

## President's Message

Hello 2010:

We elected two new members to the CHVA national board and retained two who ran for a second term. Eric Beebe and Kathy O'Connell will replace Larry Becker and Gordon Moseley on the board while Harvey Williamson and B. K. Showalter will continue their efforts for another term. Gary Bossuot, resigned his elected position (effective December 31) leaving an empty slot on the board for 2010; Paul Schneider, a runner-up in the election, volunteered to fill that slot. We owe Gary a big thank you for his work as CHVA's national treasurer. He will continue serving as our National Data Processor and Office Manager.

The recent *direct* mailing of ballots for the election of new officers cost the club more than when they are mailed along with the AEV magazine. The mailing cost \$263.31. Envelopes and printing amounted to \$382.00; shipping the ballots from Medford back to Redding for mailing cost an additional \$24.70. Following club rules, the board did vote to approve the additional costs in hopes that membership participation would improve over past years.

This proved out, but the ballots returned were fewer than we had hoped. In 2008, ten percent of the membership voted; this year 42% to 44% took part. The 2% variation allows for incomplete ballots and those returned by the post office due to address changes. Bulk mailings are not forwarded by the post office, so be sure the club has your current address, not only for ballots but for the AEV.

This year's vote return was huge in comparison to past years, but still *half the membership* failed to take part. I hope that each regional director will mention this at their next meeting, and that they will follow up with additional reminders throughout 2010. ***We can do better than 50%.***

One last item—our new website is up and running. Take a look at it. If you have suggestions, let us know. This is truly an important adjunct to our club's future. The \$696.88 cost to reach this stage seems expensive, but this site <http://www.chvanational.org/> is like a name badge at a convention; one look and people can see who we are and what we do.

Now, be extra careful during these icy days of winter and let's make 2010 a fun and memorable year. BK