

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE July, 2017



*Dave Heinemann
President NCCC*

I want to share some things I experienced this past month. Over the years I have heard from clubs and members about what does NCCC do for their club and each member. Jack Wilson has written reports about how important insurance is for members and clubs. I have written about friendships and getting to talk to others outside your club attending events around the country.

June 10th 2017 I attended in Michigan the memorial for Jim Harris, a member of Flint Corvette Club, who passed away in Arizona earlier this year. Jim was a past NCCC National Officer for 13 years leading the NCCC Convention Steering Committee. Jim was also very active in his club and region as an Officer and Governor. Jim's passion was caring about NCCC and its members. I found out Jim was also very talented in many ways I never knew about. Jim was always helping others when there was a need. He even designed a cup holder for C-3 Corvettes sold at all the major Corvette suppliers which he holds a patent on.

Barb Harris, Jim's wife, asked me to come up and say a few words. I talked about how Jim and I over the years would go battle about rules and by-laws and yet always remained friends. At the podium I asked how many attendees where Corvette people. I would guess over 90% held up their hands. I was not shocked, but amazed how many took time out of their busy lives to attend. Folks came from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and many other states. I would say there were about 150-200 paying their respects to Jim, Barb and their family.

On the drive back home that evening I became aware what NCCC is really all about...FAMILY! We talk about it, our brand slogan states, "we joined for the car...we stay for the people". How true this is. I know I have many friends in NCCC, but to see the folks attending Jim's memorial really hit home that this is the best part of belonging as a member of the National Council of Corvettes. NCCC is full of caring people who develop friendship across the country that last a life time. Jim had lots of friends for sure.

So what is NCCC really about? The best part of NCCC is all the people we get to interact with, have fun with, compete against, travel with, attend convention with, and become friends for life. All the other NCCC benefits are important, but just stuff!

Something else I would like to share. The weekend of June 17-18, Corvette Club of Illinois in Champaign, sold food for everyone attending the autocross each day in Rantoul Il. The food and IGA food wagon were donated. The club voted to distribute monies from this event to Beth's Place, a comprehensive domestic violence shelter for women, and the Eastern Illinois Food Bank. They do this every year even though the autocross is not their event. This is not a club that hosts competitive events, but the 200 + members are sure out there helping others. Caring and giving folks like so many others clubs in NCCC.

Lastly this past weekend June 22nd-24th at the Bloomington Gold Corvette Show in Indianapolis IN. the clubs from the Indiana Region hosted the autocross event. This was a non-competitive event for people attending the Bloomington Gold Show. This show has grown every year and they create smiles for all who try out the course. NCCC members come on Wednesday to set things up and volunteer to manage the entire event for three days. Thank you to all the Indiana clubs that came out to host and help manage this event. NCCC's charity committee was also present selling raffle tickets to win a Corvette or cash to support St Jude Children's Research Hospital. We even took money for tickets when we ran out of tickets. Michele Cantelmo is mailing the stubs to those who bought a ticket without a ticket! What a great feeling for that kind of support for St. Jude!

I guess my point is these experiences in NCCC are more than just about joining a Corvette club. Members give of their time, energy, and friendship so that others can enjoy, have fun, or be help in some way. I know many clubs out there are doing things within their own regions to help others. This is what NCCC is all about. Insurance is important for sure, competition is part of NCCC, by-laws keep us on track, rules keeps us honest, and meetings conduct NCCC business, but that is all just **stuff**. People are what are important, and NCCC members are the BEST at what they do.

That's it for this month. Remember to get involved in your club. Get to know all the members and expand your friendships. You will not regret it.

God bless you all and be safe. You get out of life what you are willing to put into life.
Blessings received come from blessings given!!!

Until next month,

*Dave Heinemann
President NCCC*