



# Blue Bars



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## WINDY CITY CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

Windy City Corvettes (WCC) celebrated their 25th Anniversary on August 15, 2015. This was our "Silver Anniversary" and WCC chose to celebrate throughout the entire "Corvette" season. The Windy City Board decided that everything this season was going to be about "25". Celebrate our 25th Anniversary: Enter any 4 – 2015 Windy City Corvettes Low Speed or Car Show weekends AND our Oct. 11th triple Rallye to qualify for a \$25 rebate. Refunds would be mailed after the Rallye weekend. WCC ordered 25th anniversary pins for all their members. Of course, you can't celebrate an anniversary without a party. The celebration was held at the Autobahn Country Club, an exclusive motorsports club.

Windy City Corvettes, MW-351, started in 1990 with only 8 members; Tony Petraski/President, Dave Heineemann/Governor, Susan Pagliaro/Treasurer, Dawn Scarsellato/Secretary, Perry Scarsellato/Sergeant-At-Arms, Joan Heinemann/Publicity, Judy Petraski/Membership, and Larry Pagliaro/Quartermaster. WCC has had 772 unique members over 25 years. Larry Pagliaro, the current President of WCC and the Midwest Regional Executive, was asked what the major changes were over the years, "We started in 1990 with one Chevrolet dealership sponsoring WCC, and now we have four." We have been the NCCC Midwest Regional Champions in 1993-1999, and 2001-2015, NCCC National Champions in 2010, in 2011 NCCC Duntov Award Winner, we won the Hemmings Motor News Hobby Hero Award in 1998 and the Eagle One Award in 1995-1997 and 2002. The Future Corvette Owners Association is for children up to 16 years old and WCC has enrolled 355 members throughout the 25 years, which is the most of any club in the NCCC.

Larry also mentioned the display WCC has at the Chicago Auto Show because of the clubs involvement with Illinois Spina Bifida Association (ISBA), the number one birth defect.

Windy City Corvettes was invited to display members' Corvettes in the Chicago Auto Show at the McCormick Place, where all new cars are displayed every year. Illinois Spina Bifida Association is one of the charities associated with "First Look for Charity", which is a Black Tie Charity benefit hosted at the Chicago Auto Show. Windy City Corvettes has been a Grand Benefactor for ten years; in order to be a Grand Benefactor a donation amount over \$50,000.00 is required. Some years Windy City Corvettes was the only Grand Benefactor. Last year they shared the title with Fifth Third Bank. Windy City's support for so many years is the reason we have been invited to display our Corvettes.

Teresa Kocanda, WCC Charity Chairperson, said WCC has donated over \$800,000 to Illinois Spina Bifida Association since 1992. Other charities that WCC has donated to are FCOA, American Cancer Society, Brookfield Zoo Trim a Christmas Tree, the local 4-H Club, Operation Welcome Home, the Manteno Veterans home, NCCC Scholarship Fund, and National Kidney Foundation. "My husband Bill and I have been members of Windy City since 1994. We have seen the club grow and had tons of fun along the way. We stay because we have made so many friends and I love doing the charity part of it. It really makes you feel good when you know your hard work is helping someone else, especially kids. Teresa said: "I am always proud when we can hand over a \$50,000 check to ISBA at the end of a very busy year."

Members were asked why they joined Windy City Corvettes and what made them stay. Marylou Freeman said "I joined for the Corvettes, and stayed for the friendships." Randy, "King of Bling" Freeman said "I enjoy the car shows and Marylou enjoys the Rallyes." Perry Scarsellato, one of the founding members, "Wow, I knew it would grow, but I never dreamed it would get this big." Other members came to WCC through friends, neighbors, family, other events, and some found WCC on the internet. One member said they joined because her husband was whining for too long about wanting a Corvette and joining a club, so she finally gave in. She was glad they did, because of all the

friends and fun they have had since that day. Frank & Jayne Ciccarella said, "This is our family," while John O'Neill told me, "I enjoy doing things with my Corvette that I wouldn't normally do by myself." Chris Johnson mentioned that he enjoys anything that involves driving his Corvette, and Ken Linderborg said he joined for the racing and stays for the racing. Ron Cope talked about the NCCC Convention when it was in Tinley Park, and explained that he joined WCC so he could be involved and now stays for all the people and events. Bill Docherty, club member and MWR RCD, "I take pride in helping both the region and club adjust to current needs and build on our top-tier reputations. I have always felt you benefit most when you contribute.



The charter members of Windy City Corvettes laid the foundation of an NCCC club that has proven itself for 25 years." Dave Heinemann, WCC Governor and NCCC President, said his original goals for the club were "To have a Corvette club that members could have fun, become friends, and be successful in all the clubs adventures." One of our proudest moments would be Joan and I with the WCC board's support starting the Windy City Charity Program in 1991. The 2011 NCCC Convention was also a proud moment, however it was not just me, it was the club and MW Region pitching in to make it a success. 2011 was a WCC and MWR event and I had Larry Pagliaro to keep me on the straight and narrow.

The 25th Anniversary Party was on July 12, 2015 at the Autobahn Country Club, the perfect place for Windy City Corvettes to celebrate twenty-five years of memories. The day started at 7:00 am, and continued past the dinner hour, giving current and past members a day of many activities and memories. The event at the Autobahn included a Corvette Show, a drive around the Autobahn track, lunch and Go-Kart races, followed by a club picture with all the Corvettes, the 25th Anniversary banner and our members. It was now time to party in the clubhouse with a buffet that never ended, cake and a bar. During dinner, Adam Wojcik, our Vice-President and the organizer of the event, and Joan Heinemann, put together a slide show from different events throughout the years; pictures from the first board meeting, auto cross events, and many other gatherings were on the walls, as members smiled, laughed, and enjoyed going down memory lane.

The party was open to previous members and it was fun reminiscing and catching up. Larry Pagliaro, WCC President, found paperwork from the beginning days, and with the help of the members that were part of the original board, they had a board meeting from 1990. After they all had their fill of cake and camaraderie, WCC proceeded to their cars, revved their engines and drove off with their arms out the windows waving good-bye.

Written by: **Jodi Rusthoven**  
Windy City Corvettes - Publicity Chairperson

