



Region One News

By Bard Fuller
ACI Region One President

Kathy and I are exhilarated about the enthusiasm we have found in all of our local clubs throughout the New England states, Quebec and the Maritime provinces. We got to all of your business meeting rallies either in person or electronically this fall and we're so thankful for your hospitality. Each of our Region 1 clubs has a wonderful group of volunteer officers that are presenting some outstanding venues for rallies in 2023.

I know most of you have already renewed your International dues and local club affiliations. May I encourage you to affiliate with other local clubs in your area to receive their communications about their activities whether past, present or future. Remember December 31st is the renewal deadline to have your information appear in the 2023 printed International directory.

Our Airstreams may be hibernating and our local clubs semi-dormant but your International Board of Directors, along with ACI headquarters, are abuzz with activity. The International constitutional changes voted by the membership and brought to the Delegates' Meeting in Fryeburg have required significant by-law and policy changes to support the new constitution.

Most significantly is how we choose leaders to govern our growing club. Our new elected nine-member Executive Council will have two-year terms and will be chosen from a pool of candidates every two years. The traditional International Nominating Committee has morphed into the Recruitment Oversight Committee which has the charge to encourage our best, most talented and enthusiastic members to participate in this leadership council. No prior leadership is required and you do not need to ever aspire to be the president. We just want great people providing their talents to our growing club. A standard on-line Statement of Candidacy will be asked from all interested candidates.

Each of us, as ACI members, are asked to encourage our gifted members to accept this opportunity to guide our club. Who do YOU think would be an asset to our club? The Statements of Candidacy will be collected January through March and published on the ACI website as well as the Blue Beret magazine. We all, as members, get to vote electronically this coming June for our new Executive Council members.

Considerable effort is being done to review and realign all the International Standing Committees. One noticeable change already is how the International rally is chosen and organized. With the growing complexity of these massive endeavors our professional leadership at headquarters will be spearheading these events while supported by hundreds of member-volunteers. You may have heard that our 2023 Wyoming rally is all but sold out (1,200 max). The 2024 Rally is scheduled for Sedalia, MO October 5 - 11. Yes, in October. Hopefully this will take us away from the summer heat. The 2025 Rally is likely to be in either Georgia or Pennsylvania. Keeping with the tradition of moving the International Rally around the country, sites for the 2026 rally under consideration are all in the western states.

The International Membership Committee is also undergoing a "facelift" under the direction of our new Membership Chair, Cody Klinger. It is expanding beyond the Blue Beret column to incorporate the ACI website, Facebook, and most recently, a reoccurring Zoom Fireside Chat with President Eric McHenry and Executive Officer, Lori Plummer fielding a wide variety of membership questions. Future Fireside Chats are scheduled on December 14 and March 8, both at 7pm EST. Join in, be informed and bring your questions.

More locally, I want to thank Todd Brink from New England Airstream Club for volunteering to head up our Regional Membership Committee and Marty Womer from the Northeast Mountaineers to be our new Region 1 Blue Beret Contributing Editor. Please support them and keep them apprised of new rallies or membership opportunities!