

THE CLUB REPORTER

OCTOBER 2017



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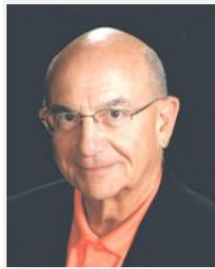
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EDITOR'S WELCOME



Hello Alumni! The new Club program year is upon us! As I write this newsletter, I must remind you to send in your Registration Form for the **free November 7th luncheon** sponsored by Liberty Buick GMC and being held at the Palmbrook Country Club in Sun City. The **registration deadline is October 27th**. Guests are also welcome. You can find the Registration Form on page 7 of this newsletter or on the Club website. Hope to see a large crowd.

If you would like to save a stamp, don't forget to bring your December Registration Form for the **December 14th Arizona Broadway Dinner Theater** program – South Pacific – when you come to the November 7th luncheon. A December Registration Form can be found on page 8 of this newsletter and on the Club website.

We have filled the 48-seat coach for the March day trip to Kartchner Caverns and Trail Dust Town, but since we have an option to upgrade to a 56-seat bus, we could accommodate several more people if you missed the previous deadline. If you are still interested, get in your registration ASAP. See page 3 for more details. The Registration Form is available on the Club website.

Also of note is that the **February 2018 meeting date** has been moved from Tuesday, February 13, to **Thursday, February 15**. Please mark your calendar accordingly. Make sure you check the Club website periodically for all the latest updates.

As we begin to approach the end of 2017, it is also time to **renew your Club Membership for the 2018 Calendar Year**. Dues remain the same as last year; however, the Board has approved a new Life Member designation for those members who have achieved the age of 90 by December 31st of the preceding year. Therefore, all current members who achieve the age of 90 by December 31, 2017 will automatically have their membership renewed for 2018, provided we have their birth date on record. Submitting a Membership Renewal application with your birthdate filled in is important to ultimately qualify for this benefit. The 2018 Membership Renewal Forms is included on page 9 of this newsletter and available on the Club website – www.azgmalumni.com.

Enjoy! I look forward to seeing you on November 7th!

Alan Steffe

Editor & Publisher, The Club Reporter
alansteffe@yahoo.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Each year Al & I look forward to getting together with members of the AZ GM Alumni Club. Whether we share a smile, or a quick chat, the opportunity to get together with you is a special part of what makes AZ so satisfying for Al and I.

We're kicking off the Club's 2017-2018 program year with a dealer-sponsored luncheon, hosted by Liberty Buick & Liberty GMC at the beautiful Palmbrook Country Club in Sun City. General Motors Home Office is sending Rob Peterson, Buick Marketing Manager, and Katie Downey, Buick Communications to join us. We're hoping you've already made your reservation for this free luncheon, display of several 2018 Buicks, and executive product presentation. For your convenience, registration forms are included with this newsletter.

Rob Peterson accepted the position of Buick's Marketing Manager in 2014 and is responsible for the continued growth and positioning of Buick's growing Crossover SUV line-up, including the Envision, Encore, the launch of the all-new 2018 Buick Enclave and the first-ever Enclave Avenir.

Rob began his career at General Motors in 1998 as the Communications Manager for GM Powertrain's Saginaw, Michigan, Metal Casting Operations. His insight for Buick's strategic marketing is enriched from his previous role as Communications Manager for the Chevrolet Volt and GM's Vehicle Electrification. He joined the Volt Development Team at its onset in May of 2006 and was responsible for building awareness and acceptance of electric vehicles among consumers, industry stakeholders and policy makers.



Katie Downey is Buick's communications coordinator. Katie is responsible for strategic public relations plans and initiatives that increase brand awareness, improve reputation, and drive employee engagement. Your perspective as a previous GM employee, and experience as a loyal GM customer, will be a true asset for Katie. Her resume includes experience as a senior account executive at Weber Shandwick – a public relations firm, where she worked on-site at General Motors for four years supporting the Global Connected Customer Experience (GCCX) communications team in areas surrounding vehicle infotainment, vehicle connectivity, OnStar, and GM customer relations.

It's very easy to understand how the evolution of Rob and Katie's careers have led to a wealth of timely product and industry insight to share with us. And if this isn't enough, Liberty Buick will have many gorgeous Buicks on-hand to explore and sales personnel to answer your questions. Have your questions ready. Our November 7th meeting, generously hosted by Liberty Buick and Liberty GMC at the Palmbrook Country Club, is your very personal opportunity to make a connection with people who know Buick, and where it's going.

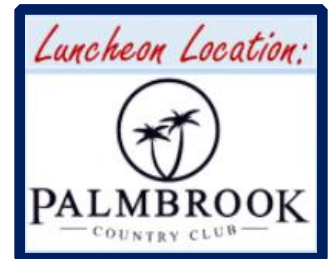
If you're unable to join us on the 7th, and you want to make a connection with a knowledgeable sales person at Liberty Buick, or Liberty GMC, call Club member Jim Smeets (1995 Club President). Jim has been a loyal Liberty customer for decades and can be reached at 623.584.6709.

Feel free to pass along the registration form if:

- you'd like to invite other GM Alumni to check-out our Club, and our beneficial relationships,
- bring along loyal Buick customers who are interested to learn more about Liberty Buick, and
- provide friends and family with the "inside" view from General Motors executives.

2017 – 2018 MEETING UPDATES

The 2017 – 2018 Program year is right around the corner! Have you made your reservations yet for the **free November 7th meeting** sponsored by Liberty Buick GMC and being held at Palmbrook Country Club in Sun City? General Motors is sponsoring our featured speaker, Rob Peterson, Buick Marketing Manager. **The deadline for registering is October 27th.** So get your registration in today! The Registration Form is provided on page 7, or can be found on the Club Website.



While you are at it, save yourself a stamp and submit your registration for the wonderful **December 14th Dinner Theater Program** – South Pacific – at the Arizona Broadway Theater in Peoria at the same time you register for the November meeting. Or bring the December registration Form to the November Meeting and drop it off at the registration table. **The deadline for registering is November 20th.** Don't miss the opportunity to enjoy this wonderful Dinner Theater program! The Registration Form is provided on page 8, or can be found on the Club Website.

Looking farther ahead, note that the **date for the February Meeting**, featuring the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy at the Scottsdale Culinary Institute, **has been changed** from Tuesday, February 13th, to



Thursday, February 15th. The luncheon is **limited to 70 people**, and will therefore be limited to registration for **members only through January 2, 2018**. If space is still available at that time, the luncheon will be opened up to guests as well. Therefore, **get your registrations in early!** More information about the Conservancy can be found at <http://www.mcdowellsonoran.org/>. Meeting Registration Forms are available on the Club Website.



A 48 passenger coach has been filled for the **March 14th trip to Kartchner Caverns and Trail Dust Town**. If there is anyone who missed the registration deadlines but would still like to participate in the trip, we have the opportunity to upgrade to a 56

passenger coach; however, **the absolute definite drop dead date to register for this potential upgrade is November 1.** No registrations will be allowed after that date. Registration Forms are available on the Club Website. Don't forget to identify which of the two cavern tours you want to take or you will be assigned to one that is available.

Your timely reservations help us better plan the details of each meeting and event, including sufficient food and accommodations. Please indicate any dietary restrictions on the registration form, and we will make every effort to accommodate you. But if we cannot do so, we will contact you in advance. Please keep all registration deadlines in mind. Some may be earlier than you would like, but that becomes necessary based on the venue being used.

2017 - 2018 MEETING UPDATES - CONTINUED

The date for the Club's **Annual Golf Outing** has been reserved as **Thursday, April 5th**, at the Eagle's Nest Golf Club in Goodyear. Put the date on your calendar, and begin forming your foursome now. You won't want to miss the camaraderie, competition, and many stories that will be told about this fun event. More information can always be found on the Club's Website



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

As we approach the end of the 2017 calendar year, it is time to **renew your membership for 2018**. Key points to remember include:

- Membership Renewal Forms are available on page 9 of this newsletter and on the Club's Website.
- Membership **renewals are due by January 1**, and become delinquent if not paid by February 1.
- ***New for 2018 memberships and going forward***, current members in good standing who have reached the ***age of 90 by December 31*** of the preceding year will be granted ***free life memberships for the following years***. This means it is important for members to complete all items on the Membership Renewal Forms and submit the form with your renewal check.

be a part
of
something

BIG

We are also encouraging all members to assist in **recruiting new members** to the Club. As an **incentive**, new members and any current member who recruits a new, first-time member to join the Club will receive a **\$10 coupon** to be applied toward the cost of a future meeting or event. Make sure the new member you recruit lists your name on the Membership Form when submitted. Word of mouth is the best recruiting tool we have, and we encourage all members to become involved in recruiting their fellow GM employees who are not yet enjoying themselves as a member of our Club.



GET TO KNOW OUR NEW MEMBERS



Bob Adkins, Sub-Director for Membership Development Activities, continues to produce outstanding interviews of our new members in the hope that these will give you insight that allows you to get to know these new members more quickly and make them feel welcome. Hopefully you will enjoy this information and note the depth of experiences our members have. I would encourage you to look up Bob at future meetings and give him your personal comments and thanks for a job well done. Feel free to contact Bob at rf_adkins@yahoo.com.

Meet New Member Val Crump

Bill & Val Crump

Val was born and raised in Flint, Michigan, the birthplace of General Motors, where she graduated from Hamady High School in 1965. Val remembers (and misses) playing outside with her friends until dusk and just being kids without a care in the world. It felt like a small town with a small school where you knew everybody. In high school, Val was a cheerleader for the Hamady Hawks, belonged to the business club, and worked part time as a co-op secretary.

In 1965, Val started employment with GM in the Service Parts Organization (SPO) Warehouse Division in Swartz Creek. In 1985 Val moved to EDS working in the Flint Data Processing Center performing computer processing for Buick, GM Warehousing, Oldsmobile, and Pontiac. A very memorable event occurred while working on the transition from GM data Processing to EDS, Val had the opportunity to travel to Plano, Texas, for training and met Ross Perot. Val was transferred with EDS in 1999 to the Phoenix area where she interfaced computer processing for EDS clients Motorola and General Dynamics. In 2004, Val moved to the GM Roadside Assist Voice Communication Center and was responsible for telephone orders and all call center routing. She remembers, due to floods and hurricanes in other areas of the country, scrambling to provide workspace and telephones for representatives brought to Phoenix from other communication centers so they could provide customer support.

In 2005, Val retired from GM after 40 years of service with many great memories of her work in all the jobs she loved and especially getting to know and appreciate the many people she came in contact with throughout her career.

Val met her husband Bill in seventh grade where they became good friends. They were married in 1966, fifty years and counting! Val and Bill were blessed with two children. Matthew, born in 1967, was tragically lost in a motorcycle accident in 1986. Amy, born in 1970, is an optometrist who has lived in the Phoenix area since 1998. Amy and her husband Chris have been married for five years. Val's transfer to EDS and move to the Phoenix area in 1999 was spurred by Val because she and Bill wanted to be closer to their daughter.

Born and raised in Flint, Michigan, Bill graduated from Hamady High School in 1964. He attended Mott Community College and Michigan State where he earned a degree in business. Bill worked for General Motors in the Buick Motor Division in both hourly and salary supervisor positions. For 20 years Bill worked for the Industrial Mutual Association (IMA) a non-profit organization that provides



(Continued on page 6)

GET TO KNOW OUR NEW MEMBERS – CONTINUED

(Continued from page 5)

recreational programs and opportunities for children and families throughout the Genesee County community. At IMA Bill's responsibilities included managing cafeterias, stores and vending.



Val and Bill busy themselves with golf and walking four miles a day. Knitting, crochet, and line dancing fill Val's time as well. Bill enjoys reading – currently researching the history of the UAW – which is close to their hearts, in that Val's father was a GM hourly employee and participated in the 1937 sit-down strike, Bill's uncle was one of the founders of the union at Buick, and his father was a Buick hourly employee.

Traveling is also a mainstay in Val and Bill's blood. They motored for eleven years in a home on wheels through all the "lower" forty-eight states, then added Hawaii and Alaska trips to be able to claim travel to all fifty states in the union! Montana, Big Sky Country, happens to be their favorite state. And it doesn't stop there, they have a cruise to the Mexican Riviera coming-up and a fall cruise/land tour of Australia for six weeks! The land tour is unique in that Val and Bill will be staying with fellow Rotarians in the cities they visit.

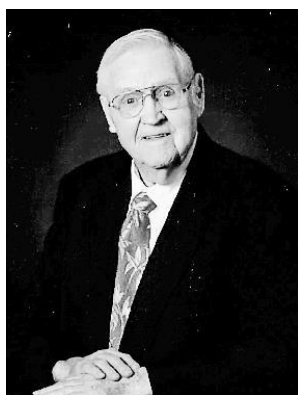
Welcome Val and Bill!

OBITUARY FOR JOSEPH S. WEGLARZ (1928 – 2017)

A long time Club Member, Joseph S. Weglarz, age 89 of Sun City, AZ, passed away on July 23, 2017. Following high school graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in the Korean War before his honorable discharge in 1952, when he married his high school sweetheart, Arlene Bradford. Joe worked at the GM Ternstedt Plant in Flint, MI until retiring in 1977. Joe enjoyed golfing, fishing, and traveling.

Joe is survived by his two children, Deb of Coos Bay, OR, and Joe III of Surprise, AZ. His wife predeceased him in 2014. Joe was interred in the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona on October 9th with full military honors.

<https://www.afterlife.co/us/obituary-sun-city-joseph-s-weglarz-jr-5911283>

OBITUARY FOR JOHN W. GEYER (1925 – 2017)

A long time Club Member, John W. Geyer, age 92 of Sun City West, passed away on October 4, 2017. Following three years of service in the Asia-Pacific Theatre with the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II, John returned to Purdue University where he received his B.S. Degree in 1948. After four years of teaching in Iowa and in Japan, he joined General Motors. There he served in various management positions in Des Moines, Denver, Kansas City, Wichita, and Detroit before retiring in 1990.

John was a very active Mason throughout his life, serving in many leadership positions locally and nationally in various Lodges that he served. John is survived by his wife, Mary, and two children, John of Willcox, AZ, and Martha of Canton, MI. Memorial services were held at Camino del Sol Funeral Chapel on October 16th with inurnment in the columbarium of Desert Palms Presbyterian Church in Sun City West.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/azcentral/obituary-print.aspx?n=john-w-geyer&pid=186951698>

**Meeting Registration Form
Palmbrook Country Club – Sun City, AZ
GM Speaker – Rob Peterson, Buick Marketing Manager
Tuesday, November 7, 2017**

Our 2017-2018 program year starts on Tuesday, November 7, 2017. Our first meeting is sponsored by one of our loyal dealers – Liberty Buick GMC – and held at Palmbrook Country Club at 9350 W. Greenway Road in Sun City, AZ 85351. Our special GM speaker for the meeting is Rob Peterson, Buick Marketing Manager. New Buick and GMC vehicles will also be onsite for your review. This no-charge event provides an excellent opportunity to start the year learning about the interesting things happening with Buick, more about Club events planned for the coming year, and catching-up with other members after our summer break.

Directions:

From the AZ-101 Loop on the west side of Phoenix, exit onto W Bell Road continuing past the Liberty Buick dealership to N 91st Avenue. Turn left on N 91st Avenue for 1 mile to W Greenway Road and turn right. Palmbrook CC will be on the right.

<u>Time:</u> 10:30 AM	Check-In & New Car Review
11:30 AM	Business Meeting
12:00 Noon	Lunch
1:00 PM	GM Speaker, Rob Peterson – Buick Marketing Manager

Menu:

Menu is yet to be finalized.



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**Meeting Registration Form
Palmbrook Country Club – Sun City, AZ
GM Speaker – Rob Peterson, Buick Marketing Manager
Tuesday, November 7, 2017**

Please return a completed portion of this form to: GM Alumni Club of Arizona
P.O. Box 7414
Goodyear, AZ 85338

Or email a copy of the completed form to Larry Sessoms at Lrssms@aol.com

The following will be attending the Liberty Buick GMC Meeting at Palmbrook Country Club:

Member _____
Spouse/Significant Other _____
Guest _____
Guest _____

If special dietary needs, please advise, and we will attempt to accommodate: _____

ALL REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY OCTOBER 27, 2017

Any questions can be directed to Larry Sessoms (623-455-8616 H) or Ken Wechselberger (623-251-3684 H)

Note: Keep up-to-date by checking the Club Website frequently at www.azgmalumni.com.
Check out the "Calendar Tab" for details and Registration Forms for any and all events for the year.

**Event Registration Form
Arizona Broadway Theatre
"South Pacific"
Thursday, December 14, 2017 – Matinee**

Our Club's Christmas event this year will again be held at a five-star musical theatre featuring professional Broadway productions with restaurant style dining. Please join us for this classic Rogers and Hammerstein's Broadway production of *South Pacific*. Be swept away to the mysterious island of Bali Ha'i in the South Pacific, where fun, laughter, and love await with very many well-known musical numbers. An outstanding three course meal will be served prior to the musical.

Directions:

The Arizona Broadway Theatre is located at 7701 W. Paradise Lane, Peoria AZ. (623) 776-8400. Take the West 101 Loop to Bell Road and turn East. Travel on Bell Road to N. 77th Ave. and turn right (South). Take N. 77th Ave. and go across W. Paradise Lane (at the light) and the theater is ahead on the right.

Time:

11:45AM – 12:15PM	Check-In Theatre Lobby (Bar Open)
12:15AM – 1:15PM	Lunch Is Served
2:00PM	Show Time

Menu:

Lunch will be individually selected from the Theatre Menu. You can preview the menu at www.azbroadway.org. Alcohol and desserts are extra and will be billed separately. Tips are not in the cost of the ticket and would be greatly appreciated. Alternate meals, such as gluten free and vegetarian, are available from the menu and can be ordered on that date.

Cost: \$65.00 Per Member or Spouse/Sig. Other – Includes Musical Admission and a three course meal.
\$70.00 Per Guest

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**Event Registration Form
Arizona Broadway Theatre - "South Pacific"
Thursday, December 14, 2017 – Matinee**

Please **return this portion** of the form with your payment to: **GM Alumni Club of Arizona**
P.O. Box 7414
Goodyear, AZ 85338

The following will be attending the Arizona Broadway Theatre Christmas Event:

Member _____	Cost \$65.00 – Amount Included \$ _____
Spouse/Significant Other _____	Cost \$65.00 – Amount Included \$ _____
Guest _____	Cost \$70.00 – Amount Included \$ _____
Guest _____	Cost \$70.00 – Amount Included \$ _____
Total Amount Included \$ _____	

(Please make checks payable to the **GM Alumni Club of Arizona**)

ALL CHECKS MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 20, 2017

Any questions can be directed to Larry Sessoms (623-455-8616 H) or Ken Wechselberger (623-251-3684 H)

Note: Keep up to date by checking the Club Website frequently at www.azgmalumni.com.
Check out the "Calendar Tab" for details and Registration Forms for any and all events for the year.



GM Alumni Club of Arizona

2018 Membership Application/Renewal

Name: _____

Spouse/Significant Other: _____

Date Retired: ____/____/____ Birth Date: ____/____/____

GM Division/Affiliate: _____

Location: _____

Length of Service: _____ Last Position Held: _____

Arizona Address: ☐ Permanent ☐ Seasonal **Alternate Address:** ☐ Permanent ☐ Seasonal

Street: _____ Street: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ City: _____

Home Phone: (____) ____-____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Cell Phone: (____) ____-____ Phone: (____) ____-____

E-mail Address: _____

Are you interested in handling Club assignments? _____ Yes _____ No

Special interests or hobbies? _____

☐ **New Member:** Annual Membership Fee is \$30.00

☐ GM or GM Affiliate Salaried Retiree or Alumni or Surviving Spouse

☐ Associate Member sponsored by _____
(Member Name)

How did you hear about the Club? _____

(All Members are encouraged to purchase the standard Club Name Badges for themselves and their spouses. Purchase forms are available at all meetings and on the Club Website.)

☐ **Member Renewal:** Renewal Membership Fee is \$30.00

☐ **Member Renewal:** Life member (no cost) ☐ Age 90 by 12/31/2017

☐ Pre 2011 Club President

Signed: _____ Date: _____

(Make checks payable to: GM Alumni Club of Arizona)

Drop off completed application/renewal and check at the Welcome Table at any meeting, or mail to: GM Alumni Club of Arizona

P.O. Box 7414

Goodyear, AZ 85338

Any questions can be directed to Larry Sessoms (623-455-8616 H) or Ken Wechselberger (623-251-3684 H)

Membership Renewals due by January 1, 2018, becoming delinquent if not paid by February 1, 2018.

Note: Above information will be used for Club purposes only and not sold. Your signature allows your picture to be used as part of Club Newsletters and promotions.

Keep up to date at our website: www.azgmalumni.com