



SIDE LIGHTS



The Official Publication of the Illinois Region
AACA's Oldest Region—established 1946



February 2026

Volume 78 Number 2

COMING SOON.....

Thursday, February 19th - AACA GENT'S LUNCHEON, Noon @ Emmett's- 128 W. Main St. West Dundee, IL 60118. See page 18.

Friday, February 20th - The Ladies of AACA Luncheon, 11:30am @ The Granite City Food & Brewery, Schaumburg, IL. See page 19.

Upcoming EVENTS

NATIONAL NEWS

For more information on National and other events see aaca.org

February 19 -GENT'S LUNCH-Noon, Emmett's Brewery, West Dundee, IL See page 18.

February 20 -LADIES OF THE AACA ILLINOIS REGION LUNCHEON - Granite City, Schaumburg, Il. See page 19.

March 7 -REGION BOARD MEETING

March 22 - Waukegan-North Shore - ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY at Hackneys on the Lake.

May 3 - 2026 REGION SWAP MEET - 6:30AM-2:30PM. Bill Kay Corvettes - 2100 Ogden Ave. Downers Grove. More information to come.

May 16-18 - Region SPRING TOUR hosted by Waukegan North Shore..

May 24 - Silver Springs Chapter 54th ANNUAL CAR SHOW AND SWAP MEET.

June 13 -REGION BOARD MEETING

July 19 -ILLINOIS REGION CAR SHOW. Carpentersville, IL

August 9 - Waukegan-North Shore SUMMER PICNIC.

Sept 13 -REGION BOARD MEETING

Sept TBD - Illinois Region Fall Tour.

November 2 - Waukegan-North Shore RUN TO Brighton.

November 7 -REGION BOARD MEETING

2026 Nationals & Tours

February

5-7 – Annual Convention/National Awards – Westfields Marriott Washington Dulles, Chantilly, VA – 717-534-1910

March

26-28 – Winter Nationals – Cartersville, GA – hosted by Lake Allatoona Region

April

9-11 – Southeastern Spring Nationals – Charlotte, NC – hosted by Hornets Nest Region

23-25 – Annual Grand Nationals/Western Spring Nationals – Las Vegas, NV – hosted by Las Vegas Region

May

28-30 – Eastern Spring Nationals – Indiana, PA – hosted by Shannock Valley Region

June

11-13 – Southeastern Fall Nationals – Oak Ridge, TN – hosted by Volunteer Region

15-19 – Sentimental Tour – Mechanicsburg, PA – hosted by Oakland-Pontiac Worldwide Region

July 23-25 – Central Spring Nationals – Green Bay, WI

Other Events of Interest

February 15th 34th Annual Buick, OLDS, Pontiac & Cadillac Swap Meet & Car Corral. Kane County Fairgrounds 523 S. Randall Road, St. Charles. Open 8am-2pm. See Pages 16 & 17 for more information.



ILLINOIS REGION

The Illinois Region serves northeastern Illinois. Meetings are held on the second Saturday of odd numbered months at various locations.

MEMBERSHIP:

Andy Voss
245 E. Willow Ave. Apt.518
Wheaton, IL 60187
Cell 630-605-8392
Email: andyjanevoss@aol.com

Please contact Andy with questions about membership and/or address corrections. Annual dues are \$23 for both individual and joint memberships. Membership in the National AACA is an absolute prerequisite for membership in the Illinois Region.

OFFICERS

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All materials should be submitted by the 20th of the month or sooner.

BOARD MEMBERS:

Through 2026
Chris Schurrer
Rick Shaw
Dale Woosley

Through 2027
Humberto Garcia
Rose O'Halloran
Richard Nelson

Through 2028
Dan Sobczyk
Anna Nelson
Bibiana Garcia

CHAPTER CONTACTS

Des Plaines Valley President: Lee Nelson
815-729-0366 l-n522@juno.com

Fox Valley President: Dan Sobczyk
847-428-0247 dansobczyk@yahoo.com

Silver Springs President: Jim Olson
815-786-4646 GrandmasterJ65@gmail.com

Chapter meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month at member homes.

Waukegan-North Shore President: Richard Nelson
773-914-8576 RNELSON2701@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Chapter meetings are held the second Friday of the month September through May (excepting December) at State Bank of the Lakes, 50 Commerce Dr., Grayslake, IL 60030

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members,

The AACA Illinois Region held its annual meeting on January 17 of this year. Along with coffee and cake celebrating our 80th Anniversary, the election of officers and the installment of our new board members took place.

One important piece of business also took place at this meeting and that was will AACA Illinois Region host a National meet in 2027.

After much discussion and a summary of the event by our region secretary, Mr. Humberto Garcia, a vote was held among the board members and the good news is there will be a National Meet held by our region in 2027.

It will be a positive for our region. One of the major benefits will be, hopefully, the addition of new members to our region. We desperately need new members and new ideas to keep the region alive and well and functioning for another 80 years.

The election of officers for 2026 was held and the results are as follows:

President: Dan Sobczyk

Vice President: Humberto Garcia

Secretary: Rose O'Halloran

Treasurer: Bob Wenderski

Bob Wenderski gave notice that this will be his last year as Treasurer.

If we have anyone who would be interested in assuming the position, please let Bob know and he will work with you. Computer skills in EXCEL would be a plus.

The members elected to the board for a 3-year term are:

Bibiana Garcia, Anna Nelson and Dan Sobczyk.

A big THANK YOU goes out to Andy Abata for volunteering to run for the board.

Lastly, the recipients of the cherished Litchfeld Award this year are Jerry and Joan Bodden. Always willing to help out.

A big THANK YOU to Jerry Bodden for serving on the board for many years.

That wraps it up for this month.

Dan Sobczyk

Illinois Region November 8th, 2025 Meeting Agenda

Call to Order by President Sobczyk at 10:05 am

Roll Call: President Dan Sobczyk, Vice President Rose O'Halloran
 Secretary Humberto Garcia Treasurer Bob Wendeski

Board Members:

x Jerry Bodden	x Bibiana Garcia	x Dan Halegran
x Bob Markert	x Al Matison	x Lee Nelson
x Rick Nelson	x Chris Schurrer	x Rick Shaw
x Jim Sikora	x Andy Voss	x Bill Vroman
x Dale Woosley(hg)		

Visitors: Anna Nelson, Nancy Nelson, Joan Bodden, Bob Finley

Approval of Minutes: September 13,2025

Motion Al Matison
2nd Rich Shaw

Treasurer's Report Bob Wenderski
As of Nov 8th 2025

A clarification about an expense was given by B Wenderski as a policy was found and shared with Members of Board where \$800.00 could be allocated for the Chapter organizing a tour, where the chapter won't lose money in case of revenue is under expenses in the organization of a tour.

A motion for further clarification was brought by Chris Schurrer
But no second. Motion died and was tabled by Humberto Garcia.
Chris left shortly after.

No further action is required as item was tabled with no action to follow.

Treasurer's report was approved
Motion by Bob Markert
2nd Rick Nelson

Old Business:

Pat Markert had stepped down from from Judge

The new Judges for the Picture Contest

Bibiana Garcia
Jim Sickora

AACA National Meeting votes were tallied
But was confusing and hard to understand, 60 responses were received
A committee was formed and will explore venues and possible events.
The committee will be formed by

Humberto Garcia
Bill Vroman
Bob Markert

Rose O'Halloran
Richard Nelson
Anna Nelson

Bob Wenderski
Jerry Bodden

New Business:

AACA National Meet Report for next meeting

Standing Committees:

Membership
no report

Publications

Christmas team pics for next month news letter

Bob Markert talked to Laura C. newsletter editor minutes were not received so they were not in the newsletter.

Also no report was sent to be included in the Side Lights for November. Due to a misunderstanding no one sent pictures nor a story on it. Humberto will be sending pics and story to be in the December edition.

Approved minutes to be send for newsletter by the 21 of the following month after approval by board minus treasury report due to safety concerns

Motion by Al Matison 2nd Bill Vroman

Legislative

Illinois lawmakers pass bill to raise age of senior driving test A bill passed by the senate and on the way to Gov. Pritzker's desk will increase the age that senior drivers in Illinois are required to take an annual drivers test

If Pritzker signs House Bill 1226 only drivers 87 and older will have to take an annual drivers test Illinois drivers between 79 and 86 won't be required to take a drivers test to renew their license instead only a vision test will be required and if they have a driving violation, a written test.

The bill will allow a spouse, parent, grand parent, sibling or child of any Illinois driver to submit medical information of a driver if they think the person's medical condition interferes with their driving abilities

The bill has 86 cosponsors in the House and 35 in the Senate. The bill was introduced by Sen Ram Villivlam D-Chicago.

Website

Going real good

Lee Nelson ask how long after news letter will the website is updated

Bill Vroman responded within a short period of time. Lee Nelson did not agreed and mention that website is way behind Bill Vroman will keep and eye and try to keep it in timely mater

Archivist

No Report as Chris needed to leave earlier

Swap Meet -

Will get an answer by dec 1st may mov event to May 3rd to be able to have outdoor vendors and outside sales

Car Show

3rd sunday in july with setup on saturday the 17 th and show on th 18th

He will be looking for sponsors and local business to sponsor event

Will be looking for a printer to sponsor in exchange of having their logo at the bottom of flyers. He will be looking for local newspapers and local shows for flyers to be distributed, he is looking for local help.

Activities -

Humberto ask for calendar of events to have a master calendar of activities

Also please send events to Bill Vroman to be included in the website

Fall Tour -

Some Members mention that more time between activities could be beneficial to get to know the areas better

In general the Fall Tour was a great event enjoyed by every one in attendance

Spring Tour -

Waukegan and will be on the 3rd weekend of may as usual

AACA National –

More to come soon

Chapter Reports:

Des Plaines Valley –They work very hard on the Fall Tour

Fox Valley –Gents Lunch will be at Emittis West Dundee on the 13th of november

The Christmas Party will be on January 31st at Sawa's Old Warsaw in Broadview.

Silver Springs –Christmas Party December 13th more to come

Waukegan North Shore – December 7th Christmas party same place as last year please check news letter for flyer

Public Comments:

Coming elections for 2 year term will be in January 2026

Candidates are

Dan Sobczyk
Bibana Garcia

Andy Ibata
Anna Nelson

Next Board Meeting: January 10th Fox Valley Carpentersville Public Work Training Room

Adjourn: At 11:45

Motion by Richard Nelson
Second Al Matison

Respectfully submitted
Humberto Garcia
November 23th 2025

AACA Illinois Region Board Meeting

New for 2026

By: Anna Nelson



The Illinois Region AACA is 80 years old!!!



Meet the 2026 officers, the officers are the same, but their roles have changed. In the picture left to right Treasurer: Bob Wenderski, Secretary: Rose O'Halloran, President: Dan Sobczyk, Vice President: Humberto Garcia.



The 2026 Board Members, Anna Nelson, Dan Sobczyk, and Bibiana Garcia



The 2026 New Chapter Presidents, Waukegan/North Shore: Richard Nelson and Silver Springs: Jim Olson

AACA Illinois Region Board Meeting

Richard C. Lichtfeld Award

By: Anna Nelson

This year's Richard C. Lichtfeld Award was presented by Bob Markert to Jerry and Joan Bodden on January 17, 2026 at the AACA Illinois Region board meeting. The award is for Outstanding Sportsmanship while representing the value of the Illinois Region and the AACA. Jerry and Joan started their AACA relationship in 1988 in North Carolina. Jerry was elected to the board for 6 years. Jerry and Joan moving to Illinois kept their AACA membership and joined the Illinois Region and the Waukegan/North Shore chapter in 2015. Jerry was elected to Illinois Region Board as a member for 6 years. Congratulations and thank you for providing support and leading activities for this club.



Region News:

Car Show 2026!

Even though it is *COLD* and snowy it is already time to start thinking about the 75th anniversary of the Illinois region of the *AACA* car show which will take place on July 19, 2026. The show will be held again this year in Carpentersville with set up for the show taking place on Saturday and the show taking place on Sunday morning.

We are fortunate to have a few dedicated volunteers that have already signed up for key positions. There are still many important positions that need to be filled. Please contact Jim Sikora to discuss how you might be able to support this event at (708) 691-9854 or jamessikora@att.net

Thank you.

Jim Sikora, Show Manager

COVERED BRIDGES

by Jenny Risley

Word has it that the AACA 2026 Spring Tour will be based near Rockville, IN and the "theme" will be Covered Bridges. In September 2021 Tom and I did a tour of Parke and Putnam Counties, Indiana - the area is best known for their covered bridges. It was put together by the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges(NSPCB) and the Indiana Covered Bridge Society (ICBS). As a Life Member of both organizations I really wanted to do this National tour, especially with the location being "close".

Arriving Friday at Fowler Park where we registered, had a simple meal and got to know our fellow covered bridge enthusiasts. This park contained a Pioneer Village of many historic buildings and of course our first covered bridge. Over the course of the 3 day weekend we saw 32 bridges, there were 37 on the itinerary. Our group was small in comparison to other years for a National tour due to the COVID situation still in place. There were 2 passenger vans rented plus those who drove their own cars, giving us about 40 people. Our tour guide used a cow bell to corral us in for driving to the next bridge. We traveled the back roads through corn fields with some being of gravel and even one being graded for resurfacing. We were given flags to put on the car as we traveled which looked like a funeral procession and we actually had people pull over to let us by.



The tour presented us with three ways to see the bridges -

(1) Drive through and stop with opportunities to walk the area for pictures.



Eugene Covered Bridge in Vermillion County over the Vermillion River.
Built in 1873 by Joseph J. Daniels. Burr Arch Truss, 1 span, 187ft long.

(2) Stop with walk through and around for pictures, bridge closed to vehicles.



West Union Covered Bridge in Parke County over Sugar Creek.
Built 1876 by Joseph J. Daniels.
Burr Arch Truss, 2 span, 315ft in length.

(3) Drive through only due to lack of areas to pull over and park.



Wilkins Mill Bridge in Parke County over Sugar Creek,
Built 1906 by W. M. Hendricks.
Burr Arch Truss, 1 span, 122ft in length.

Lunch stop on Saturday was at the Cades Mill Bridge. The local historical committee was there for a fund raising event for restoration of the bridge. Rededication was done June 2025.



Cades Mill Covered Bridge in Fountain County over Coal Creek.
Built 1854 by Captain White. Howe Truss, 1 span, 150ft long.

Did you know this about Covered Bridges -

- Parke County, Indiana is considered the World Capital for Covered Bridges having 31 of Indiana's 86 with Putnam County next with just 9.
- Two covered bridges celebrated 200 years in 2025
 - Hyde Hall Covered Bridge in Otsego County, NY. 53ft single span Burr Arch Truss built in 1825.
 - Hassenplug Bridge in Union County, PA. 80ft single span Burr Truss built 1825.
- Even the Railroads built covered bridges with four still in existence for pedestrian use.
- Some covered bridges shared the waters they crossed being dammed for mill operation.



Bridgeton #2 Covered Bridge in Parke County over Big Raccoon Creek. Rebuilt 2006 by Dan Collum & Co.. Burr Arch Truss, 2 span, 261ft long. The original bridge was built 1868 by Joseph J. Daniels. Burnt down due to arson in 2005. The Bridgeton Mill was originally built in 1823, with changes and restorations it continues to operate producing various stone-ground products.

BUICK

34th Annual

Oldsmobile

PONTIAC

Cadillac

PAVED PARKING
& CAR CORRAL

SWAP MEET & CAR CORRAL

SUNDAY **FEBRUARY 15th** 2026

KANE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

525 S. Randall Rd.
St. Charles, Illinois

HEATED BLDG
Large Lobby
Food available

PUBLIC ADMISSION

\$8

QUESTIONS:
call TONY at 630-200-6226

Email
bopcswap@gmail.com
Website
www.bopcswap.com

**PLEASE
NO Pets
Inside**

VENDOR FEES: \$45 Indoor Spot (\$50 after Jan 31st. Reserve early!!)
\$35 Outdoor large, paved Spot (\$40 day of show)
VENDOR SETUP: SAT, FEB 14— 5-9 PM, or SUN, FEB 15—6-8 AM

**DRIVE INSIDE
unload
On SATURDAY ONLY**

SPONSORED BY: Illinois Valley Oldsmobile club — Chicagoland Chapter Buick Club of America
Illinois Chapter Pontiac Oakland Club International

REGISTRATION FORM—BOPC Swap Meet and CAR CORRAL—2026

CANCELLATIONS—There will be NO REFUND for cancellations after FEBRUARY 1st

RETURNING VENDORS—Reservations must be paid for by January 1st or you may be assigned a new space.

REGISTRATION CHAIRMAN—Tony 630-200-6226

EMAIL—bopcswap @ gmail.com

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

<i>QTY</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>PRICE EA.</i>	<i>SUBTOTAL</i>
	10ft by 10ft INDOOR vendor spot—2 wristbands/vendor	\$45	
	—after Jan 31	\$50	
	8 ft table rental	\$10	
	Metal folding chair rental	\$2	
	OUTDOOR vendor spot / car corral spot For 1 vehicle, NO trailer - includes 1 admission wristband	\$35	
	- day of show	\$40	
	OUTDOOR vendor spot / car corral spot For 1 vehicle <u>WITH trailer</u> -includes 2 admission wristbands	\$50	
	- day of show	\$55	
	CALL for large space Or special setup		
	TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED	'—>	

CHECK PAYABLE TO —
CHICAGOLAND CHAPTER BCA

MAIL TO —
BOPC SWAP
669 S. HILLSIDE
ELMHURST, IL 60126

WAIVER (required)—I understand that neither the Illinois Chapter of the Pontiac Oakland Club International, nor the Illinois Valley Olds Chapter of the Oldsmobile Club of America, nor the Chicagoland Chapter of the Buick Club of America, nor the Kane County Fair Association will be responsible in any way for loss or damage to personal property or injury to myself or any person in my party.

SIGNATURE _____



Cruise on over to the
The Gent's Lunch
Thursday, February 19th @ Noon

So come on over and have a good time with
"The Guys" and bring a friend.

Emmett's Brewery
128 W. Main St.
West Dundee, IL. 60118

Please R.S.V.P. to Humberto Garcia
847-800-5124 and let him know if you will be
attending.

The background of the entire page is decorated with various sizes of red hearts and small red confetti dots. The hearts are scattered across the page, with some being larger and more prominent than others. The overall theme is romantic and celebratory.

Ladies Of The AACA Illinois Region

WHERE: GRANITE CITY FOOD AND BREWERY
801 N. PLAZA DR., SCHAUMBURG, IL
SOUTH SIDE OF WOODFIELD PLAZA
LUNCH WILL BE ON YOUR OWN TAB



RSVP TO BIBIGAR2002@YAHOO.COM BY FEBRUARY 12TH

ON FEBRUARY 20TH | AT 1130 AM



FOR SALE!



1940 Ford Cnvt. DeLuxe Street Rod Dark Green, fuel injection Chevy engine, original steel body, auto trans, interior has been redone and new seat frame sand springs. 1940 original engine. Paul had this car done. \$45,000 obo. Call Jean Marcotte 815-472-3403



Two (2)1928-1929 Fenders. Asking \$150 for the pair. Pickup in Yorkville, IL. Please contact: Tom Baumgartner 630-209-0287 twjbrunner@aol.com

1966 Chrysler 300 Convertible. Silver/Black top and interior. Low miles. Newer Top and tires. Auto, A/C, Buckets. Nice Driver quality. \$18,500 OBO. Contact: Dan Sobczyk 847-977-0595 or dansobczyk@yahoo.com Pictures on request.

1914 Ford model T Touring. Strong, dependable runner. Straight body, wheels, top, boot, I timer, no theft steering wheel. Temco shocks, electric starter. Hood, paint and upholstery are tired. \$17,000 or reasonable offer. (847) 251-2603. No texts.

For Sale Soft fabric Car Cover - \$20 - Located in Niles, IL. Contact Steve Kolish (847) 848 - 7013