

**Fox Valley Electric Auto Association**

**PO Box 214**

**Wheaton, IL 60187-0214**

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## **July 2012 FVEAA Newsletter**

**The FVEAA is a Not-For-Profit Illinois Corporation and the Chicago Area Chapter of The Electric Auto Association**

**Note: New Meeting Place! Phillips Chevrolet this month!**

### **Next Meeting**

**Friday, July 20th, 2012 - 7:00 PM to 9:15 PM**

THIS MONTH We'll be at

**Phillips Chevrolet**

**9700 West Lincoln Highway, Frankfort IL 60423**

Phillips Chevrolet will be hosting our July 20th FVEAA monthly meeting and incorporate an electric car event. They will have pizza, giveaways, a speaker, comparison test drive of the Chevy Volt vs. the Nissan Leaf (they have a Leaf at the dealership), and a demonstration of their Solar Charging Station, the first auto dealership to have a solar charging station constructed in Illinois.

DIRECTIONS

[Phillips Chevrolet Directions](#)

**DOORS OPEN 6:30 p.m. MEETING STARTS 7:00 p.m. ENDS 9:15 p.m.**

**NOTE DATE, DAY, TIME, AND LOCATION**

### **Agenda**

- Call to order
- Welcome
- Program: Phillips Chevrolet
- Committee Reports
- Old business
- New Business

Hi **EV**eryone,

### **LAST MONTH' SPEAKER !!**

Congressional representative Judy Biggert spent an hour and a half with us talked about status of her submitted legislation, H.R. 1685, the Electric Vehicle deployment Act of 2011 which is meant to establish programs to accelerate, provide incentives for, and examine the challenges and opportunities associated with the deployment of electric drive vehicles, and other purposes. She also talked with us on a wide variety of other topics.

### **WORKPLACE CHARGING ISSUES**

Since we're on the subject of government rules and regulations, here is an area that affects electric vehicle supply equipment and workplace charging. One of the challenges to the deployment of electric vehicles is the lack of charging stations at the workplace. The first choice of most EV owners is to charge at home. Their second choice is to charge at work, but there are many issues employers have to address besides physically installing the charging stations themselves. Many are holding off installations of charging stations unsure about whether charging is a potential taxable benefit.

### **Taxable?**

The IRS, in their "Employer's Tax Guide to Fringe Benefits for use in 2012" states that an employer can generally exclude the value of transportation benefits provided to an employee during 2012 up to the following limits:

- \$125 per month for combined commuter highway vehicle transportation and transit passes
- \$240 per month for qualified parking
- along with some bicycle commuting limitations.

It does not specifically address electric vehicle charging! So companies and tax lawyers are left somewhat in limbo until a definitive guideline is provided.

An IRS letter I recently saw described EV charging as a "de minimis" benefit, which after some research means something in the range of about \$1 per day to around \$125 or \$240 per month which is not taxable, like free coffee or sodas, or the occasional pizza, or something so burdensome to track and worth so little that it isn't worth the effort. (This is unofficial guidance, so consult your tax lawyers!) This is compared to taxable benefits which are in the range of several hundred dollars to several thousand dollars per month like season sports tickets and private jets.

Here is information from the letter which can be found at [IRS Letter](#)

According to this letter from Dave Camp, member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Department of the Treasury, taxpayers can exclude from gross income any fringe benefit that qualifies as a “de minimis” fringe benefit (section 132(a)(4) of the Code).

A de minimis fringe benefit is any property or service whose value is (after taking into account the frequency with which the employer provides similar fringes to his or her employees) so small that accounting for it is unreasonable or administratively impracticable. Examples of de minimis fringe benefits include occasional theater or sporting event tickets; coffee, doughnuts, and soft drinks; and local telephone calls (section 1.132-6(e)(1) of the Treasury Regulations). Examples of benefits that are not de minimis fringe benefits include season tickets to sporting or theatrical events; membership in a private country club; and use of employer-owned or leased facilities (such as an apartment, hunting lodge, boat, etc.) for a weekend (section 1.132-6(e)(2) of the Treasury Regulations). (See IRS Employer’s Tax Guide to Fringe Benefits 2012 Employer’s Tax Guide to Fringe Benefits 2012

Here are some ways companies are handling the issue.

- One company decided to install charging stations on the street, accessible by employees or the public and they are charged a fee.
- Another charges employees a flat fee of \$10 per month for charging
- A third company offers charging for free and does not consider it a taxable benefit. It is offered to all employees (like a fitness center) even though not all employees are capable of using it, or choose to use it.
- Another company believes charging is not taxable, but they are installing intelligent charging stations anyway to help them keep track of every employee who charges. This will track how much they use, just in case the government changes its mind. This may be an extreme case, but up to the company and how they interpret the HR rules for taxable benefits.

Hmm. . . Hey Judy! Can you help clear this up with your bill??

**THIS MONTH’S LOCATION: We’ll be at Phillips Chevrolet on June 20th**

Thanks  
Bruce Jones  
President FVEAA

## Photos

Congresswoman Judy Biggert talks about electric vehicles



**Sam Carnavacciolo drove 400 miles (YES! 400 pure electric miles) in his Tesla roadster from Kentucky on Friday to be at the meeting. He stopped at a campground mid-way to re-charge and made it just in time!!! That's gotta be a record.**

**Community Christian Church in Naperville. To charge your PEV, drive up onto the sidewalk and plug into one of the 120 VAC outlets <approximate locations shown.>**



**Judy and Chuck Carrington discuss the finer points of inverters and DC brushless motors : )**

## **Rich's Ramblings**

*Rich Carroll*

<Rich is off to Scout camp this month with his grandson- so have fun Rich!>

## **Meeting Minutes -**

*Virginia Hanson*

FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2012 <Thanks to Virginia Hanson for being temporary secretary tonight!>

President Bruce Jones started the meeting at 7:05 p.m at Community Christian Church. New attendees introduced themselves. There was no new or old business.

Judy Biggert, our 13<sup>th</sup> District Congressional representative came and was the guest speaker. She was going to spend a half an hour with us to discuss the electric vehicle legislation that she is trying to get through Congress and ended up spending an hour and a half! Judy attended New Trier High School and Stanford University then became a lawyer. She got involved in local community groups and issues, then eventually ran for office as state representative and took over for Harris Fawell.

As the Republican U.S. Representative for Illinois's 13th congressional district, serving since 1999, talking about her past, related electric vehicle topics and went with us outside to look at and discuss the electric vehicles.

She sponsored legislation HR 1685, the Electric Vehicle Deployment Act, which includes incentives to install charging stations (electric vehicle supply equipment or EVSEs) including up to \$3,000,000 in grants

Judy sits on several House of Representative committees including 1) Education and the Workforce 2) Financial Services 3) and Science, Space & Technology Committee including two subcommittees for Energy and the Environment, and Technology and Innovation. She is active on seven congressional member organizations including chairwoman of the caucus on research and development and has been active with Argonne Labs on subjects like nuclear power. Amazing person!

We took advantage of the nice weather and sunlight and stayed outside until the meeting was adjourned around 9:00 p.m.

**Membership Form**

*Ted Lowe*

**FVEAA Membership Application Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Type: Home \_\_\_ Work \_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_  
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How did you hear about the FVEAA ? \_\_\_\_\_

Member Types and Annual Dues (Please circle one)	Newsletter Delivery Types (Please circle one)
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Individual	\$15	No Newsletter	\$0
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Total Due from Both Columns:

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

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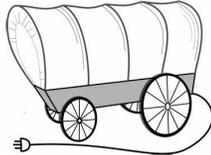
**PO Box 214**

**Wheaton, IL 60187-0214**

Attn: Membership

### FVEAA Business Members

#### Pioneer Conversions, L.L.C.



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**Plug-In Vehicle Solutions, Inc.**

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