



## Message from EMPA President, Dino Oberto

Greetings everyone

Well, our 2019 convention is now in the rear view mirror. It seems that, despite the usually unexpected hiccups, we made it through another memorable weekend.

I cannot begin to tell all of you how proud you make me feel as President in seeing the amazing support you have for this organization. THANK YOU!

Thank you also to all those who went above and beyond in any way to make this year's convention so successful from the board members, committee chairs and anyone and everyone else who played a role.

Much congrats to all contest winners on the well-earned accolades. And to those who came up short keep it going. What that all shows is just how much everyone puts into their work. Each of you make one another stronger and better in the process. We'll have a complete recap of all of our winners in the next newsletter.

*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:

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



Jim Smith Photo

Friday night's Champions Salute went very well. Those drivers truly look forward to coming down for that night and it was nice to see how welcomed they all were. Top (L to R) Frankie Althouse, Kevin Kromer, Mike Stofflet, Ryan Watt, Mike Gular, Billy Pauch, Jr., Matt Janisch. Bottom (L to R) Wyatt Taschler, Austin Beers, Gunnar Zeiner, Steven Dravecki, Kevin Davidson.

Dino interviewed champ Kevin Kromer, whose successful battle with cancer led to his establishment of Mission R.A.C.E.R to help provide funds for others struggling with bills while fighting cancer. EMPA conducted a 50/50 Friday night and sent Kevin home with \$125 to start his 2019 fundraising efforts. Paul Stout Photo



On Saturday night, banquet attendees purchased raffle tickets for several quality gifts. Mike and Renee Tidaback will be receiving \$700 to help offset some of Mike's medical expenses after he was injured in an indoor race early in 2018. Renee is an EMPA professional member.

Both Kevin and Renee were extremely thankful.



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



To the Hall of Fame inductees it is an honor to welcome Len H. Sammons, Jimmy Spencer, Gary Gullob, Joe Gosek and Ray Brown Sr., into our prestigious and esteemed gathering of racing greats. New members of our Hall of Fame, along with special award winners in various other categories: Top (L to R) Gary Gullob, Jim Smith, Mike Heffner, Dave Moulthrop. Bottom (L to R) Joe Gosek, Ed Spencer, Jr. (representing brother, Jimmy Spencer), John Lane, Lenny Sammons, Warren Alston. Jim Smith Photo



It's safe to say that the Saturday morning press conferences had a well-rounded line-up of speakers, all of whom presented excellent info on their respective organizations. Plenty of good storylines between those two days.



Karl Fredrickson (left) was perfect in being our keynote speaker. His presentation was very informative and a great segue into Mike Mallet (R) and Jeremy Elliot (L) during the afternoon roundtable on ethics. I believe everyone came away with clearer perspective on



how we as media members should present ourselves. Jim Smith Photos

The banquet...Yes, I admit the banquet went a bit too long. And while persons being honored all deserve their just due, we can still work on smoothing out the evening while still giving those in the spotlight the recognition they rightfully deserve.

Special thanks to NASCAR, IndyCar, Dover International Speedway, Pocono Raceway, Honda, New England Race Fuels, World Racing Group and Brice's NAPA Auto Parts for their greatly appreciated sponsor support to the organization. Please take the time to send along a note of thanks to those folks. Their addresses are on our website.

Dan Luginbuhl, you once again went above and beyond for EMPA. Thank you!

Lastly I want to welcome our newly elected board of directors,; Carol Houssock, Jeff Gromis and Karl Fredrickson, who join Vice President Earl Krause and I. We're in good hands.

Until next time here's to great racing,

*Dino*

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