

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE—August 2011

The disappointingly low return from voters when last we elected officers forces a return to the old method of disseminating the ballots, namely by mailing them as a part of the fall issue of the AEV magazine. A separate mailing of ballots to elect officers costs us about \$700.00 for printing and mailing fees.

Placing the ballot within the magazine is not popular with some members as removing anything from the AEV detracts from its condition. Many CHVA'ers preserve every issue and prefer not to damage the magazine by using a "tear-out" ballot.

For the record, the first year that the club utilized a separate mailing we had better than a forty percent return from the membership. The following year (2010) we dropped back to the (approximate) twenty percent level that had become the standard during the years when the club issued ballots in the magazine. I'd like to believe that the excellent qualifications of our candidates on the 2010 ballot made it too difficult for many members to choose between them, but since proof of that theory remains lacking, a return to the cheaper system seems the best choice at this time.

However, there is an effort underway to set up an electronic voting process for future elections. Problems that must be solved include the fact that not everyone is on the 'Net. Security concerns worry some members; control and record keeping issues must be resolved. Fortunately, we have some talented folks on the board working to solve those problems.

Now, for a quick look at the status of our National Tours:

Dick Klaas has the 2012 venture *Plantations, Pines, and Prairies* well in hand. See more at: http://www.chvanational.org/pdfs/2012CHVATour_v1.pdf

Ray Council has been driving the routes and investigating sites for our 2013 tour. Current plans have it beginning near the headwaters of the Mississippi River and ending in St. Louis, MO. Check the CHVA National website for updates.

"Who's on First?" Sound familiar? (If so, it means you are still a fan of Abbott and Costello!) That ancient question is simply a lead-in for me to ask "**Who's on 2014?**" Talk to your local club members—talk to your wife—talk to yourself . . . it's time for someone to volunteer. It is necessary for the leader of a tour to start his or her preparations two or more years in advance. If you are interested or have questions about planning a national Tour, contact Kevin Stilley, CHVA National Tour Coordinator.

Those who have planned and "operated" National Tours in the past will gladly provide hints and suggestions for anyone interested in planning a tour. There is a good chance that someone in your local club has participated in the preparation of a tour or even served as a tour leader, so make this a topic of conversation at your next meeting.

CHVA needs you! BK