

MOHEGAN SUN FOR WICKED FUN IN '21!

This month we would like to bring you the latest updates on some of our club's most treasured convention activities, the Welcome Night, POCI Chapter Night, and the Awards Night Banquets.

TREASURED TRADITIONS AND BANQUETS AWAIT!



The Yankee Chapter of POCI and the Mohegan Sun Hotel and Casino look forward to welcoming you to the 49th Annual POCI Convention in Uncasville, Connecticut, July 11-15, 2021.



Comix Roadhouse

Longtime members — especially those who have attended previous conventions — may wonder why POCI Chapter Night and Awards Night Banquets are included in this update. Most members are familiar with these two events, but for newer members who might be first-time convention attendees, it may be helpful to know what to expect at these functions. These are the two main events of the convention, so a little information about them may make your decision to attend that much easier.

But first, let's talk about our Welcome Night activities.

On Monday night, the convention committee has reserved the Comix Roadhouse to welcome you to the 2021 POCI Convention at the Mohegan Sun Casino and Convention Center. The Comix Roadhouse is a Texas-style bar together with a comedy club. The roadhouse has a large bar with dozens of beers on tap including many local

craft beers. Their well-stocked bar also offers a wide assortment of liquors for those who desire a little more kick in their beverage. For those with a hearty appetite, the menu has an assortment of appetizers and pub style food. The Roadhouse menu can be viewed online at comixroadhouse.com

Welcome Night will be a family-friendly event. Our entertainment will include a live band and a dance floor, but for those of you seeking a bigger challenge with a little more action, a mechanical bull will be ready to test your Wild West riding skills!

After everyone has a chance to enjoy some live music, food, and drink, a comic will perform in the Comedy Club behind the bar.

Also, if arrangements can be made, the Mohegan Tribe will officially welcome POCI to their reservation. (Please note: Due to COVID-19 restrictions that are still in place as of this early writ-

ing, the committee has yet to be able to finalize commitments from a band, a comedy act, or the Mohegan Tribe itself.)

Wednesday evening is designated as POCI Chapter Night. This is a gathering where POCI chapter accomplishments of the previous year are properly recognized. Attendees are encouraged to sit with fellow chapter members while wearing their chapter-themed attire. This is the venue to show off your chapter pride!

Vice President Ron Berglund will serve as our master of ceremonies for the Chapter Awards program. The lifeblood of each chapter is its newsletter, and one of the most important figures within any chapter is its newsletter editor. Therefore, it is not surprising that a number of awards will be presented to editors and their creative newsletters. In addition, every chapter newsletter editor is recognized with a certificate

indicating the number of years that they've served their respective chapter.

Every year, *Old Cars Weekly* issues their Golden Quill awards to various car club magazines and chapter newsletters. POCI recognizes newsletter editors who have received this prestigious award. *Smoke Signals*, along with about a half dozen individual chapters, typically receive this award annually.

Recently, POCI has added new awards for Most Improved Newsletters with the hope that this will be an incentive to try new ideas and methods. There are awards for first, second, third, and fourth place. Finally, awards are announced for Best Newsletter in two different classes: Monthly and Non-Monthly. Again, a first, second, and a third place is awarded in each class.

Recognizing that members increasingly rely on methods other than print to receive information, we also present awards for Best Chapter Website and Best Use of Social Media.

Chapters are also encouraged to develop a tabletop display which tells the story of their chapter utilizing print, photos and memorabilia. These displays will be in the large room located behind our Registration Area. From this year's displays, the judging committee will select a Best Chapter Display and two runners-up.

Also, in the same room, a coloring contest and the Model Car Contest is held. The coloring contest is for kids, ages 4-9. The Model Car Contest is divided into four categories, each with a first, second, and third place award. The categories are: 9 years and younger; 10-14 years old; 15-18 years old; and adults.

Another highly anticipated award for the evening is the Voting Award, given every-other year to chapters with the highest percentage of members voting in our biennial election. There are two \$100 awards — one of which is presented to a chapter with 50 or fewer members, the other going to a chapter with more than 50 members.

Usually, the final award of the evening is Chapter of the Year. There are two categories for this award: Junior (for chapters with 50 or fewer members) and Senior (for chapters with more than 50 members). There are a number of rigid standards and criteria for these two awards, so it is certain the two winning chapters will have worked tirelessly during the year to earn their awards.

Finally, after the presentation of awards, the host chapter for the following year's convention makes a presentation.

The culmination of the annual POCI convention is our Awards Banquet, which this year will be held on Thursday evening. It is at this highly anticipated event when trophies are awarded to the owners of all the beautiful Oaklands, Pontiacs, and GMC Trucks that have been on display throughout the week.

During the first part of the ceremony, trophies are awarded for vehicles entered in the Points-Judged categories. After that, trophies are awarded to Popular Vote show participants. In addition, the winners in two other categories of important awards are recognized. The first category is Scholarship

Awards, and the second is the Original Owners Awards.

Every year, two scholarships are awarded to a child or grandchild of a POCI member to assist with their further education expenses. The first scholarship is awarded by the Sawruk family, in honor of the late John Sawruk (who was both an engineer for Pontiac Motor Division and the official PMD Historian with a seemingly unlimited knowledge of Pontiac information and facts).

The second scholarship is given by POCI. The scholarship committee always receives a multitude of applications from very qualified students, making the decision process a challenge. The two recipients are announced at the banquet by the chairman of the Scholarship Committee.

A few years ago, the POCI Board of Directors adopted a new special recognition honor designated as the Original Owner Award. These awards are given to POCI members who purchased their Pontiac or GMC Truck new and have maintained continuous ownership ever since. Members who purchased their vehicle new are encouraged to apply for this prestigious award. Upon satisfying the criteria for the award, they and their vehicle are invited to the next convention for presentation of the award plaque.

There is one final note concerning this month's update: The COVID-19 pandemic currently remains very much a problem in New England. The committee is finding it difficult to negotiate some of our final commitments, but we are working very hard to stay on schedule for "Wicked Fun in '21." We'll keep you posted here in *Smoke Signals!*



Steve Cook announcing Points - Judged winners.

2021 POCI CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM



49th Annual
Pontiac Oakland Club International Convention

July 11-15, 2021

Venue: Mohegan Sun

1 Mohegan Sun Blvd, Uncasville, CT 06382
www.mohegansun.com

THIS IS A "SUNDAY - THURSDAY" CONVENTION.
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL MEMBERS, EVEN IF NOT ENTERING A VEHICLE.

MEMBER REGISTRATION FEE: \$65.00 ~ AFTER JUNE 20, 2021: \$85.00
(REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES MEMBER, SPOUSE AND CHILDREN)

PAY BY CREDIT CARD, OR MAIL IN A CHECK OR MONEY ORDER MADE PAYABLE TO:
"2021 POCI CONVENTION". YOU MAY REGISTER ON LINE AT: WWW.POCI.ORG

NAME _____ POCI # _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ CELL # _____

E-MAIL: _____

CREDIT CARD # _____ - _____ - _____

(VISA, MC OR DISCOVER) EXP. DATE ____/____/____ SECURITY CODE: _____

MAIL THIS FORM TO:



POCI 2021 CONVENTION
PO Box 421
LONG LAKE, MN 55356

Convention Activity Packets with
detailed car show registration
information and an activity sign up
sheet will be mailed to you on **TO BE ANNOUNCED**

MOHEGAN SUN (HOST HOTEL)

ON-LINE RESERVATIONS: [HTTPS://BOOK.PASSKEY.COM/GO/POCI21](https://book.passkey.com/go/POCI21)
RESERVATIONS (866) 708-1340, GROUP CODE POCI21

CONVENTION COORDINATORS: ART BARRETT (417) 737-1469 ARTBARRETT@CENTURYTEL.NET
LARRY CRIDER (918) 798-2765 PONTIACFUN@GMAIL.COM

HOST CHAPTER CONTACTS: RON SENESI (978) 503-8057 -OR- MERLE GREEN (978) 973-2148

CONVENTION UPDATES ARE POSTED AT WWW.POCI.ORG
FOR CONVENTION QUESTIONS, CALL THE POCI CLUB OFFICE **(763) 479-2111**

THE CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEE IS NON-REFUNDABLE.