



## Message from EMPA President, Ron Hedger

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

### Board of Directors:

Ron Hedger, President  
Dino Oberto, Vice President  
Len Sammons  
Earl Krause  
Carol Houssock, Secretary

### Officer:

Jeff Gromis, Treasurer

### RENEWALS

We thank all who answered our call to get their renewals taken care of as we wind down our tenure and prepare to hand the paperwork over to Dino Oberto. We are now down to a handful, some of whom we spoke to at the short track races in Florida, and hopefully they will be renewing soon.

### NEW MEMBERS

We welcome a flock of newcomers this month. New Englander Kyle Sousa covers asphalt racing for Area Auto Racing News, while Christopher Hockley, who hails from Camp Hill, PA, is an AARN photographer. Airport Speedway photographer Eric Storch resides in Williamstown, NJ while Punta Gorda, Florida's Matthew Butcosk shoots for AARN. Finally, Rebecca Eisele of Watertown, NY, track photographer at Can-Am Speedway, has returned to the fold after a couple of year's absence.

We should note that Rebecca, in her first ever EMPA/Brice's NAPA photo contest, claimed Best in Show honors, in the process proving once again that while experience may give entrants a better feel for the judging, everyone has an equal chance of winning.

Ten members have now joined the EMPA since January 1<sup>st</sup>. With the new season kicking off around the region, we urge current members to continue recruiting "new blood" to keep the organization strong.

### POSITIVE PRESS

Member Karl Fredrickson penned a column in the most recent edition of Speedway Illustrated magazine that was very complimentary regarding our 2018 EMPA convention. Karl also urged media members not yet a member to get involved and we are hopeful that his words planted a seed in a number of minds that will yield another crop of new members in the near future.



[www.empaonline.org](http://www.empaonline.org)

### NASCAR HALL OF FAME VOTE

Late May will bring our final trip to Charlotte to represent the EMPA on the Hall of Fame voting panel, an honor that will pass to Dino Oberto when he assumes the office of President. As always, if you have strong feelings for, or against, any of the candidates, please send them along before mid-May. Your thoughts will reach us at [rjhmedia@juno.com](mailto:rjhmedia@juno.com).



**TRAVEL NOTE**

EMPA board member and secretary Carol Houssock will be travelling to South America soon as part of her work with the Poverty Stoplight initiative now underway in the City of Elmira, NY.

Carol identified the project and its potential roughly two years ago, located a potential grant source for funding, and has had a long wait for all of the pieces to come together.

The program, developed in Paraguay several years ago and in use in nearly 30 countries, has received many global awards for effectiveness, the most recent coming from the UN Foundation.

Carol and her boss at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chemung County were among 200 invitees worldwide to 'Cerrito 2018', a conference bringing together folks from all over the world.

"This is such an exciting project and when my grant was approved we finally started this life-changing work," Carol told me. "To think that a google search two years ago has led to all this, and to arrive in Asuncion, Paraguay on my birthday in May is beyond expectations."



**MY LAST NEWSLETTER**



In anticipation of our next effort being the last newsletter I will do, I'm asking members to send along news and notes for what I hope will be an unusually large issue. Let me know what you are doing!

Until next time.....Ron

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