

**ALL VOTES MUST BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED BY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30  
2026 DUES MUST BE PAID IN ORDER TO VOTE**

**Steve Smith Jr. (lock, no vote needed)**

Stevie Smith followed in his father, Steve's, footsteps and his 31-year career culminated with his induction into the National Sprint Car Hall of Fame in Knoxville, IA. He won 222 Sprint Car features, 84 of those coming in WoO races and for a list of all-time owner greats including Al Hamilton, Dave Helm, John Zemaitis, Dan Motter, Jack Elden, Guy Forbrook, Chad Clemens, and Fred Rahmer. Highlight wins include Port Royal's Tuscarora 50, Selinsgrove's National Open, Williams Grove's National Open 3 times and the Grove's Mitch Smith Memorial 3 times, the '93 Gold Cup at Silver Dollar Speedway in Chico, CA and the '05 Brad Doty Classic at Attica (OH) Raceway. He won the 2015 PA Sprint Speedweek title and had 15 career PA Speedweek wins. In 2012 he won the Ohio Sprint Speedweek title. His father, racing great Steve Smith Sr., was inducted into the EMPA Hall of Fame in 2010.

**Rick Ferkel (lock, not vote needed)**

The late Rick Ferkel of Tiffin, Ohio, nicknamed "The Buckeye Traveler" as he hit the road to chase big events and was one of the initial stars when the World of Outlaw Sprints started. He is not only one of the winningest Sprint Car drivers, but he has likewise spent years as an official, crew chief and team owner. He exceeded 250 feature wins including 21 with the WoO. During the 1970's 30-win seasons were routine. In 1978 he won a career-high 38 races. After driving he became a race director for the WoO and served as a crew chief for Doug Kalitta's USCA Sprint Car team. Ferkel also continued to maintain his famous No. 0 Sprint Car for local events, mentoring many of the sport's current stars in their early years

**Vote for 4**

**Kenny Bernstein**

Champion drag racer and former NASCAR and IndyCar team owner. Nicknamed the "Bud King" for his success in the Budweiser King funny car and dragster. He's also been dubbed "The King of Speed," because he was the first driver to break 300 miles per hour in the standing-start quarter mile. Owned King Racing, which he drove for in the NHRA and fielded various cars in other racing series such as IndyCar and NASCAR. He retired from full-time competition in 2002 but returned to finish the season in place of his son after Brandon suffered a severe injury. He is an NHRA Hall of Fame and the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America.

**Frank Cozze**

Dirt Modified driver who has transcended the decades from the 1970s to present, Frank is still as competitive as ever. He has dedicated his time toward promotion of special events at Bridgeport Motorsports Park while at the same time remaining capable of winning any race in which he is an entrant. His wins in dirt Modifieds have taken place over several decades at tracks up and down the eastern Seaboard. In 2008 he won the crown jewel of

dirt Modified racing when he took the checkered flag at Super Dirt Week at the Syracuse Mile. He and his family ran Nazareth Speedway through its final year.

### **Chip Ganassi**

PA born and raised, former driver turned owner, his teams have won 23 championships dating back to 1990. In addition, 2016 saw the team pick up their first-ever victory in the 24 Hours of Le Mans. Overall, Ganassi has won six of the seven most iconic races in the world of auto racing with wins in the Indianapolis 500 (5), Daytona 500, Brickyard 400, 24 Hours of Le Mans, Rolex 24 At Daytona (8) and the 12 Hours of Sebring (2). Ganassi teams include five Honda cars in the NTT INDYCAR SERIES, and a Cadillac V-Series R in the IMSA WeatherTech Sports Car Championship and the FIA World Endurance Championship.

### **Kevin Gobrecht**

The “G-Man” Kevin Gobrecht, a native of New Oxford, PA was only 30 years old when he passed away from a Sprint Car crash at I-80 Speedway near Greenwood, Nebraska on September 24, 1999. At the time of his passing, he was beginning to make a mark as a rising star in the 410 Sprint Car ranks. His racing began in go-karts then Micro Sprints where he amassed multitude of wins and championships. By 1994 he turned his attention to Sprint Cars and would earn his first win a year later against one of the all-time best, Fred Rahmer at Lincoln Speedway. More wins soon followed, and he eventually began making inroads with the World of Outlaws Sprint Car Series. His career highlights included winning on March 27, 1999, at Lincoln in the afternoon and Port Royal at night. The next afternoon, he won at Williams Grove. Later that same year he would win the “Big One” at Eldora Speedway. He was the 1995 WoO Rookie of the Year and since 1999 the WoO Sprint Car Rookie of the Year is named in his honor.

### **Nick Igdalsky**

CEO of Pocono Raceway who does an outstanding job of working not only with race teams during event weekends but is a huge supporter of the media, especially EMPA. Nick has always been a phone-call away to help the organization and likewise to a considerable number of charitable groups throughout the region and beyond through the efforts of the Mattioli Foundation. He and his staff have kept Pocono Raceway going strong as one of the only independent tracks on the NASCAR circuit. His grandparents, Dr.’s Joe and Rose Mattioli are founders of Pocono Raceway, and both are inductees into the EMPA Hall of Fame.

### **Jan Leaty**

There is not enough space to list the racing accomplishments of Jan Leaty. He began his career in 1978 in a Street Stock, moved to Late Models, and won his first title in 1981. But even though he enjoyed success in those classes, it was when he began Modified racing that his career would rocket skyward. He won 9 times on the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour, has 18 victories on the RoC Tour, and not to mention countless wins during weekly action. His career highlights include victories in the prestigious Race of Champions at Pocono Raceway and wins at North Wilkesboro, New Hampshire, Nazareth Speedways and

many more. He is an inductee in the Race of Champions Hall of Fame, Oswego Speedway Hall of Fame, and the FOAR Score Racing Club Hall of Fame.

### **Paul Page**

A voice known to motorsports enthusiasts around the world, having served as “The Voice of the 500,” or chief announcer, on the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Radio Network for 13 years, and as the host and play-by-play voice for the Indianapolis 500 on the ABC-TV network for 16 years. In 1988 he moved to ABC Sports and joined “500” veterans Bobby Unser and Sam Posey in what would quickly become a popular and entertaining broadcast booth. Page was part of ABC and ESPN’s coverage of a variety of sports for 25 years, including Indy Car, NHRA, NASCAR, the X Games and Olympics, and the Nathan’s Hot Dog Eating Contest. He returned to the IMS Radio Network as “Voice of the 500” for 2014-15 and then co-hosted the 100<sup>th</sup> Indianapolis 500 broadcast in 2016.

### **Jeff Purvis**

Before coming to NASCAR Jeff was an accomplished dirt track racer winning the World 100 at Eldora Speedway on three occasions - 1983, 1984, and 1986 and compiling a multitude of wins during his days on dirt. He also raced on with success on pavement which included winning the 1995 Snowball Derby and was the All American 400 winner in 1991, '92 and '95. He was the 1986 NASCAR Busch All-Star Super Series Champion. He has 4 victories and 57 top-ten finishes in his NASCAR Nationwide Series. He is also a winner in ARCA, USAC Late Model Series, All Star Circuit of Champions Late Model Series, Southern All Star Dirt Racing Series, USAR Hooter Late Model Series, Northern Extreme DirtCar Series, ALL PRO Super Series, and the NASCAR All American Challenge Cup Series. He was inducted into the first class of the National Dirt Late Model Hall of Fame in 2001.

### **EMPA Junie Dunlavy Memorial Spirit of the Sport Award (no vote needed)**

#### **Rex Merritt**

He's one of the six original IMCA modified drivers who barnstormed the Midwest showcasing Keith Knaack's new concept in 1979. Among hundreds of wins (dirt and pavement) that delivered many championships, winning the A-mod title at Lucas Oil Speedway the same year his grand-daughter Lexy Vanzandt won the B-mod crown might be the sweetest of all.

At IMCA's Super Nationals, the sheer volume of customers meant his former employer (Bilstein Shock Absorbers) forbid him from racing during the event. Rex had a friend bring his car to staging for each race and would take his 'break' by excusing himself and going out on the track.

A trusted and friendly co-worker, wise to what was going on noticed that Rex had dirt around his eyes when he returned to the support trailer. He said, "You better wipe that dirt from your face." Rex replied, "Okay, but it's not possible to wipe the smile from it."

This is after four decades of racing. Rex's passion for the sport has never wavered.

## **EMPA Chris Economaki Memorial Newsmaker of the Year (vote for 1)**

### **New US F1 Team**

Although the new Formula 1 team championed by Michael Andretti will not bear his famous family's surname, the four-year effort the long-retired Nazareth, PA native IndyCar and Formula 1 driving veteran undertook to create the now Cadillac named F1 team was monumental. For reasons that remain unclear, Formula 1 Management rejected the Andretti-initiated plan in 2023 but subsequently approved it two years later under the Cadillac name. Nevertheless, a second American-owned Formula 1 team will become part of the worldwide series, bringing added domestic attention to the increasingly popular worldwide motorsports phenomenon. The team is officially a partnership between General Motors and TWG Global (Dan Towriss and Mark Walter), with Mario Andretti an advisor and board member.

### **Darryl Cuttell/IHRA**

For decades, the International Hot Rod Association (IHRA) and the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) have competed for prominence in drag racing. In recent years, the NHRA flourished while the IHRA struggled. Darryl Cuttell, owner of Darana Hybrid and a drag racer, signed up as the IHRA title sponsor for 2025. Driven by his business motto, 'Make it Happen,' he then bought the IHRA from Larry Jeffers. Since that transaction he has bought and improved five tracks in Ohio, Michigan, and North Carolina. He wasn't done. He bought IHRA Australia, an international component of his portfolio. Cuttell also launched Drag Review Magazine, and he recently acquired the Powerboat USA series. Darryl Cuttell has elevated the IHRA, attracted more racers and sponsors, provided enhanced track safety, and is offering higher purses.

### **Halmar-Friesen Racing**

The team made strides all season despite many challenges. Co-owner Stewart Friesen scored 17 Big Block Modified wins, including on both the Super DIRTcar and Short Track Super Series, plus a win in the NASCAR Truck Series at Michigan. Everything changed in late July when he was in a viscous Dirt Modified incident that resulted in a pelvic fracture, broken right leg, a fractured C7 vertebrae and broken left hip. The team rebounded and put Kaden Honeycutt in the truck, where he made the playoffs and took the title race down to the final laps. The teams also tabbed Alex Yankowski for the modified, where he finished third at super DIRT Week and then got the win at the Eastern States 200.

### **Jason Makarewicz reopens Shangri-La II Speedway**

These days, it's quite uncommon for race tracks to reopen, but in 2025, Shangri-La II Speedway—a half-mile banked concrete oval in Owego, NY—came back to life after being inactive for the past decade. And it was all thanks to the Herculean effort of Jason Makarewicz who put in countless hours to bring the track back to life. Pa.'s Evergreen Raceway's owner/promoter oversaw most tasks with a small team, sometimes working alone or with just one other person. But the labor of love paid off as each of the five race-series held paid dividends with incredibly competitive shows in all classes. But the real reward came in the form of thanks from drivers, teams, and fans how praised Makarewicz

for his outstanding work and bringing racing back to the Southern Tier section of New York state.

### **Daison Pursley**

In September 2021, 16-year-old Daison Pursley had a horrific crash while racing a midget in Arizona. Days later, he awoke and heard the words “incomplete quadriplegic” for the first time. His future uncertain, doctors believed he would likely no longer have use of any limb. What followed was a miraculous recovery based in expert medical care and the deep-rooted faith he shares with his family. By January’s Chili Bowl, Pursley walked in front of the stands to thunderous applause. Even so, he had months of excruciating physical therapy ahead which he faced with the focus to return to racing. His first laps were during the summer and almost a year-to-the-date of his terrible accident, Pursley stood in POWRi midget victory lane. Pursley continued winning at the highest levels of USAC throughout ’23 (National Sprint Rookie of the Year) and ’24 (National Midget Champion), but 2025 held even more achievement. Pursley became the first driver since Kyle Larson in 2012 to win all three USAC divisions at Eldora’s 4-Crown Nationals. This was followed by his first-ever High Limit win when he beat Brad Sweet who retired from racing at the end of 2025. Car owner Kasey Kahne selected Daison Pursley to drive the former Sweet ride in 2026.

### **EMPA Promotional Effort of the Year (vote for 1)**

#### **Jim Bernheisel/Clash Motorsports Appalachian Mountain Late Model Speedweek/ Fall Clash Series**

Jim Bernheisel has worn many hats in auto racing from a winning late model driver and car owner to a highly successful race car builder/designer and component manufacturer. But starting in 2023, Jim revived the Appalachian Mountain Late Model Speedweek series, that had been dormant since the 2017 season. The series has developed into a strong group of regional drivers and cars from PA, MD, VA, WV, DE, NY and NJ (and even 1 Georgia invader) in a period where late model car counts had been shrinking. AMS has been scheduled for 8 races, at 8 tracks in 10 days for all three years under Jim’s direction.

Based on the strong showing of the Appalachian Speedweek series, Bernheisel expanded his promotional touring efforts in 2025 to include a late season, weekend series, under the Fall Clash moniker, at nine tracks between August 29 and October 1.

#### **Chris Kearns/Wild West Shootout**

Chris Kearns, a former racer based in California, turned his attention to promoting over a decade ago and has been as invested and dynamic for fans as he is for racers.

When the Arizona track that hosted his Wild West Shootout closed due to a government take-over, Kearns moved the event to the gleaming speedway in Vado, NM. Everything but the weather was perfect for the five years he held it there.

This fall, he made the tough decision to bring the event back to Arizona. The schedule is conducive to vacation for both sides of the gate with races on January 10, 11, 14, 16, 17, and 18. Kearns provides a list of non-racing things to do in the area and one-of-a-kind trophies that are as eagerly sought as the biggest slices of the \$375,000 in prize money available.

### **Eagle Raceway/305 Sprint Car Nationals**

Roger Hadan's Eagle Raceway, just south of Omaha, NE is highly regarded among all the IMCA divisions they run on the 1/3-mile of dirt there. The line of cars waiting to get on property prior to the weekly show stretches down the interstate. Fans know among the reasons they can anticipate a fast-running evening of racing is Hadan's longstanding policy for weekly divisions: If the race goes without a caution, all drivers in that class earn a free pit pass the following week. The marquis event at Eagle is the 305 Racesaver Nationals for IMCA sprint cars. This year, 104 teams signed in to compete on the ultra-racy track. Mother Nature overruled plans for the main event, but Hadan and crew updated teams and fans throughout the ordeal and adjusted schedules to get as much of the show in as possible. Their effort under such difficult circumstances earned high praise on both sides of the pit gate.

### **Kolten Gouse/BAPS Motor Speedway**

When it comes to race track promotion, Kolten Gouse goes above and beyond to bring focus to PA's BAPS Motor Speedway. As the general manager he continually looks for ways in keeping BAPS at the forefront of short track racing with a constant variety of promotions through fan interactions and more. They include such uniqueness as \$5 Admission Night for a 410 Sprint Car show, a Halloween Tour with race cars held throughout several local towns, a fundraiser for three area police officers killed in the line of duty and two others who were injured – a total of \$10,000 was raised. Gouse also held a special media day event, has done a 'Photo of the Day' promotion with photographers and held a tribute to engine builders. He is a constant force in making sure BAPS and all short track racing continues to succeed.

### **Super DIRTcar Series**

Entertaining fans from Quebec to Florida, the Super DIRTcar Series filled race tracks with both fans and race cars during the 2025 season. With an average car count of 28 and 15 drivers traveling to each race throughout the year, the SDS proved once again that Big Block's are the way to go. Their season was filled with storylines that produced new winners, veterans proving that they still can get the job done and a number of big hits along the way.

### **EMPA John Blewett III Memorial Young Gun presented by New England Race Fuels (vote for 1)**

#### **Luke Baldwin**

19-year-old Luke Baldwin added some impressive stats to his racing resume in 2025. The third-generation racer picked up 4 wins in the SMART Modified Tour and earned enough points to earn his second consecutive championship, driving for Sadler-Stanley Racing. Luke also divided his time running limited schedules on the CARS Pro Late Model and Whelen Modified Tours for Tommy Baldwin Racing, Rick Ware Racing and ThorSport. Luke had one CARS Tour win and scored a season-best 4th place finish at New Smyrna in the

Whelen Tour. In 5 NASCAR Craftsman Truck series races running for ThorSport, his best finish, 12th, came at Pocono.

### **Paulie Hartwig III**

Although he is now eligible to be on the ballot, this amazing up-and-coming talent has been making headlines for the past few years, winning on both dirt and asphalt. This past season the 14-year-old Hartwig began his winning ways by taking the 2025 Indoor Championship for Slingshots. He then headed south to Florida for Speedweeks, starting out at All-Tech Raceway where he notched a pair of 602 Crate Dirt Modified victories. He then focused primarily on the SMART Modified Tour, claiming a win at Hickory Speedway and ending the season third in points and named Rookie of the Year. He won additional 602 Crate Asphalt Modified races at Evergreen Raceway, the latter being his 30<sup>th</sup> overall in a Modified. His most recent win was at the North/South Shootout. Throughout the season he was a constant top-5 finisher on both surfaces he raced on. In 2026 he will be moving onto the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour.

### **Tristan McKee**

At 15, Tristan McKee became the youngest-ever winner this year of the IMSA Trans Am TA2 championship, a title he claimed before the final race. Setting records isn't new to the VA native now living in North Carolina, who was the youngest winner, at age 12, in CARS Pro Late Model history. His ongoing versatility garnered the attention of Spire Motorsport and Scott Legasse Racing, among others, in June he won the pole and every lap of the TA2 race at Watkins Glen having never before seen the track. He returned to the Glen in August to run the ARCA race and, five days after turning 15, parked his ride in Victory Lane again as the second youngest winner in ARCA history. This young man had a busy 2025, competing in CARS Pro Late Model Tour (1 win), ARCA (1 win), ARCA East, CARS Late Model Stock Northwest Super Late Models, Virginia Triple Crown, CRA JEGS All-Stars, I-95 Showdown, along with the full Trans Am schedule (3 poles, 3 wins, and the championship). How he tops 2025 remains to be seen in his budding career.

### **Alex Payne**

This just turned 20-year-old Dirt Modified campaigner from Hopewell, NY started off the season in the worst possible way by losing his primary sponsor, but concluded it better than anybody after capturing two out of the last four Super DIRTcar Series races, one of which was the World Finals at The Dirt Track at Charlotte and the other Georgetown Speedway where he never even saw until the day before the race. When all was said and done the 2024 Super DIRTcar Series Rookie of the Year finished third in the season long point standings with a trio of victories. In weekly competition he picked up an additional four wins on his way to a third-place finish in both Outlaw Speedway and Land of Legends Raceway point standings. Payne finished the season with eight wins, 47 top five and 59 top 10 finishes in 77 total starts.

### **Steven Snyder Jr.**

At the age of 20, Rising Sun, MD's Steven Snyder branched out nationally during the 2025 season taking over the ride vacated by Justin Grant on the USAC National Midget trail. While committing to the Midget full-time, Snyder also joined Heffner Racing aboard their second 410 Sprint Car effort for sporadic starts throughout the year. He would go on to earn his first career 410 Sprint Car win at Tri-City Raceway Park on June 1st during the Western PA Speedweek finale. He is also the leading candidate for National Midget Rookie of the Year and for the third year in a row he is on his way to leading the region for 600cc Micro Sprint victories.

### **EMPA Richie Evans Memorial Northeast Dirt Driver of the Year (vote for 1)**

#### **Briggs Danner**

Allentown's Briggs Danner had an impressive 2025 season picking up 4 USAC National Sprint Car wins, a win with the USAC East Coast Sprint Series, a first-time victory on the USAC Silver Crown Series, and victories also came in the All Pro SpeedSTRs including one on pavement at Evergreen Raceway and there was additional wins with 600cc Micro Sprints. He also starred in a TQ Midget running the popular Indoor Series.

#### **Danny Dietrich**

This Gettysburg, PA 410 Sprint Car driver raced to 12 victories during his 2025 season all over Central Pennsylvania and into Ohio. In 80 features during the season Dietrich padded his dozen win season with 47 top-five and 63 top-10 finishes in addition to capturing the Ohio Speedweek title for the first time in his career and the BAPS Motor Speedway 410 Sprint Car track championship.

#### **Anthony Macri**

Anthony Macri had a career year in 2025. The Dillsburg, PA driver picked up 16 wins over the course of the season and was one of the few drivers to beat both the World of Outlaws and the stars of High Limit Racing. His biggest win of the year came at Eldora Speedway where he drove away from the field to capture the Kings Royal and the \$200,000 that goes with it. Not even a broken back late in the season could stop him late in the season as in just his second race back he beat the World of Outlaws at Lincoln Speedway. Macri ended 2025 with the Pennsylvania Speedweek title, 16 victories, 39 top-fives and 54 top-10s in 78 starts.

#### **Matt Sheppard**

Matt Sheppard again had a stellar 2025 racing season behind the wheel of a Big Block Modified. Sheppard once again got up on the wheel and raced to 28 victories along with 62 top five and 76 top 10 finishes in 90 starts to go along with a sweep of the Short Track Super Series North and South Region's and the track championship at Utica-Rome Speedway.

#### **Mat Williamson**

Mat Williamson of St. Catherines, Ontario, piloted the #88 Big Block Modifieds out of the Buzz Chew Racing stables and the Cocco-Wendt #6 Small Block (358) Modified to a record breaking 2025 season. The 35-year-old recorded 34 feature wins,... 18 in the Modifieds and

16 in the Small Block Modifieds. He won his 3<sup>rd</sup> Super DIRT Tour Series Championship, his 2<sup>nd</sup> DIRTCar 358 Modified Championship, and his 4<sup>th</sup> Super DIRT Week Billy Whitaker 200 and his 3<sup>rd</sup> straight Super DIRT Week DIRTCar 358 Mod Salute the Troops 150 at Oswego. He became only the 2<sup>nd</sup> driver to win both the Super DIRTCar Series and the DIRTCar 358 Modified season titles in the same year. 'Money Mat' closed out the 2025 season with his 5<sup>th</sup> career victory in the early November DIRT World Finals in Concord, NC.

### **EMPAR Richie Evans Memorial Northeast Asphalt Driver of the Year (vote for 1)**

#### **Austin Beers**

It was Austin Beers' time to shine as the 22-year-old from Northampton became the youngest champion in NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour series history. Beers bested current NASCAR Cup Series driver and 2013 Whelen Modified Tour champion Ryan Preece in the record books for the youngest titleholder, which came in the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary season of the modern NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour. He won twice on the Tour and had a Series best 12 top-5s and was the only driver to finish each race in the top-10. He also collected open Modified victories at New Smyrna Speedway, Thunder Valley, and Mahoning Valley Speedway.

#### **Justin Bonsignore**

He came close to defending his '24 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour championship. His win in the Martinsville season finale placed him second in the '25 standings. In the 16-race schedule, he had one other win (Riverhead), 9 top-5's and 15 top-10's. He kept busy also running a limited schedule in the NASCAR Xfinity series. In nine races he twice finished 10<sup>th</sup>, at Martinsville and Phoenix. Despite delivering these results, his most memorable delivery came in February when he delivered his son in a McDonald's parking lot.

#### **Matt Hirschman**

It comes as no surprise that yet again Matt Hirschman is a nominee for the Richie Evans NE Asphalt DoY. 2025 saw the asphalt Modified Kingpin collect 16 wins to date, which was three times more than any other driver within the category and with one more race to go, Wall Stadium's Turkey Derby. He was victorious on the NASCAR Modified Tour, Race of Champions Tour, Tri-Track Series, and several open Modified shows. He went undefeated on the Tri-Track Series and Evergreen Raceway and added a record-extending 10<sup>th</sup> victory in the prestigious Race of Champions.

#### **Jon McKennedy**

Jon McKennedy has been successful in winged, big-block Supermodified races as well as tour-type modifieds for 20 years. In 2025, McKennedy earned an early-season victory at New Hampshire Motor Speedway's Northeast Classic, followed by five more modified wins in three different series, and by year-end had his second Tri-Track Series modified championship. His time behind the wheel of his big-block Supermodified was also successful winning in two in NESS and one in ISMA.

The quiet, unassuming driver is as well known for his supreme understanding of how the car's suspension works as he is for aggressive-yet-clean driving.

### **Otto Sitterly**

His staggering accomplishments over the years, including 2025, place him atop the list of best Supermodified racers to ever sit behind a wheel. Over the course of the '25 season, Otto Sitterly completed a trifecta at Oswego Speedway (The Steel Palace). His opening day win earned him his 8<sup>th</sup> Jim Shampine Memorial. Sitterly also won the four-race Supermodified Challenge Series Championship for the second time. Most notably, he earned his 10<sup>th</sup> track championship at Oswego, an achievement that may never be topped in the Speedway's record books.

### **EMPA Al Holbert Memorial National Driver of the Year**

Members choice

Please write-in your selection **(1 choice only)**

### **EMPA Ace Lane Sr. Memorial Photographer of the Year (vote for 1)**

Dan Andersson – Speedway Illustrated

Debbie Gastelu – Area Auto Racing News/Speedway Illustrated

Rick Ibsen – Area Auto Racing News/Independent

Mike Jaworecki Sr. – MyRaceNews.com

Walt Smith – Race Pro Weekly/AARN/Penn Can Speedway/Evergreen Raceway

### **EMPA Jim Hunter Memorial Writer of the Year (vote for 1)**

Ken Bruce – DirtTrackDigest.TV

Linda Mansfield – Restart Communications/book author

Jack O'Connor – Area Auto Racing News

Thomas Pope – Speedway Illustrated

Scott Walsh – Scranton Times

### **EMPA Board of Directors (vote for 2)**

Debbie Gastelu

JR Kennerup

Pete MacDonald

Mike Mallot

Dino Oberto