

MIDWEST REGION

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Region News

The Midwest Region is alive and doing well, as well as we can, during these trying times. The Officers and Governors have been meeting monthly using the GoToMeeting (GTM) conferencing system. This product has proven very reliable and easy to use. The Officers devoted many hours during the early days of the Pandemic to assess various free and subscription systems and ultimately chose GTM. Our Officers devoted up to 12 hours a day over a couple of weeks in April for testing and assessing various systems. Once we landed on GTM, we offered the Governors three practice/training sessions before our first Governors meeting via conference. It proved to be an effective approach and my sincere thanks to all of our Officers, **Joan Thomas, Sandy Arnold, Ray Bair, Russ Tharp, and Jeanne Cassel** for devoting their time to make this transition a success.

We held our first video conference on May 2nd during our normally scheduled Region Governors meeting time that would have been in Saint Louis. Attendance has been about the same as when we meet in person. During these conference calls the Officers and Governors continually assessed changing status around the region and the different state guidelines and directives. Unfortunately, following the initial surge of Covid-19 and the cancellation of many events it looked like we might be able to re-start the regions event schedule. But as I write this, cases are on the raise in all three of our states and those of our neighboring states and the consensus of the Governors is that the challenges just outweigh our ability to continue our full event schedule. More on this in our RCD's report below.

With NCCC sanctioned events being canceled in the region, other than a few Rallye weekends, clubs are turning to Drive Outs and social gatherings. Many of our clubs are holding these events to keep members engaged and active. Some clubs are holding day-long drive outs that do not require overnight lodging and weekly Meet Up's are common so members can stay in touch. Other clubs are able to work with their dealer-sponsors to hold gatherings that bring the members together and also continue to promote their businesses. While we should all continue to put in place safety measures as recommended by our states, there are ways of keeping our clubs and members involved during these tough times.

By the time our next article is due I am hoping that I can write about a more positive outlook for 2021. It is so hard to predict what next year will bring but we will keep planning for a more normal year and deal with the realities that will come. Please stay safe in the meantime.

Larry Pagliaro MW - RE

Competition News

The RCDs have been meeting more frequently than usual to make decisions about our competition program in the setting of evolving state policies and recommendations for managing health risks. NCCC's suspension of National Competition Points began in March, and was later extended to the end of 2020 when it became clear that we could not operate a fair National Competition Program with such disparity within and among our states in the distributions of COVID-19 cases, and with all the differing state policies about travel, event size and self-quarantines. Within the Midwest Region your health and safety have been foremost on everyone's mind. Our Governors took a conservative stance, canceling all but three Region rallye events in 2020. I appreciate the thought and planning that went into those three Midwest rallyes. The organizing clubs showed us that competition events can be held safely, and their leadership should help us to better plan our 2021 events. Meanwhile, wear your mask when indicated and stay well.

Ray Bair MW - RCD

Membership News

Hello Midwest Region members! Hope you are all doing well! There hasn't been much membership activity in the Midwest Region.

Membership Renewals should be in progress by the time you read this and due to me by November 7, 2020. I hope everyone has been able to get your cars out and have some fun!

My club drove by our local medical centers and thanked our essential workers while making some money for the kids at St. Jude. Get creative but be safe!

Sandy Arnold MW - RMD