



2016 Council of Councils Meeting

Blue Cypress Hotel - Arlington, TX

February 13, 2016

Crystal Walker, President of the host council (Texas Van Federation aka TVF) welcomed the reps and audience and thanked everyone who had helped and supported this event.

Geoff called the meeting to order and reminded everyone about the cell phone rules. \$5 fine if your cell phone rings during the meeting. \$10 fine if you answer it. \$20 fine if you're sneaky and start answering and communicating via text message. He also noted that, thanks to Astro setting up and operating the web cam, the meeting is once again on-line for the entire virtual Vanning world to enjoy.

Geoff welcomed everyone and introduced the Council of Councils (CofC) Board: Himself, Dave "Astro" Hufstader, and John Cunningham, who was just barely over the Norovirus and sitting in the "quarantine" section. Kathy Willis couldn't get off from work, so she was absent. A motion by George Kettell (seconded by Taz) to suspend reading of the 2015 meeting minutes was carried by a hand vote.

Jeff Hyde (Colorado Van Council aka CVC) noted the passing of Bert "Raoul" Neely. He would have said "Don't cry for him - he's dead. Party on!"

Scott Bucko (Wisconsin Van Council aka WVC) noted the passing of William "Mr. Bill" Blitten. He touched everybody in a good way and will be sorely missed.

Howard read a prayer (from 2007) for those friends we have lost and those here today that need our help.

A minute of silence was observed in honor of all those vanning friends we lost in this past year.

Geoff noted that the reps would have up to 13 seconds to promote their events, etc. during roll call. We want to keep the roll call short and to the point. Also, if there are any corrections to the council information that is on the published roster, please give that information to the CofC Board at the end of

the meeting. Geoff asked if there were any new applicants to be considered as a council during the meeting. There were no new applicant councils.

Judith and Howard were introduced as the 2 reps for the National Truck-in® Board.

Roll Call: There were 25 councils in attendance during roll call. 19 of the councils had pre-registered on line, according to the instructions. Thank you to all who were able to do so.

Voting on location for Next Council of Councils Meeting:

Dave noted that the deadline for bids to host the next Council of Councils meeting is January 15. The actual bid presentation to the CofC Board will still be held on Thursday evening of the current CofC meeting. Also, all bids need to be done electronically, via the bid form on the CofC website <http://www.councilofcouncils.org/> The CofC website is always available by going to www.vanning.com and click on the "Council of Councils Board" link. And, be sure to pre-register your council for the next CofC meeting on-line!! There will be no more "snail mail" bid applications or pre-reg forms for the CofC meeting.

Don't forget, we need the permanent e-mail address and the official snail mail address of your council. We don't want the address and e-mail of the two reps attending if that is not the official address of your council.

If all the councils will fill in the registration form on-line, then the printed roster that is handed out at the meeting will be 100% accurate. No need to mark it up.

Bids for 2017 Council of Councils meeting:

Wisconsin Van Council (WVC): Ed Gray and Scott Bucko noted that we were told at the last meeting to keep the handouts we were given then because, if WVC didn't get the bid, they would bid again this year. They noted that, because Wisconsin is usually going to be cold in February, they will probably always lose the bid to a warmer state. In fact, they hold the record for most bid attempts for CofC that failed.

The bid is for the Best Western Plus hotel in Milwaukee February 9 - 12, 2017. \$99 per night. Free shuttle to and from the airport. 20 minute round trip. The hotel is right next to the airport. Scott noted that 20 members of WVC have actually spent the night in the hotel, so they can attest to how good it is. Other councils may have casually checked out their bid hotel, but WVC has actually stayed in the hotel. There will be a tour of the Harley-Davidson Museum and in-house wine tasting. There's also a free round-trip shuttle to the Casino. Or, the shuttle will drop you off and pick you up at nearby stores, etc. within 5 mile radius of hotel.

Neon Vanners (backed by NCVC): Hampton Inn Tropicana- Las Vegas February 1 - 5, 2017. 1/2 mile from the strip. 322 rooms; 180 King, 136 Standard Double, 6 Suites. \$112 per night, BUT, there are no added taxes like the other Vegas hotels have. Ask for Refrigerator Room when making reservations. Can book at that rate for one week before and 1/2 week after. There's no restaurant, but the hotel offers free hot breakfast, event center, heated pool. Planned excursions are the Neon Boneyard, Solar Plant and Beer Crawl. Super Bowl is on February 5 but there's enough room in the hotel.

Astro reminded everyone that no matter who wins the bid, you always get the latest and correct information on www.councilofcouncils.com, which always points to the current CofC meeting.

National Truck-in Board®: Judith noted that the NATS Board has a database of 1300 names and addresses, which is updated after every NATS. They would like to share with your database so that

information gets out to every vanner for every event, including the NATS. If you have a database you wish to share with the NATS Board, please contact Judith.

43rd National Truck-in®: Don Noone said it was wet and wild, but everyone had a good time. There were 487 vans in attendance and there were enough funds to donate \$9000 to various charities at the conclusion of the event. Those included Meals on Wheels, School supplies to local Schools and local Food Pantry. \$1000 was donated to Sunshine Vanners, host of the 44th National Truck-in® as well as \$1000 to the Vanning Museum and \$500 was used to pre-reg Hard Core Vanners for the 44th National Truck-in®. He noted that the Texas Van Federation has done a great job on the 2016 CofC Meeting.

44th National Truck-in®: Lew Skoko (Sunshine Vanners, Inc.) gave the update on the upcoming National Truck-in®. He noted that, as of this date, they have 137 pre-registrations. He noted that they have gotten great support from clubs, individuals (Coop supplied the artwork, for example) and folks all over the vanning world.

The site is on the property of the Lakeland-Linder commercial airport at Lakeland, FL. There are 250 acres of land at the airport. We don't expect any noise complaints because the site is adjacent to the taxiway for this commercial airport.

The gate will be open on Monday, July 4, hopefully around 11 AM. You can't come in before that. The contract only allows members of the host (Sunshine Vanners, Inc. aka SSV) to arrive Sunday to set up for the opening on Monday. No parking on the side of the road for lineup. There just isn't a big enough shoulder on the road to accommodate this. And, the shoulder of Florida roads is sand, not dirt. It's real easy to get stuck in the soft sand.

Bring school products and food to the front gate. There are a lot of homeless school kids in the area who don't have school supplies or enough to eat. We're going to try and help remedy that. Hair products, hygiene products, etc.

Theme will be Tacky Tourist There will be a Tacky Tourist contest. It's Florida in the Summer Time - BRING SUNSCREEN! Bring 30 amp and 50 amp adapters. And please bring heavy duty cords. You can bring your own cooler to the band. Ice will be available on site. 10 lb. bags at \$3 per bag, or 2 bags for \$5.

There will be shuttle runs on the grounds to get you around. SSV is taking trophy sponsorships now.

The Florida Van Council (FVC) will sponsor a Drive-in Theater night on Tuesday, July 5 at the Silver Moon Theater, a local drive-in theater. This theater shows First-Run movies, but, we won't know which movie until a week or so before the NATS starts. Cost is \$5 per adult, \$1 per child. You check with the FVC and they will reserve a block of spots at the theater so we can all park together. We leave the NATS at 6:30 PM. But, if you get to the theater after 7:45 PM, you may not be able to park with us. After the 7:45 PM cutoff time, any unused reserved spots will be available to the public at large.

Wednesday night, July 6, there will be a Carnival Game Night. And you can bring your own Carnival game if you want.

The van show will be in the shade. Plan to have the van show early Friday (by 9 AM) so we can have the awards on Friday night. Plan to have a Winner's Circle on Saturday so you can be seen with your van. However, keep in mind that we have no control over the Florida thunderstorms. If we get rained out of the van show on Friday, we'll have to go with Plan B.

Club port-a-potties will be available for rent. \$100 regular, \$125 for handicapped, and it will cost \$30 for each time you have it pumped out

Golf cart rentals available for \$250 - \$275 per week. We'll provide you with the contact information for Golf Cart rental outfit that actually has some of their golf carts stored on the premises. You'll make all the arrangements with the company on your own.

Personal Golf Carts are OK as long as you have insurance and headlights and follow the rules

Bucko requested that the host be sure that their members are prepared. Please don't give "I don't know" as an answer to a question unless it is immediately followed by, "I'll be right back with the answer" and actually be right back with the answer

Note: July 2 will be the Coke Zero 400 at Daytona Beach for NASCAR fans who want to stop by that race on the way to the NATS.

Scheduled Topics:

1. Maryland Van Council brought a suggestion that 50/50 raffles be done during the daylight hours because it is difficult to read the ticket numbers in the dark.

2. Northern California Van Council asked why more Councils don't put in bids for the National Truck-in®. Lynn Harmonson noted that several smaller groups could get together so they would have the resources to put on a NATS. Crystal Walker said there are lots of second-generation vanners who gave negative inputs because the last event wasn't perfect. It takes a huge amount of time and effort to put on a NATS, so who wants to put up with all that negativity?

3. Wisconsin Van Council - Move the Vanner Memorial to the Vanner Museum in Florida. Joe noted that the Vanner Memorial has already been moved to the Vanner Museum. It isn't complete. Ron Martin is updating the electronic copy.

4. Wisconsin Van Council - Media Coverage at events, same people, same vans. You need to show that you can start with a few mods and have a nice van. That's the only way to bring in new, younger vanners. Doc noted that they showed all the vans to the media, but the media only chose to publish the very best show vans and there's not anything we can do about that. Howard noted that we have somewhat educated the media folks, but the on-line media is totally different from the print media. The print media wants the splash to sell the magazines. They have no interest in the average vans.

5. Wisconsin Van Council - The NATS is about the van, not the band. They got their vans set up to show and then had to tear down because the band had to set up. The NATS is about the VAN.

6. Unscheduled Topics (topics from the floor):

a. Bucko, of the Wisconsin Van Council noted they will have their usual raffle tonight to give away a pre-entry to every event in Wisconsin. They will have a celebration of Mr. Bill on March 12 at Kenosha.

b. Indiana - 50/50 raffle tonight.

c. Doc, of New England Van Council noted that they have their vanner booklets for \$2 each. And check YouTube for "We Are The Vanners."

d. Jim, of the Southeast Van Council noted their event on September 30 in Cherokee, NC. He also noted that Carlisle Events (out of Pennsylvania) holds a lot of auto show events and at least 2 of them are advantageous for us. We should thank Carlisle for their support.

e. Don Noone showed the Heart Of America Van Council booklet that shows all of the events in their area.

f. Ma and Dave (from Washington State) noted that they have enjoyed their vanning retirement tour. In the last 10 months they have been at 23 van runs, adding 20,000 miles to their van and the New England Van Council booklet has been a great help. They've stopped by Arizona and headed as far north as Maine and as far south as the Florida Keys. Ma said the Northwest Van Council had hosted the Council of Councils meeting in Seattle in 1992 and wondered if there was any interest in having another CofC event up there.

g. March 18 - 20 Vanarama.

h. Joe Madonia noted there would be a raffle tonight for the airbrushed rendering of Cosmic Cruiser.

i. Astro noted that this is the 21st Century, but, not everyone is on Facebook. Put your stuff on www.vanning.com. It's FREE. And remember, ALL the forms for Council of Councils are ON-LINE! No snail mail forms are available for:

CofC Bid Forms
CofC Registration Form

Just go to www.vanning.com and click on "Rep Registration Form" for the on-line CofC registration each year and click on "Guidelines and Application for hosting a CofC" for the on-line Bid form.

And, also don't forget, you can ALWAYS go to

www.councilofcouncils.org for CofC registration and bid forms

www.councilofcouncils.com for the current CofC meeting info

www.nationaltruckin.com for information on the current National Truck-in®

Astro makes sure that the above links are updated every year to always take you to the current information.

Open Discussion:

1. Vanner Museum Update: Joe thanked everyone for their support during the past year. The building is done. The building displays will be inside. He's hoping certain areas will be done by July. The area under the loft will be for old pictures to be displayed (vanner family, clubs, etc.). Sponsor cases are available, about 10 in all have been sold for \$800 each. They are 4' x 4' cases and it is expected that the vanner/club/council will regularly update whatever they have chosen to display for their fellow vanners and the general public to see. There have been 80 commemorative bricks sold to date for the patio. He wants the museum to be an interactive situation.

The Grand Opening will be on Saturday, July 2, 2016, before the start of the 44th National Truck-in®. That way the vanners who can get to the NATS well ahead of time can stop by and check the museum out on the way. Remember, Joe and Bonnie won't be there to keep the museum open during the 44th National

Truck-in®. They'll be working at the event. The Vanning Museum is 61.5 miles from the location of the 44th NATS.

2. Council of Councils meeting for 2017: The ballots were counted and Neon Vanners won the bid. The 2017 CofC meeting will be in Las Vegas.

3. Closing: Texas Van Federation gave out parting gifts to all the reps and the CofC board members.

Lynn Harmonson made a motion to adjourn and the meeting was concluded.

ATTENDEES AT THE 2016 COUNCIL OF COUNCILS MEETING:

1. A.L.I.V.E.
2. Colorado Van Council
3. Downstate Illinois Van Council
4. Florida Van Council
5. Heart of America Van Council
6. Maryland Van Council
7. Midwest Van Council
8. Missouri Van Council
9. New England Van Council
10. New Jersey Van Council
11. Northeast Ohio Van Congress
12. Northern California Van Council
13. Northwest Van Council
14. Nordic Van Council
15. Ontario Federation of Vanners
16. Pennsylvania Van Council Inc.
17. South Dakota Van Council
18. Southern California Vanners Network
19. Southeast Van Council
20. Southern Ohio Van Council
21. Texas Van Federation
22. Van Council of Victoria Australia

23. Vintage Chevy Van Council

24. V.O.I.C.E.S.

25. Wisconsin Van Council

2016 meeting minutes taken by Kathy Jackson (TVF), Judith Pilon (FVC) and John M. Cunningham, Secretary of the CofC Board.