



Message from EMPA President, Ron Hedger

EMPA is an organization of professional writers, broadcasters, videographers, photographers and announcers working in the motorsports industry, along with Associate and Corporate members.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We would like to welcome new members Troy Junkins, Patrick Miller and Cassidy Gulley. Troy is associated with Area Auto Racing News while Patrick, a Pennsylvanian like Troy, is from the Dirt Network. Cassidy resides in Tennessee and is associated with Middle Tennessee Racing News.

Our condolences go out to member Greg Zyla, whose mother passed away in late February.

RAFFLE PROCEEDS

Joe Kaminski and Carol Houssock report that checks have been sent to the York Co. Racing Club and the Checkered Flag Fan Club for their respective injured driver benefit funds. The \$750 they split was raised through the annual charity raffle at the January convention. Many thanks to Joe and Carol for their hard work on the raffle and to all who supported this great cause by purchasing tickets.



Board of Directors:

- Ron Hedger, President
- Dino Oberto, Vice President
- Len Sammons
- Earl Krause
- Jeff Gromis, Treasurer

Officer:

- Carol Houssock, Secretary

2017 CONVENTION NEWS

After investigating suggested options, the board of directors has voted to again hold the EMPA convention at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in King of Prussia/Valley Forge on January 6-7-8, 2017.

Saturday breakfast and lunch will again be held as they were this year, with a return to normal locations possible in 2018 should we decide to return to the Crowne Plaza. In the meantime, we will continue to investigate alternate possibilities and are open to suggestions of hotels in a central location offering adequate meeting rooms and banquet facilities at a reasonable rate.

The Crowne Plaza has agreed to hold the line on room rates once again. As always, booking as early as possible is recommended. The fall hard copy newsletter will have reservation information. By having a minimum number of rooms booked using the EMPA code, we do not have to pay for use of the meeting room, so please remember to indicate your association with EMPA when making your reservation.



www.empaonline.org



We noted in the February newsletter that an EMPA member had been asked to leave the media area at Daytona for transgressions involving autographs and souvenirs. We have since learned from NASCAR that the member's credential privileges have been suspended for all series through 2016, to be followed by a probationary period in 2017.

The board of directors considered further action from our end but decided to follow NASCAR's lead, with our probationary period beginning immediately and being extended to NHRA and IndyCar events as well. Any future incidents in any of the series will lead to expulsion from the EMPA.

We will again remind all members that by applying for and accepting credentials, you are agreeing to abide by the sanctioning body or speedway's regulations and procedures. From the short tracks to the superspeedways, media professionals need to respect this agreement.

HALL OF FAME NOMINEES

As mentioned previously, the Hall of Fame committee welcomes nominations for future induction. Nominations with supporting information can be sent to chairman Earl Krause at: 2 George W Helme Dr., Helmetta, NJ 08828. We have a substantial list already but all names submitted are considered. That said, it should be noted that induction gets harder every year as more stars retire and the list expands. Reducing the list to the number voted on to get the five inductees is very difficult with so many deserving nominees.

*As seen at a recent motorsports show, graphics are getting **wilder** all the time! (Houssock photos)*



Until next time..... *Ron Hedger*

LEADERSHIP CONTACT DIRECTORY

President	Ron Hedger	rjhmedia@juno.com
Vice President	Dino Oberto	dlmo@ptd.net
Board	Earl Krause	earl@aarn.com
Board	Len Sammons	lhs@aarn.com
Board	Jeff Gromis	jjg495299@comcast.net
Secretary	Carol Houssock	carol2race@aol.com

