



## 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.

### CONTEST DEADLINES APPROACHING

Writers and videographers are reminded that your **contest deadlines are rapidly approaching**. **Writers** must send their entries to Pocono Raceway Writing Contest chairman Dino Oberto **postmarked no later than November 4<sup>th</sup>** while Honda America Video Contest judge Bill Channell needs to receive your **videos by November 9<sup>th</sup>**. Contest rules and mailing addresses can be found in past newsletters or on the EMPA website.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

In the past, we have asked members to hold off on sending their renewals during our usual post-Syracuse sojourn in Florida. But this year, we're tied to home as we address a health issue, so we're ready to start processing renewals for 2016.

Applications can be downloaded from the EMPA website at your convenience or you can wait for the hard copy ballot/convention planning newsletter to be mailed in November. If you prefer to have your membership card laminated, please note that on your renewal form. Members who want a photo on their card should send a suitable photo unless we have one on file from past years.

#### Board of Directors:

Ron Hedger, President  
Dino Oberto, Vice President  
Len Sammons  
Earl Krause  
Dave Moulthrop

#### Other Officers:

Carol Houssock, Secretary  
Jeff Gromis, Treasurer

### FREE MEMBERSHIP OFFER

Current members who recruit **three** new members between now and the 2016 EMPA convention will receive a **free** membership for themselves. If you renew before signing up the third new member, your dues will be refunded.

The media members you propose for membership must, of course, meet the eligibility requirements. Former members who let their memberships lapse will be considered a new member if they have not been active for two years (2014 and 2015).

### SHIRTS AND VESTS

Jeff Gromis continues to take orders for shirts and photo safety vests. The prices and procedures remain as listed in the September newsletter.



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



## New Museum Opens

Ron Bouchard opened up a museum of the family racing history recently at his Dodge dealership in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. The display includes cars of his father-in-law Eddie Flemke, his brother Kenny, as well as cars from his past and others loaned to the display. In the museum are three EMPA references: his 1981 EMPA Driver of The Year (won Talladega), his EMPA Hall of Fame trophy, and his career highlights which list EMPA HOF. Article and pictures provided by Dave Moulthrop.



EMPA HOF trophy on top right shelf.



Inside the RB Museum in Fitchburg, MA.



EMPA Driver of the Year Award on top left shelf.

Ron and Paula Bouchard pose beside the 1985 Tim Richmond tribute car owned by EMPA board member Dave Moulthrop and Gregg Massini, former dirt and Busch North driver.



### LAST CALL FOR THE BOARD ELECTION

We have received a few responses from members wishing to run for the EMPA board of directors. If you want to run, send your name to me at [rjhmedia@juno](mailto:rjhmedia@juno) immediately so it can be included on the ballot. As always, the two candidates with the most votes will earn the three-year seats, the next two will get the two-year seats and the fifth place finisher will hold the single year seat.

### LAST CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The awards and convention planning meeting is nearly upon us. If you have thoughts on who should be nominated for any of the awards, get the names to any board member before October 20<sup>th</sup>. For Hall of Fame nominations, names and brief bios should go to Earl Krause.



## CONVENTION CHANGES

My primary goal for the 2016 convention is to shorten the banquet. To that end, we are making a few changes.

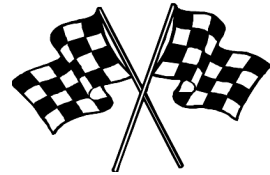


One is that John Snyder, who has been working with chairman Earl Krause on the Hall of Fame committee, will do all of the HoF introductions. He will briefly highlight the inductee's career, after which the inductee will receive their statue and make their remarks. We obviously do not know yet who the inductees will be, but if it turns out that someone you nominated is elected, please encourage them to limit their remarks. A season by season review of their career is not good form.

We would also ask members not to request an opportunity to present "special" awards outside our traditional award lineup or to make remarks after being presented contest awards. We will welcome, of course, the usual brief remarks by the winners of the Lane, Hunter, Saxton and other major awards.

We have considered presenting some of the awards at lunch or breakfast but feel that each award winner deserves the recognition inherent with accepting their award at the NASCAR Hall of Fame dinner. The exception will be for awards going to non-members. We have, for example, given out Driver of the Year awards earlier in the day when a driver had another evening commitment and will do so again this year if possible.

Everyone's cooperation in moving the event along to a checkered flag at a reasonable hour will be greatly appreciated.



### HOSPITALITY SPONSOR



I recently reached an agreement with Firestone Racing for sponsorship of the hospitality area at the upcoming EMPA convention. Firestone joins our other valued convention and contest sponsors and, as always, we urge members to express their appreciation when you interact with Lisa Boggs or others from Firestone as well as the sponsors of our other activities.

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

#### LEADERSHIP CONTACT DIRECTORY

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Board	Dave Moulthrop	<a href="mailto:dave.moulthrop@iracing.com">dave.moulthrop@iracing.com</a>
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Treasurer	Jeff Gromis	<a href="mailto:jjg495299@comcast.net">jjg495299@comcast.net</a>

