



Even the most dedicated members of God's Country Pontiac Association and Badger State Chapter POCI have now stashed away their prized Pontiacs as the seasons have dramatically changed here in Wisconsin. Fall weather seemed to have lingered much longer than we expected (which many of us are grateful for), but it's looking like winter has finally fallen upon us.

Some of the members have been distracted by diversions like the gun deer season, which has a huge following throughout the state. Other members took advantage of the Black Friday and Cyber Monday sales and discounts. Still others have been actively following and cheering for our Green Bay Packers and Wisconsin Badgers (even if their seasons didn't turn out the way we might have hoped).

Most members have also been keeping busy with holiday plans and spending time with friends and family. And yes, there are some members who are truly enjoying the cold and snow because it allows them to partake of out-

door activities like ice fishing, snowmobiling, skiing and skating.

Even with all these different distractions and activities, none of us have forgotten that in less than six months we will be welcoming fellow POCI members from all over the country — and from all around the world for that matter — to our great state for the 46th Annual POCI International Convention at Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells, WI. Please be sure to mark your calendars for June 24-28, 2018.

Before long, you will be receiving your event activities guide, allowing you to sign-up for the many activities and tours that we have planned to keep you entertained and busy during your visit here.

We have now finalized all the destinations for our motorcoach tours for



Monday and Tuesday, June 25-26. Here are the highlights of just one of those offerings:

Baraboo, WI is a small town of just over 12,000 people, located about 15 miles south of Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. It was named after the picturesque river that winds through the town.

Baraboo is also famous for being the home of the Ringling Brothers Circus from 1884-1917. When a number of other circuses also chose to locate their

headquarters here in subsequent years, Baraboo gained the nickname "Circus City."

Circuses seem to be another one of those forms of entertainment that are slowly fading into the history books. The Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus held its last performance on May 21, 2017. Despite this, Baraboo is hanging on to its proud circus past and today offers some great opportunities to celebrate it.

Our tour to Baraboo will bring us to the Circus World Museum. This museum was first opened to the general public in 1959, and is operated by the Wisconsin Historical Society. It sits on the banks of the Baraboo River on property that originally belonged to the Ringling family and includes eight of their original buildings. The museum contains an extensive collection of circus paraphernalia including circus wagons, posters, photography and artifacts from the Ringling Brothers Circus and others.

The museum doesn't just offer a static display of entertainment from the past. During their summer season, the museum presents a variety of shows throughout the day to entertain the young and the young-at-heart. The shows include acrobats, clowns, juggling, trained animals and many of the things fondly remembered from years gone by. They also entertain with tours and exhibits that help keep the history of the circus alive.

As part of our visit to the Circus World Museum, we'll enjoy lunch at the



Cookhouse Grill, where delicious offerings include sandwiches, burgers, brats and all the traditional circus treats like cotton candy and ice cream.

Following the museum tour and lunch, we'll visit another Baraboo historical treasure, the Al. Ringling Mansion. This significant home was originally home to Al. Ringling and his wife Lou, and later home to Al. Ringling's only sister, Aida Ringling North.

The red stone mansion was built in 1905 when the Ringling Brothers Circus was at its peak. It served as the Ringling family home for many decades. In 1976, it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has been undergoing a steady restoration over the years to return it to its original grandeur.

A professionally-guided tour will allow us to see how one of the wealthiest showmen in the country and his family

lived in the early 20th century, complete with original furnishings, hand-carved woodwork, Tiffany glass, ornate murals and hand decorated ceilings.

A short motorcoach ride will then return us to Chula Vista Resort where we can continue to enjoy all things Pontiac!

Badger State Chapter POCI and God's Country Pontiac Association members will act as your tour guides, and we will be there upon your return to help make sure that your visit to Wisconsin Dells and the 46th Annual POCI International Convention is as enjoyable as possible.

Though we are currently biding our time through the winter, we look forward to warmly welcoming you to Wisconsin this summer. See you then! **IN**

