



## 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.*

### Board of Directors:

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

### Officer:

Carol Houssock, Secretary

### HONDA VIDEO CONTEST

EMPA's good friend TE McHale at American Honda Motor Co. in California has informed us that Honda will again be the title sponsor of the annual video contest, which this year will expand to include radio and internet broadcasting. If you see TE at the races, please thank him on behalf of the membership. The same goes for the fine people at Pocono Raceway, who will return as writing contest sponsors, and Bill Brice, longtime supporter of the photographer's competition.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS VOTING

The one-year seat on the board will be open this year, as last year's election filled the two and three-year seats. Those interested in having their names on the ballot need to notify me of their interest at [rjhmedia@juno.com](mailto:rjhmedia@juno.com) by November 1<sup>st</sup>. The seat is currently held by Jeff Gromis. Next year the two-year seats of Dino Oberto and Earl Krause will be open and the following year the three-year terms of Ron Hedger and Len Sammons will be contested.

Voting for those not planning on attending the convention will again be included with the awards ballot to give everyone a chance to participate. Attendees, as always, will vote at Sunday's general business meeting.

### CONTEST CHAIRMAN

We were asked about the video contest recently by a media member who had belonged to EMPA before and was thinking about rejoining. He was concerned, however, about sending contest entries through chairman Mel Thomas, as he is a competitor in the contest as well as chairman.

This situation did not exist before, as longtime chairman/judge Bill Channel did not participate. Members can rest assured that Mel is not going to be involved in the judging in any way. Like writing contest chairman Dino Oberto, he will serve as a clearinghouse, collecting the mail and passing everything along to the judges for review. Once the video results are in, I will again split the prize money up according to how many winners are recognized, as this varies year to year depending on the number of entries/winners in each class.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

We have been doing 2017 renewals but ask everyone for patience, as we will be in Florida for a while after Super DIRT Week and will not have the mail forwarded. As always, please be sure to include correct e-mail addresses so you will continue to receive the monthly newsletters.



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



## CONVENTION DATES

We will be returning to the Crowne Plaza in Valley Forge, PA on the weekend following New Year's (January 6-7-8) for our 2017 convention. A block of rooms has been set aside, as usual, with a greatly discounted rate of \$89. When you make your reservation, be sure to tell them you are with the EMPA. The telephone number is 610-265-7500 while their website is [www.cpvalleyforge.com](http://www.cpvalleyforge.com). Our code is Eastern Motorsport Press. Please don't wait to the last minute, as once the rooms are released the price goes up substantially. And we also need the credit for the rooms reserved, so please identify yourself as an EMPA member. Once we meet a minimum number of rooms, then our meeting rooms are free.

## CONTEST DEADLINES

Once again, we remind members that the video and writing contest deadlines will precede the mailing of the hard copy convention info/award ballot newsletter in November. Len Sammons and crew get it out as quickly as possible after the planning meeting but if you wait for the newsletter's arrival to send your entries, you will most likely miss the deadlines. Video entries need to be reach Mel Thomas by November 15th and writing entries mailed to Dino Oberto need to be postmarked on or before November 12<sup>th</sup>.

## PHOTO BORROWING UPDATE

We mentioned in the last newsletter that one member thought another had used a photo or photos on a website without permission and warned everyone to be sure they only used photos they had authorization for. Since then, a member who thought he was being accused asked for clarification of the photo/photos in question, but when the complaining party declined to ID the photos, we were unable to determine if the complaint was valid or resolve the issue. Hopefully the spotlight shone on the issue will head off future problems.

## CONVENTION PLANNING MEETING

In my absence, VP Dino Oberto will be chairing the annual convention planning and awards meeting in late October. Please get all nominations/suggestions to Dino or another board member by October 24<sup>th</sup> for consideration. Hopefully Hall of Fame chairman Earl Krause has your HoF nominees with supporting information by now, as we have been reminding everyone of this for months.

## CORRECTION FROM LAST MONTH

Robin Ervin saw EMPA Driver of the Year Awards proudly displayed by Dale Earnhardt, Jr. (left) and Tony Stewart (right) at their NC shops. They were incorrectly listed as Hall of Fame awards, and here they are again. Thank you, Robin.



Until next time... *Ron Hedger*

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