



Message from EMPA President, Dino Oberto

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

Greetings all,

As we are winding down on our 2021 race season that of course means we are beginning the process of preparing for our annual convention.



The dates are **Friday, Saturday and Sunday, January 14-16, 2022**. Hopefully you all know by now we are moving the convention from the Crowne Plaza, King of Prussia, to the **Genetti Hotel and Conference Center in Wilkes-Barre, PA.**

If you would like to start making your reservations you can do so by phoning (570)-820-8505 which will get you in direct contact with Megan Torres who is handling our affair. Let her know you are with EMPA so you can get the room rate of \$99 per night. The hotel is located at 77 East Market Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pa 18701.

Board of Directors:

- Dino Oberto, President
- Earl Krause, Vice President
- Carol Houssock, Secretary
- Jeff Gromis, Treasurer
- Karl Fredrickson

Megan has done a great job of working with us to accommodate our needs and I'm certain you will all feel the same once you see things for yourself.

The hotel is easily accessible off of I-81 as well as the northeast extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. There are a number of area attractions close by including the Mohegan Sun Casino, F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts, River Street Historic District, Luzerne County Courthouse and Historical Society, among others.

The Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport is 12 miles away. Lehigh Valley International Airport is 67 miles to the south or about an hour's drive.

We will again be having our Friday evening Champions Night with a number of area and regional drivers coming in for a 'Meet and Greet' with the press and networking afterwards. Picture is from our last convention.



www.empaonline.org

Saturday morning following breakfast we'll get into the press conferences and EMPA Brice's NAPA Auto Parts Photo Contest.

We will be naming a keynote speaker soon and/or if time permits work on a roundtable discussion following the press conference sessions.



Now would be a good time to start sending in your 2022 membership dues which is still only \$50 for the year. You can go to our website, www.empaonline.org and click on EMPA Application. Then follow the directions and mail your payment to me, Dino, at the address provided on the bottom of the application form.

You can also renew online through Speedway Illustrated, the same as last year. Go to their website www.speedwayillustrated.com and click on Press. You'll see the option for EMPA. Karl is providing a free one-year subscription when you renew through the magazine.



Remember, ***your paid up dues is your ticket to the convention***. To those who have already renewed we say thank you. We will have guest fee info in an upcoming newsletter.

The respective contests are also taking shape. As a matter of fact, some have already sent entries in, but rest assured you have plenty of get your entries in.

As always we encourage all members to enter the respective contests. We are very proud of you all and your fine work and this is a great way to show off the goods!

The EMPA Pocono Raceway Writer's contest info is available on our website. Again, go to empaonline.org and when you hover over the Contest Rules option you'll see the rules for writers is the first set of rules listed.

For info on the EMPA Brice's NAPA Auto Parts Photo Contest please contact chairman Bob Yurko: bobyurko31@gmail.com or go to empaonline.org, hover over the Contest Rules option, and the second set of rules applies to the photo contest.

We are currently working out the details for the Videographers contest and should have that information out shortly. Those rules, when available, will be in same section of our website.

As you know due the cancellation of the 2021 convention we made the decision to hold off the induction of the class of 2021 EMPA Hall of Fame recipients until this upcoming convention and they are:

**Don Kreitz Jr.
Howie Commander
Van May
Bob Frey**

Thus, there will be no voting for the Hall of Fame for this year.

The EMPA Board of Directors will be getting together soon to discuss those who will be considered for the remaining awards.

World Racing Group will be presenting the 2022 Jerry Reigle Outstanding Contribution to Sprint Car Racing, and they will bestow last year's award to winner Jeremy Elliott.

I want to assure you all that it remains our mission to make certain the awards dinner is done in a timely and efficient matter.

There will be plenty more convention news heading your way so stay tuned.

Until then
Peace, out...Dino

