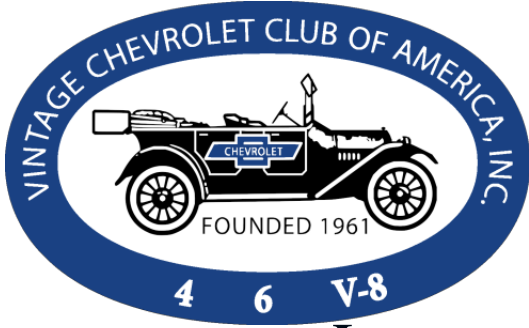


December 2022

# CHEVY CHATTER



## Lower Michigan Region

# 2022 Annual Awards Banquet

story by Tim Reinke    Photos by Corrie Mehl & Pat Mehl

On November 5, 2022, our season came to an end at the place General Motors started: Factory One, in Flint. We were given a brief history of the building by our host before lunch. Lunch was catered and was enjoyed by all but the stars of the meal were the homemade desserts. There were pies and cobbler made by Bill Anderson and Bekka Mehl. Once lunch was completed, we were treated to a couple of videos; one explaining the history of General Motors, especially Buick, the other explaining the significance of Factory One and General Motors work in perserving the building. 🚗



# On This Date in History: Last Chevy Nova Produced Dec 22, 1978

After WWII, pent-up demand in the US for bigger, wider and longer automobiles drove Detroit's Big Three and all other US auto manufacturers to the boats of the 1950s but in 1958, that all changed. An economic downturn in 1958 caused auto sales to decline 31% and unemployment in Detroit skyrocketed to 20%. This was the worst economic conditions seen in the US since the 1930s and most consumers still had nightmares of the great depression. In order to tighten their wallets, Americans started to turn towards smaller cars which were being imported and proved to be very popular.



A 1978 Chevy Nova advertisement

In 1960, Ford released its first compact car, the Falcon, with great success. Chevrolet was right behind with their Corvair. The Corvair, however, faced strong headwinds from the start and while certainly not a flop, the car did not have the desired result of competing head-to-head with the Ford Falcon. In March of 1960, Chevrolet started to design something all new, it would not be based on any existing platform nor would it be anything revolutionary. There was much debate as to what this new car should be called and 2 names rose to the top, both of which would be used.

In August of 1961, just 18 months after design started, the first Chevy II's were completed at Chevrolet's Willow Run plant, right next to its older brother, the Corvair. There has never been any formal reason given why the name "Chevy II" was chosen other than it was simple and started with a "C". The Chevy II was originally offered in 4 trim packages (100, 200, 300 and 400). The other name Chevrolet contemplated was saved for the top of the line and called the Chevy II Nova 400.

In 1969, Chevrolet decided to drop the "Chevy II" moniker and the entire line was re-branded simply as the Chevy Nova. The name would be used until production ended on December 22, 1978 and the Nova was no more...or was it...

see page 4 for the rest of the story

## More Banquet Photos

courtesy of Pat Mehl



## From Behind the Steering Wheel

with Brian Granger

The year, 2022, is almost over. The LMR Board, for 2023, have already been hard at work. We have already had two zoom meetings about the 2023 Central Meet, which the LMR will be hosting in July, at the Gilmore Museum. The Chairpersons are Tim and Pat Mehl and they will be posting more information about the event. I hope to see many of you there.



If you know an interesting place the club might like to visit, let myself and/or Bill Anderson know about it. It can even be a repeat place the club has been to in the past. I know I have not been on many tours over the past few years as because life has gotten in the way.

I have been working the tour rep., Raven Hand, from the Detroit Area Corvair Club, to possible have a joint tour. They, like the LMR, like to tour on less traveled back roads, too. Their tours are usually in the southern half of the state from Port Huron to Ludington and south.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to those December Brides and Grooms. HAPPY BIRTHDAY to all you December babies (Bruce and I, too).

Happy Hanukka, Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa and a Happy New Year !

## Happy Anniversary!

Larry & Melissa Lauria  
December 11, 1999

Mike & Barb Sparks  
December 17, 1982

Bill & Joann Tylka  
December 22, 1979

Richard & Jeanette Beach  
December 28, 1976

## Happy Birthday!

- 4 Michael Buller
- 6 Rod Thomas
- 7 Scott Taylor
- 9 Andy West
- 26 Joann Tylka
- 29 Brian Granger
- 29 Bruce Granger
- 31 Wayne Jackson

**Membership renewal:** If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2023, please do so by December 31st 2022, even if there has been no change to your contact or car information. A renewal form has been included in this newsletter.

If you wish to renew online by check or credit card, go to <https://lmrvcca.org/membership/>

## 2023 Board of Directors

Director	Brian Granger	Grangerb59@yahoo.com	(810) 348 - 5198
Asst. Director	Bill Anderson	old50grit@gmail.com	
Secretary	Tim Mehl	TLMehl54@hotmail.com	
Treasurer	Pat Mehl	Jakobs.grama@gmail.com	

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	Brian Granger	GrangerB59@yahoo.com

*The purpose of the VCCA is to promote interest in the preservation and restoration of vintage Chevrolet manufactured vehicles and GMC manufactured trucks. Ownership of a vintage Chevrolet or GMC is not a prerequisite for membership. LMR region dues are \$20 per year. To become a member, an applicant must be a National VCCA member in good standing. National dues are \$40 yearly.*

# Last Chevy Nova Cont. from pg 2

In the spring of 1984, Chevrolet would revive the name "Nova" for one last go and use it until 1988 but this nova was very different from the Chevrolet Nova of years earlier. This new nova was essentially a rebadged and retrimmed Toyota Corolla. It was assembled by the New United Motor Manufacturing, Inc. (NUMMI) at General Motor's then-defunct Fremont California assembly plant. Most Chevy Nova purists do not consider the Toyota designed nova a true Nova and that is why the last Chevy Nova was produced on December 22, 1978.



## Corrections

In the November Chevy Chatter, I had the date of the GLR - VMCCA swap meet wrong. Here is the corrected date:

May 6th            GLR-VMCCA Swap Meet            Fowlerville, MI

## Wanted:

Cloth patches from VCCA Anniversary Meets (10th - 1971, 15th - 1976 & 50th -2011). I want to finish my collection, I have all other years. I don't know how I missed 2011, oh wait! I was poor.

- Brian Granger, LMR VCCA Director  
(810) 348 - 5198 or grangerb59@yahoo.com

## Upcoming Events

### January

7-8	Detroit Swap Meet, Novi MI	Novi MI
8	Great Lakes Region, VCCA Swap Meet	Peotone IL
29	Script A MARC Swap Meet	Saginaw MI

### February

3-4	KAARC Swap Meet	Kalamazoo MI
5	Walter P. Chrysler – Great Lakes Region Swap Meet	Warren MI
10-12	B2B Chrome and Ice Car Show	Flint, MI
24-26	Detroit Autorama	Detroit MI

## A Note of Appreciation to the Club:



### Thanks for the Memories!

Clarence really enjoyed the many years of your friendship in "The Chevy Club."  
God bless all of you.

-Marie Straus



MERRY CHRISTMAS



The Straus Family



# LOWER MICHIGAN REGION

## VINTAGE CHEVROLET CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP and/or MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



The purpose of the VCCA is to promote interest in the preservation and restoration of vintage Chevrolet and GMC-manufactured vehicles 25 or more years old.

Ownership of a vintage Chevrolet/GMC is not a prerequisite for membership.

In accordance with ORGANIZATION BY-LAWS, each applicant **must be a NATIONAL**

**VCCA MEMBER in good standing** in order to become a REGION MEMBER. Yearly VCCA dues are \$40.00. LMR Dues are \$20/yr. To Join VCCA, go to [www.vcca.org](http://www.vcca.org) or fill out an application. LMR membership on the web:

[www.lmrvcca.org/membership](http://www.lmrvcca.org/membership)

Your National VCCA # \_\_\_\_\_

National expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

(Regional dues are accepted pending receipt of National VCCA member & expiration date)

Region renewal is due by mid-January. All region members will receive a monthly newsletter, January - December.

The Chevy Chatter Newsletter will be distributed via email unless specifically requested.

For 2023 LMR is offering the same Next Generation Membership for 18 to 25 year old VCCA members as VCCA is featuring. This attractive membership is just \$5/yr. and brings you in contact with veteran LMR members plus club tour and car show activities.

Member 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Member 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdays (mm/dd) Member 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Member 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Anniv mm/dd/yy) \_\_\_\_\_

Summer Address \_\_\_\_\_ Dates of Res \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Winter Address \_\_\_\_\_ Dates of Res \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email 1 : \_\_\_\_\_ Email 2 : \_\_\_\_\_

LIST VINTAGE CHEVROLETS OWNED (if any--attach list if needed)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Model</u>	<u>Body Style</u>	<u># Cylinders</u>	<u>Condition</u>
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Membership Year: \_\_\_\_\_ 2023: \$20.00

\_\_\_\_\_ 2023 & 2024: \$40.00

Next Gen Membership: \_\_\_\_\_ 2023: \$5.00

\_\_\_\_\_ 2023& 2024: \$10.00

Return completed form with dues to:

**LMR VCCA Membership**

3301 Saddle Ridge

Highland, MI 48357-2535

**Checks Payable to:**

**VCCA Lower Michigan Region**

# Thank you to the following sponsor of the LMR Chevy Chatter

[www.LMRVCCA.org](http://www.LMRVCCA.org)

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@VCCA\_Official and visit the VCCA  
facebook page often!!



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Please remember to renew your membership with Bill Anderson for 2023!

Richmond, MI 48062  
29900 33 Mile Rd  
Chevy Chatter Editor