

# THE CHESAPEAKE BULLETIN



The Official Monthly Newsletter of  
Chesapeake Region  
Antique Automobile Club of America



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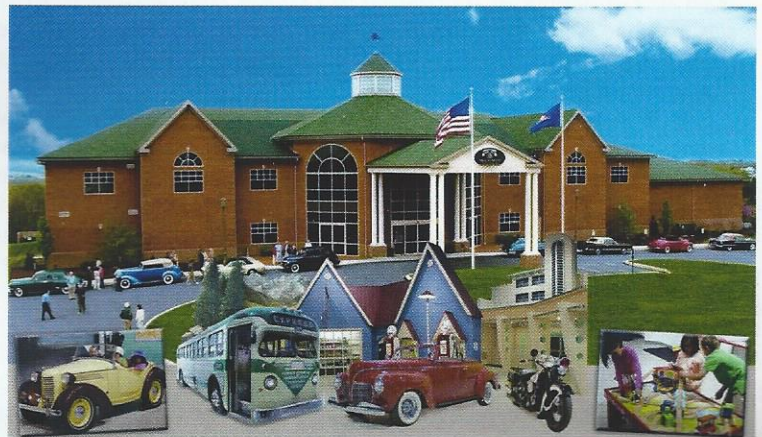
## ACKNOWLEDGES SUPPORT OF REGIONS AND CHAPTERS

### Museum Director, Jeffrey Bliemeister Provides His Point-Of-View On The AACA Decision To Withdraw Funding For The AACA Museum

The old car hobby recently learned of the Antique Automobile Club of America's decision to defund and end formal relations with the AACA Museum. The two organizations have been in merger negotiations for approximately two and half years and at one point had a jointly signed letter of intent to move forward. The Club reneged on their commitment and ultimately rejected a total of 11 different proposals from the Museum before announcing their decision to end the relationship.

The AACA Museum is an independent 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. While the AACA certainly gave birth to the Museum, it was not created with the intent to eventually be merged with the Club. Membership clubs and museums have two completely different missions, structures and sometimes even audiences. What brought the two organizations together and has kept them together was people who shared a dream and a common love of the antique automobile and its history. The AACA National, and its regions and chapters, have changed their governance structure over the years to become non-profit organizations. This was done for a variety of reasons, none of which was to qualify National to merge with the Museum.

In the Hemmings article that broke the story, the Museum responded accurately to all questions it was asked and refrained from engaging in dialog that might further the deepening division between the two entities. Until these recent events, the Museum's Board of Directors consid-



Interesting montage in this undated photo of the Museum's Collection

ered the discussion open and unresolved. In response to the subsequent posts on the Hemmings Blog and AACA Forum, plus the language of the Club's letter recently sent to its members, the Museum must now share some of the facts regarding the merger discussion.

*Continue to page 6, 'Museum Director...'*

## Editor's Note

The above article, composed by Museum Director Jeffrey Bliemeister was posted prior to the letter that was sent to all AACA members, signed by members of the board of directors, of the Museum and dated December 29, 2016.

The disagreement between the Club and the Museum seems to be a fluid situation and things are changing almost daily. At press time, we have been informed that the Club officers and the Museum officials are re-engaged in talks to attempt a resolution of this impasse.--Bill Wurzell

## March Membership Meeting Moved To March 6

The March 2017 membership meeting at Divinity Lutheran Church has been moved up from the second Monday in March, to the first Monday in March.

This change has been implemented to allow more time for planning and preparation of the all-important annual 'Collector Car Swap Meet' at the Howard County Fairgrounds in West Friendship, Maryland, on Saturday March 11. This is Chesapeake Region's all important fund raising event for the year. An appeal has gone out to all members to participate in some way to 'help carry the load.'

The day after the Swap Meet, March 12 is the St. Patrick's Day Parade through downtown Baltimore. Bring your antique car out and share it!

On Saturday, March 25 is 'The Ladies Afternoon Tea.' Hosted by Chesapeake Region President, Paula Ruby at Gypsy's Tearoom, Westminster, Maryland. Contact Paula for more information.

## Chesapeake Region Officers Prepare To Attend The 81st AACA Meeting In Philadelphia

Chesapeake Region President, Paula Ruby will lead a contingent of officers and members to the annual AACA meeting and convention in Philadelphia, Pa. The meeting will be held at the Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel at 17th and Race Streets. The meeting will run from February 9 through February 11, 2017.

President Ruby will be accompanied by her husband, Technical Director Gary Ruby. Membership and Legislative Chairman, Jim Lucas and his wife, Donna; Activities Director, Philip Hack; long-time member Franklin Gage and Chesapeake Bulletin Editor, Bill Wurzell. Wurzell is up for his second 'Master Editor' Award for *The Chesapeake Bulletin*. Master Webmaster and Publicity Chairman, Harold 'Buzz' Diehl has a previous commitment and won't be attending.

Even though feelings are running high within the AACA organization the meeting is expected to be conducted with civility and decorum as it usually is. The usual seminars will be held at various times throughout the event. The 'First Lady's Breakfast' will be held on Friday morning, February 10, hosted by 'Dot' Parrish, wife of AACA President Robert Parrish. The Annual Awards Banquet which is the culmination of the entire meeting will be held Saturday evening in the grand ballroom. Dozens of vehicle awards will be presented to antique car owners. Achievement awards are also presented to deserving recipients.