

June Team Weekend in Review

During the last weekend of June, ASCCA members and leadership descended into Southern California for a weekend of educational instruction, committee work, and a board of directors meeting against a backdrop of fighter planes at the Western Museum of Flight in Torrance, California.

The first day began with the pledge of allegiance and welcoming remarks from ASCCA President Dennis Montalbano who thanked those in attendance for their commitment to the automotive repair profession and the broader automotive industry.



Following the welcoming remarks, attendees immediately broke into committee meetings, beginning with the Membership Committee, where members were provided with the most up-to-date membership tracking reports. The committee made excellent progress and ultimately approved a new member survey, which will serve to provide the committee and ASCCA leaders with valuable information on the demographics of new members, their geographic information, what they expect from their membership, and much more. In addition to seeking information, the survey will also *provide* new members with information, including how to join Team Talk, how to get involved at the chapter level, and the benefits that they are entitled to as a new ASCCA member.

Next to meet was the Revenue and Benefits Committee, which reported on ASCCA's scoresheet for Exclusive Endorsed Vendors and Member Benefit Providers, promoted ASCCA's current member benefits, including ESI's discounted educational courses and free business consulting, and highlighted a new advertisement agreement with Parts & People in the California Independent.

Following the Revenue and Benefits Committee were the Conference and Public Relations Committees. The Conference Committee held a lengthy discussion about the feasibility of having a 2017 ASCCA conference, weighing the pros and cons of various locations and conference objectives. The Public Relations Committee gave an update on the Countertop Display Contest, which Northern California is currently winning 52-31. Committee Chair John Camara surprised the committee with free, dual ASCCA and Camara Auto Service branded air fresheners, which were meant to show ways in which members can not only promote their own business, but also ASCCA for a minimal cost.

In the afternoon, the Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures Committee met to discuss cleanup of some of the bylaws language, discussed the idea of allowing one retired member to serve as a voting member of the board of directors, and proposed language that would formalize the definition of the Chapter Representative Committee in the bylaws.



The day ended with a meeting of the Chapter Representatives, which began with Dennis Montalbano giving an update on his visit to the different chapters, and how it has been a positive experience. The committee then heard from each Chapter Rep about the progress their respective chapter is making towards the chapter goals outlined earlier in the year. Each of them expressed optimism about the progress they are making.

Committee members were especially surprised to hear about a successful Chapter 20 event from Chapter Rep Rich Lezcano. Rich gave excellent advice on how to pick a relevant topic of discussion, marketing, and how to charge for the event. Chapter 25 Rep Zarkis Martirosian also shared with the committee a white water rafting trip that his chapter held, and how it helped increase camaraderie within the group.



The committee discussed the upcoming ASCCA Chapter Leadership Strategic Summit, to be held at the August Team Weekend in Anaheim. Discussion centered around ideas for agenda items, and how to engage with the chapter presidents, vice presidents, and others in chapter leadership. Finally, the committee and others in attendance at Team Weekend who were unable to attend the Automotive Aftermarket Summit received a legislative update from Executive Director Gloria Peterson. After a productive 9 hours, the group adjourned for the day to get dinner and some rest.

The following day, the board of directors met for the entire morning. It began with an update from Glen Daily and Mat Nabity on ASCCA's Dental and Vision plans. The board unanimously approved a switch to new insurance offerings, which will benefit both the auto shop owners, as well as their employees and their families.

The board then received reports from the various committee chairs about the work each committee is doing, and went on to approve some of their proposals, including new logos for ASCCA vendors and sponsors to help promote the association and a bylaws change of the Association Program Provider definition.



The board also agreed to formally support the Automotive Technician Training Standards, as presented by George Hritz, Executive Director of the California Automotive Teachers at no cost to the association. The ATTS standards will help improve automotive training curriculum at both the high school and community college level in California, and help prepare young people for a future in the auto repair industry.

Lastly, the board ended by approving 2017 Team Weekend dates, and identified San Luis Obispo as the location for the 2017 Budget Planning Meeting.

Overall, the June Team Weekend was very productive, and the ASCCA leadership will now focus on preparing for the August Team Weekend, which is scheduled to include a networking reception, the ASCCA Chapter Leadership Strategic Summit, and new office elections. For more details and information on how to register, click [here](#).