

POCI Membership RENEWAL Form

Your subscription to *Smoke Signals* magazine and membership in the Pontiac-Oakland Club International may be due. If the renewal date on your mailing label (which is to the right of your membership number) is between **Nov. 1, 2025** and **Dec. 31, 2025**, please complete this form and return it immediately with payment (photocopies are acceptable).

We don't want you to miss a single issue of *Smoke Signals* or any other important information about POCI.

- ☐ \$25.00..... **Worldwide E-Membership: Web Site access & downloadable version of *Smoke Signals***
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NAME: _____ POCI MEMBERSHIP NUMBER: _____

RENEW! Online: www.poci.org • (763) 479-2111 • Mail: POCI World HQ, PO Box 421, Long Lake, MN 55356

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YEAR STYLE NAME / NUMBER Number of CYLINDERS

YEAR STYLE NAME / NUMBER Number of CYLINDERS

NAME: _____

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Our 54th Annual Convention is Quickly Approaching!

In this issue you will find the third installment of our 2026 "Convention Update." Although the club has hosted conventions for over 50 years, each one of them brings special considerations and challenges; it's not a plug-and-play type of thing.

I want to encourage you to attend next year's convention as there will be some rather special aspects associated with it. Most importantly, we will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of Pontiac Motor Division at its birthplace in Pontiac, Michigan. This is truly a "once in a lifetime" event for each of us!

In case you are new to our club and have never before attended a POCI convention, please understand that members must first register for the event with the Club Office. Look for the blank form presented on page 55, complete it and mail it along with your payment to the specified address.

Meanwhile, be sure to also carefully review each issue's Convention Update. Why? First and foremost, these informative pieces are intended to build excitement for the upcoming convention — gatherings which are, in fact, major productions that are designed to entertain and, in some cases, educate attendees. Our guest speakers, tours and other activities will round-out your experience, and these Updates will help you decide which optional activities you might want to include in your plans.

Then, at some point — usually around March — the club mails out an Activities Packet to all members who've registered. Inside this packet will be a schedule and an Activity Sheet that you must fill out and send back along with any additional payment required for the optional events, activities and extras that you wish to participate in. There are so many things going on each day that it might be hard to decide which activities to do, or which places to visit.

When you receive this Activities Packet in the mail, it would be to your advantage to fill it out and return it *immediately*, as some of the more popular activities with limited spaces can "sell out" quickly. Don't be left out!

We are anticipating a larger than average turnout in 2026. This implies a bigger swap meet, more show vehicles, more fun and more opportunities to interact with your friends and fellow

members. If you have any questions, simply reach out to the Club Office and we'll do our best to assist. We hope to see you in Pontiac for our centennial celebration!

This issue's cover story features a 1948 station wagon that was recently acquired by Steve Darling. Steve volunteers as a docent at the Pontiac Transportation Museum. You may recall that we featured his 1974 Grand Ville in the August 2023 issue.

Unfortunately, very little history of Steve's "Woodie" was handed down, so this feature is more about 1948 Pontiacs in general than it is about his particular car. I like having the unique history to present, but in this case, it wasn't possible.

Casual observers are often amazed by the wood used in the construction of the earliest station wagons. Below is a photo which highlights the beautiful timber that's found on the interior of Steve's wagon.

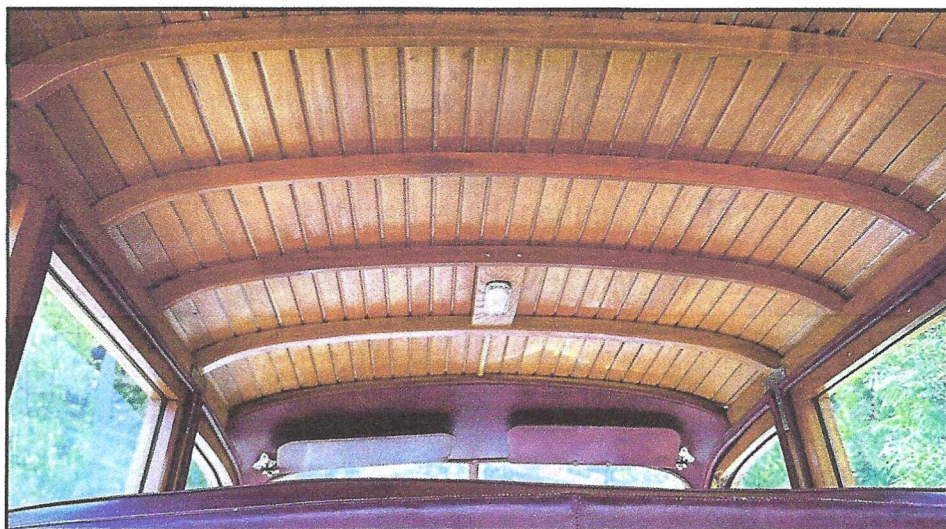
Moving forward nearly a decade, we have a story in this issue about a 1957 Star Chief convertible that was hidden away in a North Dakota shed for 55 years — a true barn find car if there ever was one for new owner Tim Rogers. Read about his car beginning on page 32.

Tom Diegelman is a man of many interests, but it is his passion for all things associated with 1968 GTOs that led him to learn more about the coveted *Motor Trend* "Car of the Year" award which that Pontiac received that year. He then sought to either scratch-build a replica of the actual trophy, or to find an elusive *original* example. His years-long quest brought about a surprising end, and his story begins on page 24.

POCI member Rick Mahoney recently made the headlines in the car collector world when he purchased four legendary Pontiac Super Duty race cars at auction. Mark Neumann takes a closer look at Rick's impressive Pontiac collection in an interview that begins on page 14.

Dimitrie is back with more tales of childhood vacations as experienced from the back seat of his family's Pontiac. And, Gerson has even more quips and insights in his latest *Mailbag* replies. Look for these columns and more on the pages just ahead. *Enjoy!*

Tim Dye



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