

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken. ~James Dent

For CHVA'ers, one must add car tours to Mr. Dent's list. Not only do road trips please drivers, our multi-day National and Mini Tours give people outside the hobby a look at the past, a vicarious moment in a life they may have known as children during WWII or as teens in the Fifties. Tours show our vintage machines functioning in real-life settings, leaving a far more memorable impression than stationery exhibits. That's important because we need to enroll new members, and those chariots from the days of our youth rolling across the USA draw attention to our club.

Our membership continues to shrink. Some of our losses are caused by the fact that CHVA'ers are, generally, elders in the ranks of our population. Attrition due to age factors is a constant.

Recruiting younger folks is difficult; reasons involve family requirements, work schedules, and a lessening need for socializing with a group. These are things we cannot fix, but we can work harder to keep those who already belong in the club. Thanks to a compilation of facts from database manager, Gary Bossuot, it is clear that our retention of newer members is far below what it should be. So, folks, at your next meeting, take a moment and greet people you don't know. Invite them to join you on an outing for coffee and a donut—or, better yet, take them for a ride!

**This just in!!!!** Dolly Hebert and Harry Ozols will (shortly) make a test run over the route that will become our **2011 National Tour**.

Keep your 2011 calendar open from May 13 through May 22 (plus maybe a ½ day more). Dates and times for a slew—like A TON—of sights and activities will be forthcoming once the number interested in making a couple laps around Daytona Speedway has been established. Dolly hopes to lower the current estimate of \$111 per car by drumming up some participation by some local car clubs. Once that day's activities are firmed up, packets with final tour details and costs will be made available. Dolly has listed so many possible places for us to visit we may have to tour Florida again.

Speaking of future tours, it's time for someone to step up and offer to organize the 2012 tour. I've had suggestions from folks who would like to repeat Route 66 or the Lincoln Highway. Ray Council has the details for a Midwestern tour laid out from start to finish; he will not lead it, but will assist anyone willing to take charge. I have that info on my desk along with Ray's phone number. Make my day; give me a jingle!

See you in Montana! BK