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# Trail Dust...

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## The Mustang Club of America - More Than Just A Membership

by Kitty Wilmot (MCA#3642) , MCA National Secretary

For the past several months, I have been taking souvenir orders by telephone for the 30th Mustang Anniversary Celebration. In conversations with MCA members, it has become apparent to me that many think of the MCA as a business. Nothing could be further from the truth. The MCA is a non-profit organization run by volunteers. It is important for you to understand what your club officers, Board members, and judges do for the MCA.

All officers and Board members are expected to attend Board meetings held on the second Tuesday of every month. We must use our vacation time from work to attend shows, and most of us must leave work early to attend Board meetings. Most Board meetings end around 10 p.m. None of us is compensated for any expenses related to attending Board meetings. Some Board members drive five hours one way to attend the meetings. Each Board member is assigned roughly three regional groups with whom they are expected to correspond. None of the Board members are reimbursed for telephone calls or mailing charges associated with the responsibility. They understand that this goes with the requirements of being an MCA Board member and officer.

If you wonder what it's like to be an MCA officer or Board member, consider the following:

**President:** Is expected to attend all Board meetings and National shows, plus handle telephone calls from MCA members, Ford Motor Company, etc. Calls come both at work and home. Spends approximately four hours a day on MCA business.

**Vice President:** Also the National Show Director and handles the President's Award entries. Supplies regional groups with show application forms, then processes them. Applications are presented to the Board each year. The Vice President must also follow up on each of these issues.

**Treasurer:** Must go to the bank daily and keep

accurate accounting information. Each month, a financial report must be presented to the Board.

**Secretary:** Takes Minutes of the Board and Judges' meetings. Is responsible for Regional Group listings. Must request Regional Group rosters each year and check for MCA memberships, then prepare a group membership report for the Board. Answers letters and telephone calls from members and prospective members. Types the minutes each month, then goes to a copy facility to make copies for nearly 100 Regional Groups which must be mailed. Keeps a current address list of the officers and Board members. Update lists of Regional Groups and Gold Card Judges for the *Mustang Times*. Secretary is reimbursed for telephone, postal, and copying expenses.

**Publisher:** Handles member feedback regarding magazine content. Supervises the editor and the publication of the magazine. Dictates magazine policy along with the Publishing Committee. Keeps a record of advertisers.

**National Regional Group Director:** Communicates with potential Regional Groups, obtains information and advises the group of MCA requirements. Group information is then presented to the Board for approval. If the Regional Group is approved, the National Regional Group Director sends them the charter. If the group is not approved, then the National Regional Group Director must contact them again and proceed as needed. The National Regional Group Director is reimbursed for telephone and postal charges.

**National Head Judge:** Answers numerous letters and telephone calls regarding judging, judging sheets, and more. Judging sheets are mailed out as requested, and are kept for 30 days after each show. At the shows,

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the National Head Judge is expected to be available for tech' inspection through to the awards presentation. The National Head Judge supervises the judging and reviews all judging sheets for accuracy. If there is a dispute, the National Head Judge must mediate and sometimes re-judge a vehicle to help resolve the problem. The National Head Judge presides over all judges' meetings and attends as many regional shows as possible. Judging seminars are also held for Regional Groups. The National Head Judge is reimbursed for telephone and postal charges.

**Show Judges:** These are dedicated individuals who usually show their own car at a National show. Many of these show judges attend all national shows. They take time off from work and none of their expenses are reimbursed. They must also take time away from cleaning up their own cars for judges' meetings at the shows. These men and women judge at the shows because they are dedicated enthusiasts. They have the toughest job of anyone at the shows and they deserve your deepest respect. Please remember this when you attend a national show.

**Judges' Secretary:** Attends all national shows, typically requiring four days (Thursday through Sunday). Helps with show registration as necessary. Sets up the show judging book, enters participant information, puts judging and tech' sheets together, hands out sheets to the appropriate judges, keeps a list

of judges at each show, tallies the judging sheets, and completes the winners list. Reimbursed for hotel and fuel charges only.

There are probably more duties with each of these positions than there's room for here, but you get the idea. The 30th Mustang Anniversary Celebration committee is also a part of the MCA, which is also completely voluntary. This means everyone working the celebration is a volunteer. This outstanding event is being planned and will be staged exclusively by volunteers who care about the MCA's future. Simply put, no one is being paid for anything short of the expenses outlined earlier.

The Mustang Club of America is a national club fueled by enthusiasm and a lot of hard work that goes largely unnoticed. Remember, the key word here is **voluntary**.

Those of us here at the MCA National Headquarters hope that you understand and appreciate the effort that goes into making this club what it is today. Without the dozens of dedicated volunteers who lay everything else aside for the good of the MCA, the MCA would simply cease to exist. The next time you see an MCA officer, Board member, or Judge, please thank them for their hard efforts because a lot of sacrifices are made so that the rest of us can enjoy the benefits. Your gratitude will be appreciated far more than you'll ever know. **MT**

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