviewed his work on getting bids to convert the fine art work from the 1999 Roster cover into computer mouse pads or posters for possible sale and distribution by the BCA or a chapter as a fund-raiser. A quantity of 2000 mouse pads can be four-color printed at a cost of \$2.25 each. 1000 posters, 11" by 16.5" can be printed for a cost of \$951; 2000 for \$1073. 1000 posters, 12.5" by 19" can

be printed for \$987. MOTION by Vasilow, seconded by Finer, to have Carl Finer or Chapter Coordinator Judy Leets pass this information along to the chapters to see if anyone wants to proceed with the project. All in favor.

REGIONAL ELECTION OF BCA BOARD MEMBERS. Phil Strassner, N. Virginia Chapter, presented his proposal whereby each BCA region would elect one member to the BCA Board. The Regional Coordinator would supervise the elections, and each year, three members would be up for election, as it is now. The advantages of this are that it might result in greater voter participation and interest, there would be representation from each part of the country, chapters and regions might have more incentive to financially assist their member with travel expenses to the meetings, and it would prevent one region or chapter from controlling the Board or from electing more than one of its members to the Board. Disadvantages are that BCA members would only get to vote once every three years (when their representative's seat comes up), there might not be anyone in the region who wants to run for a Board seat, population of the regions is not equal, and if a Board member moved out of their region, a vacancy would have to be filled. After some discussion, there was a MOTION by Schoening, seconded by Vasilow, to table this. All in favor of the motion.

BCA STORE. Finer reviewed the work he has done to solicit proposals from chapters and others to take over operation of the BCA Store. Letters went out to every chapter, with interest expressed by six chapters. Formal, written responses, however, were received only from the Niagara Frontier Chapter, from Jim Johnson of the Alfred P. Sloan Museum Store in Flint, Michigan, and from Kristi Ingram Greathouse, the current Storekeeper in Hesperia, California. Greathouse suggested putting the catalogue on the BCA web site and in the Bugle.

Terry Dunham noted that the Sloan Museum has thousands of visitors every month, has the display and shipping facilities to handle it, and the exposure would be good for the Club. After more discussion, it was agreed that it would be good to forge closer ties with the Sloan Museum, and that financially, it appears to be the best alternative.

MOTION by Schoening, seconded by Don, to transfer BCA Store operations to the Sloan Museum, with the BCA paying for transportation of the merchandise to the Museum. All in favor. Carl Finer will send a note of thanks to the Niagara Frontier Chapter. Cecil Don will take a physical inventory of the merchandise in Hesperia, and see that it is ready to be shipped. Bob and Judy Leets will make the arrangements at the other end, with the Sloan Museum.


NATIONAL OFFICE CONTRACT. Brashares stated that Val Ingram is under much stress with this situation, that the needs of the BCA have passed her by, and that we are paying Mail Unlimited an additional \$14,000 per year to keep up the mailing list, even though Val's contract calls for her to do this. We need to write up the duties and expectations of the national office administrator. The club cannot continue to pay what it has been paying. Pat Riley, Buick Foundation, stated that we ought to try to work with Val if she has the capability to do the work. Carol Serrone, auditor, noted that Kristi



Ingram Greathouse billed the club for 96 hours in August, and it could not have all been for Store operations. If Val needs help, she should contract for it using the fee we pay her. Bob Snowden, Bugle Editor, stated that the Chevrolet Club, with 13,000 members, pays its administrator \$7.50/hour to do their work two days a week. Ralph Colter, Central Indiana Chapter, asked if the BCA Store and other jobs had been dumped on Val. It was pointed out that Ms. Greathouse was hired to take care of the store. Jim Jaeger stated that he had no problem with rebidding and redefining the contract, but did not understand why it had to be cancelled now. Phillips suggested negotiating with Val to get the costs down, before going out to bid. Liska asked Auditor Carol Serrone if we, the BCA, are getting the most bang for our buck, and her response was "no." No formal action was taken on this item.

There being no other items to come before the Board, Leets made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Vasilow. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 5:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Pete Phillips, Secretary  
BCA #7338