



February 2025 FVEAA Newsletter

Fox Valley Electric Auto Association

fveaa.org

The FVEAA is a Not-For-Profit Illinois Corporation and the Chicago-area chapter of The Electric Vehicle Association

FVEAA Monthly Meeting

When: Friday, February 21, 2025 - Doors open at 6:45 pm

Meeting starts at 7 pm and will run until about 9 pm.

Where: 102 S 2nd St, Geneva, IL 60134

Map: [Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva](#)

Virtual Meeting: [Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Dial-in for audio-only users: Call: 312-626-6799
Enter Meeting ID when prompted: 95901481473#
Participant ID: (blank, just #) *6 mutes/unmutes

Meeting Agenda

- 6:45 Virtual meeting begins to test connections and chat
- 7:00 Introductions
- 7:40 Bruce Jones and Ted Lowe on purchasing a used Chevy Bolt
- 8:10 Break
- 8:15 Jeff Miller on energy costs running the Gree Flexx heat pump through winter
- 9:00 Close

President's Words

Jeff Miller

January Meeting

Thanks to everyone who braved the winter and joined us for the meeting. Luke Burrows gave us an update on the EVSE program, however he did have an error in his information. I've pasted a correction gathered by Grant Prellwitz:

"Customers have 90 days from installation to apply for the [EV Charger and Installation rebate](#). Whether you apply for Hourly Pricing before or after installation will not impact your eligibility. If you apply for the rebate and have not enrolled in an eligible time variant rate, your rebate will go into flaw status and you will be notified. This would not make you ineligible but it would delay your rebate."

Thanks Grant for chasing this down.

Second, thanks to Bruce for going over all of the events, and getting volunteers. One of the events is the Kane County Cougars baseball game, and we need to collect funds this week, so get them in to Tracey!

February Meeting

Bruce Jones and Ted Lowe are going to cover the various rebates and credits out there, and how it is working for Bruce on his recent Bolt purchase. What Bruce did was very smart, as he planned to capture one of the cars that would become eligible for the used car credit before it became eligible. This timing also aligned well with the Illinois credit application window. For those that aren't in a hurry, it's worth paying attention to his strategy. Just be aware that there are limits on how many used cars you can do this with, as there are pretty tight restrictions on how often you can do this.

Second I will be presenting on how well my Heat Pump based HVAC system has been performing. As you can see below I am pursuing major insulation upgrades so it should improve next year. Some will recall that I also have done an attic insulation project in the last few years. Beyond those projects, my basement walls and floor are also uninsulated, so plenty to keep me busy for a while yet.

2025 Event list, please see list at the end of newsletter, and reach out to sign up to volunteer.

Heat pumps!

The gas is off, and the gas company has been notified to discontinue service. I found it interesting that they have an option for "reason for cancellation" of "fuel conversion / electrification"! The good news, they are collecting the data to see who is moving off of gas. I don't know that they will share it with the public though, as it could be considered bad for business.

The two heat pump water heaters are in and running. They are Rheem Proterra Performance Platinum 65 gallon units. They have wifi and an app where you can check status and what not. Of course I have energy monitoring on their circuits, so we will get to see details on how much energy they use in my house. Right now, it looks like they are using about 40KWH per week between the pair of them. We will see what that looks like once we get more time on them.

I don't have good data on this, and since I didn't have data logging on humidity before, I don't have good data for comparison. I no longer have appliances drawing air out of the house, and it seems like my humidity is higher on average. That could be completely wrong! I still have bath fans and a range hood, but they aren't persistently drawing air out of the house, only on demand. I just noticed it's higher than I expected based on previous days as cool, and that wouldn't surprise me, as we don't have appliances pulling air from the home anymore. I don't have a humidifier, so humidity does what it wants in the winter, nearly eliminating forced air changes seems to have resulted in my humidity going from 20 odd percent on a cold day to 30 odd percent. That is pretty astounding if accurate.

Springtime plans

As I continue to consider exterior insulation around my house, I am going to try to get rock wool. It's extremely flame resistant, and yet vapor permeable. With a vapor permeable membrane under it, I should be able to let any moisture that is in the walls out. I will then have vertical strips running outside the rock wool, to mount the siding on. The strips will be thick enough to allow air to flow up behind the siding, and dry the rock wool / remove any vapor. Their installation instructions do require a bug screen top and bottom of the insulation and gap to prevent any bugs from getting into the gap, which seems reasonable.

Adding several inches of insulation means my walls are much thicker, but my windows are set way back still. I have shopped around for good quality storm windows, however the ones I have found are approaching the cost of another good quality window. I continue to consider just adding another double pane window outside my current double pane window. I don't know exactly what the U factor of my current windows is, but adding a U 0.3 window outside of them is certainly going to raise the R value of the assembly. U is the inverse of R, so a U 0.3 is a R 3.3. Adding a second window that is probably around U 0.35 = R 2.8 gives my assembly about R 6, however that discounts the insulation value of the air gap itself. A bit of reading leads me to believe that an air gap of about an inch gives an additional R 1, so that would mean an assembly equivalent to R7. Converted back to U, that would be equivalent to a window rated at U 0.14. I don't know how many windows out there can deliver that sort of rating, but none that I can afford to install. As far as solar heat gain goes, I plan to continue using solar screens to block the majority of the sun in the summer.

Assuming these upgrades go as planned, I have some expectations that I could get close to Passive House standards. https://passivehouse-international.org/index.php?page_id=150 Make no mistake, retrofitting a house like mine and hitting those standards isn't a trivial task. The ACH50 of 0.6 is a very difficult requirement. I have about 250 square meters, and their requirement of less than 15KWH for square meter means I would need to have less than 3750 KWH for heating and approximately the same thing for cooling. Maybe I am reading this incorrectly, as my current setup is pretty close to providing that level of performance in a far less than ideal house envelope. I doubt I will have it officially rated as it's a retrofit, but I will check into what is required, to see if I can get it rated. Considering the cost of the insulation + windows, it's going to be a pretty large investment.

Illinois state rebate for EVs

For those that have recently purchased an EV, and qualify for the Illinois state new or used car rebates, please check the following webpage to see if you should apply for the Illinois rebate. Don't delay, there is a limited supply of money!

<https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/ceja/electric-vehicle-rebates.html>

Vice President's Words

Tracey McFadden

It's time to celebrate! As you probably know, FVEAA has reached an incredible milestone of being in existence for 50 years. We have many activities planned this year to mark this occasion. Be sure to read the upcoming events section of this newsletter for times and locations.

I want to draw your attention to the Kane County Cougars Baseball Game on Thursday May 29th. This will be great fun for the whole family. This is an excellent way to enjoy the comradery of the group as well as get the FVEAA name out in the community. A board member will throw out the first pitch and there will be an announcement on the message board (below the jumbotron) "FVEAA is celebrating their 50 Year Anniversary".

Tickets are \$22 and include a \$10 coupon good for concessions. To top it off its "Thirsty Thursday" so soft drinks, beer and hot dogs are only \$2.00. Please send your check ASAP -before Feb 21 -or bring your cash or check to our next meeting on Friday Feb. 21st so we can ensure we get the group rate and the best seats in the house. Please mail your check made out to "Kane County Cougars Baseball" to Tracey McFadden, 41W754 Bowgren Dr., Elburn, IL 60119

Recent news items I found interesting:

- 1) The cost of renewables is expected to continue to fall quickly in 2025, with production costs for new wind and solar farms already undercutting those of new fossil fuel plants. *Bloomberg NEF new report Feb. 2025.*
<https://about.bnef.com/blog/global-cost-of-renewables-to-continue-falling-in-2025-as-china-extends-manufacturing-lead-bloombergnef/>
- 2) Global EV sales of fully electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles were up 25% to over 17 million cars in a record 2024. *Rho Motion Jan 2025*
<https://www.reuters.com/business/autos-transportation/global-electric-vehicle-sales-up-25-record-2024-2025-01-14/>
- 3) Nearly two-thirds of Americans (64%) want to see the government increase fuel-economy standards so that vehicles continue to get more fuel-efficient. *Consumers Report Jan 2025*
https://advocacy.consumerreports.org/press_release/consumer-reports-survey-finds-majority-of-americans-want-better-fuel-economy-and-support-standards-that-deliver-thousands-in-fuel-savings/

Stay Charged!

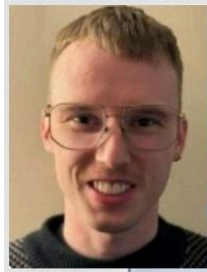


We are considering updating our official FVEAA logo. The one above has served us well for about 20 years. The one below is a new strawman that Bruce Jones has assembled partly based on our parent organization, the Electric Vehicle Association. As you can see, it also helps us celebrate our 50th year as an organization! What do you think? Please share your thoughts and ideas, thanks!



NOTE SEE 50TH ANNIVERSARY PLANNING WORKSHEET AT END OF NEWSLETTER!





New EV Rebate Program Summary

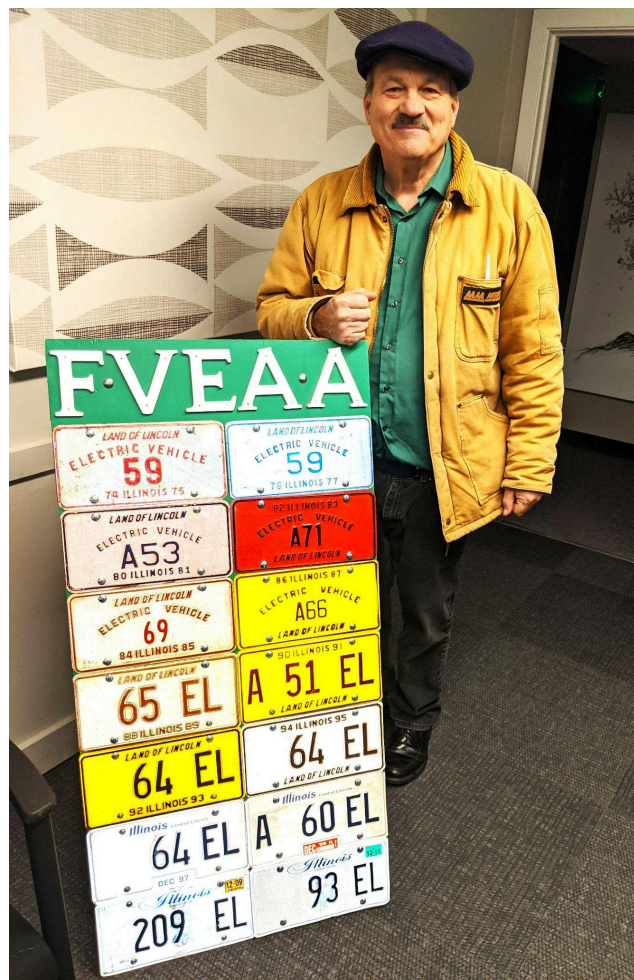
	Rebate for Upgrades and Charger Installation	Rebate for Charger	Rebate for Vehicle	Total 2023-2025 Budget	% of Budget Reserved for select customers
Initial EV Charger and Installation Program (Launched 2/1/24*)	✓	✓		\$15M (\$5M/year avg)	50%
Business & Public Sector EV Rebate Program (Launched 2/15/24**)	✓		✓	\$174M (\$6M/year avg)	57%
EV Rebates Subprogram			✓	\$114M (\$38M/year avg)	50%
Make-Ready Rebates Subprogram	✓			\$60M (\$20M/year avg)	70%
New EV Rebate Program Totals				\$194M (65M/year avg)	

56% of total Program Budget is reserved for "LI/EIEC" customers, who are also eligible to receive higher rebates.

Luke Burrows from ComEd explains many of the EV Rebate Programs they offer. Thanks Luke!!

John Emde was a long time member of the FVEAA who passed away in June of 2019. He left a legacy of pioneering electric vehicle work unmatched anywhere. Chris Sharp (right) who is spearheading the gathering of our 50th anniversary history was fortunate to interview John's family after he passed away. Chris was seeking old newsletters or information that we could use to document our FVEAA 50th anniversary year event. John's family was a wealth of information and donated to the club John's historic EV license plates shown here. Chris mounted them on a board for easy display, and is donating this historic EV license display to the FVEAA. They'll be great to show off at events this year, and for years to come.

Thanks so much Chris! This is awesome and we really appreciate the work!



Kane County Cougars Game May 29th FVEAA 50th Anniversary Family Event

As part of our 50th anniversary celebration, we are organizing a special family day at the Kane County Cougars Game. The date of the event is **Thursday, May 29th at 6:30 p.m.** We will be reserving box seats, and since it is "Thirsty Thursday," at the ball park, hot dogs, beers, and soft drinks are only \$2 each, plus we will all receive a \$10 certificate to use at the concession stands. The discounted group rate for this event is \$22 per person.

To reserve the best seats for our group, **we need to receive your checks at our next FVEAA meeting on February 21st.** If you will not be attending the meeting in person, please mail a check made out to "**Kane County Cougars Baseball**" **by February 21st** to Tracey McFadden, 41W754 Bowgren Drive, Elburn, IL 60119

***If you know of upcoming car shows, cruise nights, parades, or get-togethers, please shoot me an email - GoAFVs@yahoo.com

Take care,
Rich Hirschberg
(c/t) 847.347.7171
Email: GoAFVs@yahoo.com

FVEAA business cards available!

Ted Lowe

See one of the officers to get some cards to hand out to people at various EVents and daily life to promote EVs and our organization!

Fox Valley Electric Auto Association

PO Box 214
Wheaton, IL 60187-0214

630-260-0424
contactfveaa@fveaa.org

Free Yourself From The Pump^{fm}



Join Us and Discover How!

Check fveaa.org for details about our monthly meetings!



fveaa.org

Login to our FVEAA website for access to lots of member-only tools!

Ted Lowe

You can use the many membership-only tools on our website after you login! If you haven't logged in to our website already, please check your email for instructions and login to check it out! Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks!



FVEAA Web Report

as of 2025-02-19 04:58:11

Website Registered User Statistics

Statistic	Value
Total Users	119
Users Never Logged In	41
% Active Users	65.5%
Ave. Days Since Last Visit	903.2 days

FVEAA On Facebook - Join Us! Like Us!

Ted Lowe

The **FVEAA Facebook group** has 135 members as of 1/17/24! If you're on Facebook but not in the group yet, please join us! If you're not on Facebook yet, please consider joining so you can join our group there. This group supplements our forums because it is much easier to use, read, post pictures and videos and get notifications. Please let me know if you have any questions/comments/suggestions. Hope to see you there!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/889497691136309/>

Here is the **FVEAA's Facebook Page**. Like Us!

<https://www.facebook.com/FoxValleyElectricAutoAssociation>

FVEAA On YouTube - Check out our videos!

Ted Lowe

The **Fox Valley Electric Auto Association** has a YouTube channel! Subscribe to us and check out our videos! We've had this channel for many years but we're going to start using it more to attract new members and promote EVs. Please let me know if you have some FVEAA-related videos to post.

<https://www.youtube.com/@evsforever/videos>

Membership Update

Ted Lowe

Keep an eye on the **active paid-up** members count! Many members have taken advantage of the multi-year renewals offered by the new website! **Please renew & recruit new folks!!!**



FVEAA Membership Report

as of 2025-02-19 04:58:11

Count of Members by Type

Membership Type	Count	Paid Up
Family	4	4
Individual	60	60
Lifetime	2	2
Totals	66	66

Other Statistics

Statistic	Value
% Paid Up	100.0%
Avg. Paid Up Days	353.9 days
% With Email	97.0%

Encouraging Our Membership To Grow and Some History

Ted Lowe

We are growing! We live in a large metro area with 8 million people and EVs are the latest buzz so we should be able to grow the FVEAA! **Please invite your friends, neighbors, family, colleagues,** etc. to FVEAA meetings and EVents. Volunteer to attend EVents on behalf of the FVEAA (with or without an EV)! Your ideas on how to help grow the FVEAA are welcomed at any time, thanks! Howard Hansen had a **great idea...** giving an FVEAA membership as a gift!

Here is a time-varying graph of our membership size from 2007 to now. Note that we peaked at 255 members in October 2008 when gas was nearing \$5 per gallon. We were also attending lots more invitational EVents with our converted EVs. The first Tesla Roadster was just coming into being. **Let's get out there and grow the FVEAA!!!**

FVEAA Paid Up Members as of February 19, 2025 12:41pm



— Members: Minimum: 46 on 2019-11-12, Maximum: 255 on 2008-10-28, Latest: 66 on 2025-02-19

Monthly Treasurer Reports

Ted Lowe

As Treasurer, I am publishing a brief Treasurer's Report to our forums around the time our monthly newsletter is published.

I am publishing our various cash balances (Money Market, Checking, PayPal) to this location:
[FVEAA Committees](#) > [Finance](#) > [Treasurer Reports](#)

This area of the forums can only be seen by FVEAA members. As an IL Non-Profit corporation, we have no requirement to publish our assets or financial statements publicly.

Feel free to contact me if you have any FVEAA financial matters to discuss.

Membership Renewals

Ted Lowe

Our membership system sends out "renewal reminder emails," before your membership is due. You will receive up to 3 before being marked "not renewed" (inactive). The sooner you renew, the fewer emails you will receive :) So please pay attention to your email from the FVEAA and renew online using this link (for the easiest approach for all of us):

<https://www.fveaa.org/renew>

THANK YOU for your continued support of the FVEAA!

Meeting Minutes January 17, 2025

Bruce Jones

- President Jeffrey Miller opened the meeting at 7:03 and held introductions for on-site and on-line attendees all around.
- Luke Burrows presented the various ComEd EVSE rebate and incentive programs they offer
 - New EV Rebate Program Summary
 - New Business & Public Sector EV Rebates
 - Low Income/ Equal Investment Eligibility Community (EIEC) Eligibility Requirements and How to Apply
 - New Business & Public Sector EV Rebates, and How to Apply
 - What is "Make Ready" Infrastructure?
 - New Business & Public Sector "Make Ready" Rebates
 - Resources for ALL Residential and B&P EV Toolkits
 - Resources for Fleets / B&P Fleet Assessment Model
- Break
- FVEAA 50th Anniversary
 - Bruce Jones with assistance from Chris Sharp and Wendy Vernon, reviewed the current list of 2025 anniversary events being planned. See end of the newsletter for updates.
 - Chris is donating the historic Electric Vehicle display board shown in the photo in this newsletter.
 - Plates were donated by the family of John Emde who passed away in June of 2019. He was a pioneer of the industry and a founding member of the organization back in the late 1970s.
- VP Tracey McFadden handed out flyers encouraging all who could, to attend a meeting on Jan. 22nd on Exploring the Future of Energy for St. Charles.
- MOTION
 - A motion by Jeff was passed among the officers and members present to provide free lifetime FVEAA membership for those older members who are assisting with the 50th anniversary. Bob Berkemann, Dave Aarvold, Kevin Zak and Rich Carroll are a few of the long-timers at recent meetings who will receive such status. (Please let me know if I

missed anyone!)

- Thanks EVeryone for all your help, and for the years of service you provided.
- The meeting adjourned around 9:20 p.m.

Membership Form

Ted Lowe

FVEAA Membership Application Form - Version 2023-12-04

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zipcode: _____

Phone: _____ Phone Type: Home ___ Work ___ Cell ___

Email: _____

Please check one: New Member _____ Renewal _____

How did you hear about the FVEAA ? _____

Membership Types and Annual Dues (please circle one):

Individual	\$20 (1 year), \$38 (2 years), \$56 (3 years)
Business	\$100
Premier Business	\$250
Charter Business	\$500
Youth (21 or younger)	\$10

Newsletter Delivery Type (please circle one): No Newsletter Electronic

Please make checks payable to "FVEAA" and postal mail it with this membership application form to:

FVEAA
PO Box 214
Wheaton, IL 60187-0214
Attn: Membership

FVEAA Charter Business Members

Illinois Alliance for Clean Transportation (IACT)

Samantha Bingham
2 N LaSalle St #950
Chicago, IL 60602
Email: info@il-act.org
Web: <https://il-act.org>



Illinois Alliance for Clean Transportation (IACT) (formerly known as Chicago Area Clean Cities) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit working to promote the use of clean fuels for clean air throughout Illinois. Our alliance includes people from private business, academia, government, scientific research and energy and environmental services. Our main goal is to help with the adoption of cleaner transportation options.

2025 FVEAA SPECIAL 50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT - CHAIR and Committee Sign Up						
MONTH	2025 FVEAA ANNIVERSARY MEETING / EVENT	CHAIR	EMAIL	PHONE	NOTES	
JANUARY	Planning and prep					
FEBRUARY	(NOTE: OPTIONAL 2/17/2025 Mon 6:30 North Central College, 131 S. Loomis St. Rm 101, Naperville. Modernizing the Grid / Navigating the Energy Market Landscape)	Maureen Stillman	maureen.stillman@gmail.com	630-605-0629	Argonne National Lab Energy Researchers Gunter Kunzelman and Henry Huang w Nicholas Mitchell of Invenergy	
MARCH						
APRIL	Earth Day - Peck Farm Park. Late April date tbd					
MAY	Union IL Electric Train museum / ride	Rob Schwartz	rschwartz350@sbcglobal.net	847-833-7598		
		Rich Hirschberg	goafvs@yahoo.com	847-347-7171	follow up with Rob on this	
		Jeff Miller	millerjeffreys@gmail.com	630-540-8351		
	May 29 Thur Kane County Cougars Baseball	Tracey McFadden	tracer500@gmail.com	630-697-5115		send your \$22 per ticket to Tracey by Feb 21.
JUNE	June 21 Sat. Car Show. Rain date Sat June 28	Rich H.	goafvs@yahoo.com	847-347-7171		
JULY	July 4th Wheaton Parade	Ted Lowe	ted.lowe@fveaa.org	630-260-0424		
	July 27 Sun. Summer Joint 50th Event/ Cookout w IL Solar Energy Assoc. (ISEA) Nicola Brown and Leslie McCain at ISEA https://www.illinoisolar.org/	Wendy Vernon, Chris Sharp, John Balk	wavernon@yahoo.com	630-761-9602	Date booked by John Balk. Thanks! Now July 27	https://illinoisolar.org/#:~:text=Founded%20in%201975%2C%20incorporated%20in,the%20majority%20of%20its%20history.
AUGUST						
	Aug 23 East Troy Electric Train Museum / ride to farmers mkt.	Tracey & K McFadden	tracer500@gmail.com	630-697-5115		10:00 a.m. Train. FVEAA Board Mtg @ McFaddens
	Event to be discussed	Marty Belovicz	martin@totalsystemintegration.com	847-321-5734	tbd	
	Event to be discussed	Ted Liu	tedliu@sector0.net	312-285-0845	tbd	
SEPTEMBER	September Library events	Chris Sharp				
	Parade ?	Laura Baus	baushaus4@sbcglobal.net	224-279-5681	prefer texts	
National Drive Electric Week, is now National Drive Electric Month from Friday, Sept. 12, to Friday, Oct. 12, 2025.						
	National Drive Electric Month - North event date TBD	Rich Hirschberg	goafvs@yahoo.com	847-347-7171		
OCTOBER	National Drive Electric Month-South - Fox Valley Mall 50th car show combination event	Marty Belovicz	martin@totalsystemintegration.com	847-321-5734		
NOVEMBER						
DECEMBER	Special Dinner Celebration w speakers? - TBD	Chris Sharp	greenenergytriad68@gmail.com	630-780-3271 (h)		
		H. Hansen	hghnsn@yahoo.com	708-243-3054		
		David Aarvold - (Chris Sharp to provide contact info)				
OTHER	50th Anniversary Literature - promotions, Library Displays	Chris Sharp	greenenergytriad68@gmail.com	630-780-3271 (h)		
	Banners	Bruce Jones	bjone35@aim.com	630-864-9669		
		Ted Lowe	ted.lowe@fveaa.org	630-260-0424		Ted Lowe artwork