

## THE CLUB REPORTER



NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2023

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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| EDITOR'S WELCOME                            | 1       |
|---|---------|
| PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE                         | 2       |
| 50 WONDERFUL YEARS FOR THE CLUB             | 3       |
| JANUARY - FEBRUARY -<br>MARCH EVENT DETAILS | 4 - 7   |
| NOVEMBER & DECEMBER<br>EVENT HIGHLIGHTS     | 8 - 12  |
| FUTURE MEETING<br>REGISTRATION FORMS        | 13 - 15 |

#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- \* Further details about the Program Year and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
- Registration deadlines looming for the January through March events
- \* Club Members enjoyed the Arizona Capitol Museum and the Arizona Broadway Theatre
- Information about the Club's future
- \* Look Forward to the Club's 50th Anniversary in 2024



#### EDITOR'S WELCOME



Hello Alumni!

Greetings as we enter the Christmas season and the end of the year. It is a time of great reflection for all that we have for which to be so thankful.

Our 2023 - 2024 Program Year began in November with a docent-guided tour of the Arizona State Capitol Museum. It was very educational as we learned of Arizona's transition from a territory to the 48<sup>th</sup> state. More information and pictures from this event can be found on pages 8 through 10.

With December upon us, we think about Christmas and good times from gathering together at the Arizona Broadway Theatre. As always, it was a delicious meal and this year a memorable performance of the timeless classic, *White Christmas*. Photos of members and guests are available on pages 11 and 12.

As we look forward to the new year, the Club will offer three more events planned for January, February, and March. Once again, a special speaker at the EVIT as our January event, with a return to Falcon Field for a FREE event for members in February, and finally, celebration of the Club's Golden Anniversary on March 12, 2024. Details and registration deadlines are found on pages 4 through 7. Events are pulled together with cost and your enjoyment in mind. It is essential that you consider the registration deadlines to help us meet commitments, especially for the Anniversary Celebration. The January event has a registration due date of December 30, 2023. So why not submit January - March by the end of the year, which allows you to receive a \$10.00 per person discount for our March event.

As we look ahead to celebrating 50 years of memories with our Club in March, we have accepted the decline in event attendance and membership. Both factors have continued over the past several years. And, the Board has evaluated what options are available. Our president will share specifics at our January meeting, also included in this month's newsletter. Why not plan to hear for yourself in January.

Our Club has had an exceptional run over its 50 years and was recognized many times as one of the top Retiree/Alumni Clubs in the Corporation. Our members can be proud of our many enviable accomplishments, while promoting a camaraderie among its members. Register now to be a part of our March 12, 2024 meeting. Note the details on page 7.

Let me wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I look forward to seeing a good turnout of members for our last three meetings for the Club in January through March of 2024!

Editor & Publisher The Club Reporter alansteffe@yahoo.com THE CLUB REPORTER Page 2

### 2023 <u>Board of Directors</u>

#### President

Jim Hall (810) 869-8944

#### Vice-President

Roxanne Steffe (810) 280-1399

#### Secretary/Treasurer

Ron Terry (248) 904-8797

#### **Directors**

Alan Steffe (810) 513-3367

#### Sub-Directors

Hal Hubbard (Registration) (623) 256-8938

#### Welcome Team

Rosemary Kovacevic Delrene Buterakos

## Club Photographers

Alan & Roxanne Steffe



#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



#### Greetings!

Hopefully, you've had a relaxing and enjoyable Fall as you now prepare for the Holiday Season, including our Club's entertaining events. As you read this edition of our Newsletter, we will have toured the historic Arizona State Capitol Museum. Not only did we get to see the artwork, but also the historic interior and various artifacts. The communication of Arizona's historical growth was well

explained by our tour guide. Her presentation provided unique information on Arizona history that told a story not normally heard. If you have not had a chance to take this tour, I would highly recommend it. It is very walkable, and also free.

The Club has two events scheduled after the first of the New Year before the Club's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in March. The first in January includes lunch professionally prepared by students working on their future careers at the East Valley Institute of Technology Culinary Arts School, followed by a presentation on Teddy Roosevelt by a nationally known performer. In February, we'll tour the Falcon Field Commemorative Airforce Museum. Further details on both events are included in this newsletter.

As communicated previously, our March event will be a celebration of our Club's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. I hope you will sign up soon. 50 years of the Club's existence is an accomplishment and definitely something to be celebrated!

The Board of Directors spent considerable time at its recent Board Meeting reviewing extensive data gathered on meeting attendance and membership renewals. The continuous decline presents concerns for sufficient attendance for our speaker events. Likewise, we desire to present the grandest opportunity to celebrate, while the best attendance is possible.

Options for continuing the Club were considered. But, due to the continuing decline, the Alumni Board has voted and unanimously "Approved" dissolving the Club after the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. This makes our March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, event the last event for our Club.

Join us at the EVIT on January 10<sup>th</sup> to hear more about this decision and clarify any questions you might have. As we reflect today, and in years to come, our Club accomplished much more than most, if not all, of any other GM Retiree Club.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New, while looking forward to seeing everyone at the EVIT in January.

#### Jim Hall

2023 - 2024 President hjskhall@gmail.com

#### 50 WONDERFUL YEARS!!!!



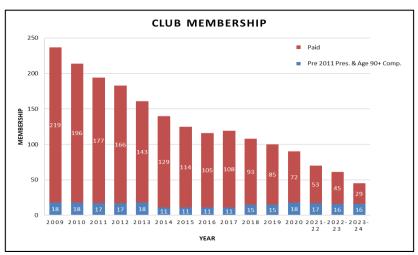
Since the Club's formation 50 years ago in 1974, it has brought together an exceptional group of people who could share common experiences working for a premier automotive company, while also developing new friendships and exploring the wonderful state of Arizona.

Throughout the years, members have experienced numerous GM speakers keeping the members updated on new vehicles and features, while continuing to promote the exceptional products they produced. In more recent years, the Club phased in more social events throughout the Phoenix metropolitan area and around the state, allowing members to see and explore more features of this great state. At the same time, bonds were formed between the Club and several Loyal GM Dealerships where both could benefit from the relationship – helping to promote vehicle sales while individually establishing a comfortable and effective sales and service relationship.

As we look back over recent years, we note the broad range of events the Club has enjoyed:

- Numerous excellent speakers on topics of great interest
  - Water resources, FBI, Border Patrol, Local Sheriffs, Human Trafficking, ...
- Tours of local points of interest
  - Chase Field, MIM, Phoenix Stadium, Hall of Flame, Cerreta Candy Factory, ...
- Excursions around the state of Arizona
  - Biosphere 2, Pima Air Museum, Yuma Field to Feast, Kartchner Caverns, Verde Canyon RR, ...
- Frequent Dinner Theater Productions
  - South Pacific, Elf, White Christmas, Miracle on 34th Street, A Christmas Story, ...
- Numerous Loyal Dealer-Sponsored Luncheons with appropriate speakers
- Golf Outings and Picnics, and
- Other luncheons with Comedians, Indian Hoop Dancers, Bob Hope and Teddy Roosevelt Impersonators, ...

While the Club enjoyed all these events, it also began to see a decline in membership since 2009. Concerted efforts to increase membership have been unsuccessful. Club membership has now reached a point where it is no longer possible to continue to provide events and activities which the membership has come to expect. Therefore, the Board voted at its meeting on December 4th to dissolve the Club after 50<sup>th</sup> our Anniversary Celebration on March 12, 2024.



Knowing that there are still three opportunities for the Club to get together, the Board encourages all its members to join the Club at the events planned for January 10, 2024, for February 15, 2024, and finally on March 12, 2024, to close out the Club's activities on a high note. More information and details about these events are found on the following four pages.

#### 2023 - 2024 PROGRAM YEAR EVENTS

The 2023 – 2024 Program Year continues with an interesting speaker and tour, before concluding with a very special 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Presented below are details for these events. **Note** particularly the **Registration Deadlines** for each of these events so you will not miss out.

Joe Wiegand is the world's premiere Theodore Roosevelt "reprisor". As an actor and historian, Wiegand's portrayals of Theodore Roosevelt in live performances have been enjoyed in all fifty states and internationally. Join us on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 for the Club's luncheon meeting at the EVIT and his enjoyable presentation of The Teddy Roosevelt Show. Final count is due to the EVIT by December 30, 2023. The registration form is available on page 13 or by clicking here.



#### MEET TEDDY ROOSEVELT AS PORTRAYED BY JOSEPH WIEGAND

Teddy Roosevelt was born in New York City, New York on October 27, 1858. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa and Magna Cum Laude from Harvard University and was the youngest elected member of the New York General Assembly.

In the years to follow, he became a cattle rancher in the Dakota Territory and ran unsuccessfully for the New York mayorship. He served as a United States Civil Service Commissioner, President of the Police Commission of New York City, Assistant Secretary of the United States Navy, Colonel of the 1st United States Volunteer Cavalry, Governor of New York, Vice-President and President of the United States, all by the age of 42.

VOLUME 72

#### 2023 - 2024 PROGRAM YEAR EVENTS (CONT'D)

He was the father of six children and the author of over thirty books. He was a big game hunter, a leading ornithologist (a person who studies birds), and the founder of Boone & Crockett, the nation's first fair-hunting and conservation organization. During his presidency, he declared some 230 million acres to be designated as national parks, national forests, wildlife refuges, and national monuments. He was, indeed, the great conservation president.

Spend an afternoon with Joe Wiegand and his an in-character presentation of Teddy Roosevelt. You will learn how Teddy Roosevelt shaped our nation's history through who he was and how his leadership & activism was a natural outgrowth of his life experience. His larger-than-life personality helped him in many ways to become one of the most respected and successful Presidents of the greatest nation in the world.



Photo provided by Mark Glenn Studios

#### **ABOUT MR. WIEGAND:**

Joe Wiegand is a political science graduate of The University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. Twice elected to head Sewanee's student government, Joe had earlier been elected Governor of the American Legion Illinois Boys State and President of the American Legion Boys Nation programs. Wiegand served as a graduate assistant at the Center for Governmental Studies at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois, before launching his own business as a political campaign consultant and public policy expert. He has been named a Wilkins Scholar, a Harry S. Truman Scholar, and a Thomas J. Watson Fellow. He served six years as a member of the DeKalb County, Illinois Board of Commissioners. Joe was working in public policy and running election campaigns when he began performing as Theodore Roosevelt in 2002.

Wiegand lives in Medora, North Dakota, and he works for the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation. He is a thirty-year member of Rotary International and a member of the National Association for Interpretation. His performance tour is highlighted in summer by a daily matinee in Medora, gateway to Theodore Roosevelt National Park and future home of Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library.



#### 2023 - 2024 PROGRAM YEAR EVENTS (CONT'D)

On February 15, 2024, the Club will tour Falcon Field Commemorative Airforce Museum after lunching at Milano's Pizzeria located across McKellips Street from Falcon Field. Club members will meet at Milano's after the restaurant opens at 11:00 am and place their own meal order from the menu. Following the meal, the group will proceed to the Museum for a docent-led tour at 1:00 pm, with the tour being complimentary to Club members and spouses/significant others.





Falcon Field is used to preserve and showcase unique WWII warbirds, while keeping many in running order today. Hear nostalgic, inspirational stories as the docent leads the group through the collection of artifacts and exhibits. Walk through a working hangar and watch aircraft mechanics bring powerful engines to life. Learn how aircraft evolved as a vital partner to ground and sea operations from WWI to the present.

The museum encompasses 60,000 square feet of exhibit area, and typically features 15 aircraft in the main exhibit area (representing WWI thru Vietnam eras) and six operational aircraft either outdoors or in the maintenance hangar, with the possibility of touring the inside of a B-17 Flying Fortress bomber developed

in the 1930s or a C-47 military transport aircraft used during WWII.

Join us on Thursday, February 15, 2024 for the Club's luncheon meeting and tour of the Falcon Field Commemorative Airforce Museum. The registration form is available on page 14 or by clicking here. Note that registrations are requested by January 15, 2024 for planning purposes and definitely required by February 6, 2024.



#### 2023 - 2024 PROGRAM YEAR EVENTS (CONT'D)

On March 12, 2024, the Club is celebrating 50 wonderful years in existence – a very significant feat! The Board is working to make this a very special and memorable celebration to recognize this accomplishment. It will feature an agenda exceeding our typical monthly events with an elegant buffet, entertainment, museum viewing, socializing, mementoes, and photos.



The <u>August 2023 Newsletter</u> presented details of the special entertainment by the band **Gold Rush** - blending of sounds from the musical worlds of rock, folk, country, bluegrass, rhythm & blues, and other influential sources. The <u>October 2023 Newsletter</u> presented details about the venue – the <u>Martin Auto Museum and Event Center</u> – and the elegant buffet that will be presented by the caterer – **Nibblers Catering** – an Arizona based award-winning conceptual hospitality brand that strives to deliver exquisite culinary experiences that surpass expectations.

The Board encourages all members to join in this celebration and make the final event of the Club one to remember. Having existed for 50 years is a significant accomplishment and milestone to be celebrated.

Note also that the Club is providing a reduced price for our members who sign up early. Early sign-ups help in the planning process to assure an outstanding event. The **reduced price is \$30.00 per person if your registration is received before December 31, 2023**. Otherwise, the price will be \$40.00 per person from January 1, 2024 through the registration deadline of March 1, 2024. A **Registration Form** can be found on **page 15** or by <u>clicking here</u>.

THE CLUB REPORTER

#### NOVEMBER 8, 2023 - ARIZONA CAPITOL MUSEUM TOUR

On Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, the Club held its first activity of the year in downtown Phoenix, starting with many reunions and a delicious meal at one of the traditional Mexican restaurants in the area – La Canasta Capitolio – located two blocks from the museum. Following the meal and brief announcements from President Jim Hall, the Club enjoyed the beautiful weather and walked to the museum to meet the guide, who explained the history of the Capitol Building and Arizona's transition from a territory to a state while touring the museum and its special features and artifacts. Here are some of the highlights of the day, while more can be found on the Club's website at PowerPoint Presentation (azgmalumni.com).







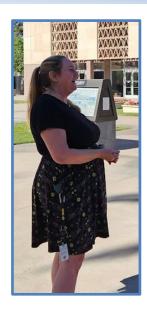




VOLUME 72

## NOVEMBER 8, 2023 - ARIZONA CAPITOL MUSEUM TOUR (CONT'D)















(Continued on page 10)

THE CLUB REPORTER Page 10

## NOVEMBER 8, 2023 - ARIZONA CAPITOL MUSEUM TOUR (CONT'D)











Artifacts from the USS Arizona

Artifacts from the USS Arizona









VOLUME 72

## DECEMBER 7, 2023 - ARIZONA BROADWAY THEATRE

On Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, the Club celebrated the upcoming Christmas season while enjoying a wonderful meal and an outstanding performance of the musical, *White Christmas*, at the Arizona Broadway Theatre in Peoria. Here are some of the highlights of the day, while more can be found on the Club's website at <a href="PowerPoint">PowerPoint</a> Presentation (azgmalumni.com).



Welcome Alumni







Merry Christmas







(Continued on page 12)

THE CLUB REPORTER Page 12

## DECEMBER 7, 2023 - ARIZONA BROADWAY THEATRE (CONT'D)

















# Meeting Registration Form East Valley Institute of Technology – School of Culinary Arts Guest Speaker – "Teddy Roosevelt" as Portrayed by Joe Wiegand Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Joe Wiegand is the world's premiere Theodore Roosevelt reprisor. As an actor and historian, Joe's portrayals of Theodore Roosevelt in live performances have people wondering if TR has come back to life. Joe served as a graduate assistant at the Center for Governmental Studies at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois, before launching his own business as a political campaign consultant and public policy expert. He began performing as Theodore Roosevelt in 2002 and has been touring the United States for 14 years bringing Teddy Roosevelt back to life for his audiences. He performed at the White House in 2008, while celebrating Teddy Roosevelt's 150th birthday. Join us for a very interesting program.

#### Directions:

The East Valley Institute of Technology - School of Culinary Arts is located at 1601 W. Main Street, Mesa, AZ. Take Hwy 101 to W. Main Street and travel east. The school is located halfway between S. Dobson Road and N. Alma School Road on the South side of W. Main Street.

<u>Time:</u> 10:30 AM – 11:00 AM Check-In

11:00 AM – 12:30 AM Guest Speaker Presentation

12:30 AM – 1:30 PM Lunch Is Served 1:30 PM – 2:00 PM Business Meeting

#### Menu and Menu Options:

The specific meal selection includes:

- <u>SALAD:</u> Mixed Greens Spring Mix, Tomato, Carrot, English Cucumber, House Vinaigrette or House Ranch Dressing
- ENTREE: (Select One) Meatloaf Bacon-wrapped Meatloaf finished in the smoker, Creamy Potatoes, Chipotle Espagnole

Seared Salmon Filet - Cucumber, Dill Relish

DESSERT: New York Style Cheesecake – Chocolate Sauce

Cost: \$23.00 Per Member or Spouse/Significant Other & \$28.00 Per Guest

| Cut Here  | <del></del> |  |
|---|-------------|--|
| Meeting Registration Form                                     |             |  |
| East Valley Institute of Technology – School of Culinary Arts |             |  |
| Cupet Speaker "Toddy Pagagyalt" as Bortrayed by Joe Wisgand   |             |  |

Guest Speaker – "Teddy Roosevelt" as Portrayed by Joe Wiegand Wednesday, January 10, 2024

| Please return this portion of the form with your payment to:  (Please make checks payable to: GM Alumni Club of Arizona)  ALL CHECKS MUST BE RECEIVED BY December 30, 2023 |               | c/o Hal Hubbard<br>26921 W. Wahalla Lane | na         |             |
|--|---------------|--|------------|-------------|
|  | ,             | Buckeye, AZ 85396                        | Entré      | e Selection |
| The following will be attending the E. Valley Institute of Technology Culinary School Meeting:   |               | Meatlo                                   | oaf Salmon |             |
| Member   | Cost \$23.00  | – Amt Included \$                        |            |             |
| Spouse/Significant Other   | _Cost \$23.00 | - Amt Included \$                        |            |             |
| Guest  | Cost \$28.00  | - Amt Included \$                        |            |             |
| Guest  | _Cost \$28.00 | - Amt Included \$                        |            |             |
|  | Total Amo     | ount Included \$                         |            |             |

If special dietary needs, please enter number of each required: Gluten Free\_\_\_\_ Sugar Free\_\_\_\_ Vegan\_\_\_

Any questions can be directed to Alan Steffe (810-513-3367)

Page 14

## Meeting Registration Form Falcon Field Commemorative Air Force Museum Tour Thursday, February 15, 2024

The Falcon Field Commemorative Air Force Museum provides the opportunity to learn how military aircraft evolved from WWI through today. Walk through a working hangar and watch aircraft mechanics bring powerful engines to life. Climb aboard bombers and cargo planes to see and feel what they were like. The exhibits reveal the hard truths and brilliant ingenuity of a generation of heroes who scrambled to defend freedom. During war, the very worst and the very best of humanity stand shoulder to shoulder. Words in a book simply can't convey this reality. Browsing through artifacts, photographs, and stories and examining airplanes rivet by rivet, you'll feel a whole new respect for the men and women behind some of the most technological advancements of their time.

#### Directions:

2:00PM -

Milanos Pizzeria is located at **4545 E McKellips Rd**, **103-05**, **Mesa** where we will meet across McKellips Road from the Museum. The Arizona Commemorative Air Force Museum is located at **2017 N Greenfield Rd**, **Mesa**. Use these addresses as your GPS destination for the best route from your starting point and the time required to get to the Restaurant and Museum.

Time: 11:00AM -- 11:30AM Check-In at Milanos Pizzeria & Place orders for lunch selections 11:30AM -- 12:30PM Lunch & Brief Announcements 12:30AM -- 1:00PM Proceed to Falcon Field 1:00PM -- 2:00PM Guided Tour (Member cost covered by Club)

**Lunch:** Lunch will be ordered and purchased from the menu by the individual members. The menu can be

Continue touring on your own (Museum closes at 4:00 pm)

- — — Cut Here - — — — — -

found at Home - Food Ordering (orderonlinemenu.com).

Cost: The tour is Free for Members/Spouses and \$10.00 for Guests.



Thursday, February 15, 2024

Please **return this portion** of the form with payment to:

REGISTRATIONS ARE REQUESTED BY JANUARY 15, 2024, AND REQUIRED BY February 6, 2024.

GM Alumni Club of Arizona c/o Hal Hubbard 26921 W. Wahalla Lane Buckeye, AZ 85396

| Member                   | <del></del>                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Spouse/Significant Other |                                   |
| Guest                    | Cost \$10.00 – Amount Included \$ |
| Guest                    | Cost \$10.00 – Amount Included \$ |
|                          | Total Amount Included \$          |

Any questions can be directed to Ron Terry (248-904-8797).

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

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Registration Form at Martin Auto Museum & Event Center Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Join us and celebrate the Club's 50th Anniversary at the Martin Auto Museum and Event Center. Enjoy...

- > Elegant buffet by Nibblers Catering, featuring slow-roasted beef brisket and chicken cordon bleu entre.
- Entertainment by the Gold Rush trio
- Museum viewing
- Socializing and reminiscing with fellow Alumni
- Special memento and photos

#### Directions:

The Martin Auto Museum and Event Center is located at 4320 W. Thunderbird in Glendale (the northwest corner of W. Thunderbird and 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue [west of I17]).

| Time: 11:00 am - 11:30 am | Registration                               |
|---------------------------|--|
| 11:00 am – 12:30 pm       | Social Hour – Visiting and Touring Museum  |
| 12:30 pm – 12:35 pm       | President's Welcome and Overview           |
| 12:35 pm - 1:30 pm        | Buffet Dinner Served                       |
| 1:30 pm - 2:00 pm         | Entertainment                              |
| 2:00 pm - 2:10 pm         | President's Recognition & Closing Comments |
| 2:10 pm - 3:30 pm         | Social Hour – Visiting and Touring Museum  |

<u>Menu:</u> Buffet Dinner catered by Nibblers Catering, featuring slow-roasted Beef Brisket and Chicken Cordon Bleu entre, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Garden Salad, Dinner Rolls, Cream Cheese Brownies, Ice Tea & Lemonade.

Cost: Discounted to \$30.00 Per Member or Spouse/Significant Other prior to December 31, 2023 \$40.00 Per Member or Spouse/Significant Other after December 31, 2023 with all registrations having to be received by March 1, 2024



## 50th Anniversary Celebration Registration Form

at Martin Auto Museum & Event Center Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Please **return this portion** of the form with your payment to:

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

\$30.00 PAYMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY December 31, 2023 \$40.00 PAYMENTS IF MADE BETWEEN 1/1/24 & 3/1/24 GM Alumni Club of Arizona c/o Hal Hubbard 26921 W. Wahalla Lane Buckeye, AZ 85396

The following will be attending the Club's 50th Anniversary Celebration:

|                          | Total Amount Included \$ |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Spouse/Significant Other | Amt Included \$          |
| Member                   | Amt Included \$          |

Any questions can be directed to Jim Hall (810-869-8944)

Note: Keep up to date by checking the Club Website frequently at <a href="www.azgmalumni.com">www.azgmalumni.com</a>. Check out the "Calendar Tab" for details and Registration Forms for any and all events for the year. Your participation allows your photo-to-be used as part of Club Newsletters and promotions.