

The Duster

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE LOUISIANA REGION AACA
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Chapters of the Louisiana Region Antique Automobile Club of America

Baton Rouge AACA
 Baton Rouge, LA

CENLA Old Car Club
 Alexandria, LA

Contraband AACA
 Lake Charles, LA

Evangeline AACA
 Lafayette, LA

Lagniappe AACA
 Houma, LA

Louisiana Region AACA

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President's Message

I hope everyone is having a good 2026 thus far. Schools are finishing up and families (especially the kids) are getting ready for summer vacations. I know everyone is planning activities to keep themselves cool through the upcoming summer heat.

I had a great time at the 2026 Louisiana Tour in Gonzales/Baton Rouge earlier this month. A special thank you to Wally and all the Baton Rouge members for hosting a successful tour. We had 82 people that braved the rain on that Friday to tour Sugarfield Spirits in Gonzales then on Saturday we toured LSU Tiger Stadium in Baton Rouge and the National Hansen's Disease Museum in Carville. Saturday afternoon we conducted our LA Region Board meeting (see minutes from meeting later in this newsletter) then finished up the tour with a banquet with great food, raffle items, 50/50 drawing, and awards.

Next up in 2026:

- 2nd quarterly drive and dine hosted by CENLA on June 13th at Cajun Catfish Buffett in Ville Platte;
- July 11th we will travel to Lake Arthur for the Collector Car Appreciation Day;
- Fall Tour hosted by CENLA on September 18th – 19th, registration form included in this newsletter
- We will also have the last two quarterly drive and dines.

In addition, each Chapter is also planning their own activities. I encourage each of you to get involved in your local chapter and invite guests to activities. Let's grow our chapters!

Again, please attend and enjoy these events to help make 2026 a fun and adventurous year.

God bless,

James Lass

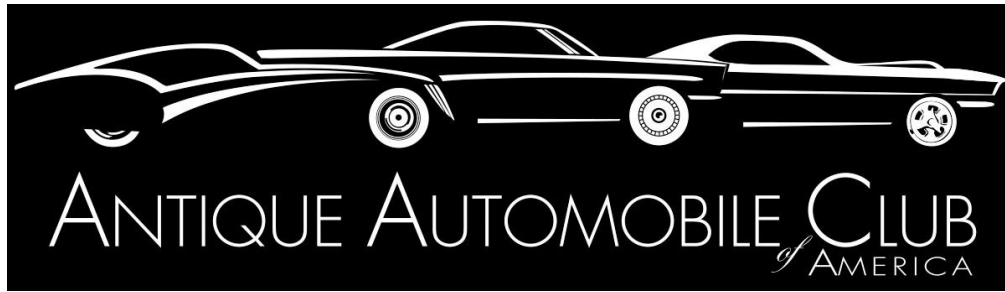
Regional President



Louisiana Region 2026 Point Earning Events

December 7, 2025	Region Board Meeting & Christmas luncheon
May 1-3, 2026	Louisiana Tour hosted by Baton Rouge Chapter Gonzales, Louisiana
September 18 & 19, 2026	Fall Rally hosted by Cenla

2026 DRIVE AND DINE ROTATION:**1ST QUARTER—LAGNIAPPE MARCH 14, 2026****2ND QUARTER—CENLA DATE—JUNE 13, 2026 AT CAJUN CAT-FISH BUFFET IN VILLE PLATTE****3RD QUARTER—CONTRABAND****4TH QUARTER—EVANGELINE****LOUISIANA TOUR ROTATION:****2026—BATON ROUGE—MAY 1-3, 2026****2027—EVANGELINE****2028—CONTRABAND****2029—LAGNIAPPE****2030—CENLA****2031—HORSELESS CARRIAGE**



**Would you like registration information and materials about any of these
National Activities?**

You can:

1. Fill out the activity request card that came with the last issue of *Antique Automobile* magazine and mail it to us.

2. Sign into the [members only area](#) of the AACA website to print your own registration form and brochure. You can also now fill out your registration online and pay via credit card. You will need your member number and your PIN. If you don't remember your member number and your PIN, give AACA Headquarters a call, and we can provide you with that information.

3. Call us at AACA Headquarters and we will fill out a request for you and mail you the materials. Call 717-534-1910 Mon.-Fri. from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

**May 28-30, 2026 – Eastern Spring Nationals –
Indiana, PA – hosted by Shannock Valley Region**

**June 11-13, 2026 – Southeastern Fall Nationals
– Oak Ridge, TN – hosted by Volunteer Region**

**June 15-19, 2026 – Sentimental Tour – Me-
chanicsburg, PA – hosted by Pontiac-Oakland
Worldwide Region**

**July 23-25, 2026 – Central Spring Nationals –
Green Bay, WI**

**August 19-22, 2026 – Annual Grand Nationals /
Zenith Awards – Allentown, PA – 717-534-1910**

**September 9-14, 2026 – Founders Tour (1932-
2001) – Williamsburg, VA – hosted by Historic
VA Peninsula Region**

**September 20-26, 2026 – Revival AAA Glidden
Tour (Pre-1943) – Dover, DE**

**October 6-9, 2026 – Eastern Fall Nationals –
Hershey, PA – hosted by Hershey Region**



Check out our clubs' websites:

<https://contrabandaaca.com/>



<https://evangelinechapteraaca.com/>

<https://cenlaoldcarclub.com/>

<https://louisianaregion.aaca.com/>

IMPORTANT!

When your club gets a new member, their information needs to be sent to the regional secretary, Lesia Lass (llass@yahoo.com) so that she may add them to the regional email list. If this information is not shared, those new members will not receive The Duster, nor any regional emails keeping them updated on events happening across the region. Please help keep all members updated!

Important

Board Meeting**May 2, 2026****Louisiana Tour, Gonzales, LA**

James Lass, Regional President, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. James led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and Jim Stratton led the group in a prayer. James then did a roll call of those in attendance:

James Lass, Regional President

Bart Guidroz, Evangeline President

Faye Drake, Contraband President

Whitney Richard, Lagniappe President

Wally Waguespack, Baton Rouge President

Leo Dobard, Cenla President

Harry Kleinman, Treasurer

Perry Richardson, Historian

Guests in attendance:

Marty Roth

Charlie Froehlich

Jim Stratton

Brenda DeRouen

Minutes of Meeting from December: James asked everyone if they had reviewed the minutes of the December meeting printed in The Duster January/February 2026 issue. All agreed they had, then he asked for a motion to accept the minutes as printed. Bart Guidroz made motion to accept with Wally Waguespack seconding and the motion passed.

Treasury Report: Harry Kleinman gave an update on the treasury's report. Faye Drake made a motion to accept the report with Leo Dobard seconding the motion. The motion passed.

Tour Rotations: James recapped the tour rotations for both the state tours and chapter tour rotations. Leo Dobard gave a update on what Cenla is planning for the chapter fall tour. It will be a combination of a tour and a rally, held on September 18th & 19th

Louisiana Tour Rotation:

2026—Baton Rouge

2027—Evangeline

2028—Contraband

2029—Lagniappe

2030—Cenla

2031—Horseless Carriage

Rotation Repeats

Chapter Tour Rotation:

2026—Cenla—September 18th & 19th, Alexandria

2027—Lagniappe

2028—Cenla & Baton Rouge

2029—Evangeline

2030—Contraband and Baton Rouge

Quarterly Drive and Dine Rotation:

1st Qtr.—Lagniappe—March 14th, Feezo's, Broussard

2nd Qtr.—Cenla—June 13th Cajun Catfish, Ville Platte

3rd Qtr.—Contraband—August

4th Qtr.—Evangeline

Rotation Repeats in 2027

Regional Dues: James reminded the board members that at the December 2025 meeting, everyone voted to discontinue collecting regional dues for the 2026 year only. Harry made a motion to continue the practice of not charging regional dues for the 2027 year only with Whitney Richard seconding the motion. Board voted to accept the motion of not collecting regional dues for the 2027 year only and to revisit the practice at the May 2027 board meeting for 2028.

Scholarships: James asked the presidents to give an update on whether or not they have given out any scholarship donations yet for the 2026 year. Faye Drake said Contraband has not done it yet but had plans in the works to donate to the technical college in Lake Charles. Leo Dobard said he is talking with Tioga High School's Automotive Department but does not have a date yet to give them the donation. Other clubs have not made any plans at this time. James encourage everyone to find an organization to donate their club \$200 with region matching \$200 (\$400 total).

Old Business: Faye Drake encouraged each chapter to make a goal for this year to grow their chapters. Wally gave update that Baton Rouge has six new members this past month.

New Business: Whitney Richard informed the board members that he learned that the State of Louisiana passed a law that to get an antique car license plate the vehicle has to be 35 years old, not 25 years as in the past. Whitney pointed out that Louisiana AACA does not have a parliamentary liaison that is monitoring the legislature. Fortunately, the insurance policy is still at 25 years to insure an antique vehicle. Perry pointed out that Parliamentary and Legislative Liaison are two different responsibilities/jobs. Harry asked Perry if he would be the Regional Parliamentary. Faye seconded and Perry accepted the position. He did say that he is not interested in being Legislative Liaison. James asked the presidents to go back to their clubs and ask for a volunteer to take over the Legislative Liaison.

Harry pointed out that Wally has been paying the dues for filing the annual incorporation with the State of Louisiana and the region needs to reimburse Wally. Wally will submit to Harry how many years he has filed and a total amount to get reimbursed.

Regional President for 2027: James pointed out that at the end of December 2026, his term as regional president expires. Lagniappe Chapter is next on the rotation for providing the regional president. Someone in the Lagniappe chapter will need to nominate someone from Lagniappe at the general membership meeting following this board meeting to take over as regional president 2027. Marty Roth made a nomination for Whitney Richard to be the regional president 2027. Since Marty will be unavailable at the general membership meeting, it was agreed that James would announce that Marty made the nomination during the board meeting.

James asked for a motion to adjourn the regional board meeting. Harry made motion and Wally seconded.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

James Lass asked all past presidents both chapter and regional to stand to be recognized. He then asked all new members that this is their first time to attend an AACA event to stand to be recognized. Harry gave a regional treasury report to the general members in attendance. James thanked Lagniappe for a successful first quarter drive and dine and pointed out that Cenla is hosting the second quarter drive and dine on June 13th in Ville Platte at Cajun Catfish. He also recapped to the general members the tour rotations. James then informed the general members that his term as regional president comes to an end at the end of December 2026. He informed the members that during the board members meeting that Marty Roth from Lagniappe nominated Whitney Richard from Lagniappe as the 2027 Regional President. James asked for a second motion to accept the nomination. Celeste Hebert seconded the motion to accept the nomination. James asked if there were any other nominations for regional president. As there were no other nominations, Whitney accepted the position. Whitney then informed everyone that Faye Drake has accepted the position of secretary, and Harry Kleinman will continue as treasurer.



James then asked all the past regional presidents to come to the front to present the Past President's Award. The past presidents picked car number 11, Bob McCarron from Baton Rouge to receive this award for his 1956 Ford Club Sedan. James then turned the meeting over to Wally Waguespack, Baton Rouge President.

Wally gave out the following awards for the 2026 Louisiana Tour:

Lady's Choice—Gregory & Sandra Easley, 1956 T'Bird

People's Choice—Jim & Marguerite Ortego, 1967 Pontiac GTO Convertible



LOUISIANA AACA FALL TOUR
Hosted by the CENLA OLD CAR CLUB
September 18-19, 2026
 Alexandria, LA



Headquarters: Courtyard By Marriott Hotel
 3830 Alexandria Mall Drive
 Alexandria, LA

(318) 445-2415 (INDIVIDUALS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR RESERVATIONS)

ROOM RATES: \$119 per room plus tax – go to link below – scroll to bottom of page to “Check Availability” DO NOT click “HOTEL WEBSITE”

<https://app.marriott.com/reslink?id=1775072438029&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

FRIDAY, September 18: Registration will be from 10:00 till noon. Subway sandwiches, chips and a drink will be available 11:00 AM until noon.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON TOUR: We will be lining up at 12:30 in the Courtyard parking lot and departing at 1:00. We will be visiting the Booker Fowler Fish Hatchery in Forest Hill. Then we will be driving some scenic backroads towards the Village of Forest Hill where we will meet at the Senior Citizens Center to learn about the history of Forest Hill and their development as the Nursey Capital of the Louisiana. Departing Forest Hill, we will travel through historic Camp Claiborne ending at Tunk's Cypress Inn Restaurant on Kincaid Lake for a seafood and roast beef buffet (cost of meal is included in registration fee).

More information will be in the tour booklet given at registration.

FRIDAY NIGHT HOSPITALITY: The Courtyard is providing a hospitality room for our group to visit, play bouree', etc.

SATURDAY MORNING, September 19: Breakfast starting at 7:00 AM. at hotel. Breakfast tickets will be issued to each guest.

SATURDAY TOUR: Cars will need to depart hotel by 8:30 a.m. to travel to Family of Grace Church, 4200 South MacArthur Drive, Alexandria to pick up your rally directions/instructions and begin rally. Rally will be through Avoyelles Parish. Lunch stop will be included in your directions/instructions. Individuals will be responsible for the cost of lunch (cost not included in registration fee). Following lunch 50/50 drawing and awards will be given. Participants free to go home after awards.

50/50 tickets will be available at registration, dinner Friday night, and breakfast Saturday morning.

LOUISIANA TOUR - Registration Form 2026

Name _____ Guest _____

Children _____ Phone _____ Chapter _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

AACA# _____ Auto Insurance Carrier _____ Make, Model, Year of car _____

Fees:	Car and Driver	_____	\$70	_____	\$70
Guest		\$70 x ()	=	_____	_____

Total Amount included \$ _____

*Cancellations after 9/1/2026
 subject to a \$45 catering fee per person.*

Make check payable to CENLA Old Car Club

Mail to: James Lass
 4046 Old Marksville
 Pineville, LA 71360

Email any questions to James Lass @ jameslass@bellsouth.net

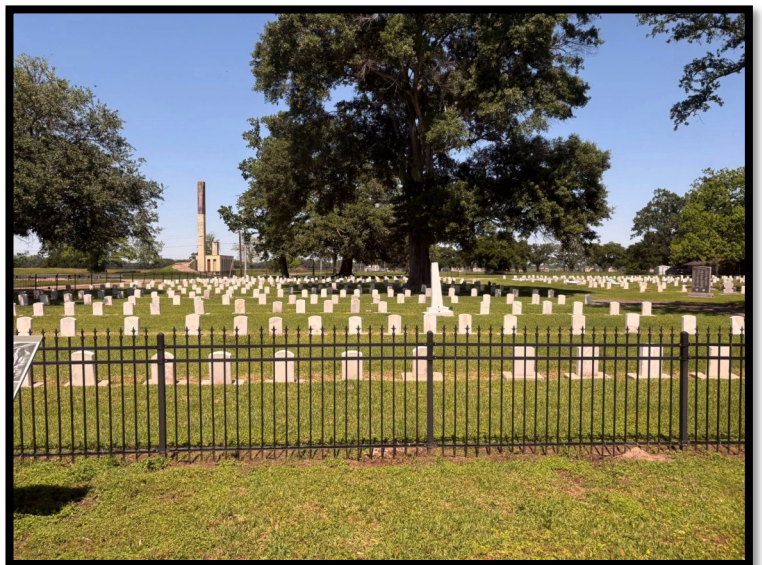
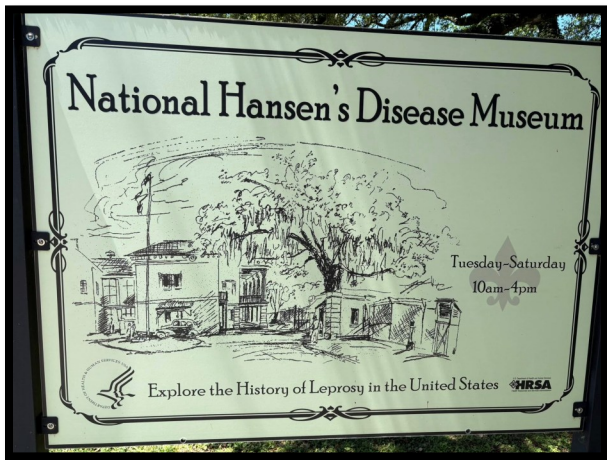
DONATION

CENLA Old Car Club donated some much needed funds to Rapides Parish, Tioga High School's Automotive Department. Brian Branch, the department's teacher said the funds were very appreciated and would go toward purchasing some much needed tools. Representing the club was Leo Dobard, James & Doris Raila, Herb Comeaux, and James & Lesia Lass.



2026 La. TOUR—HOSTED BY BATON ROUGE CHAPTER
GONZALES, LA
PLACES TOURED—LSU TIGER STADIUM, NATIONAL HANSEN'S
DISEASE MUSEUM, AND SUGERFIELD SPIRITS





Did you know?

In 1992, the National Park Service placed the Carville Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places. Also referred to as the Gillis W. Long Center (GWLC), the museum is one of seven Louisiana National Guard Installations statewide.





WINNER

2026 Founders Tour

An Amazing Race through History

September 9-14 ~ Williamsburg, Virginia

**Reservation
Deadline:
May 15**

Hosted by the Historic Virginia
Peninsula Region AACA

Visit
hvpr.aaca.com
for more
information



VISIT
WILLIAMSBURG
JAMESTOWN ♥ YORKTOWN



ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB
of America

AMERICA
MADE IN
VIRGINIA

VA250

Register online at AACA.org or request
registration materials from AACA National

Is YOUR Region/Chapter Prepared for Car Show Season?

When your region or chapter holds a local car show or attends a local car show, that is your best opportunity to recruit members. The people attending the show are there because they have already have an interest in antique cars. If your event is open to non-members, those who have registered and are showing their cars are already willing to participate. These are the folks you should be engaging about how much you enjoy being an AACA member and that they should think about joining.

Now don't be caught empty-handed at this point! Make sure your region/chapter has something to hand out to potential new members. When you are planning your event, be sure to reach out to National Headquarters to get a supply of materials to help you.

All of these items are available to you at no charge:

- ⇒ **AACA National Membership Brochure**
- ⇒ **AACA National Membership Application**
- ⇒ **Camaro Car Cutouts**
- ⇒ **AACA National Military Membership Application**

To request a supply of these items, please email Karen (kwhite@aaca.org) and include your region, address where you would like the items mailed to and the date of your event.

JOIN THE FUN!
AACA
MEMBERSHIP



**Come for the Cars,
Stay for the People.**

- Celebrating vehicles 25 years and older
- AACA is one of the largest and most inclusive car clubs in the world with more than 40,000 members
- Ownership of an antique vehicle is not required for membership



For Sale

1988 Avanti Convertible



Avantis were originally manufactured by Studebaker Corp. in 1962 and 1963 as a fiberglass coupe. When Studebaker ceased production, **Leo Newman and Nate Altman**, wealthy Studebaker dealers, bought the rights to the Avanti, tooling and stock to continue manufacturing the car in one of the Studebaker buildings in South Bend, Indiana. They called it the **Avanti II** to differentiate it from the Studebaker produced cars. Other owners and partners continued to manufacture coupes and convertibles under Avanti Motor Corporation until 2006. As the company ran out of most Studebaker parts, they began basing the car on GM production cars.

This Avanti, manufactured under the "Michael Kelly Era" in Youngstown, Ohio, is based on a 1988 Chevrolet Monte Carlo (GM 305CID). It is a reliable and road worthy car with 77,038 miles. It doesn't burn any oil and gets average fuel mileage. It rides on 15" original chrome wire wheels. The interior is in good condition.

AACA National First Senior Award, Naples FL in 2016. Only about 250 Avanti Convertibles ever produced.

\$25,000 Seller: Fred Duplechin, 985 803-0672

FOR SALE

1971 Chevy El Camino for sale, asking \$28,000

- ♦ Exterior - gray with black racing striped & black vinyl top.
- ♦ Interior—Black
- ♦ Engine—automatic 350 bored out to 383
- ♦ Stroker - 4 barrel carburetor
- ♦ Approximately 10,000 miles on engine

Call Toup or Pam Sonnier if interested - 337-207-3226



Louisiana Region

Antique Automobile Club of America

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Summer
time