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## Grapes & Grains Growler May 2025



Rally Season is upon us! Hope to see you at some of our upcoming G&G events! Stay tuned for ACI International G&G Rally Event sign-ups! You don't want to miss the luncheon or Mega Tasting!

## From the Desk of G&G President Mike VanBuskirk

Hello fellow Grapes and Grainers,

Tammy and I had a great time at the Region 3 Streaming in the Sweetgrass Rally, where we hosted a G&G Bottle Share with the help of our Regional 3 Representative Ronald Raymond. A big thank you to all the G&G members who volunteered to make this event a success. We met a lot of new people and

reconnected with many who we haven't seen in a while. This was a wonderful rally, and we look forward to attending the 2026 Region 3 Rally in Lakeland, Florida.

Grapes & Grains has a lot planned for you at the 2025 ACI International Rally. A BBQ luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, August 28th at 11:30. During the lunch, we will share a "State of the Club" presentation and beginning at 12:30, we will hold our annual business meeting and installation of new officers. A sign-up email will be coming soon. We encourage you to attend the meeting and the installation ceremony even if you don't sign up for the lunch. Our third annual G&G Mega Tasting is also sure to be a fantastic event, so keep your eyes open for the sign-up email coming soon.

We are continuing to work on our 2026 rally schedule, so if you would like to host an official Grapes & Grains rally reach out to one of the executive board members or your G&G regional representatives.

Do you want to be a member of the Grapes & Grains executive board? It's time to start thinking about running for a board position. If you are interested, reach out to David Lorenz, our nominating committee chair, to learn more about the various positions.

Cheers,  
Mike VanBuskirk



## G&G Mega Tasting 2025

It's time to start thinking about International in York, PA. Grapes & Grains will have a big presence in York, culminating in our premier annual event, the Mega Tasting. This year's Mega Tasting will be bigger and better than ever and will have a theme of The World's Largest Speakeasy! Be prepared to be amazed.

Speaking of prepared, mark your calendars for Monday, August 25th from 4:00 to 6:00PM at the Memorial Hall West. Plan on bringing a bottle of wine or spirits, or a six pack of craft beer from your region. Having the opportunity to experience the best of Grapes & Grains products from around the country makes the Mega Tasting one of the most unique experiences at the International Rally. Invitations will be

sent to all Grapes & Grains members shortly, and we expect it to sell out again. Reserve your spot early and don't miss out on the fun!

SAVE *the* DATE



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**G&G MEGA TASTING**

ACI INTERNATIONAL RALLY  
YORK, PENNSYLVANIA

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Our current 2025 G&G Executive Board attending the Sip of Kentucky II in May.  
From left to right: 2nd VP Cynthia Karkoska, President Mike VanBuskirk, 1st VP Steve Turley, Treasurer Cindy Schwefel, Webmaster Matt Marquand, Past President David Lorenz, Corresponding Secretary Priscilla Harrell, and Recording Secretary Leonard Huff.

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## From Past President David Lorenz

Rally season is in full swing and I hope all of you are enjoying being on the road making new connections and rekindling old ones. Denise and I had a terrific time at the Sip of Kentucky II. The Frazier Museum, the Louisville Slugger Museum and Churchill Downs were just a few of the highlights.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being a member of the Grapes and Grains executive board. It tapped into the best I have to offer in my leadership, organization and creative skills. Being a part of the decision-making process as well as participating in all the business that goes on behind the scenes was incredibly gratifying. As my tenure as Past President comes to a close, I want to encourage you to volunteer to be a part of this magnificent team.

Locally, it is time to seek nominations for the Grapes & Grains (G&G) executive board. We need your enthusiasm and drive to continue the legacy that G&G has established. Please consider submitting your application, self-nominations are encouraged, for any of the positions on our executive board. For your reference, all of the specific duties and responsibilities can be found in our [Bylaws](#) or feel free to reach out to me if I can provide any more insight. We want you!

Click [here](#) in order to submit your nomination.

Hope to see you down the road,  
David Lorenz

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## Getting to Know Your Regional Representatives

**Ron & Chris Raymond – Region 3 Representatives**





**Please tell us something about yourselves.**

We are Ron and Chris Raymond from the West Coast of Northern California. We now live in Annapolis, Maryland. Both of us are retired - I'm from the financial world and my wife Chris was a CFP and Vice President of a bank. We have a son, two grandchildren, and one pet. I love hiking and reading. Chris is a quilter and loves to sew.

**How did you become a member of the Airstream Club International and Grapes & Grains?**

We have been members of ACI for many years. We joined Grapes and Grains shortly after the Intraclub began. We currently have a 2020 Globetrotter 27ft.

**What would you like to do as a Regional Representative?**

I see my role as spreading the good of belonging to Grapes and Grains and offering our vision to those interested. In my Region, I would like all clubs to help us setup G&G tasting events at their local rallies and would love to see more Sipping rallies or caravans in Maryland, Washington DC, and many of the other areas in the mid-west. I also would like to see more G&G rallies include time for touring museums or historical sites. I think members enjoy exploring everything an area has to offer.

## Airstream Club International Election Information





# ACI Election Information

## The 2025–2027 Airstream Club International Executive Council Election

It's that exciting time once again — when Airstream Club International members have the opportunity to shape the future of our organization through the power of their vote. The 2025–2027 Executive Council Election is officially underway, and this year brings a fresh new way to get informed, get involved, and make your voice heard.

### Meet the 2025–2027 Candidates

This year's candidates represent a dynamic mix of experience, perspectives, and dedication to the Airstream community. These individuals are stepping forward to lead the Airstream Club International with integrity, vision, and passion.

To explore their backgrounds and platforms, head to [AirstreamClub.org/IBTCandidate](https://AirstreamClub.org/IBTCandidate). Each candidate profile includes written statements and, coming soon, recorded one-on-one interviews.

### Your Voice, Their Answers

**NEW THIS YEAR:** The Recruitment and Oversight Committee is conducting in-depth interviews with each candidate. Candidate videos will be released mid-May on the ACI YouTube channel. Then, mark your calendars for a live, interactive experience:

**Live "Ask the Candidates" Webinar, May 21, 7 p.m. ET**  
Join the ACI community for this open forum where candidates will answer your submitted questions and take live questions via chat. Can't attend? The webinar will be recorded and available afterward on the ACI YouTube Channel.

### Key Election Dates

Stay engaged with the full election timeline:

- **Mid-May** – Candidate interviews published on ACI YouTube channel
- **May 21** – Live "Ask the Candidates" webinar at 7:00 PM ET
- **May 27** – Deadline to request a paper ballot
- **June 1–15** – Voting period open to eligible ACI members
- **June 18** – Election results announced (pending receipt of paper ballots)
- **July 17** – New International Officers announced
- **August** – New Executive Council officially seated August 1 and installed at the International Rally

### Make Your Vote Count

The Executive Council is a vital part of the International Board of Trustees, driving key initiatives and shaping impactful member programs. Now, it's your opportunity to help select the leaders who will guide this important work.

Voting will once again be held through ElectionBuddy, a secure and confidential platform. All members with an email on file will receive a ballot on June 1, 2025. To ensure you receive yours, confirm your email in the Member Dashboard or Membership Directory.

Prefer to vote by mail? Contact Club HQ at 937-596-5211 by May 27 at 4:00 PM ET to request a paper ballot. Completed paper ballots must be postmarked by June 15, 2025.

**This is your club. Your vote matters.**

Review the candidates, submit your questions, and take part in this important process. Let's chart the road ahead — together!

10 BLUE BERET / MAY 2025

## Meet ACI Executive Council Candidate Bill Hamblin



Hello fellow ACI members. I'm Bill Hamblin and I'm running for Executive Council.

I'm a semi-retired 45-year-old traveling full-time in a 25' Globetrotter with my wife, Frances, and our two dogs, Sutton and Rhett. We enjoy traveling and learning about our country through local history and local cuisine.

From the moment we joined the club we felt like part of a community.

Traveling full-time in our RV gives me a unique perspective on the Club as we meet members from across the country.

I feel the best way to give back is to volunteer. From holding local office to leading the Tables & Chairs committee and being a part of the photography committee at International, I enjoy serving the Club.

I encourage you all to check out each candidate's Statement of Candidacy and video. And be on the lookout for the upcoming mini-interviews and webinar to better understand each candidate and their platform.

I think the Club is a great resource for all its members and I look forward to helping it grow in the years to come.

Thanks for your consideration and I'll see you down the road.

Bill Hamblin  
BRN 21813

## Meet ACI Executive Council Candidate Jan Heavener

**My name is Jan Heavener, and I am the president of Region 6. I will be stepping down from my presidency on August 1st. I am excited to take the next step in my journey by joining the Executive Council team of candidates.**

**My husband, Charles, and I have proudly been part of the Arkansas Razorback Airstream Club for almost a decade, enjoying countless wonderful memories and experiences. Over the past years, I have actively served on various committees and dedicated my time as a volunteer at ACI.**



**I am currently chairing the Welcome Committee at the International Rally and have contributed to the Canopener Planning Committee. Additionally, I have co-chaired the Airstreams on the Square rally for the past eight years.**

**My experience collaborating with the IBT and the Executive Council has given me a strong understanding of the daily issues that impact our club. I am confident I can use this knowledge to create effective solutions for our club.**

**As you prepare to cast your vote, I humbly ask for your support. I am eager to join the Executive Council team and contribute to our club's bright future. Thank you!**

## **Meet ACI Executive Council Candidate Dendy Jarrett**



Dendy Jarrett - BRN: 22342

Location: Nashville, TN

Hey Hey Airstreamers!

I'm one of the candidates in a tremendous group of potential Executive Council (EC) Members.

I started my Airstream journey in 1971 when my Grandparents purchased their 1968 Airstream Overlander. My summer journeys with them instilled my wanderlust and the love of the Airstream Community. They lived the Wally Byam dream!



I'm a 62-year-young humanoid who has spent most of my career as either a musician or a non-profit leader in the music space. This past year, I accepted the CEO position at Give A Note Foundation where we serve kids by placing music technology in classrooms in underserved schools. I came to that position after having spent years as the Executive Director at Gibson Gives, the Philanthropic arm of Gibson Guitars. I also serve as President of the WBCCI Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Airstream Club International. I'm the 1<sup>st</sup> VP of the Music City Airstream Club and a member of the Vintage Airstream Club (VAC). I also serve on the Explorer Committee and previously served on the Capstone Special Committee for ACI.

Giving Back is the life I live, and I truly believe the Airstream Community is primed to do the same! To take on this type of role, you must have a servant's heart, and I know I can help make a difference for all of us. Consider all the candidates and if you feel I'm a great fit, please throw a vote my way. And I hope to see you on the road!

## Meet ACI Executive Council Candidate Kenneth Johansen

My name is Ken Johansen and I'm running for a seat on the Executive Council of the WBCCI. Thank you for allowing me to write this and ask for your support.



I have been an active member of the WBCCI since 1998 – which makes for 25 years!

During this time I've been very active with the club starting out as a board member of a local club, founder of a new local club, founder of the Albuquerque National Balloon Fiesta Rally, founder of the Vintage Airstream Academy and becoming the Region II president where we put together one of the largest and most attended Region rallies.

I value being a member of the WBCCI and I think its important to give back to those organizations that give us so much joy. My goal for the EC is to be a helpful contributing member and hopefully use my background and expertise in my 45 years of working with all kinds of 501c type organizations such as ours.

For a full detail of my 25 years as a WBCCI member and 45 years of working with organizations such as the WBCCI, please refer to my resume posted on the Airstream Club website.

## Meet ACI Executive Council Candidate Cody Klingler



Hello, fellow Airstreamers! I'm Cody Klingler, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to be considered for the Executive Council.

Over the past eight years, I've served in many roles—from local Club President to

International Membership Chair—and I've seen firsthand how strong leadership, open communication, and a welcoming spirit help our community thrive. I bring experience in membership engagement, strategic planning, and communications, along with a passion for bringing people together.

But this election isn't just about me—it's about choosing the leaders you believe will move our club forward. I encourage you to read about all the candidates (including myself). Learn what drives them, what they've contributed, and how they plan to serve. Then cast your vote for those you believe will best represent our values, our future, and our shared love of the Airstream way of life.

If you have questions or just want to chat, I'd be happy to connect. Thank you for your time, your dedication to this community, and for helping shape the future of our club—no matter who you vote for. I hope to see you down the road, maybe at the International Rally in York. Safe travels and happy camping!

## Meet ACI Executive Council Candidate Artie Martin



My name is Artie Martin! I am currently the Immediate past President of Region 5 Airstream Club. I have served two complete terms of President of Region 5, 2016-2018 and 2020-2022. So I have experienced 4 years of IBT Meetings!

Serving as President has provided me with the operational knowledge to take on larger challenges as our club continues to grow. I look forward to researching new ideas, and reaching out to members for suggestions and opinions of how our club can successfully move forward!

I thank you so much for your support!

Artie Martin  
BRN 213  
513-288-3419  
aom1215@yahoo.com



# Meet ACI Executive Council Candidate Rachael Miller



I'm honored to run for the ACI Executive Council and offer my experience as an executive and board member because this community has truly shaped my life and I'd love to help shape its future. As a full-timer, I've found friendship, wisdom, and

joy through rallies and meetups, and I've tried to give back by creating the Airstream Full Timers Facebook group. Our weekly check-ins and in-person gatherings have helped fellow travelers feel a little less alone on the road.

Professionally, I run a small business, have served on nonprofit and international boards, and bring a background in psychotherapy. I prefer to lead with clarity and compassion valuing consensus, clear communication, and collaboration over ego.

ACI is evolving, and that's exciting. I want to help us adapt while staying true to our roots by offering more flexible ways to get involved, strengthening member-leadership communication, maintaining a good relationship with Airstream, Inc. and making space for solo travelers, digital nomads, and the next generation of Airstreamers.

I love this community - not just the trailers or the travel, but the people. If elected, I'll bring big-picture thinking, grounded leadership, and a genuine belief that our best days are still ahead. Thank you.

## Meet ACI Executive Council Candidate James Schaal







Hello fellow Airstreamers!

If we haven't already met at a rally, hopefully this short introduction will help you get to know who I am. I am currently the President of the Vintage Airstream Club, as well as one of the chairs on the Entertainment Committee for our International rallies. My actual day to day job is working within my family's catering and events business. I am also building my own company called Polished Aluminum. I have some big plans to help grow our club and my goal is to help create memorable experiences across the country for all of our members. I want to help bridge the gap between membership and leadership so that if a member has a question, we can get it answered in a timely and accurate fashion. I'm proud to be part of this club and excited for the future. See you down the road...

James Schaal

## Meet ACI Executive Council Candidate Jenny Schnettler

Your support means everything...

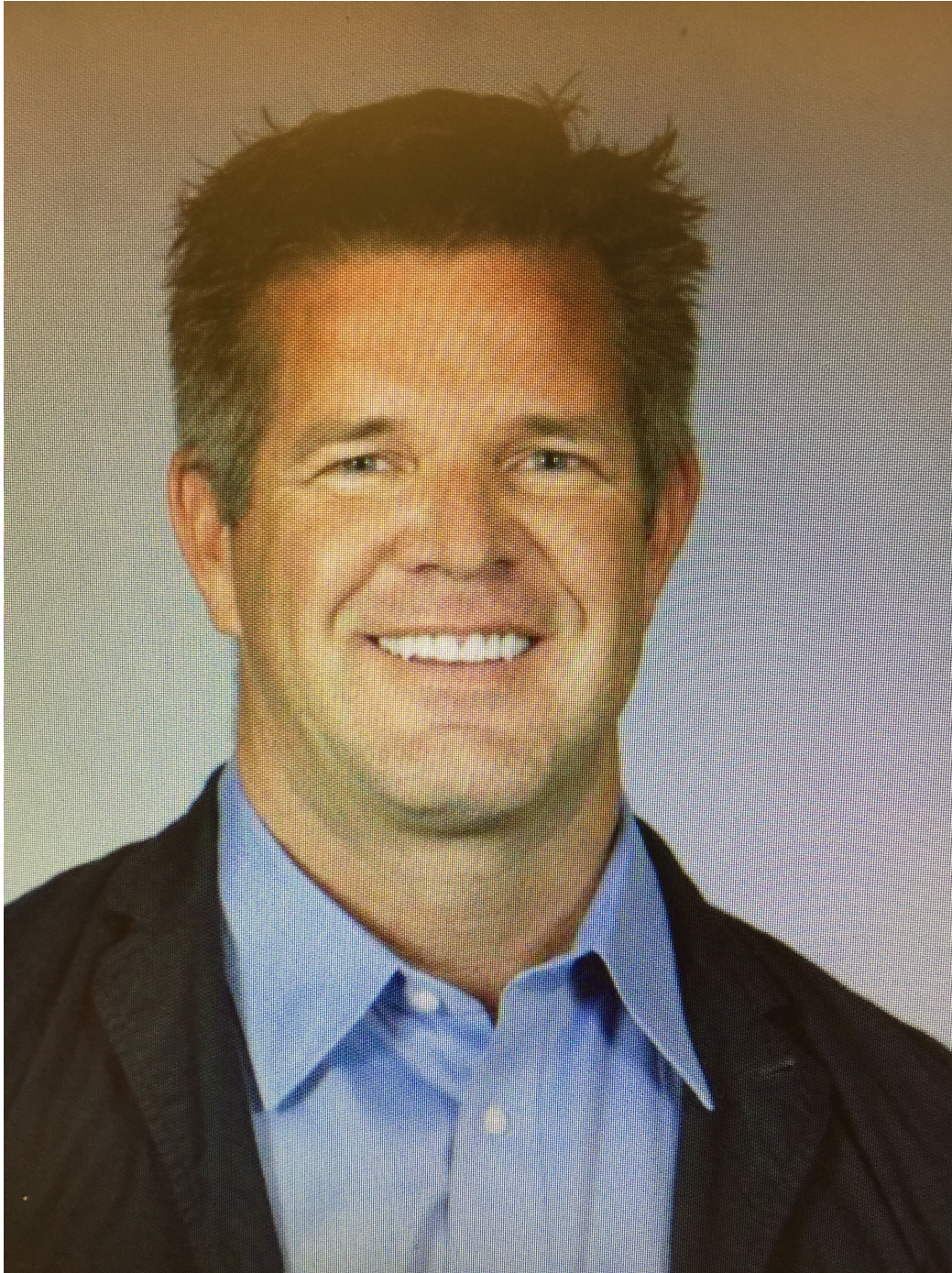
These past 2 years have been more fun than I ever imagined! Serving on this past Executive Council has been a joy and an honor...and the best opportunity to meet and work with incredible members. What a journey!

One of my jobs on the EC has been as the Project Manager leading a dedicated group of talented volunteers that was able to achieve the complete renovation of our new ACI Headquarters building – on time and under budget!

If re-elected to a seat on the EC, I will seek the Presidency to assure that all our present and future projects, including the further expansion of our ACI Campus, are continued with responsibility and accountability. What exciting opportunities would YOU like to see us pursue? Give me a call...I'd love to hear from you!

Jenny Schnettler 330-933-8444 [jschnettler@airstreamclub.org](mailto:jschnettler@airstreamclub.org)

## Meet ACI Executive Council Candidate Carl Washburn



To fully represent the key interests of Region 5 (member) Central Indiana Airstream Club (Trustee) and the Indiana Airstream Club (affiliate member) and Grapes and Grains (intra-club member), Carl is currently a candidate for the Executive Council.

When Carl was diagnosed with Leukemia, he made the decision to purchase a 2023 FBT Flying Cloud to live his best life, the life of his dreams. Carl camps in his Airstream almost every weekend. He has traveled to Pigeon Forge, Orlando, Ft.

Lauderdale, the Everglades, and Key West, but his favorite venue is mountain biking at Brown County State Park. Thanks to the miracles of modern medicine and the benefits of camping in his Airstream, Carl now is in full remission.

Carl works for Lilly as the Director of Digital Quality and will ensure quality in all Executive Council initiatives and decisions.

Carl's traveling companion is his French Bulldog Beau who was featured in the Spring 2025 edition of Airstream Life Magazine.

Carl Washburn  
BRN 17010

## Airstream Club International's 70th Anniversary Celebration



# Celebrate 70 Years of Airstream Adventures in the Commemorative Edition of Blue Beret!

Airstream Club International is turning 70, and we're marking this milestone with a special commemorative edition of the Blue Beret this August! The issue will be packed with stories from our rich history, inspiring member spotlights, and a tribute to the incredible community that has made this journey unforgettable.

Want to be part of this historic edition?  
Here's how to participate:

✦ **Share Your Story** – Submit your Airstream adventures, memories, and photos in our 70th Anniversary Album. We'll feature select stories in the magazine!

📷 **Show Off Your Airstream Life** – Upload your best photos of club adventures to be considered for this special issue.

💬 **Leave Your Mark** – Purchase a 70th Anniversary message to celebrate the club and your Airstream journey. All proceeds will go to the WBCCI Historical Center.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime edition you won't want to miss! Submit your stories now and be part of Airstream history. Submissions must be received by June 15, 2025.

Visit [AirstreamClub.org/70Years](https://AirstreamClub.org/70Years)  
for more details.



Alex, Roxy and Amy Harbison in  
Newfoundland BRN6942



Hank and Blue Belle Enjoying the  
Scenery – Tim Jackson BRN10608



Dale & Virginia Leipper  
BRN1138



GLAAC Touring the Factory!  
Paula & Steven Hammer BRN3701



Elizabeth Thompson's  
Grandmama BRN15599



Elk in Banff!  
Lori Grassi BRN716



## Upcoming Rally & Event Lineup 2025

Sip of Diamond Valley, Alberta, Canada - July 3 - 4 ([Click](#) for more details)

Sip of Pennsylvania - August 14 - 18 ([Click](#) for more details)

Sip of the Finger Lakes II - Sept. 25 - 28 ([Click](#) for more details)

Sip of the Mitt, Michigan - Oct. 8 - 12 ([Click](#) to join Waitlist)

Sipping Across California Caravan - Oct. 11 - 18 ([Click](#) for more details)

Don't see what you are looking for? Host a rally!  
Contact [gandgpresident@gmail.com](mailto:gandgpresident@gmail.com)

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