

THE VOICE

CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF CAR CLUBS (4C's)

Important Upcoming 4C's Dates:

Everyone's Membership Renewals Due ...	01/01/18
February Business Meeting	02/05/18
2018 State Legislative Session Begins	02/07/18
April Business Meeting	04/02/18
2018 State Legislative Session Ends.....	05/09/18
June Business Meeting	06/04/18
August Business Meeting	08/06/18
November Business Meeting	11/05/18
January Business Meeting	01/07/19

Legislative Report

Dave Bajumpaa

The 2018 Legislative Session will begin on February 7, 2018 and end on May 9, 2018. In preparation for the upcoming session, we will be voting to retain the services of Hughes and Cronin Public Affairs Strategies to monitor legislation related to the antique auto hobby at the February 5th Business meeting. We have retained Hughes and Cronin in previous years. Their 2018 fee is unchanged from the 2017 fee. In this monitoring capacity, Hughes and Cronin informs us of pending legislation related to the hobby. We report to you on any legislation potentially impacting the antique auto hobby, and ask you to contact your legislators and help get favorable legislation passed, and unfavorable legislation defeated throughout the session (i.e., a "grass roots" approach).

The major challenge the legislature will face in 2018 concerns the budget. The current fiscal year budget deficit projection exceeds \$178 million. The 2019 fiscal year budget starting July 1, 2018 is projected to be \$147 million in the red. Worse yet, projections for future Connecticut budgets show that they will be

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Connecticut General Assembly website address is:

<http://www.cga.ct.gov>

Connecticut Council of Car Clubs Website address:

<http://www.ctccc.net>

February Business Meeting Monday February 5, 2018

Agenda: See Tentative Agenda on Page 2

Time: Dinner at 7:00 with meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Location: Athenian Diner Restaurant
864 Washington Street (Route 66),
Middletown, CT 06457

Directions:

- Restaurant is located on Route 66 approximately two miles east of Route 9 or approximately 7 miles west of Route 91.
 - Restaurant is on the street in front of the Middletown Plaza Shoppes directly across the street from the Home Depot.
 - Restaurant Phone Number is (860) 346-2272
- For more info, contact Dave Bajumpaa at (860) 627-8572*

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The 4C's conducts a regular business meeting six times a year on the first Monday of January (except when it conflicts with the New Years Holiday), February, April, June, August, and November. The meetings are scheduled on these dates to coincide with the Connecticut State Legislative Session. The newsletter is published six times a year and is mailed approximately a week prior to the regular business meeting.

SEMA Action Network Website:

<http://www.semasan.com>

Minutes of January 8th Meeting:

The January 8th Business Meeting was cancelled due to the inclement weather. As such, there are no meeting minutes.

Tentative Agenda for February 5, 2018 4C's Business Meeting

- Call to Order (approximately 8 p.m.)
- Introductions & Attendance
- Minutes of Last Meeting
- Treasurers Report
- Legislative Report
- Calendar of Events/4C's Website
- Other Business
- Next Meeting: Monday April 2, 2018

Legislative Report

Dave Bajumpaa

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running very large deficits. For the budget years beginning July 1, 2019, July 1, 2020, and July 1, 2021 the projected deficits are \$1.9 billion, \$2.6 billion and \$3.1 billion, respectively. Certainly, this foreshadows significant challenges in the future. So the fiscal problems for the state will be far from over.

The legislature's Office of Legislative Research has produced a report concerning the major issues the 2018 legislature will face. The report number is 2018-R-0016. The entire report can be seen by following the link below to their website:

https://www.cga.ct.gov/olr/Documents/year/MI/2018/MI-20180108_Major%20Issues%20for%202018.pdf

Regarding transportation, this report identifies the following:

Transportation

Transportation Funding

For more than half a century, transportation infrastructure has been funded primarily by federal and state fuel taxes, but such tax revenue has eroded in recent years due to inflation and the introduction of

increasingly fuel efficient vehicles. At the same time, the annual cost of maintaining the state's aging infrastructure continues to increase, straining state resources and limiting the state's ability to undertake new transportation projects. Given this, the legislature has sought additional financing and revenue for transportation infrastructure in recent years, including tolling, which the House debated but did not vote on last session. The legislature has also sought more oversight over transportation planning and financing, creating the Transportation Policy Advisory Council last session (PA 17-192).

This session, the legislature may again consider implementing tolling or expanding transportation oversight by creating a new statewide transportation authority. It may also consider proposals to increase transportation revenue, such as raising motor vehicle fees, or finance new transportation projects, such as authorizing general obligation (GO) bonds for transportation or additional special tax obligation (STO) transportation bonds.

Also, along the lines of transportation funding, in 2017 the legislature approved a transportation funding "lockbox" resolution that, if approved by voters in the 2018 general election, will amend the state constitution. The resolution does the following:

- 1) maintains the Special Transportation Fund (STF) as a perpetual fund and requires the legislature to use it only for transportation purposes;
- 2) requires funding sources credited to or deposited in the STF on or after the amendment's effective date to continue to be credited or deposited there as long as the state collects or receives them; and
- 3) prohibits the legislature from enacting a law authorizing the spending of STF funds for any purpose other than transportation (**HJ-100**, which will appear on the 2018 general election ballot. If a majority of those voting in the general election approve the amendment, it will become part of the state constitution).

Back to the antique auto hobby. We will be keeping a close eye out for any legislation that impacts the hobby in the upcoming 2018 Legislative Session. Note that, at this time, we are not aware of any specific threats to the antique auto hobby that will be introduced in the 2018 Legislative Session.

Why the \$500 Tax Assessment is Fair

The provision of a maximum \$500 assessment for antique vehicles is appropriate. The vast majority of the automobile hobbyists in this state have other motor vehicles they use as primary transportation that are subject to the same property taxes as everyone else in the state. Because of this, the automobile hobbyists are already paying their fair share of property taxes on motor vehicles. Unlike many other hobbies, the automobile hobby requires us to register our collector motor vehicles, which puts them on a list, making them visible to the local property tax assessors in cities and towns. Hobbyists that collect artwork, furniture, stamps, coins, or rare books cannot be easily tracked down by these same local property tax assessors. Elimination of the \$500 maximum assessment would unfairly put the automobile hobbyists in a situation where the tax burden associated with their hobby would be excessive, as compared to other hobbies.

Furthermore, the automobile hobbyist provides benefits to the community that many other hobbies don't provide. There are several car shows each weekend in the state throughout the late spring, summer, and early fall. These car shows typically benefit local charities and organizations. These shows result in significant revenues to these charities and organizations. These shows and cruise nights also result in increased spending at restaurants and local business throughout the state, indirectly helping increase state revenues. The use of their collector vehicles in local parades and other town functions throughout the state provide a positive benefit to the community thanks to the automotive hobbyist.

Several businesses in the state rely on the revenue generated by the restoration of antique vehicles. Eliminating or raising this maximum assessed value would be adverse to those businesses.

Currently, the property taxes on antique motor vehicles in Connecticut are in alignment with the surrounding states. Specifically, New York does not have an annual property tax (also known as an excise tax in surrounding states) on motor vehicles. Rhode Island has an annual excise tax on motor vehicles. Similar to Connecticut, Section 44-34-2 of the Rhode Island State Statutes identifies that any motor vehicle which is more than 25 years old shall be deemed to possess an average retail value of five hundred dollars (\$500) as a basis value for the annual excise tax. Massachusetts has an annual excise tax on motor vehicles. The assessed value or excise tax basis value of a motor vehicle is based on a percentage of the manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP). The assessed value or excise tax basis value of any motor vehicle 5 years old or older is 10% of the MSRP. The annual tax is 2.5% of this basis value. (Source: CT OLR Report 2013-R-0170 February 27, 2013).

As an example, let us calculate the annual Massachusetts excise tax on a 1965 Mustang. A 1965 Mustang had a MSRP was \$2427. For all vehicles 5 years old and older, the Massachusetts excise tax basis value is 10% of the MSRP. In Massachusetts the annual excise tax is 2.5% of the basis value with a \$5 minimum value. For this 1965 Mustang, the annual excise tax in Massachusetts is \$6.07. In Connecticut, with the maximum \$500 assessment and a municipality with a mill rate of 30, the annual property tax on that same 1965 Mustang would be \$15.

REFRESHER ON THE \$500 MAXIMUM PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT

We encourage all antique motor vehicles to maintain Early American or Classic Vehicle plates on their vehicles since it is the best way to ensure way the maximum \$500 property tax assessment is applied to your vehicle. However, the statutes also allow the maximum \$500 assessment to apply to certain antique vehicles without Early American or Classic Vehicle Plates. Most town property tax assessors will apply the \$500 assessment to any motor vehicle 20 years or older. However, some town property tax assessors will try to distinguish an "antique rare or special interest motor vehicle" from a "modified antique motor vehicle" if the vehicle does not have Early American or Classic Vehicle plates.

While Early American or Classic Vehicle plates are not required to qualify for the maximum \$500 assessment, owners of vehicles without those plates may have to provide documentation to their town assessor that their vehicle qualifies for that assessment. If your motor vehicle is modified without Early American or Classic Vehicle Plates, your local tax assessor could determine that the maximum \$500 assessment does not apply and assess the vehicle at what the assessor considers fair market value.

Did You Know??

The 4C's has recently formed a Facebook group where members can disseminate information related to the antique auto hobby in Connecticut. The Facebook group name is "Connecticut Council of Car Clubs." Feel free to join the group.

You can receive this 4C's newsletter by Email. If you don't already get the newsletter by a .pdf attachment to an Email and would like to, send your name and whether you are an individual member, or what club you are a member of, to dabajumpaa@aol.com. Also, if you would let us know whether you are willing to help the 4C's reduce its mailing and printing expenses by accepting the newsletter via Email only, please include that in your Email to us.

4C's Board of Directors:

Chairman: Phil Hamilton 72 Essex Street Deep River, CT 06417 (860) 526-5729	Vice Chairman: John Bajumpaa 13 Mullen Road East Windsor CT 06088 (860) 623-3906 jfbajumpaa@aol.com	Recording Secretary: Jim Juhas 139 Crescent Circle Cheshire, CT 06410 (203) 578-0958 James.F.Juhas@snet.net
Treasurer: John Jarush 19 Penfield Place Farmington, CT 06032 (860) 284-0090 patandjohnj@gmail.com	Member-at-Large: Scott Macgregor 451 Essex Road Westbrook, CT 06498 (860) 399-7641 jscotmac@sbcglobal.net	Member-at-Large: Ken Useted P.O. Box 267 Canterbury, CT 06331 (860) 546-2105 usetedracing@aol.com
Membership Secretary: Bob Balkow 22 Perron Road Plainville, CT 06062 (860) 747-6794 balko34@sbcglobal.net	Newsletter Editor: Dave Bajumpaa 17 Mullen Rd. East Windsor CT 06088 (860) 627-8572 dabajumpaa@aol.com	Past Chairman: Dexter Crowley 3 Village Circle Hamden CT 06514 (203) 248-1555 annexcrowley@sbcglobal.net

John Bajumpaa (4C's)
 13 Mullen Road
 East Windsor, CT 06088

Or, via E-mail at: jfbajumpaa@aol.com

2017: The Last 4C's June Auto Show at the New England Air Museum

(Repeat of Story from November 2017 Newsletter)

Due to a limited availability of volunteers and after a 30 year run, the Connecticut Council of Car Clubs regrets that the 2017 New England Air Museum Show will be our last. We want to thank our volunteers, show car owners, clubs and spectators for their support throughout those years. We have been in touch with the New England Air Museum and would be happy to pass on our part of the show to one of our member clubs. If a club is interested in sponsoring the show with the New England Air Museum contact John Bajumpaa at jfbajumpaa@aol.com to let us know. We have a participant list from previous shows available to the club that takes over and will put that club in touch with the New England Air Museum.

Again, thanks to volunteers, show car owners, clubs and spectators for their support throughout the years making the show the success it was.

Thanks for Your Support!!

The 4C's thanks the following members who contributed additional money with their membership in 2018:

Clubs:

Connecticut Street Rod Association
 Belltown Antique Automobile Club
 Constitution State Classics
 Connecticut Historical Automobile Society
 Summer Knights
 Connecticut Classic Chevy

Individual Members:

Richard Vincent	Steve Mierz
Marshall Lamenzo	Raymond Lichota
John Scheib	Dexter Crowley
Paul Pawlowski	Wayne Hoffman
Jack White	Don Murphy
Donald Hansen	Don Tenerowicz
Frank Wemple	Donald Bruno
Larry Boardman	

REMINDER:

2018 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS WERE DUE IN JANUARY

THIS IS A REMINDER THAT MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE FOR EVERYONE IN JANUARY. IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, PLEASE FILL OUT THE ENCLOSED APPLICATION, AND RETURN IT TO THE 4C'S

YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE 4C'S HELPS ENSURE YOUR AUTO HOBBY IS PROTECTED !!!

4C's Calendar of Events.

We maintain a Calendar of Events on our website. Our intent is to list all collector car related shows in Connecticut, as well as major regional and national meets. The website is maintained throughout the year. The 4C's does not charge a fee to have your show listed on our website. To have your show listed on the 4C's website, please provide the date/rain date; sponsoring club; who the show benefits; location; and contact person information to:

Motor Vehicle Valuation for Property Tax

By: Heather Poole, Associate Analyst
December 19, 2017 | 2017-R-0293

Issue

How is the value of a motor vehicle determined for property tax purposes?

Summary

State law requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary to choose a schedule of motor vehicle values and requires local tax assessors to use these values for property tax assessments. According to the *Handbook for Connecticut Assessors*, OPM generally chooses the appraisal guides published by the National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) as the standard. The guides provide values for about 60-65% of registered vehicles, and the rest are valued by assessors using other sources of information. If a vehicle owner disputes the value the assessor has assigned to a vehicle, he or she has a statutory right to appeal to the town's board of assessment appeals. The town may adjust the assessment based on the factors the vehicle owner claims reduce the retail value of the vehicle, but this is not guaranteed.

Valuation Process

State law requires the OPM secretary to choose a schedule of motor vehicle values and requires assessors to use this schedule for assessment purposes ([CGS § 12-71d](#)). The schedule must include the value of every vehicle currently in use, to the extent this information is available. The values must be set at 100% of each vehicle's retail price as of October 1 of the assessment year. OPM, in consultation with the Connecticut Association of Assessing Officers (CAAO), generally

selects the price guides published by NADA as the standard. Local assessors are responsible for determining the value of any vehicle not listed in the guides, and any town's legislative body can change the assessment method by resolution.

By law, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) must provide to each assessor in the state a list of motor vehicles in the assessor's town that are subject to property tax ([CGS § 14-163](#)). According to the *Handbook for Connecticut Assessors*, the CAAO annually purchases the OPM-recommended valuation software (generally NADA) and the DMV houses it at the agency's Wethersfield location. Prior to distributing each municipality's motor vehicle list, DMV values 60% to 65% of all registered vehicles using this software. The CAAO charges municipalities for using the software depending upon the number of vehicles on each town's grand list. The NADA guides do not include values for some vehicles, including customized or modified vehicles, older motor vehicles, and specialty cars. Determining the value of such vehicles is the town assessor's responsibility.

A vehicle owner who disagrees with a vehicle's assessment may appeal to the town's board of assessment appeals. The board must meet at least once each September solely to hear appeals of motor vehicle assessments ([CGS § 12-110](#)).

NADA Appraisal Guides

The NADA appraisal guides are not the only source of motor vehicle values, but historically they have been widely accepted by government agencies, insurance companies, financial institutions, leasing companies, and other entities. According to its website, NADA values are based on "actual auction and retail sales transactions, asking price information, as well as numerous macro- and micro-economic factors."

The law requires the assessed value for a vehicle to be its average retail price. The NADA guides define an average retail vehicle as one that should be clean and without glaring defects. Tires and glass must be in good condition and paint should match and have a good finish. The interior should have wear in relation to the vehicle's age, the carpet and upholstery should be clean, and all power options should work. Mileage must be within an "acceptable" range for the model year.

HP:bs

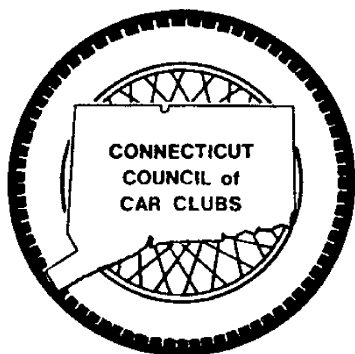
THE VOICE

CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF CAR CLUBS

17 MULLEN ROAD

EAST WINDSOR, CT 06088

FIRST CLASS MAIL
TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL



Don't Miss the
Next 4C's Business Meeting:

Monday February 5, 2018

at the Athenian Diner Restaurant in Middletown

(Details inside)

ALSO:

**4C's Membership Renewals for 2018 for everyone are due in
January. Please Renew As Soon As Possible (Form on Page 9).**