



The Queen City Corvette Gazette

Official Newsletter of NC's Largest Corvette Club

February 2015



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The Queen City Corvette Gazette is the official newsletter of the [Queen City Corvette Club](#) (QCCC), established in 1968, and is published monthly by volunteers and members of QCCC. Subscription rates are free for members. Guests can receive up to three months of newsletter issues, and then are removed from mailing list if they haven't participated in any QCCC events. Cost for postage and production is paid for through membership dues. Membership list and financial data are not published for guest copies. For change of address and all other QCCC inquiries, write to: **Queen City Corvette Club, PO Box 77153 Charlotte, NC 28271-7002.**

QCCC is a non-profit club (501-C7) whose members all share a common appreciation and love of America's Sports Car – the Corvette. Dues and donations are not tax deductible. In addition to various social activities for members, QCCC raises money for and participates with various local charities. We strive to promote exciting, safe and fun ways to enjoy our Corvettes. We hold business meetings on the second Saturday of each month. Our monthly business meeting usually incorporates social time. Our socials are always fun and are focused around fellowship, food & drink. We've had swimming parties, bar-b-ques, cookouts, day cruises and weekend trips. We participate in / conduct mountain tours, holiday parades and several homecoming parades at local area high schools. We also support and participate in local auto shows and hold charity Corvette shows each year. After an initiation fee of \$10.00, club dues are \$100 per year to be paid semi-annually or annually. These dues go to cover the costs of running the club, mailing newsletters, and subsidizing the costs of our meetings. Club officers and supporting staff serve as volunteers.

To become a member of the [QUEEN CITY CORVETTE CLUB](#), you must own a Corvette and attend at least three (3) monthly business meetings within a six-month time period. *Come check us out – we love to meet fellow Corvette Enthusiasts!* Express your wishes for membership during a monthly business meeting and be voted in, begin paying dues and having fun! If you can't join us, **please WAVE**





President's Message ***KEEP SMILIN***

Bill Cruthis

It's long, it's cold, it's dark, and it's the season of hibernation. It is the opposite of estivation, and we are dragged down into our caves. It is a time when it is easy to say, let's just stay inside and skip the event, or let's go, but we will take the SUV. Let me say first that I hate daylight savings time and when I become king it will be gone. It is more difficult to start out in your Corvette when it is dark; however, we must overcome all forms of resistance. I do know that when I am driving the Corvette I am usually smiling whether it's winter or not.

I do not like cold. I do not like non-sunny days, but I am resolved to think during each such day how much I love the warmth of summer. If it were not for the bad cold, wet, dark winter days, then what would I have to look forward to. I am determined to just bundle up and trudge forward out into the winter. Hopefully, I will find a Corvette person that does not know about QCCC. Paul Mitchell and I found just such a person at HOSREFEATHERS Bar and Grill today. Whether he comes around or not is to be decided, but had a great conversation about Corvettes and motorcycles. So how did he know we were into Corvettes? It was because Paul's 2014 Cyber Gray Coupe and my 2015 Laguna Blue Z06 were sitting there in the parking lot which broke the ice. Had we been in our pick up- we would have had zero chance.

I have been reviewing our membership totals lately. What you have all accomplished in the last 7 years is amazing. We are up well over a third and 48% of those new folks are referrals from the current members. We must be doing something right. I read recently where any culture must have a replenishment of 2.3 persons per couple. While it is easy to be comfortable with our present growth pattern, it could easily start diminishing. With the size of our group it is easy to lose track of someone and there are so many options for what little free time folks have that we must stay tuned into what keeps our members coming back. The activities, the fellowship, the fun, all have to be available. We must be sure we show our new members the same warmth and welcome that we show each other. I would like to challenge each couple to bring in that 2.3 new members so we don't wither away some day. I know Clark is now confused thinking he must get two plus a couple of arms or legs, but you all know what I mean.

My final thoughts today are, take the car cover off, take the battery tender off, get those great cars out and drive em. It will do wonders for your spirit and the cars will love it. Phooey on hibernation. Happy people bring spring quicker. I can smell the flowers already. We will be enjoying the Loftin's Museum

of fine Corvettes in less than 90 days. Meanwhile, your invisible fence may work on your puppy dog, but 400, 500 or 650 HP will run right thru it. Time to polish that bad boy up and I will see ya in the left lane.



**LEFT LANE AND HAMMER DOWN, THE CRU'S BLUE'S,
365 HP---505 HP---650 HP**

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the View is Always Nice.*



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TALES AND TRAILS FROM UP YONDER

Paul Mitchell, Vice President

Wow, what a great start to the New Year! The January meeting and chili cook-off was successful and really good. And the banquet on Jan. 31 was simply outstanding. Thanks to Pat Bonino and all her helpers for doing such a great job. The location, the decorations, the food, and the entertainment were all first class.



We have some more good times planned, starting with the Valentine's Party on Valentine's Day. A nice dinner, and some special Valentine's Day fun along with our meeting. For March, we will be meeting at Streetside, a favorite of the club for years. Then in April, we will be meeting at Tommy and Brenda Loftin's beautiful garage. And we've got something special planned for our May meeting. Watch your e-mails for all the details.

As mentioned at the January meeting, our awards program for 2015 continues the Corvette Fever theme, but we will also be applying points for participation this year. Not just for attendance, but for participation in the activities that are important to the club, such as raising funds for charity, supporting the NCM, and increasing visibility of the Club in the community. Awards will continue to be given based on Corvette Fever displayed during the year. A committee will be appointed to help determine those winners. Awards will be given at next year's banquet to those members that have participated the most and that have "The Fever". So review the calendar often and participate in our fun activities as much as you can. And Show up with the Fever!

A chart showing activities and points is below.

See you at the Valentine's Day party and meeting.

Love 'em, cherish 'em, drive 'em. It'll make you and your car smile!

QCCC CORVETTE FEVER PROGRAM 2015 POINTS PROGRAM					
Enter QCCC Car Show	20	Member of NCM	5	Drive car in parade	3
Work QCCC Car Show	8	Attend Angels toy drive	6	Drive car for a homecoming	3
Enter Auto Fair Spring	10	Organize and lead a day drive	8	Go to NCM Bowling Green	8
Enter Auto Fair Fall	10	Go on a day drive	5	Lifetime member of NCM	5
Write article for newsletter	8	Organize a weekend trip	12	Other announced programs	
Attend annual QCCC banquet	8	Go on a weekend trip	10		



Queen City Corvette Club
Club Board and Business Meeting Minutes

For Newsletters, Minutes, Calendars, etc.

Web Site Updates :

<http://queencitycorvette.com/Archive/Archives.htm>

Snapshot of Planned Events in the next few months:

February		
14	QCCC Business Meeting and Valentine's Day Dinner	Details & Information
March		
14	QCCC Business Meeting	Details & Information
April		
11-12	AutoFair at Charlotte Motor Speedway	
18	QCCC Business Meeting & Club Picnic	
23-25	*National Corvette Museum Bash*	See Paul Mariano
May		
9	QCCC Business Meeting	
16	Day trip to Carolina Vines, Newton NC	Details & Information



Bonino Banter

– The Social Scene

We have gotten off to a wonderful start to 2015! Our Chili Cook-off was successful, our Annual Banquet was well attended and by the comments coming back to us – everyone seemed to like the venue, food, band, silent auction and award program! Of course we had no clue Carrie Underwood would pay us a visit.....don't you just love surprises???

We are now getting ready for the Valentine Dinner at our next meeting. Bear with us - we are going to be exploring lots of different venues and activities this year. As far as venues – we are continually adding to our list of locations that can support 120-150 people for regular meetings, are reasonable and are fairly located – north/south so everyone gets a chance not to drive so far. Anyone with ideas please contact Paul Mitchell or me. We are going to do some new activities this year – yet I have been told that for all the newcomers many of our outings from the past need to be repeated for them!!!

We will be having an organizational meeting to form a Social Committee. PLEASE do not think that by being on this committee you will be saddled with more than you bargained for. We just need a variety of ideas and thoughts on mapping out our “social program” going forward. Some members really enjoy smaller groups going on the outings – we may need to plan more but limit the number going to keep it manageable – first come first serve. We as a group can identify our needs then present these to the membership in the form of our “Volunteer Crier”

Yes we will be doing a QCCC Cookbook. Start collecting your very favorite recipes to contribute to our book. My choices will be a lot of what you all have been bringing to the Burt's BBQ in September!!!

Last but not least, again I can't thank you all enough for ALL the fantastic help coming forward to make our events successful. If you have offered to help and I haven't used your services yet...trust me ...we will let you have a turn! And you are all doing a great job RSVPing ahead helping us to be prepared with the numbers coming to any event.

WHEW now that I have blabbed on and on...see you at the next meeting.

Your enthusiastic Social Director

Pat



Automotive Director's Report

Gary Cunningham

First, let me join everyone in celebrating our Annual Awards Banquet at the Speedway Club: great food, great music and a great bunch of people.

It's hard to believe that January is over, and with February being such a short month, March is quickly approaching and the calendar begins to heat up. Take a look at the calendar as

it continues to develop: we've got Spring Autofair on April 11-12, Corvettes at Myrtle Beach June 5-7, Car Shows galore around our area, Fall Auto Fair Sept 26-27, three different events at the Corvette Museum, and of course, our All-Chevy Car Show at Hendricks Motorsports Complex in September.

The calendar has something for every club member, plenty of options, events and lots of things to choose from. Most importantly, don't forget how important your ideas and suggestions are. There's lots of room on the calendar for garage days, "work parties", etc. Please send your Automotive ideas on to me and we'll discuss and work them into the club calendar.

Secondly, what's in a name? I'm sure you noticed that I named my 78 Silver Anniversary. Just take a look at the picture of my license plate. Many of us name our cars, motorcycles, jet-skis, all kinds of stuff. I asked a club member once why he had so many different Corvettes and his answer was simple and concise: they're all different. Each one is a different style, engine, drive train, color. Each one has a different personality. So, my question to him now is: what are their names?

What have you named your Corvette, your baby, and why did you name it that? You looked at a lot of cars before you bought the one(s) you have now. Gwen and I looked at what seemed like every Corvette website out there until we found the Midnight Rider in Atlanta. I've been a huge Allman Brothers fan since I was 13 yrs old, Midnight Rider is my favorite song, and I've always taken the lyrics to heart.

What's in a name? What personality does your Corvette have and what name have you given to your shiny machine? Send me your responses, and I'll highlight them throughout the year in the newsletter.

"Not gonna let them catch me, no, not gonna let them catch the Midnight Rider"

You can't base your life in other people's expectations.....Stevie Wonder

Amateurs wait for inspiration. The rest of us just get up and go to work.....Chuck Close

The only difference between a good day and a bad day is your attitude....Dennis Brown

Gary



Membership Director's Report

Darrell Kirkley



How ironic that the NFL had their Super Bowl the same weekend that we had our Super Bowl of parties! Many thanks to Pat, all the volunteers, and the Speedway Club staff for an absolutely fantastic party. The band was great, and we danced the night away, well at least until 9:30-9:45 when we all headed home for our Metamucil shake and much needed beauty sleep.

Last month I asked everyone to invite a guest or new member to go with you for dinner after the monthly meeting. Please keep this in mind for next month, as we are having the meal catered for the February meeting.

As I think back to the time that I first came to a QCCC meeting in September of 1973, it was because a member invited me. After a number of years of not owning a Corvette what drew me back in 2011 was an invite by a member. Do you see a common theme here? Are you a member because someone invited you to a meeting or a club function? The answer is most likely yes, so we all need to be on the lookout for that special Corvette owner that might enjoy having over 300 new friends. Don't be afraid to approach the owner and invite them to one of our many monthly functions.

Our membership now stands at 316 and GROWING! Congratulations to our latest new members, Dennis & Georgene Couch and Mark Kicinski & Ellen Vance.

Thanks, Darrell



National Corvette Museum

Oh what an event it was, it really was. The food was excellent, the service superb, the band outstanding, the comradeship most enjoyable and the awards program expertly conducted. Thanks ever so much to Pat Bonino and all those involved in putting together the Annual Awards Banquet. It was appreciated by all.



With the start of a new year, a few words about recent past years. Under the auspices of boards lead by past presidents, Cross and Pelchat, and our new leader, Mr. Cruthis, our club has provided remarkable support to the NCM. With their leadership and board support, the club has purchased an acre at the Motorsports Park, become a lifetime club member, and purchased a granite bench with the QCCC logo on it. All totaled, with purchases by individuals, groups, and the club, QCCC is responsible for five acres at the MSP. Now let's strive to achieve 100% membership and be the first club to achieve that status.

Have you ever had an urge to drive a Ferrari, a Lamborghini, or a McLaren? You can now do just that at the NCM Motorsports Park. You can pick three of five super cars and do three laps in each of them for a package price of \$799.00. The dates are March 20-22 and more information is available at www.theextremeexperience.com/tracks/national-corvette-museum-motorsports-park/ on the Xtreme Xperience website or by calling 866-273-7727.

Most have probably been made aware of the new inductees into the Corvette Hall of Fame but in case you don't know, they are Herb Fishel, Rick Hendrick and Russ McLean. More info and bios are available on-line at the NCM website.

The 2015 NCM Bash is rapidly approaching and rooms at the Hilton Garden Inn are filling up. If you are thinking about joining us for the journey to Bowling Green in April, now is the time to let me know and make all your arrangements. All the Corvette engineers will be there to show off the 2016 Corvettes.

Don't forget about the QCCC Club Day at the Museum in July. This will be a four day event with us leaving on Thursday, July 16th and returning on Sunday July 19th. For this trip I have rooms booked at the Hilton Garden Inn for \$109.00/night (including a cooked breakfast). A sign-up sheet will be available at the February meeting. This trip will include a guided tour of the NCM, a tour of the Corvette Plant, a box lunch, and laps on the MSP track. The cost is only \$25.00/person for non-members and \$20.00/person for members. We pay when we get there. This trip will, hopefully, entice our new members who have yet to see the NCM to make the visit and see what it's all about. There are no big decisions to make or activities to worry about on this trip. So, how easy is that?



Save the Wave!

Paul Mariano,

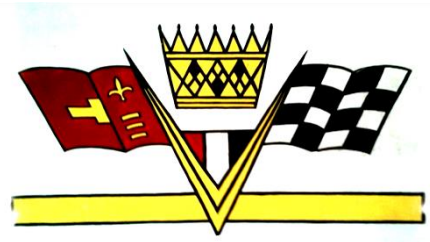
NCM Ambassador

Vintage QCCC

With the Vintage Gang:

Bill Cruthis, Richard Craig, Darrell Kirkley & Travis Meredith

More "Adventures" from QCCC of Decades Past



QCCC Vintage Member Profile: David and Lydia Morse

It was 1971 that car enthusiast David Morse was selling cars part time at the Lincoln-Mercury dealer in Charlotte, when he purchased a 1966 300HP 4 speed Corvette trade in. The blue on blue one owner roadster had about 20,000 miles and was completely original and unmolested. Later that year Dave and wife Lydia learned about QCCC and joined.



From the very beginning, Dave was a very active and enthusiastic member and as the club's racing involvement grew, his competitive nature was revealed. QCCC had at that time some very proficient autocrossers, unfortunately Dave wasn't one of them. He always drove beyond his and his car's limits and it wasn't long before he earned the CB handle of "Capt'n Crunch". His poor 66 took the brunt of the abuse even after he modified it with special suspension, wider wheels and tires and engine up grades. And to make it worse, after one of his accidents, he had the car painted a color he described as "bronze", but it was only two shades lighter than turd brown. At least it made him easy to identify on the starting line so you could get out of the way.

He bought Lydia a new silver C3 automatic and at a low speed parking lot event at Eastland Mall (while his 66 was being repaired) he slid broad side into a curb and folded both left side wheels under the car. Another Morse car in the shop. Even though he tore up more cars than Kyle Petty, he never got upset or discouraged, he would just smile and talk about how much fun he was having.

At an event at Charlotte Motor Speedway, we learned by accident that ole Dave was follically challenged (he was just in his late 20's). Always willing to help out, he jumped in the back of a pickup truck to go to the scene of a problem on the track. With 6' 4" Dave standing up in the back facing the wind, his hair piece did a "wheelie" to the middle of his head. When the truck stopped the rug gently laid back on top of his head and he was never the wiser. Later that year, on the club's annual beach trip, someone slipped into Dave's room and stole his attachment tape, covered it with sand and put it back. The next morning, Lydia came down and said that she and Dave would skip breakfast with the club, and she left. Later that morning Dave came down, every hair in place, perfect in fact, and he never said a word. Those responsible were never caught and prosecuted.

When QCCC acquired the clubhouse on Independence Blvd., Dave was tireless helping fix the place up, and when it was decided to build a bar in the back room, he volunteered. We were skeptical at first not knowing if he had any carpentry skills (and equating that to his driving skills), but when he said he would pay for all the materials, he was given the approval. It turns out the only thing he could drive was a nail. He did a beautiful job and the first toast was to him.

David contributed greatly to the success of QCCC in those formative years. He represented the club at

National Council and was elected QCCC's President in 1975. He was one of the main organizers of the NCCC convention held in Charlotte in 1978. His tireless leadership was contagious and it was with great sorrow for the club that he took a career path that moved him and Lydia to Texas, where they still live today.

And the “cherry” 66 he started with? He spun out racing at Charlotte Motor Speedway, backed into the guard rail, spun back around and went head first into the opposite guard rail. The only parts not damaged were the two doors. It was eventually repaired, but its fate is not known. I like to think it's one of the “all original” examples being sold at Barrett Jackson.

Travis Meredith, *Historian*



You bought how many cars!!!!



***QCCC Members & Guests Photos:
Many More on the Web Site:***









From Track to Street

NEXT EVENT:

Corvette Racing's next event is the Mobil 1 Twelve Hours of Sebring presented by Fresh from Florida on Saturday, March 21.

CORVETTE RACING AT DAYTONA: Rolex 24 GTLM Win for Corvette C7.R

Corvette Racing returned to Victory Lane for the Rolex 24 at Daytona on Sunday, scoring a hard-earned GT Le Mans class victory in the opening race of the 2015 TUDOR United Sports Car Championship. Antonio Garcia, Jan Magnussen and Ryan Briscoe won in their No. 3 Chevrolet Corvette C7.R in Corvette Racing's second race back at Daytona since 2001.

Garcia crossed the finish line by 0.478 seconds. The winning trio completed 725 laps – 2,581 miles - for the team's second Rolex 24 victory. Corvette Racing captured and Rolex 24 overall win 14 years ago but didn't race at Daytona again until last season in the first race for the TUDOR Championship as well as the Corvette C7.R.



GTLM pole-sitter Oliver Gavin, Tommy Milner and Simon Pagenaud placed third in class following a strong run.

Comments from Queen City Corvette Club Viewers:

WOW what a finish, Antonio Garcia, Jan Magnussen and Ryan Briscoe won in the No. 3 Chevrolet Corvette C7.R by 0.478 seconds after 725 laps and 2,581 miles, amazing to see and hear!

Bob & Marilyn

What a terrific job by the #4 team to get the car back on course and get a podium finish.

Paul Mariano

Meeting all six C7-R drivers and speaking with members of the pit crew before and during the race capped off the overall excitement I had at the 2015 Rolex 24 Hour Race.

Wade Stickels

A definite Must-See Fan Friendly Event

One of the most exciting weekends we've had recently

VIR on steroids

A must for Corvette and sports car fans!

After the race, we waited at the Corvette garage for the Race Team to return from Victory Lane. Even though these drivers had driven a combined 740 laps in 24 hours with little rest, each one, when we shook their hands, thanked US for OUR support! That pretty well sums up the Corvette Racing Team and their interaction with fans.

This should be on every QCCC / Corvette fan's list of things to do next January!

Lastly - I know International Speedway Corp (France family) and Speedway Motorsports (Bruton Smith) are competing with each other for the biggest and best. After seeing the fan friendly atmosphere and accommodations at Daytona (not to mention the race itself) I must say Bruton needs to "get on the ball".

Chris Wood

The above comments are why I have been going to Corvette Racing Events for over 13 years. The excitement of the race is only a small part of the experience. Meeting the drivers and getting to know them is the best. It really surprises many people when the drivers and crew say hi to me at these events. It should not be, since they are Corvette fans just like we are.

See you at the next Corvette Race.

Boyd Kurt



Queen City Corvette Club 2014 Banquet



QCCC 2014 Banquet Member Awards

On January 31st we held our QCCC Annual Awards Banquet for 2014. We had a great turn out and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. This year it was held at the Speedway Club as we enjoyed dinner and danced the night away to the live music of “The Extraordinaires”. The food was good, the music entertaining and our silent auction for our charity funds were successful. As always at the end of a year the QCCC members vote to recognize their peers for a few annual awards. The club recognized [Peggy Conover](#) as the 2014 Female Rookie of the Year. [Bill Houck](#) received the 2014 Male Rookie of the Year. And this year the 2014 Member of the Year Award was presented to [Bill Cruthis](#). This year for the 2014 President’s Award I selected [Paul Mariano](#) as he is starting his 9th year as our club National Corvette Museum Ambassador and his love for the Corvette and service at the club, regional, national and NCM levels. Awards of Service were given to [Chris Wood](#) for 3 years as Membership Director and [Tommy Loftin](#) for 2 years as Automotive Director while serving on the QCCC Board. Additional Awards of Service were presented to [Bob Denny](#) for his 18 years of service as Club Photographer, to [Nelson Sprague](#) for his 6 years of service as Charity Committee Chairperson and to [Boyd and Susan Kurt](#) for their 3 years of service as Newsletter Editors.

Lastly I will take this opportunity again to [THANK ALL of YOU](#) for your help over the last 3 years as I served on the club board. Without your help and service our club would not have been as successful.

Keith Cross

Corvette Fever Runs Rampant at the 2014 Awards Banquet

News flash for those who were unable to attend the banquet. The following members were recognized for not being able to control their corvette fever.

Longest Distance Driving on Continual Basis

We Can Drive for Miles and Miles and Miles

(Jack & Betty Ann Brunton and Steve & Pat Bonino)

Longest Continuous Active Members of QCCC

We Will Have These Moments to Remember

(Gary & Linda Artis and Fred & Caroline Lentz)

Members with Oldest Corvettes They are Original Owner
You Gotta Know When to Hold Em
(Eddie Burt 1966 and Walt & Wendy Krupowicz 1969)

Best Visionary Corvette Purchase as a Youth
Saw It Bought It Kept It, All Shook Up
(Steve Pelchat 1960 Bought at Age 16 and Still Has It)

Daily Driver Awards
Drive Em If Ya Got Em
(Boyd Kurt 83,000 Miles and Laura Pelchat 104,000)

First In Last Out, Corvette in QCCC the Longest
Still Here After All These Years
(Travis Meredith 1964 Bought and Joined QCCC in 1970)

Top Corvette Fever Committee Chairman
Shout Shout Knock Yourself Out
(Jim Ramandanes of The Loud Off Competition Fame)

Most Outstanding QCCC Man Cave
(Bill Davidson—Awesome Place)

Put QCCC on the Map at the National Corvette Museum
(Bob Denney, Florence Prather, Wade & Sue Stickels and Walt & Wendy Krupowicz)

7 Grand Champions Selected by the Membership to be Recognized As Being On Fire With
The Corvette Fever

Paul & Barbara Mariano
Tommy Loftin
Eddie Burt
Peggy Wood
Bob & Marilyn Becker
Bob & Benita McCall
Jim Ramandanes

To start the evening off the Band sang “Lord Almighty, I feel My Temperature Risin”

After all the fever awards, the band struck up, and the heat just kept buildin with all the shakin on the dance floor. Before the evening was over corvette fever had run amuck at the speedway club. QCCC can really throw a party.

If you were not there you missed a good one. Keep the fever burning, there is no cure, only treatment.

Bill Cruthis



Most Outstanding QCCC Man Cave *“Bill’s Place”*



“Heads-Up”

Up Coming Events

VALENTINE'S DAY



BECAUSE LOVE ISN'T QUITE
COMPLICATED ENOUGH AS IT IS.

Come and bring your Sweetie to a catered Valentine's meal before
the
February 14th QCCC Meeting
We know this is a difficult night to get in to restaurants so we
thought it would be nice to combine the two events!!!

VFW Hall
100 VFW Lane
Indian Trail, N.C. 28079
(see website for location instructions)

Catered Buffet Dinner by Rossini's Italian Restaurant
Meat, Pasta, Salad, Bread and Valentine Desserts
Tea, Coffee and Water
\$15 per person



No Host Bar open during Social time and Dinner – closed when meeting starts

4:00-5:00	Social Time
5:00 – 6:00	Dinner
6:00	Meeting