



# GRISWOLD & CAST IRON QUARTERLY

## Volume 28, Number 2

SPRING

*April, May, June 2023*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone, as I am writing this President's message, we are enjoying some fresh vegetables from our garden [finally!] and doing some summer cast iron picking. Our recent nation convention in Baton Rouge was a great success and more information and pictures are included in this issue.

Speaking of our national convention, our next one is in Erie, Pennsylvania next March. We are making plans already and hope to see our old friends and make new ones there. If you have attended one of our conventions then you know how great they are for information, socializing and of course great cast iron and aluminum.

All four of our regional chapters are having meetings in the fall and we are looking forward to attending several of them. These meetings are very informative and lots of fun and include a swap meet. Since they are smaller than the national meets it is easy to talk with everyone there and get acquainted. If you are a club member you are automatically a chapter member so come on out and join the fun! More information is available in this issue and on our website at [gcica.net](http://gcica.net).

Finally, stay safe and have good fortune iron hunting. I am looking forward to seeing you at one of our regional meetings this fall.

Art Chatfield

Email me at [artchatfield@gmail.com](mailto:artchatfield@gmail.com) or phone at 513-673-1875.

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## DUES REMINDER

Yearly memberships end on December 31st. Please renew your memberships for 2024 before that date. New for this year, dues can be paid on line at <https://www.gcica.net/> See the site for details.

A dues increase was proposed, voted on, and accepted at the annual convention in Baton Rouge. A \$5.00 increase per person was approved. Individual membership for 2024 is \$30, and family membership is \$40. The student rate will remain \$10.

## 2023 NATIONAL CONVENTION, BATON ROUGE, LA

Our hosts, Clayton Mitchell and Malinda Fontenot, with the help of many other members, made this happen. This year's convention was an outstanding one in so many ways it is difficult to make a comprehensive report on the entire event. This photo essay will just have to suffice to give information to those not able to attend and bring back some fond memories for those that had the pleasure of being there.

Thursday, April 20;

### Registration

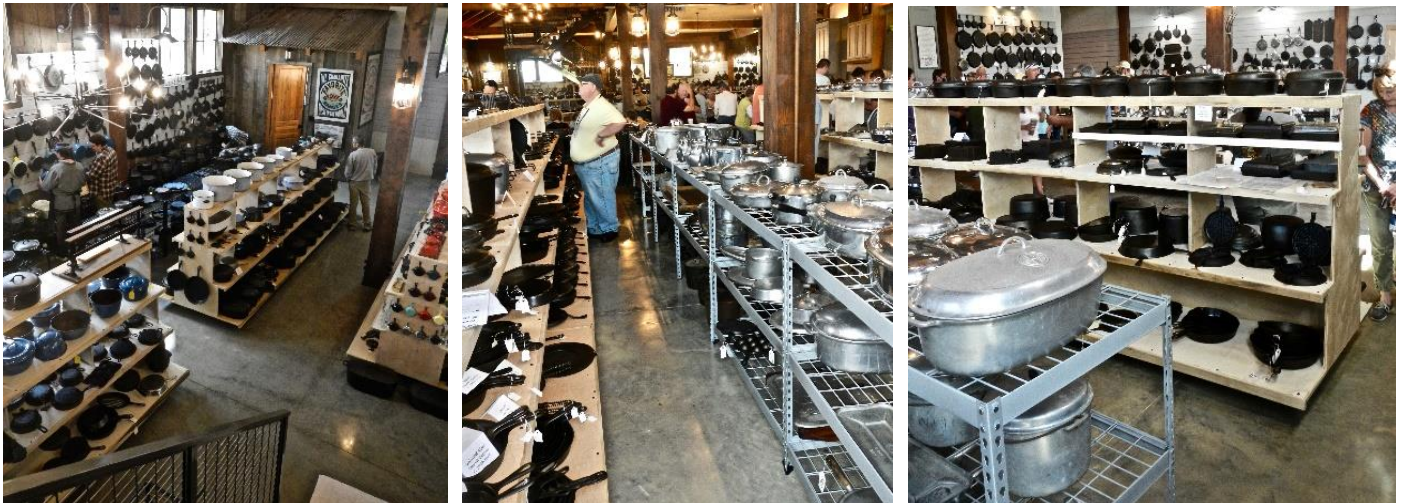


LaBurta Noren organizing the registrants' packets, with Chapter baskets getting delivered In the background.

The convention commemorative was developed by Sonny McCarter. He spent a lot of effort making the handles.

### Open house at host Clayton Mitchell's Cast Iron Museum from noon 'til 7 pm

Views of the beautiful museum, the extensive cast iron collection, food, entertainment, and club members having a wonderful time.





These photo are just a small sampling of the beauty and variety, and often rarity, of iron in the museum



Kitchen and dining area within the museum offering a plethora of hors d'oeuvres, hot food and desserts



Outdoor cooking and seating areas. Catfish was just one of the offerings.



Giant pots of beans and chili, one of many pirogues of crawfish (mudbug) boil, and a band for entertainment

Friday, April 21;

## Show and Tell/Stump the Experts



Russ Howser and Gary Taylor discuss rare, odd and unique pieces brought to the tables by members.

## Seminar Presentations



Russ Weimer spoke about restoration and reconditioning, featuring a coffee grinder, and a hotplate reconditioned for a museum display about the North Shore Line, which ran from Chicago to Milwaukee.



Gary Baran spoke on "how to cast iron", covering everything from smelting to making a sand mold, and promised an even more thorough demonstration when he hosts the 2024 convention in Erie, PA.

## Auction

Over 130 items were auctioned off Friday evening. A box dinner was available for the attendees.



Auctioneer Kevin Wheeler of Wheeler Auctioneering in PA. said he has never seen CI bring these kinds of prices!



Scott McCarter, one of many helpers, holds up a corn stick pan.



Long-time GCICA member Harold Henry gets a chance to be our auctioneer again.



Plenty of action and a lively time!



There was good attendance, as usual, for the auction.

## Saturday, April 22;

### Swap Meet

Plenty of tables of cast iron wares to wheel and deal over and search for that special treasure.





## Table Topics



View of some of the table topics setups, with Sonny McCarter's #5 Skillets display at top center. Sorry I missed a better photo.



Joseph Zawadowski; Dippers, Ladles, Scoops & Shovels



Doug Wenz & Calvin Smith; Double Skillets



Eric McAllister; Griswold Victors and Favorite Miamis



Blake and Ashlee Williams; #3 Skillet Covers



Scott McCarter: Griswold Aluminum



## Business Meeting



Our Board of Directors setting up to start the meeting. L to R; Secretary, Malinda Fontenot. President, Art Chatfield. Vice President, Josh Delp. Treasurer, Brenda Bernstein.

Bruce Kelfstrom gave a status report on the new web page.



Bruce solicited input regarding the web page from the members.

## Banquet



The banquet was enjoyed by all, both for the food and the socialization.



New members and first-time convention attendees were recognized and applauded.



The regional chapter baskets were raffle off. Chris Kendall won a few. He certainly bought enough tickets!

## Awards Presentations Following the Banquet

Scott McCarter presented skillets signed by the convention attendees to recognize their various contributions and participations for and in the G&CICA.



Sonny McCarter, outstanding service



Kathy and Doug Wenz, volunteerism



Malinda Fontenot, outstanding service



John Haussler, lifetime achievement



Don and LaBurta Noren, service, managing registration



Gary Baran, casting demo, 2024 Erie convention host



Josh Delp, service including as V.P.



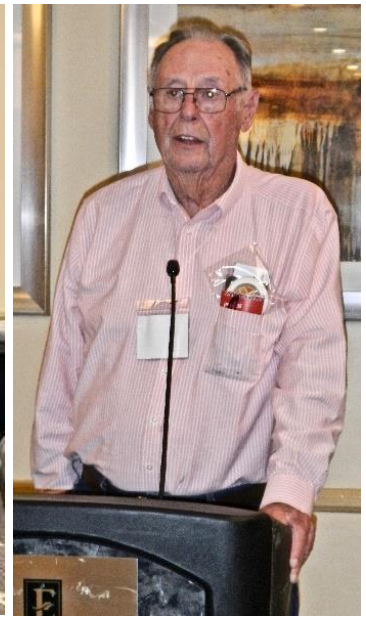
Josh Delp, President's award by Art Chatfield



Clayton Mitchell, convention host, presented with skillet previously awarded to the late Joe Noto to be displayed in the Mitchell Cast Iron Museum.



Harold Henry, inspirational award



Harold made a special address to the membership.

## Hospitality room

The hospitality room was open evenings after the scheduled events of the day were over. Food, drink and socialization was available. This is a cake, in the form of a Dutch oven that was eagerly consumed one evening.



## Room sales

There was plenty of room sales activity anytime no scheduled events were going on. The result was plenty of happy sellers and buyers. Unfortunately, no photos were made available.



## TREASURER'S YEAR END VIEW 2022

This is a review of G&CICA's financial position at the end of the year 2021. We have **\$41,553.71** in our accounts, including US Bank and PayPal as of December 31, 2022. All accounts have been audited and were found to be in order. G&CICA had an income of **\$14,817.52**, this resulted in a decrease of **\$6,861.95** over the prior year. 2022 expenses were **(\$18,195.11)** an increase of **\$2,250.82** over the prior year; netting a loss of **\$3,377.59** for the year of 2022; resulting in a loss of **\$3,369.72** over the previous year. Factors contributing to the loss were the new website creation fees and equipment purchases.

Respectively submitted  
Brenda Bernstein  
G&CICA Treasurer  
March 29, 2023

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### A Look Back, In their Own Words

#### **G&CICA the 1<sup>st</sup> 25 years**

As we go forward as a group, I want to take a look back in the rear view mirror. There was so much knowledge from those early years that continues to help us today. As I share these stories, I will not add, edit or change any wording. Please let me know what you think or if you have a specific write-up from the early years that you would like to see shared in future issues. My contact info is listed at the back of Griswold quarterly with the other contact information..

**Eric McAllister**

## **MUSEUM EXHIBIT & THE WATSON/CURTZE HOUSE TRIVETS to TEAPOTS: THE GRISWOLD STORY**

A wonderful display of Griswold products on loan from the G&CICA members will be shown at the Erie County Historical Society and Museums located at 356 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street in Erie. The museum is housed in the 1891 Watson/Curtze Mansion. The museum, the G&C&CA Archives Committee and the 2001 Erie Convention Committee invite all members coming to the 2001 Erie Convention to join us in opening of the exhibit Thursday Evening, May 17<sup>th</sup> 2001. The event is free of charge.

You will not only see unusual pieces made by the Griswold Manufacturing Company through the years but you will have the opportunity to see the entire mansion which has been turned into a museum, meet the museum staff and its civic supporters in The City of Erie. Please take this occasion to look into the kitchen and pantry areas to see first hand their sad state of disrepair and how desperately they need our support in restoring it to its former dignity and elegance.

For those of you who do not know its history the Watson/Curtze mansion dates back to the late 1800's. Ely Griswold was born in this house. His daughter Lawrie Griswold McCarthy is a club member and has worked diligently on the restoration for several years.



**The Watson/Curtze Mansion**

The mansion was sold to the Curtze's about 1918. In 1941 Mrs. Curtze and son Fredric offered the mansion to the Erie School District to be used as an art gallery, museum and an extension library. In 1942 the Erie School District accepted the endowment and has used the house as the Erie Historical Museum and Planetarium since that time.

If you would like to attend the Exhibit Opening and Reception we would greatly appreciate knowing how many are going to attend. Please indicate this on your registration form. For those who have already sent in their forms please drop me a line or phone at (814) 868-1316 after 6 P.M.

We are still planning to have a special museum presentation with a discussion of the restoration project by the staff for the G&CICA members during the day Thursday. If we do not have enough people wishing to attend this presentation it may be cut back to only one session. Please let us know if you would also like to attend the of these in depth presentations detailing the restoration. Thanks and we are looking forward to seeing you in Erie next May.

Joannie Baldini

### Special Report from Sally Swanson about the Museum Restoration Project

As you know, it has been a desire of many to have a worthwhile project for the club's excess funds. The Archives and Historical Committee's report has been sent to president Dean Fitzwater and the Board for their review and comments. Final approval and funding of the museum project will be voted upon by the membership at the convention in May.

If you personally approve of the project, a voluntary contribution, no matter how small, would also be very much appreciated. Checks should be sent to the Erie Historical Society and Museums (George T. Griswold Memorial) Erie, PA 16501. Donations are fully tax exempt. It would be wonderful if our membership could raise the first year's obligation (\$5000) through donations it kick this project off. Whatever balance remains will be made up through the club's general fund.

We have worked very hard to bring this project to reality, and we feel it will be accomplished very soon. I can not praise the staff at the museum enough for all the questions they have answered, some in detail, and the time and energy they have spent to pull this restoration together.

If you have any questions that you feel need to be answered regarding this project, please feel free to call e (Sally Swanson), Brad Schwarting, or Joe Noto.

# And the Countdown Continues for my Top 50ish List....

Wow – what a great convention in Baton Rouge, and seeing the collection of Clayton Mitchell was outstanding. The iron was spectacular, the food was amazing, and the people were so great to be around and talk iron, plus the old barn was cool for just storing that old cast iron. You must make sure and plan for the March Convention in Erie, PA. – it will be awesome as well.

I sure hope all has been going well and you have been able to stay out of the heat. It has been so hot here it is hard to clean iron. Hopefully, you have been able to make a few shopping trips and add some cast iron to your collection. If you want to have fun, buy some iron, and meet great people then the convention is a must attend. It will not disappoint so please make plans to attend in March 2024.

So, in the last five or so years, I have talked about my favorite piece of cast iron/aluminum and what steps and decisions that were needed to identify that all-time favorite piece, the one I must have, would grab and secure in an emergency, dream about, and of course would never part with. I have shared the first items that I have ranked in my top 50ish. I can only guess that will change over time so please do not hold that against me. Plus, I have found some new items at the last few conventions that will modify the list and have extended it beyond 50 items. I think I am way past 50 now, so thank you for letting me tell this story...stay tuned as this is fun to share the journey. It's hard to pin down the top items, with lot of debating with myself, and yet it really helps me enjoy my collection, really look at each piece, and think about when and where I acquired that item.

So, after much thought and sleepless nights thinking about this, I will reveal the next 4 items on my top 50ish list. Remember it is not about the retail value of an item. It is about pieces that I enjoy looking at and treasure. So, some items on the top 50 will not always be high priced but they will be a treasure in my eyes.

Drum roll please for the top items to continue down the list, and see that we have more items to share, and try and narrow the list down. How fun is that? So now on to the list and some of the items that have tied for the top spots, and on our way to one at some point.

**#3a (tie) – As you might have realized by this time, I really love the chrome and nickel-plated pieces. Today I am sharing the huge #17 oval fish skillet in chrome. I was able to acquire this amazing skillet at the national convention in Florence, KY in 2022.**

**What is cool and unique about this skillet is the lack of a Griswold logo. Not sure if it is a slant or a block. Just joking on that, so please do not send me a pair of glasses. In my opinion this skillet was made for commercial use like the 13 skillet that does not have the Griswold logo. There is so much we just do not know about the trademarks and time frames and manufacturing of the iron.**

**I do know that only 2 of these skillets in this size exist. There could be more of course, but I only know of the Big O having one and this one. Have I ever mentioned get to the conventions so you can really see some awesome iron? And if you do not go, then I guess we that are attending will hold onto it for you.  
LOL**



**#3b (tie) – And next on the list today is the large #14 slant logo, Erie skillett with the cool finger loop assist and the finish is in nickel.**

**I am imagining walking into the local hardware store to buy a skillett and see this huge awesome skillett and think do I want this skillett in black iron, or do I like this cool nickel skillett I am looking at. Of course, the nickel skillett had a higher retail price, so I had to really think long and hard about that purchase. Anyway thought, the nickel skillett would look nice hanging in the kitchen and was different than all the other iron being displayed.**

**Super cool item and still functional today. Once again delighted it was preserved for us to enjoy and see that beautiful craftsmanship and plating still intact.**

**I was super lucky to land this piece at the 2023 Baton Rouge convention. Now I need to try and complete the slant Erie set of skilletts in nickel.**





#3c (tie) – And next on the list today is the #8 applied handle skillet in – not sure what to call that trademark. So, for now I will call it the Griswold's Erie Cast Aluminum trademark. I have a few other pieces with this trademark. However, this is the first skillet I have come across.

So many cool stories on this little skillet - the applied handle is super unique, the unusual trademark is obviously different, and then, of course, this is the first Griswold skillet I have seen that when hanging up the logo is actually right side up and able to be read. I sure wish they would have made all skillets that way.

Quite unique to see the size of the skillet under the trademark. Skillet to the right is another 8 applied handle and just for comparison – somewhat different with the pattern number above the size of the skillet - #8



**#4d (tie)--And then we have the 2-quart saucepan in cast iron, with the chrome finish and wood handle. This work horse would have been a daily user in many families, making soup or something that was delicious.**

**I wonder why the 737 pattern number on the saucepan states a griddle in the book and so does the 741 pattern number on the chrome cast iron lid.**

**Always more to the story that we might just never know.**



And for **#1** – well you will have to wait just a bit longer to our next couple of Newsletters to see the big reveal, and what is next in the top 50ish countdown...

I also believe when you mix in some chrome, porcelain, aluminum, and nickel in the collection it helps add a little pop to the collection and really stands out well within the black iron.

So, you start to see the dilemma on identifying that one favorite piece. Is it possible, and how do you decide on that? Whatever your answer, and however you can get to one favorite piece, it really is about the journey, the stories, and the amazing times.

So please share your list, bring that favorite item to the next convention in March 2024 in Erie, PA, and we would love to hear the story. Take a few minutes, write a quick story & send to Joseph for the next newsletter.

Please feel free to contact me with your ideas, concerns, and your passion to volunteer, ideas for a future article, or wanting to host a convention.

Take care. My contact info is: Phone/text: 479-866-2421. Evenings & weekends are best.

Email / [slmccarter@cox.net](mailto:slmccarter@cox.net)

Thanks Scott McCarter

## WAGNER MOLDERS UNION 1050 ASHTRAYS;

### VARIATIONS OF THE 'INTERNATIONAL MOLDERS AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION' ASHTRAY

BY: JOSEPH ZAWADOWSKI

Information in the Schiffer Publishing Co. books 'Griswold & Wagner' and 'The Book of Wagner and Griswold' states the Wagner 1050 ashtray was made in the 1950s and 1960s, also, that enameled and advertising versions date in the 1980s. The exact date(s) of manufacture for the International Molders and Allied Workers commemorative are unknown to the author. It is possible it was first made to commemorate the centennial of the union which was organized in 1859, as stated on the ashtray itself.

At least six variations of this commemorative ashtray can be found.

Four variations have the graphics incised on the face of the ashtray and vary in the markings on the back as well as the orientation of the graphics in relation to the ashtray handle.

Two variations have the graphics raised on the face of the ashtray and vary in the markings on the back and in the orientation of the graphics in relation to the ashtray handle.

It is sometimes difficult to tell in photographs if the markings are incised or raised. The easiest way to determine that is to look at the circular design below the clasped hands. The raised graphics versions have a raised dot in the center of the circle, while in the incised versions, the dot is absent and the center of the circle is clear.

The six identified versions of the commemorative are illustrated in these photographs, and by the accompanying captions. No information has been found on when the various versions were made. At this time, the sample size is too small to determine the relative rarity of any of the different versions.

#### VARIATIONS WITH INCISED GRAPHICS (4)

#1-PLAIN BACK; IMAGE READ WITH HANDLE DOWN



#2- MADE IN USA, 1050; IMAGE READ WITH HANDLE TO RIGHT



#3-OVAL LOGO, MADE IN USA, 1050; IMAGE READ WITH HANDLE DOWN



#4-OVAL LOGO, SIDNEY O; IMAGE READ WITH HANDLE DOWN



BACKS AND FRONTS OF THE FOUR INCISED GRAPHICS VARIETIES. ASHTRAYS PLACED IN SAME ORDER, LEFT TO RIGHT, IN BOTH PHOTOS.



VARIATIONS WITH RAISED GRAPHICS (2)

#1-PLAIN BACK; IMAGE READS WITH HANDLE UP



#2-OVAL LOGO, SIDNEY O; IMAGE READS WITH HANDLE DOWN



BACKS AND FRONTS OF THE TWO RAISED GRAPHICS VARIETIES. ASHTRAYS PLACED IN CORRESPONDING ORDER, LEFT TO RIGHT, IN BOTH PHOTOS.



It is possible that other variations of the Wagner International Molders & Allied Workers Union commemoration ashtray were made and may turn up with further searching.

If any reader knows of additional variations of this ashtray, please take the time to inform me of their existence. My contact information can be found at the back of the Cast Iron Quarterly on the list of contacts.

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### **SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT**

While I was putting this Quarterly together, Bruce Kelfstrom, our web page manager, contacted me for copies of past Quarterlies. He is going to place them in the members' only section of the web page so we can access and reference them.

Since Quarterlies are now being made available on the web page, it is possible that the most current issue can be placed there as soon as it is completed. This would make it available weeks before it gets printed and mailed.

The Board has discussed giving members the option of just getting the Quarterly by accessing the web page, or opting to have it mailed. The former choice would save the G&CICA some major expenses in printing and mailing. The Quarterly would still be available as a mailed, printed copy for those who do not want to, or are unable to, access it via the web site.

This is something for members to consider while the Board works out how these options will be offered to the members.

Joseph Zawadowski, G&CICA Quarterly editor

## NOTIFICATIONS

### **FUTURE NATIONAL CONVENTIONS:**

2024, ERIE, PA. March 14-17

2025, ST. LOUIS, MO April 10,11,12. Embassy Suites, St. Charles, MO. **NOTE** These dates have been moved up from what was printed in the last Quarterly.

### **2023 G&CICA NORTHEAST REGIONAL CHAPTER MEET**

**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY – OCTOBER 6 AND 7, 2023**

**Where:** Comfort Suites Camp Hill-Harrisburg West  
100 Bar South Drive, Camp Hill, PA 17001  
Phone # (717) 857-8800 or (717) 857-8811

**Friday:** Grateful Goat Brewing & Provisions  
1300 Camp Hill Bypass, Camp Hill, PA 17011  
(717) 904-4628

**Menu:** [gratefulgoatbrewing.com](http://gratefulgoatbrewing.com)

Reservations made for 6pm

**Saturday:** 8:30-9:00 am – Join everyone in the hospitality room at the Comfort Suites for donuts/pastries, coffee, tea and juice.

**Show & Tell:** 9am - Bring any special and unique items you may want to share with the group.

**Business Meeting:** Review yearly items and choose next year's host.

**Luncheon:** 12pm - Simply Turkey & More will be catering our group

**Swap Meet After Lunch:** Bring those special items for sale.

\*\*Rate for Comfort Suites is \$109 plus tax per night. Room rate applies from Thursday 10/5-Sunday 10/8/23. Guests can make reservations 2 ways: Calling 717-857-8800, press "0" and mention GCICA or by using the online booking link <https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/EK53B1>  
Cut-off date for this rate is 9/13/23. After that date the block will be released to the public.

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PLEASE ADVISE IF YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING ASAP SO RESERVATIONS CAN BE CONFIRMED WITH THE RESTAURANT AND CATERING SERVICE

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending Friday 10/6/23 \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending Saturday 10/7/23 \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAIL, EMAIL OR TEXT WITH NAMES & NUMBER ATTENDING BY 9/23 to**

**Annette Long, 773 Lancaster Avenue, Enola, PA 17025; (717) 856-9756; Email: [theannettelong@gmail.com](mailto:theannettelong@gmail.com)**

### **DIXIE CHAPTER MEETING, NOV. 3 AT PM-2023 NOV 4 AT 5PM**

2023 G&CICA Dixie Regional Chapter Meeting

Location: Echo Mountain Inn

2849 Laurel Park Hwy, Hendersonville, NC 28739

828-693-9626

Friday: Dinner and Social

Saturday: 8:30am-9am Breakfast

Show and Tell: 9am. Bring any special and unique items you wish to share with the group.

Business Meeting: Review yearly items and choose next year's host.

Lunch: 12 Noon

Swap meet after lunch: Bring items to sell and trade.

### **2023 WEST COAST CHAPTER MEETING, SEPT 15 AT 5PM-SEPT 16 AT 5PM**

2023 G&CICA West Coast Regional Chapter Meet

Location: Albany, OR

Friday: Dinner and Social

Saturday: 8:30am - 9am Breakfast

Show & Tell: 9am. Bring any special and unique items you wish to share with the group.

Business Meeting: Review yearly items and choose next year's host.

Lunch: 12 Noon

Swap meet after lunch: Bring items to sell and trade.

Friday's meet and greet will begin at 3:00pm at the home of Chuck and Tina Foster. 503 10<sup>th</sup> Ave SW, Albany, Oregon 97321.

Saturday's gathering will take place at the Eagle's Lodge 150 SW 1<sup>st</sup> St.. Activities will start at 9:00am and will include a show and tell, table sales and our chapter business meeting.

Please email our chapter secretary Mary Ousnamer at [neil@nomomilling.com](mailto:neil@nomomilling.com) or Rick Hoxmeier at [rfoxmeier@hotmail.com](mailto:rfoxmeier@hotmail.com) to confirm attendance.

### **2023 HEARTLAND CHAPTER MEETING, SEPT 22 AT 5PM-SEPT 23 AT 5PM**

2023 G&CICA Heartland Regional Chapter Meet

Location: Fulton, MO

Friday: Dinner and Social

Saturday: 8:30am - 9am Breakfast

Show & Tell: 9am. Bring any special and unique items you wish to share with the group.

Business Meeting: Review yearly items and choose next year's host.

Lunch: 12 Noon

Swap meet after lunch: Bring items to sell and trade.

Hosted by: Russell Howser

Friday evening social dinner at a restaurant near Fulton, to be determined.

Afterwards, Russ will be sharing his collection at his place, for those who would like to see it.

GRISWOLD & CAST IRON COOKWARE ASSOCIATION, FOUNDED 1992  
2023-2024 NATIONAL OFFICERS & BOARD

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