

# The 70<sup>th</sup> CCCA Annual Meeting

by John Milliken  
with photos by Leslie Milliken

The 2022 Annual Meeting was held at the famous and historic Breakers Hotel in Palm Beach, Florida. It was a bit of a wild ride during the weeks leading up to the event, which took place from January 5th to 9th. Your hardworking National Board encountered untold challenges during that period caused by a variety of issues. You may recall that in Southern California during the last two weeks of December we welcomed, and were plagued by unrelentless waves of rain, with even worse weather throughout the South and Northeast. This caused thousands of canceled flights during a week when millions of people were traveling home from holiday vacation. Additionally, there was an increased incidence of COVID-19 cases across Florida and the rest of the country, creating staff shortages in the hospitality industry. But the Annual Meeting committee rose to the challenge, particularly SoCal members Fred Lax, Vicki Zeiger and Ron Verschoor, constantly addressing schedule changes, venue cancellations, and myriad boat and buses issues.

Here I have to say that The Breakers, reconstructed during the Roaring Twenties, more than lived up to its reputation. It was very well-staffed and provided excellent service. The facility was impeccably clean and abided by suggested COVID



JANUARY  
5-9, 2022

Palm  
Beach,  
Florida

precautions and on top of all of that, gave us a substantially reduced room rate for the 75 rooms making up our commitment.

Leslie and I arrived the evening of Tuesday the 4th. We took an Uber from the airport and upon entering the long driveway to the hotel entrance, we encountered a spectacular Christmas display of two dozen tall palm trees laden with thousands of Christmas lights. The Christmas motif continued inside with the lobby decorated with two huge trees. The displays remained in place for the duration of our visit, extending our holiday mindset through the first week of January. This is the second time The Breakers served as the host hotel for a CCCA Annual Meeting; the first took place in 2011.

The first of many activities took place the next day, Wednesday the 5th. The welcome reception was staged near the main pool (there were four pools on the property that I counted) at the Beach Club bar and restaurant patio. Buffet dining and drinks were ample, accompanied by a disc jockey who played just the right music to encourage dancing by our well-lubed members.

Thursday morning began with the well-attended annual Membership Meeting with >

*Photos clockwise from left: The exterior of the Breakers Hotel; Lineup of Classics at The Breakers; Annual Meeting Head Judge John Milliken presenting awards at the final banquet.*





presentations by National Board members who discussed Club business, initiative updates and a preview of upcoming events for 2022. At 11:15 a.m., we boarded buses for the first of our visits to local car collections, the Stable Car Collection. Lunch followed at Mar-a-Lago, the famed home built by Marjorie Merriweather Post. She was the sole heir to the Postum Cereal Company (Post Cereals), which later expanded to become General Foods. Completed in 1927, Mar-a-Lago means "Sea-to-Lake" as it spans the land between the Atlantic Ocean and the Lake Worth lagoon. Donald Trump purchased the property in 1985. Because our group was so large (about 150 of us), there were two lunch seatings in the banquet room. The former President was in residence at the time and the second seating received a surprise visit from him where he posed for photos. In addition to the Stable Car Collection, we visited the spectacular Lehrman Collection. This collection is proof that a collection

*Photos this page clockwise from top: Lunch at Mar-a-Lago; Visiting Mar-a-Lago.*

*Photos opposite page clockwise from top left: We cruised the Intracoastal Waterway aboard the Catalina; Vice President of Regions Vicki Zeiger with Club President Steve Babinsky; The Stable Car Collection.*



does not have to be large to be spectacular, in other words, quality over quantity. Each of these cars represented the best of the best of the most valuable marques. The Lehrman Collection is housed in a bank vault-like structure, able to withstand a category 5 hurricane. Unfortunately we were not allowed to take photos here but the collection's cars are regulars on the concours circuit.

Friday the 7th began with Club business meetings covering Regional Relations, the CCCA Museum and the Education Foundation. The liveliest meeting had to be the Classification >







*Photos from top: Our distinguished panel of CCCA judges; John Milliken, Joe Pirrone, Susan Tetz, Vicki & Carl Zeiger and Fred Lax.*

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Meeting. Attended by about 50 members, there was much discussion regarding the pros and cons of admitting new Classics and possibly advancing the 1948 cutoff date to a few years later for Classics that are identical to their 1948 counterparts. As I am now the Head of the Classification Committee, I know I have my job cut out for me. Please, no death threats!

We had lunch at Benvenuto restaurant just a few miles from the hotel where we were treated to a guest speaker who captivated us with a detailed account of Alexander Hamilton. Our speaker detailed Hamilton's lifelong accomplishments which included his term as President of the United States and continues to fascinate generations today through the modern musical Hamilton. That evening, we boarded cruise vessel Catalina for a two-hour adventure along the calm waters of the Intracoastal Waterway which included cocktails and appetizers. It was a beautiful cruise with wonderful weather, as was the case the entire week.

Saturday was show day for our Classics. About 25 Full Classics® lined a parallel lot adjacent to the gorgeous entry road to The Breakers. I was Chief Judge and our qualified judging teams evaluated 14 cars ranging from a 1915 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost to a 1942 Cadillac. Tabulation duties were led by SoCal member and tabulator extraordinaire, Belva Baltzar.

That evening, collector car dealer Mark Hyman (and SoCal member) hosted a cocktail party for the 150 or so members prior to the Regional and Grand Classic Award Banquet. At Annual Meetings we also present the Warshawsky Award for Best of Show. It deservedly went to a 1934 Packard Twelve 1108 Stationary Coupe by Dietrich that is part of the Lehrman Collection. (Did you know the Warshawsky Award made its debut at a SoCal event? It was first presented at the 1994 Annual Meeting in Anaheim.) The 2022 Annual Meeting was a wonderful and very memorable event and thanks to the hardworking team that made it happen. •



*Photos from top: 1929 Duesenberg J Town Sedan by Murphy from the Lehrman Collection; 1931 Cadillac 355 Sport Phaeton by Murhpy owned by Dave Gano; The oldest Classic on the field was this 1915 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost owned by Dan Gernatt.*



*Photos from top: The Warshawsky Best of Show award was presented to this 1934 Packard 1108 Dietrich Coupe from the Lehrman Collection; The newest Classic on the field was this 1942 Cadillac 62 Coupe owned by Steve Cooley, Jr.*