

# Retiree Newsletter

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## President's Message:

Happy New Year everyone! Can you believe it is 2012? Where does the time go? I hope all of you had a blessed Holiday Season with friends and family and are ready to enjoy more Club activities that we have in store for you. So, here we go...

We are very pleased to have as our guest speaker for our February meeting, Mr. Thomas G. Stephens, GM Vice Chairman and Global Chief Technology Officer. Mr. Stephens will be informing us on the current status of GM, GM's future outlook, and how new technology will be impacting GM's future vehicles.

Mr. Stephens began his career at GM in 1969 as an hourly employee at the Chevrolet Engineering Center. Mr. Stephens spent the bulk of his career, and for which he is most noted for, in the Powertrain Division of General Motors. He was promoted to various management and executive positions within the Powertrain Organization. In March 1994 he was elected a Vice President of the GM Powertrain Group in Pontiac, MI.

From May 1996 through December 2000, Mr. Stephens was GM Vice President and Group Director of Engineering operations for the GM Truck Group. He was appointed Vice President of Vehicle Integration in January 2001 and held this position prior to being named Group Vice President for GM Global Powertrain in July 2001. In January 2007, Mr. Stephens' responsibilities were expanded, and he was appointed Group Vice President, GM Global Powertrain and Global Quality. Mr. Stephens was promoted to Executive Vice President of GM Global Powertrain and Global Quality in March 2008. Most recently, Mr. Stephens served as Vice Chairman, Global Product Operations since April 2009; with the expanded role of overseeing Global Purchasing Organization since December 2009.

As Vice Chairman and Global Chief Technology Officer, Mr. Stephens' role is to anticipate and develop advanced technologies for integration into GM vehicles. He is a member of the Executive Committee and reports to Chairman and CEO, Mr. Daniel Akerson.

In closing, I would like to tell you what a privilege it has been serving as your Club President during the 2011 calendar year. Through your input, the Board of Directors was able to implement many of the "suggestions for change" you submitted on our Annual Club Survey which, hopefully, you enjoyed. With the implementation in January of new Club Officers, I can assure you things are only going to get better and we promise you that we are going to fulfill our promise to bring you new and improved meetings and activities. Oh, and remember, I am not going anywhere...I have four more years to serve on the Club's Board of Directors. It has been my pleasure serving you.

Respectively submitted;

*Jim Harshman*

## Cadillac Diesel

One of the most interesting revelations to come out of the Los Angeles Auto Show last week: Cadillac is thinking about selling a diesel-engine vehicle in the United States.

It should come as no surprise that General Motors' luxury brand is doing so.

After all, some of Cadillac's primary competitors -- Audi, BMW and Mercedes-Benz -- market outstanding diesel powertrains. And then there's that little issue of higher fuel-economy and lower emissions.

Don Butler, Cadillac's marketing vice president, said during an interview at the show that a diesel engine was under consideration for vehicles sold outside the United States. He quickly added that a diesel engine "could be a potential hedge in the U.S. because of diesel's great torque, great performance with great efficiency."

Butler made it clear that Cadillac will do whatever it takes to compete with the imports -- including having competitive powertrains.

"We absolutely mean it when we say we aim to compete with the best of the best without compromises. And if that means making the right powertrain choices, then those are the choices we will have to make," he continued.

Back in the 1980s, GM's diesel engine was an embarrassing failure -- a reliability nightmare that severely tarnished the image of Oldsmobile and Cadillac.

This time around, failure is not an option.

Cadillac has a strong, attractive product line -- the SRX, CTS, Escalade and the 2013 ATS and XTS sedans that land in dealer showrooms next year.

What's missing is a diesel. And if Cadillac does enter the diesel arena, the engine must be nothing less than world class. It cannot afford a mistake as it builds the Cadillac brand across the globe.

## **Buick Encore-**

General Motors confirmed that Buick's new small crossover will be named the Encore. The crossover is expected for the 2013 model year. Industry sources have said it will be built on a version of GM's front-wheel-drive Gamma subcompact platform, which underpins the Opel Meriva MPV and Chevrolet Sonic. The Encore will join the full-sized Enclave crossover and is part of GM's continued build-out of Buick's lineup.

## **Susan Docherty- New Appointment**

Susan Docherty has been appointed President and Managing Director of Chevrolet Europe, effective January 1, 2012. Susan will succeed Wayne Brannon, who has elected to retire. Her replacement as Vice President of GMIO Sales, Marketing and Aftersales will be announced at a later date. Returning to Zurich, Switzerland, Susan will oversee the growth of Chevrolet and Cadillac across Western and Central Europe. She will also work closely with Opel/Vauxhall leadership and help ensure synergy between GM's brands on the European continent. In her new position, she will continue to report to GMIO President Tim Lee and remain part of the GMIO leadership team as well as a member of the GM Korea Board of Directors.

Susan brings tremendous global experience to her critical new position, as Chevrolet Europe and Cadillac operations in Europe are becoming fully integrated into GMIO at the beginning of next year. She has been a driving force for GMIO since taking on her present position in May 2010, promoting the growth of all of our brands while harmonizing Chevrolet's brand standards. Both Chevrolet and GMIO are poised for record sales this year.

Before moving to Shanghai, she had served as GM Vice President of U.S. Marketing. Among her other key posts were GM Vice President of U.S. Sales, Service and Marketing; General Manager of Buick-Pontiac-GMC; Marketing Director for GM Europe based in Germany; and Manager of International Marketing and Communications in Zurich.

Wayne Brannon, who joined GM in 1973, has done an outstanding job rolling out GM's largest global brand across Europe since taking on his present post in January 2006. By 2008, Chevrolet had doubled its European sales volume. In the first 10 months of 2011, despite a very challenging market environment, Chevrolet sold 170,000 vehicles in Western and Central Europe, achieving double-digit sales growth in 10 countries. In the brand's centennial year, 2011, Chevrolet has launched seven new models in Europe, positioning it for further growth.

Please join us in congratulating Susan and wishing Wayne all the best in his retirement. We ask you to support Susan and Wayne as they carry out their important transition.

## **The sport-utility vehicle is making a comeback.**

After being largely shunned during the recession, high-riding SUVs and workhorse pickups are regaining favor as U.S. consumers grow more confident and fuel prices remain below the \$4 a gallon level that triggered a shift away from larger vehicles.

The rebound was clear Thursday as U.S. auto sales in November hit a 13.6 million annual pace, the strongest in more than two years, with sales of trucks and SUVs surpassing cars at many auto makers. The results are boosting Detroit auto makers that suffered when gas-guzzlers got the cold shoulder in 2008.

Results at General Motors Co., the largest U.S. auto maker, illustrate the strong lift from sport-utility vehicles and pickup trucks. Its SUV and truck sales climbed 10% while passenger cars rose 1%, both from a year ago.

Consumers are also embracing pickups and small SUVs such as Chevrolet's Equinox that can get up to 32 highway miles a gallon, one less than a Malibu sedan.

## **GM Oshawa**

GM will invest \$68 million to prepare the Oshawa Assembly Plant to build the next-generation Chevrolet Impala, securing approximately 350 jobs.

## **100 years old**

General Motors continues to celebrate Chevy's 100th anniversary with a new tribute video to the company's long truck lineage. Chevrolet started producing pickups in 1918 with the 490 Light Delivery and hasn't stopped since. We're a little disappointed to see that the video glosses over tasty hardware like the 1956 Chevrolet Apache and the ever-attractive 1967 Chevrolet Suburban, but beggars can't be choosers. The clip does spend some time with the Blazer, including some fantastic vintage footage of the utility bouncing along a dusty trail with its top off.