

MEET YOUR RECORDING SECRETARY: ANDY ZIZOLFO

“I can’t remember a day when I wasn’t fascinated with cars.”
That is my standard answer whenever I am asked, “When did you first become interested in this hobby?”

For as long as I can remember, I was fascinated with cars and everything about them. As a child, I saved pictures of cars from magazine and newspaper ads and then watched for them on the roads of Long Island. I remember watching television shows like Ed Sullivan and Lawrence Welk just to see the car commercials. I clearly recall dealership windows being covered with newspaper to conceal the new models until the day of public introduction. I anxiously waited for that Saturday each year when my father would take me to the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City to see the General Motors Motorama. What a thrill it was to see the five GM marques displayed, along with technical displays and engine cutaways. If there was time, we would go over to the Chrysler Building to see Chrysler products on display in the lobby. We would return home with tired feet and a shopping bag full of automobile literature and brochures. Oh! How I wish I had saved them.

I built up a collection of toy cars and trucks. My attempt at building a toy car with my Erector Set turned out to be an interesting project! It lacked in the styling department, but ran okay with the electric motor—as long as I used a long enough extension cord. I saved my allowance and cut lawns after school and on Saturdays to earn money to buy plastic model car kits and paint. Looking back, there was always that one marque that continued to emerge as my favorite. You guessed it! The Standard of the World—Cadillac!

My hobby was put on the back burner for many years as the responsibilities of my home and family took precedence. My job as a Central Office equipment engineer with AT&T managed to keep me quite busy and active. Although I took an early retirement package, I continued my career with an independent telephone company. I look forward to my real retirement.

I have been married to my lovely wife Allene for 38 years. We have two wonderful children, John and Andrea, and two handsome grandsons, Ryan, 7 and Geoffrey, 5.

I began attending car shows again in the early '80s. I enjoy the nostalgia of looking at so many cars that I used to follow so closely as a child. I delight in the swap meets where parts and automotive memorabilia abound. I soon subscribed to various publications like *Collectible Automobile* and *Hemmings Motor News*. It did not take long before that special magnetism started to draw me back to my old favorite—Cadillac. I soon realized that if I was going to pursue a classic car, Cadillac is the one it would be.

During a pleasure trip to California, I decided to pay a visit to Ed Cholakian’s place, Old Cadillacs of the Forties and Fifties. I had read an article in *Motor Trend* about Ed’s enterprise. Although Ed was out of town at the time, his son took me on a tour of the facility and welcomed me to look around. I was truly inspired by the sight of all those old Cadillacs and parts. As I left, I signed the guest book and picked up a flyer. There on the counter was an application to the Cadillac-LaSalle Club. The rest, as they say, is history.

I joined the CLC and learned of my local Long Island Region. I started attending meetings and became the Long Island Region representative to the CLC Board. While attending a winter board meeting in Detroit, I was asked if I would consider working on the Long-Range Planning Committee. I accepted and truly enjoyed the associations I made with so many members. Later, I found myself giving a presentation to the CLC Board, asking for approval for the Grand National on Long Island in 1998. The request was granted and we were up to our ears in work—and what a Grand National it was! As we look back, we still enjoy



watching the video and talking about it!

After our Grand National, I was asked to accept the chairmanship of the Newsletter Excellence Award Committee. It was a wonderful assignment; it gave me the opportunity to see the inner workings of our regions and meet many members through their newsletters.

One day, I received a call from CLC President Richard Sills asking if I would accept the position of recording secretary and national awards chairman. I was honored to be asked. This job keeps me busy as I prepare the agenda, take notes and type up lengthy minutes for two board meetings a year. I also work with the regions to find worthy candidates to be considered for our CLC awards. I must admit that the task is a labor of love with gratifying results.

My wife Allene, an active CLC'er, worked the hospitality suite in '98 and has since become involved with judging and tabulation. We treasure the friendships made with fellow members and their families. We plan at least one vacation a year to attend the Grand National.

We have recently built a new ranch style home in eastern Long Island with a large parcel of property and a three-car garage. Our '64 series 62 coupe and a '40 LaSalle 5219 occupy two of the garage bays. We use the '64 as our show car and cruiser while the '40 LaSalle is a future restoration project. The third bay presently houses our 2000 Buick LeSabre, which can easily be displaced if the right Cadillac comes along. □