



SUBJECT: FCOA 101

What the heck is FCOA?????? Sit back, relax and "brush up" on one of my favorite subjects! The only homework assignment that will get you an "A" in this class is submitting a FCOA membership application for your kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews who are under the age of 16. And the only pop quiz question is "Why is there a dolphin in the FCOA logo?" (Hint: Your "cheat sheet" is NCCC's Standing Rules if you don't know the answer!)

LESSON #1: FCOA (FUTURE CORVETTE OWNERS ASSN.) is the youth organization of NCCC. It's a unique "Corvette Club for kids" formed to interest the younger generation in the Corvette hobby. This is the generation that is the Corvette enthusiast of the 21st century! FCOA members are the foundation of NCCC's future and hopefully FCOA members will go on to be active NCCC members.

LESSON #2: A group of NCCC members developed this new youth membership concept in 1991 and the first "Director" of FCOA was Marleen DeZeeuw. 1995 was when Karen Port took over that volunteer position, laying a great foundation for me to build on when I took over the reins in 1997.

LESSON #3: FCOA celebrates its 15th anniversary in 2006! FCOA signed up its first 76 members at the 1991 NCCC Convention in Charlotte NC. FCOA's very first member was Tim DeZeeuw from the Northeast Region. Others in the "first ten" were #0002 & 0003 Jennifer & Sarah Dolan; #0004 Catherine Parks; #0005, 0006 & 0007 Erika, Nicholas & Whitney Wollenman; #0008 & 0009 R. D. & Rhea Covington and #0010 Tyler Anthony. In 1992 FCOA was designated as the "official" junior organization of NCCC. With the availability of NCCC's Dependent Membership in 1993, the age limit dropped from 18 down to 16. On February 28, 2006 FCOA membership #3210 was assigned which makes 2354 current members! FCOA members live in 46 states plus Washington DC, England, Germany, Japan & the West Indies plus members with APO & FPO addresses (I'm not sure where in the world they live).

LESSON #4: Originally FCOA dues were \$2 but were increased to the present one-time \$5 fee in October, 1991. WOW! No dues increase in 15 years! How is that possible? Since 1997 Mid America Motorworks has been our main sponsor, providing membership cards and patches as well as partial cost of the newsletter. Other FCOA "benefits", such as the membership packets and newsletters, are supported by other major automotive-related businesses as well as some NCCC Regions and Clubs. Plus, through an agreement with a publisher, FCOA sells a Corvette book for kids as a fund-raiser. In 2003 FCOA held a raffle for a 1953 Corvette pedal car and in 2006 FCOA is having a raffle for a set of Goodyear tires.

LESSON #5: Since 1997, new FCOA members receive a membership packet similar to what NCCC members get but tailored for kids. Included is a personalized welcome letter, FCOA patch, FCOA membership card plus a notepad, dash plaque, stickers, pens, postcards and other items supplied by companies that support the FCOA program. I try to get enough items so that all members receive a packet of "goodies" annually and also try to send out a FCOA newsletter once a year. Newsletters are divided into sections for different age groups with games, puzzles, pictures to color and articles that make learning about Corvettes fun. Kids learn that every year Vette has something special about it and holds an important place in the history of Corvettes.

LESSON # 6: Many FCOA milestones have been reached in the last few years. In 1999 FCOA assigned FCOA membership #1000, in 2002 FCOA #2000 and in 2005 FCOA #3000. Assigning membership numbers for FCOA is done a little different than NCCC as numbering is consecutive rather than separated by Region and/or Club. Since 1999 FCOA has "honored" every 100th member in *Blue Bars*, on our website and with some extra things in their new FCOA member welcome packet. In 1997 the Midwest Region was the first Region to attain 100 FCOA members; in November 2004 it became the first Region to hit 400 FCOA members. In 2004 the West Region was the second Region to attain over 300 FCOA members. Windy City Corvettes is the first club to sign up over 200 FCOA members and Cedar Rapids Corvette Club is the second club to exceed 100 members.

Things change in NCCC over the years and FCOA is no different. FCOA has its own e-mail address (FCOAkids@aol.com) and its great website (www.corvettesnccc.org/fcoa1.html). In late 2005 a new FCOA logo was introduced along with a line of FCOA apparel for kids. One change that I've noticed the last few years is that quite a few of the new FCOA members are second generation FCOA kids ~ now how great is that?

Class is over! Don't miss out on that "A" ~ get those FCOA membership applications in soon! What are you waiting for? Get those kids excited about our favorite car ~ you don't want them running around in a Viper, Porsche or Mustang, do you? THANKS TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF NCCC for making FCOA such a tremendously successful program for the young Corvette enthusiast!

Pat Kelly, FCOA Director