



2009 COUNCIL OF COUNCILS MEETING  
Clarion Hotel & Suites, Emerald Springs  
Las Vegas, NV  
21 February 2009

Geoff Koome called the meeting to order, and answered the most pressing question, “Where is Brian Walker?” Brian had collapsed last night and was taken to the hospital. They are running tests, and he will be in the hospital for at least 24 more hours for observation.

Steve Ashley read a prayer of invocation to start the meeting.

A motion by Raoul to waive reading of the minutes of the 2008 meeting was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Geoff introduced the Council of Councils (CofC) Board: himself, John Cunningham, and Kathy Willis.

Independents, Colorado, Arizona, Nevada (ICAN) the host council, welcomed the reps to Las Vegas.

At this point the roll was taken, and each council rep introduced his council reps present at the meeting.

There were 29 councils in attendance at the meeting.

Bid to host the CofC meeting in the Year 2010 was presented.

Wisconsin Van Council made a bid to host the 2010 meeting on February 19 - 21, 2010 at the Antiqua Bay Resort in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, America’s Largest Water Park. Room rates are \$69.99/night, up to 4 persons in a room. The hotel has 220 rooms. There are free shuttles to the 2 ski resorts nearby. The hotel does not provide free shuttle to and from the airport. The airport at Madison, WI is 45 minutes away. The airport at Milwaukee, WI is 2 hours away. The flights should be cheaper into Milwaukee. There is an Amtrak train from the Milwaukee airport to Wisconsin Dells, which leaves Milwaukee at 2:19 PM and arrives in Wisconsin Dells around 5 – 6 PM. There is a train from Chicago’s O’Hare airport to the Dells. It costs \$66, and the train runs once per day.

The host council is not planning any organized activities, other than the CofC meeting. The winery may offer a wine tasting event. And, there will be no donuts for Raoul. The hotel has a pool, bar, and regular rooms. The restaurants are within walking distance.

Several concerns were voiced. Wacko was concerned about the trains not being on time. That could mean you might not make your return flight, or you might arrive a day late. Another comment was that you should avoid O’Hare. There are way too many weather delays at O’Hare in February. Another comment regarding the ski resorts was that those were ski hills, not mountains.

As there were no other bids, Geoff announced that we’re going to Wisconsin Dells for the 2010 CofC meeting.

NATS Board. Judith noted that they had an interesting “chat room” on Vanning.com. So, a group will try to get young people (teenagers, up to folks in their early 20’s) occupied, and into Vanning.

There will not be a 10 PM curfew at the NATS for 16-year-olds. There is a bid for the 2010 NATS, but there needs to be a little more work done on it.

From 2010 and onwards, you can't have the engine running for the "Bright n' Shine". There are also new rules for the "Bright n' Shine" for this year. It will not be divided into Ford, Chevy, Dodge, but will be classed by how your lights are located. Also, Chewie is back as a board member, and Tom Chronister, and Bill are alternates. For information and updates, be sure to check the website, [www.vannationalsboard.org](http://www.vannationalsboard.org).

Update on the 2009 National Truck-in: They are looking for volunteers to judge the van show. There will be no golf carts, unless you are really handicapped. They will have some handicapped port-a-potties.

There will be a Vanners Night Out. Limit of 100 Vanners. \$15 per person. There will be a junkyard run on Tuesday. There are 158 pre-reg to date. Gates will open July 4 at noon for the non-event event. There will be NO "Burn-Outs". This facility is NOT equipped for "Burn-Outs."

Judith noted that, even if times are tough and you can't make the event, please support the NATS and your local events. You can pre-reg, take out an ad, support a trophy, etc. All the events need your support.

There will be a brewery tour and a wine tasting event. They hope to get 500 vans so they can break even.

Council of Councils meeting: Kathy Willis asked the reps to please update your address when you get the Council Officer Pre-Reg form. Please fill it out with correct addresses and topics for the next meeting. Geoff noted that you can also get the form on the website [www.councilofcouncils.com](http://www.councilofcouncils.com).

Geoff noted that we had one petition, from Mid America Street Van Association, to be a recognized council at the CofC meeting. He went over the rules to be a recognized council. Then, by hand vote, Mid America Street Van Association was voted in as a recognized council.

Wacko thanked all for the cards and e-mails he got from the CofC meeting in Florida in 2008. His health is all better now.

Easy Rider Vans & Trucks allow both vans and trucks at their events. How do we get trucks in? The answer from the group was to check with the host clubs. Some do allow trucks at their events. Geoff said if you come to Canada, you can bring your trucks.

#### Topics From the Floor:

Joe Madonia noted that he has an updated list of regional magazines, which will accept (for free) articles, flyers, photos that we send to the magazines so they will know that vanning is still around. Joe's list of magazines is listed on the NATS Board web site.

One of the twins noted that a few folks had been bitten at events. Dogs need to be on a leash, and their owners need to pick up their shit.

Judith noted that she is keeping her list of vanning events around the world on the Florida Van Council website ([www.floridavancouncil.com](http://www.floridavancouncil.com)) but she still needs your help. Please send your flyers and information to her [Judpilon@aol.com](mailto:Judpilon@aol.com). Her list is only as good as your input.

Taz suggested that the "break-down" list be PRINTED OUT and HANDED OUT! It shouldn't be located just on the website. The "break-down" list is a list of vanners throughout the country who will help in case of a break-down.

The Toy Van racetrack will be set up at 4 PM, poolside.

There seemed to be a misconception that this meeting is closed. That's not true. For over a decade the meeting has been open to all vanners. However, only the council reps get to speak in the first portion of the meeting. If a vanner who isn't a rep wants a point made during the first portion of the meeting, he/she needs only to whisper that point to the council rep and the topic will be discussed. In the second portion of the meeting, all vanners are recognized and get to express their points of view directly.

Jocko noted that the 2010 CofC meeting is in Wisconsin, not Vegas. Please hold off booking your rooms until the Wisconsin Van Council [www.wivancouncil.com](http://www.wivancouncil.com) gets back home and makes final arrangements with the hotel.

The group noted that Raoul should bring donuts for everyone at the 2010 CofC meeting. Michelle passed the “pass-along” plaque to Wisconsin, and Jocko noted that the Southeast Van Council gave \$100 in support to the 2010 CofC meeting.

Mike, of the Southeast Van Council, noted a van scam, where a scoundrel had ripped off vanners. So, they are raffling off a van and the proceeds will go to all the folks who got ripped off. The group gave him a round of applause.

Tom Chronister noted that he has a contact for Tru-Spokes wheels. [www.truespoke.net](http://www.truespoke.net)

Joe Madonia introduced Ray Gebhardt, the original V.P. of N.S.V.A. to the group. Ray said the group members are the real heroes; to have kept vanning going all these years. He said, “In my wildest dreams, I never thought this would last this long.” Sonja asked how do we entice new members. Ray’s answer was simple, “No cliques. WELCOME NEW MEMBERS PERSONALLY!” Ray then told the story about the Olympics of Vanning.

Ray fielded questions from the group. He said he would answer e-mails if you have further questions. [raygebhardt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:raygebhardt@sbcglobal.net)

Joe noted that N.S.V.A. got us noticed, and got us sponsorships from Goodyear, MoPar, Chevy, Ford, etc.

Dave, from New England, asked how the group felt about re-cycling trophies. The group thought it was an excellent idea, and added that you should leave the original plaque on the trophy when you put the new plaque on. That way, the recipient would know what the original trophy was for. New England puts out their booklet, with all the info, for \$2 each.

Michelle brought up members of ICAN to help her distribute commemorative plaques of the 2009 CofC meeting, to all the reps and the CofC Board. The plaques were made up of playing cards attached to granite tops

Judith made a motion to adjourn and the meeting was concluded.

#### ATTENDEES AT THE 2009 COUNCIL OF COUNCILS MEETING:

- 1 A.L.I.V.E.
- 2 All In One Alliance
- 3 Arizona Van Council
- 4 Colorado Van Council
- 5 Downstate Illinois Van Council
- 6 Florida Van Council
- 7 Greater New York Van Council
- 8 Heart of America Van Council
- 9 Maryland Van Council
- 10 Mid America Street Van Association
- 11 Midwest Van Council
- 12 Missouri Van Council
- 13 National Federation Van Council
- 14 National Street Van Association - UK
- 15 New England Van Council
- 16 New Jersey Van Council
- 17 Northeast Ohio Van Congress
- 18 Northern California Van Council
- 19 Northwest Van Council
- 20 Ontario Federation Of Vanners
- 21 Pennsylvania Van Council
- 22 SouthEast Van Council
- 23 Southern California Vanners Network
- 24 Southern Ohio Van Council
- 25 Texas Van Federation
- 26 Van Council of Victoria
- 27 V.O.I.C.E.S.
- 28 West Lake Erie Van Council
- 29 Wisconsin Van Council

