

The Criterion

President's Message

I hope everyone is enjoying the holiday season and staying warm. For me, spring can't come soon enough! Warmer weather and getting the cars out and ready for the summer is one of my favorite times of year. This issue will cover our annual antique ambulance display at the EMS Council of NJ and review some of the recurring PCS events. The society has 2 main yearly events, the Micro-Meet and International Meet. Itineraries are detailed in this issue as well. 2026 is the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Professional Car Society and this year's meet will be held outside of Cincinnati, OH, the same area as the first international meet was held. Upcoming events listed on page 2.

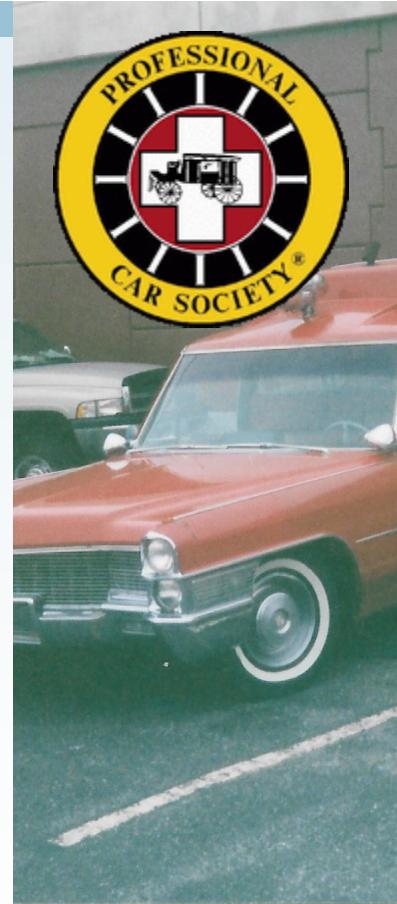
In late December, we were saddened to learn of the passing of long time chapter member Paul Vickery of Long Hill, NJ. Paul also sold ambulances in NJ for many years representing Wolf Coach, Braun, McCoy-Miller and Lifeline, to name a few brands, over the years. We remember Paul on page 5 of this issue.

Do you like to write? Have a creative flair? If so, we're looking for a newsletter editor and especially regular contributors for this publication. Any and all help is greatly appreciated. Please reach out to one of the officers.

Fred

Monthly PCS Show and Tell on Zoom

On the second Sunday of the month at 7pm there is a Show and Tell where PCS members show parts of their professional car collectibles. Check the PCS forums (www.professionalcarsociety.org/ forums) or the Facebook group (The Professional Car Society Official Members Group) for updated information and zoom link.



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EMS Council of NJ Display



On Saturday, October 18, 2025 the Northeast Chapter did our annual display of antique ambulances at the EMS Council of NJ's annual convention in Fairfield, NJ. Members in attendance were Rich Litton, Jenn Morin, Jeff and Mary Hookway and Fred Goerlitz. We displayed three professional cars this year, the Hookway's 1966 Superior Rescuer Ambulance and Fred Goerlitz's 1972 and 1976 Superior 54 ambulances. While our group was smaller than usual, we did get a lot of people looking at the cars and asking questions about them. In addition, a replica of the Squad 51 truck from the 70's television show Emergency was also on display.



“...a replica of the Squad 51 truck from the 70’s television show Emergency was on display”

Upcoming Events

March 13-15, 2026: PCS Micro-Meet and Midwinter Board Meeting, Mt Airy Fire Co. Mt. Airy, MD (see info at right)

May 24, 2026: Annual Memorial Motor Madness Car Show, Mars/Wrigley, 700 High St. Hackettstown, NJ

June 12-14, 2026: Hearsemania 2026, in Lilydale NY Info: John Ehmer Vintage-motors811@yahoo.com

June 24-27, 2026: PCS International Meet, Cincinnati, OH Host Hotel: LaQuinta Inn & Suites 11029 Dowlin Dr. Cincinnati, OH 45241. (See article page 3)

2026 Micro-Meet

The 2026 Micro-Meet will be held at the Mt Airy, Maryland Fire Department's Reception Hall at 1008 Twin Arch Road, Mt. Airy on Saturday March 14th. The event starts Friday with dinner and socializing at the host hotel followed by the Micro-Meet on Saturday morning.

Reservations:

Hotel: **Hampton Inn**, 5311 Buckeystown Pike, Frederick, MD 21704

Deadline 2-20-26 to book discount rate! **PCS GROUP BLOC RATES of \$124/night applicable through Feb. 20, 2026**

Group Name: Professional Car Society Meeting

Group Code: PCS

Booking Link: <https://group.hamptoninn.com/e71xht>

Hampton Inn Reservations: 800-774-1500

Hampton Inn (Buckeystown Pike) Front Desk: 301-698-2500



2026 International Meet Itinerary

The 2026 International Meet will be held outside of Cincinnati, Ohio from Tuesday, June 24th thru Saturday, June 27th. This is the 50th anniversary International Meet. For complete Itinerary please visit www.TheProfessionalCarSociety.org

LaQuinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham Cincinnati Sharonville

11029 Dowlin Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45241

1-800-753-3757

Just off I-75 near I-275 and I-71, located near the Ohio-Kentucky border, 27 miles from the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG). Thoughtfully appointed rooms and free high-speed Wi-Fi, on-site convenience market, and a modern fitness center. Reserve under the Professional Car Society to receive the group discount rate.

Room types and discounted group rates:

King Executive with a pull-out sofa, microwave and fridge - \$129 per night plus tax

Queen/Queen with microwave and fridge - \$129 per night plus tax

One bedroom King Suite with living area and pullout sofa, microwave and fridge and wet bar - \$149 per night plus tax

One bedroom Queen/Queen Suite with living area and pullout sofa, microwave, fridge and wet bar - \$149 per night plus tax

Free breakfast buffet. Pet friendly. Indoor pool.

Please use the GPS Booking Link or Group Code 062326PRO BELOW to make your reservation by the cutoff date of June 3, 2026. After that date, reservations will be made upon availability and the link will no longer be available.

[Professional Car Society Meet 2026](http://www.wyndhamhotels.com/hotels/52982?checkInDate=06/23/2026&checkOutDate=06/28/2026&groupCode=062326PRO)

<http://www.wyndhamhotels.com/hotels/52982?checkInDate=06/23/2026&checkOutDate=06/28/2026&groupCode=062326PRO>

Planned events at this time:

"Early Bird Tour" Tuesday, June 23, 2026

William Lafferty Funeral Museum - for those wanting to take a peek at a unique funeral collection we will be meeting on the afternoon of Tuesday, June 23, 2026 at 3 pm on the way to Cincinnati to feast our eyes on a private collection with a guided tour. This collection of horse-drawn funeral vehicles was either owned by several generations of the Lafferty family, or acquired by William Lafferty, the fourth generation of the family business.

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

Meet at the American Sign Museum at 2 pm for a guided tour lasting 1½ hours.

The American Sign Museum promotes sign preservation and restoration by displaying nearly 100 years of signage. Next on the agenda will be the Cincinnati Fire Museum, which is very close in proximity to the American Sign Museum. The Cincinnati Fire Museum highlights the significant contributions that Cincinnati has made to the firefighting profession.

Thursday, June 25, 2026

Meeting at the Kellerman Professional Vehicles in Amelia, OH, for an inside tour of the manufacturing facility of Platinum and MK funeral vehicles. Taking our professional cars to the drive-in!!! There isn't a better way to end an evening than to catch a movie under the stars from the front seat of your professional car. The Starlite Drive-In in Amelia, OH, will host the Professional Car Society for a vintage movie that will keep us all entertained.

Friday, June 26, 2026

It's "PICTURE DAY." Friday morning will be spent getting photos of all those beautiful cars, gleaming chrome, white-wall tires, and emergency lights!

Friday afternoon will consist of the Board Meeting followed by a Membership Meeting after supper.

Saturday, June 27, 2026

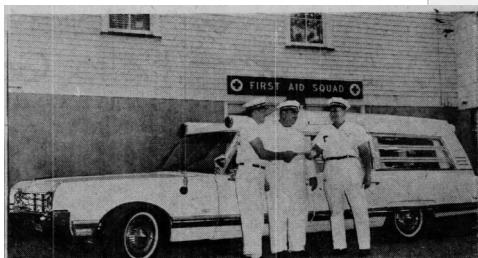
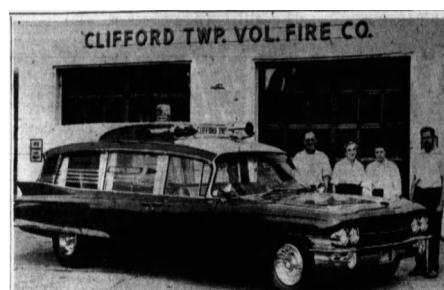
"SHOW DAY" The show will be held at our host hotel from 11 am to 2 pm, with awards being handed out at 3 pm. It's going to be great!! Our banquet supper will be held at our host hotel with a cocktail hour from 6:30 to 7:30, with supper beginning at 7:30. A guest speaker will wind up our banquet.

A lights and siren show will follow the banquet.

Chronicling Ambulance History

Did you ever wonder about a certain squad or town's lineage of professional cars? Ever wonder how many 1973 Miller-Meteor ambulances were delivered in NJ? (26). To answer this and other pro-car ambulance related questions we need to ask another question: What happens when two long time NJ EMT's stop running calls and start working together on ambulance history?

Rich Litton, with 45+ years on a NJ squad, and Fred Goerlitz, with 40 years, both stopped riding EMS in the past 2 years. Rich, already well-known for his dogged NJ ambulance research was told about a website that scanned old newspapers (www.newspapers.com). Both signed up for accounts and the project was off and running. Prior to Rich's retirement, he had been emailing Fred lists of NJ ambulances. In order to put these in a sortable format, an Access database was created. As time progressed, the search was expanded to Pennsylvania with dabbling in New York, Maryland and Delaware as well as Connecticut. In addition to the newspapers.com site, websites and social media, mainly Facebook plus making phone calls are used to make sure the research is tight. To date, the NJ section of the database has almost 1900 entries and is about 95% complete, while the PA section has almost 800 entries and is probably about 40-45% complete. Some examples of the newspapers.com clippings are below and screenshots of various sections of the database are at right.



Ambulance database

Organization	PA county	Model Year	Chassis	Body
Bucks County Rescue Squad	Bucks	1923	Cadillac	SBS
Bucks County Rescue Squad	Bucks	1929	Studebaker	Superior
Bucks County Rescue Squad	Bucks	1930	Studebaker	Hemmy
Bucks County Rescue Squad	Bucks	1939	Packard	Hemmy
Bucks County Rescue Squad	Bucks	1941	Cadillac	Unknown
Bucks County Rescue Squad	Bucks	1948	Cadillac	Meteor
Bucks County Rescue Squad	Bucks	1948	Cadillac	Phoebe
Bucks County Rescue Squad	Bucks	1950	Cadillac	SBS
Bucks County Rescue Squad	Bucks	1951	Packard	Hemmy
Bucks County Rescue Squad	Bucks	1952	Packard	Hemmy
Bucks County Rescue Squad	Bucks	1953	Packard	Hemmy
Bucks County Rescue Squad	Bucks	1954	Packard	Hemmy
Bucks County Rescue Squad	Bucks	1955	Pontiac	National
Bucks County Rescue Squad	Bucks	1956	Pontiac	Superior
Bucks County Rescue Squad	Bucks	1958	Pontiac	Superior
Bucks County Rescue Squad	Bucks	1964	Oldsmobile	Coupe-Beverington
Bucks County Rescue Squad	Bucks	1964	Oldsmobile	Coupe-Beverington
Bucks County Rescue Squad	Bucks	1965	Oldsmobile	Coupe-Beverington
Bucks County Rescue Squad	Bucks	1965	Oldsmobile	Coupe-Beverington
Bucks County Rescue Squad	Bucks	1965	Oldsmobile	Coupe-Beverington
Bucks County Rescue Squad	Bucks	1970	Pontiac	Superior
Bucks County Rescue Squad	Bucks	1970	Pontiac	Superior
Bucks County Rescue Squad	Bucks	1965	Chevrolet	National
Bucks County Rescue Squad	Bucks	1965	Cadillac	Meteor
Bucks County Rescue Squad	Bucks	1974	Oldsmobile	Coupe-Beverington
Bucks County Rescue Squad	Bucks	1974	Oldsmobile	Coupe-Beverington
Bucks County Rescue Squad	Bucks	1974	Oldsmobile	Coupe-Beverington
Bucks County Rescue Squad	Bucks	1974	Oldsmobile	Coupe-Beverington

Squad	County	Model Year	Chassis	Body	Miller Meteor	Builder Model
Delaware	Burlington	1973	Cadillac	LifeSaver		
Delaware	Burlington	1973	Cadillac	LifeSaver		
Minotola	Atlantic	1973	Cadillac	Miller-Meteor		
Pennington Road	Mercer	1973	Cadillac	Miller-Meteor		
Sparta	Morris	1973	Cadillac	Miller-Meteor		
Sparta	Middlesex	1973	Cadillac	Miller-Meteor		
Sparta	Middlesex	1973	Cadillac	Miller-Meteor		
Highland Park	Middlesex	1973	Cadillac	Miller-Meteor		
Highland Park	Middlesex	1973	Cadillac	Miller-Meteor		
Asbury Park	Middlesex	1973	Cadillac	Miller-Meteor		
Asbury Park	Middlesex	1973	Cadillac	Miller-Meteor		
Carneys Point	Middlesex	1973	Cadillac	Miller-Meteor		
Arbor	Middlesex	1973	Cadillac	Miller-Meteor		
Arbor	Middlesex	1973	Cadillac	Miller-Meteor		
Flamingo	Hudson	1973	Cadillac	Miller-Meteor		
Flamingo	Middlesex	1973	Cadillac	Miller-Meteor		
Flamingo	Hudson	1973	Cadillac	Miller-Meteor		
South Bound Brook	Somerset	1973	Cadillac	Miller-Meteor		
South Bound Brook	Union	1973	Cadillac	Miller-Meteor		
Philipsburg	Warren	1973	Cadillac	Miller-Meteor		
Morris Minuteman	Morris	1973	Cadillac	Miller-Meteor		
Clifton	Morris	1973	Cadillac	Miller-Meteor		
Glen Ridge	Essex	1973	Cadillac	Miller-Meteor		
Passaic Hose Co.	Passaic	1973	Cadillac	Miller-Meteor		
Fort Lee	Bergen	1973	Cadillac	Miller-Meteor		
Demand	Bergen	1973	Cadillac	Miller-Meteor		
Morristown	Middlesex	1973	Cadillac	Miller-Meteor		

Organization	PA county	Model Year	Chassis	Body	Miller Meteor	Builder Model
Bloomsburg Ambulance	Columbia	1960	Cadillac	SBS	Parkway	
Bloomsburg Ambulance	Columbia	1960	Cadillac	SBS	Parkway	
Bloomsburg Ambulance	Columbia	1960	Cadillac	SBS	Parkway	
Bloomsburg Ambulance	Columbia	1960	Cadillac	SBS	Parkway	
American Hose Mt. Carmel	Northumberland	1970	Cadillac	SBS	Parkway	
American Union Hose	Lebanon	1960	Cadillac	SBS	Parkway	
Collegiate	Delaware	1961	Cadillac	SBS	Parkway	
Dalton	Lackawanna	1960	Cadillac	SBS	Parkway	
Dalton	Montgomery	1970	Cadillac	SBS	Parkway	
Dalton-Carroll	York	1965	Cadillac	SBS	Parkway	
Dalton-Carroll	York	1965	Cadillac	SBS	Parkway	
Dalton-Carroll	York	1969	Cadillac	SBS	Parkway	
Fairview	Northumberland	1960	Cadillac	SBS	Parkway	
Fairview	Northumberland	1960	Cadillac	SBS	Parkway	
Fairview	Northumberland	1972	Cadillac	SBS	Parkway	
Fairview	Northumberland	1974	Cadillac	SBS	Parkway	
Hornsey	Dauphin	1964	Cadillac	SBS	Parkway	
Ridgmont	Northumberland	1958	Cadillac	SBS	Parkway	
Middle	Columbia	1965	Cadillac	SBS	Parkway	
Middle	Dauphin	1959	Cadillac	SBS	Parkway	
Lehighton	Columbia	1960	Cadillac	SBS	Parkway	
Lehighton	Columbia	1963	Cadillac	SBS	Parkway	
Logan Fire Co. Bellfonte	Centre	1962	Cadillac	SBS	Parkway	
Logan Fire Co. Bellfonte	Centre	1963	Cadillac	SBS	Parkway	
Logan Fire Co. Bellfonte	Centre	1964	Cadillac	SBS	Parkway	
East Creek Community Ambulance	Schuylkill	1972	Cadillac	SBS	Parkway	
Yulea & Wicomico	Dauphin	1960	Cadillac	SBS	Parkway	
Yulea & Wicomico	Dauphin	1964	Cadillac	SBS	Parkway	

Squad	County	Model Year	Chassis	Body	Miller Meteor	Builder Model
Farmwood	Warren	1950	Cadillac	Meteor		
Philipsburg	Warren	1950	Cadillac	Meteor		
West Esopus	Fulton	1948	Cadillac	Meteor		
Fair Haven	Bergen	1951	Cadillac	Meteor		
Mountaintop	Union	1948	Cadillac	Meteor		
South Plains	Union	1948	Cadillac	Meteor		
Pontoon Lakes	Passaic	1949	Cadillac	Meteor		
Liberty of Trenton	Mercer	1941	Cadillac	Meteor		
Sea Bright	Middlesex	1949	Cadillac	Meteor		
Asbury Highlands	Middlesex	1949	Cadillac	Meteor		
Kearny	Middlesex	1936	Cadillac	Meteor		
Highlands	Middlesex	1936	Cadillac	Meteor		
Wallington	Bergen	1947	Cadillac	Meteor		
Macungie	Middlesex	1948	Cadillac	Meteor		
Fredonia	Middlesex	1949	Cadillac	Meteor		
Ashley Park	Middlesex	1947	Cadillac	Meteor		
Hightland Park	Middlesex	1950	Cadillac	Meteor		
Elmwood Park	Bergen	1948	Cadillac	Meteor		

Chapter Officers

www.pcsnortheast.com

President:

Fred Goerlitz
3 Ridge St.
Hackettstown, NJ 07840-4119
goerlitz1@verizon.net
fredgoerlitz@gmail.com
(908)892-5075

Vice-President:

Jenn Morin
105 Perch Ln.
Greentown, PA 18426
(732)259-8757

Secretary:

Mary M. Hookway
64 Mudcut Rd.
Lafayette, NJ 07848-4607
hookmmh@ptd.net
(862)258-5377

Treasurer / Membership
Chair:

Jeffrey C. Hookway
64 Mudcut Rd.
Lafayette, NJ 07848-4607
hookjch@ptd.net
(862)254-6369

Newsletter Editor:

Open

Criterion Publisher:
Open

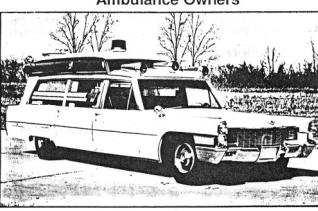
Remembering Paul D. Vickery

April 25, 1947 - December 28, 2025

Paul D. Vickery (picture at right) was a long time PCS Northeast Chapter member and NJ ambulance dealer. Paul passed away on December 28, 2025 after a short hospital stay. Over the years Paul and his wife, Donna hosted the Northeast Chapter picnic at their home in Millington, NJ several times and Paul would display one or both of his antique ambulances at various EMS Council of NJ Conventions in October.



Attention:
Cadillac, Pontiac and Oldsmobile
Ambulance Owners



The Northeast chapter of the Professional Car Society, a national car club dedicated to the preservation of limousine style ambulances and funeral cars, announces

The 11th annual
Antique Ambulance and Funeral Car
show and meet.

Held in conjunction with the New Hope Car Show

Saturday, August 8
New Hope, PA

All organizations or individuals with this type of vehicle, regardless of age, are invited to participate.

Trophies will be Awarded

For Details Contact:
Paul Vickery, 233 Broad Street, Summit, NJ 07901
201-273-5039

Paul was instrumental in getting the word out about the 1987 International Meet in New Hope, PA. Paul placed the ad, at left, in the Gold Cross, the magazine of the EMS Council of NJ (then known as the NJ State First Aid Council) to encourage squads still owning professional cars to display them. Paul was the proud owner of a 1940 Fxible Buick ambulance and a 1956 Miller Cadillac ambulance (photos at the bottom of this page).



Paul and family from several years ago

