

July 2020

Hello Airstreamers

Who knew words from a car commercial of several years ago, with the young voice saying "zoom zoom" when the new sporty car models flew past, would become part of our present vocabulary and so heavily occupy our conversations and time! Well, after the almost 15 hours of Zoom video meetings and webinars I attended, spread out over four days, I'm here to bear witness to the fact that the "zoom zoom" is here to

stay. Those Zoom meetings were conducted in lieu of the two (2) Region Officers Forums and the two (2) IBT meetings that were supposed to happen in Loveland, CO at this time. Hats off to the staff at HQ, our IT Committee and the Executive Committee for all of their efforts to make these meetings and the installation of the new IBT officers a success. It was a great accomplishment and all the meetings were well attended!

As I know many of your newsletter editors are preparing new editions, here is a quick update of the most important items from those meetings: Please share with your editors or incorporate into your President's Message as you see fit. Here we go....

All three (3) of the Constitutional Amendments passed. There was a total of 5,597 votes cast from 94 of the 106 local clubs

#1-Qualification of Members For 5428

Against 169

Abstain 0

#2-Delegates Meeting For 5399

Against 198

Abstain 0

#3-Changing wording from Unit(s) to Local Club(s) For 5408

Against 124

Abstain 65

The 2020-2021 Slate of Officers and Members of the Nominating Committee were approved as submitted. At the IBT meeting, Incoming President Andy Selking named Immed. Past President Mona Heath as Chair of the Nominating Committee.

The Budget Committee presented a balanced budget that included a Dues Increase of \$10 per year. Both the Budget and the Dues Increase Motion were approved. The increase in dues was openly discussed at the Region Officers Forum prior to the IBT meeting and at the IBT meeting itself. There was a powerpoint presentation and several versions of a budget were presented for review at our Forum. This is the first dues increase to the membership in 10 years and will ensure

that the Club is able to meet budgetary demands going forward. There will be information in the upcoming

Blue Beret to support the decision. I was concerned at first. After review of the documentation provided, listening to the proposals and asking questions, I voted YES to the increase in dues. I believe it is in the best interests of the Club and its membership. I spoke again, several times, during the meetings of the importance of increasing member benefits. Other Officers, including members of the Executive Committee, are now echoing that and I believe we're on track to see tangible improvements coming in the months and years ahead. I will keep pushing.

Online Registration for the 2021 International Rally to be held in Lebanon, TN will open on August 5, 2020. Watch for more information in the upcoming Blue Beret. I will have the date on my calendar and will send out reminders to you all as we get closer to that date.

Both of the IBT meetings and the Region Officers Forums were streamed LIVE on the Club's YouTube Channel and can be found here. Proposed budgets and the powerpoint are also available there in the meeting of Thursday, June 25th.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCM0W7edcbNd07Hehq2qyQmw>

The Installation of Officers was also streamed LIVE, recorded and available through the same link.

One of the most interesting parts of the meetings was listening to Justin Humphries, VP of Sales for Airstream, Inc., provided a lengthy update. You can listen to it in the Executive Meeting of Wednesday, June 24th. After the initial downturn, sales are exploding! Industry wide, the towables are rebounding much faster than the big Class A coaches. This bodes well for Airstream and our Airstream Club! Our HQ reported a surge in new members as well after falling during the early period of COVID. It has been a difficult year but the future looks bright!

Just as in our Region, other Regions of the Club are reporting mixed results in schedules of upcoming rallies. While many events have cancelled, there are still many events on the calendars but caution was still the common theme. Check the schedule of events often for updates and keep an eye on the State guidelines as well. What may be on the schedule for upcoming months may be subject to constant update.

The name changes for our Pennsylvania Airstream Club and the Ontario Canada Airstream Club were memorialized (they had been approved by the Executive Committee prior) and the new logo and flag for the New York Finger Lakes Airstream Club was approved. My thanks and congratulations, again, to those clubs and their leaders!

There will be a new MODEL Constitution and ByLaws available online that contain updates as approved at these meetings. Our local clubs may incorporate those changes into their CBL documents now but are NOT required to send them in for

approval now. You may wait until it is time for your 5 year review of your club documents to do that. Any questions, let me know.

It was with great pleasure that I introduced the names of both RJ Marquette and Gary Russo as our Region's new VPs. I expressed my gratitude to them for volunteering. I also expressed my thanks to all our Region Officers and Chairs who have supported me and our great Region 2 this past year.

I think that covers it for now. If I come across something in my notes that I missed including here, I will let you know. As always, reach out if you have questions.

Zoom Zoom, Airstreamers...see you down the road. One way or another!

Rich

#1512