

## SACC ANNUAL RENEWAL NOTICE

*By Lucy Badenhoop*

The SACC board was recently notified by the On Solid Ground editor, Alan Blay, that he is increasing his quarterly fee from \$1500 to \$3500 starting 1 Jan 2026. This \$8000 annual increase is not supportable within the current approved budget for next year and would require a board vote to authorize payment. It would also require another dues increase which is not possible by his short deadline. The earliest a dues increase could be approved is at the next member's annual meeting during the convention in June 2026.

**Consequently, there will be some forced changes to the SACC operations during 2026.**

Additional facts to be considered:

1. The board has been watching the dwindling SACC membership as our vehicle owners age out (we are currently about 1000, dropping at a rate of about 100/year). Financially, dues can support the magazine with a membership of 500 at the old prices. At the new prices, we need about 678 members ( $\$8000 / \$45 = 178$  dues). At that projection, SACC would be at its breakeven point in about 3-4 years.
2. Dwindling support for management of the club. It is more difficult each year to find members willing to fill the SACC officer positions. Most chapters are in the same situation. The Florida Chapter recently dissolved for the same issue.
3. In recent years, chapters have declined to sponsor the conventions, so national board members have had to step forward individually to make it happen.
4. Skills & parts suppliers to maintain these classic cars are also aging out and disappearing.
5. Vehicle prices continue to skyrocket, such that younger folks cannot afford to own/drive them. They are disappearing into the private collections of the wealthy.

It appears that a combination of the above is forecasting the continued loss of support for a club like SACC that focusses on ordinary folks driving these classics. It seems the writing is on the wall: SACC disbands in 3-4 years or sooner. Due to the new unaffordable price of the OSG editor, the board has chosen sooner.

### **HERE'S OUR PHASE OUT PLAN:**

- A. Continue SACC operations thru 2026 (convention/magazine/etc.) with a new editor.
- B. Chapters: support chapters to continue as individual clubs by providing
  - a. SACC membership data
  - b. Use of logo
  - c. Use of Bylaws
  - d. Other support as needed
- C. National Dues: refund future years and only accept new payments for 2026.
- D. June Convention: Make the St. Louis MO gathering special
  - a. No registration fee; special swag bag items
  - b. Discount sales of logo items in inventory
  - c. Free hand out of extra OSG back issues
- E. On Solid Ground publication; return to original concept – keep the cars on the road.
  - a. OSG is currently 32-36 pages; half of which is predetermined material (Table of Contents, Presidents Message, etc.; the other half is editor generated articles.
  - b. For 2026, replace editor articles with member/chapter materials. This would shift the emphasis from current events (shows & auctions) to vehicle maintenance information or historical milestones of the club.
    - i. Cherry pick 30 years of old issues for such material.
    - ii. Cherry pick chapter newsletters for such material.
    - iii. Accept new material from members.
    - iv. Feature member's C-1 stories (see Dad's 59 cover on Nov 2025 OSG).
    - v. Enlarged use of member adds on Market Place page(s).