

FROM THE TOP ... *the Word from Il Presidente*

You might notice that this is the January *Alfacionada*. We didn't really skip a month, but we did skip the December issue to re-set our editorial clocks. Our new Editors, Will & Elyse, decided the newsletter should actually be named for the month it is intended to promote. They will be spending the first two weeks of the month putting the newsletter together, the next week or so printing and mailing. Ideally, your *Alfacionada* will arrive before the general meeting.

November 6th dawned dark and wet for the Best of France and Italy, our final Club concours for 2011. Braving the rain in our vintage Alfas is not for the faint of heart. Both of our cars leak and the Lucas single-speed wipers only sorta work. They will move leisurely back and forth across the windshield as Alfa intended, but the speed is too fast for mist and too slow for real rain. I tried to get a good gauge of the likelihood of more rain by checking out the situation via the Internet and discovered two intense storm cells: one over our house and one over Woodley Park. We procrastinated for an hour as the storm cells moved on, then left one Alfa home and brought a pop-up in my son's SUV. Of course, it stopped raining by the time we arrived and did not rain again all day. The event was remarkably well attended given the weather. Look for an overview elsewhere in this issue.

You missed another great event if you didn't make it to Dirk Stoehr's on November 19th. I confess this was my first visit to Italspeed, and in hindsight, I can't justify not making it there before. Dirk is a great guy, an enthusiastic host, and he has an unbelievable collection of Alfas. We started talking Alfas and could have done that all afternoon. Fortunately, the First Lady and others reminded me of my responsibilities, so we did actually have a meeting. The White Turkey auction was larger than I have seen in recent years, and netted the Club \$241. Bidding was enthusiastic and spirited. Several members perhaps got a little carried away and we are likely to see those purchases come up for auction again next year. Chris scored some Alfa Romeo wine glasses and a very nice shirt that must be for her since it isn't quite my size.

The votes for the Board of Directors were counted, and surprise, all 10 candidates on the ballot were elected. We'll have the same Board again next year, except Jordan Lee has stepped up to replace Fred Firschein who is now in Arizona. Election Committee Chair Paul Blankenship did mention that two write-in ballots for himself were inexplicably lost during tabulation. However, Paul assures us that the loss of those two ballots did not affect the election outcome. Technically speaking, officers and director assignments won't be determined until the Board Meeting after the Holiday Party, but Jordan is already asking about the responsibilities of the Concours Chair position.

Speaking of the Holiday Party I trust we had a large turnout as usual. Our hosts, MJ & Sheila, go all out to throw a great party. It is also an excellent time to see a few members who we only see this time of year. We won the lottery! It doesn't happen often, but that is what it took to get the time slot for our December 30-31 Time Trial and Race at Laguna Seca. Speaking of slots, the event is all filled up although you might get lucky if someone cancels. Everyone is planning on a New Year's Eve party, and a few people are going up just for that.

The January Annual Meeting and Luncheon will kick off our 2012 50th/40th Anniversary celebration. Anniversary of what you ask? It's been 50 years since our Chapter was formed and 40 years since we since we started doing competition events. Several past Presidents will be present to entertain us with some excellent stories from our formative years. After a few cocktails some of those tall tales (pun intended) should be better than fiction. And, of course, we will hand out the awards for 2011. So please plan to be there: Delzano's, January 28, high noon, and let's get the anniversary year off to a great start.

Remember, if the women don't find you handsome, they should at least find you handy. And don't forget the duct tape, a handyman's secret weapon.

– Mike & Chris