



## 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,

It's been a bit since we last sent out a newsletter and we hope everyone is doing well, especially with the 2022 racing season now in full swing. Time to get caught up on a number of things.

Let me begin by saying thank you to everyone who sent in comments, concerns and ideas from the last time we sent out a newsletter. It was all well received and there were some really good thoughts sent in, all for the greater good of the organization too. All the info has been passed along to the Board and we've all done our share of processing.



So at the present I'd like to invite all those to our official Facebook page. You'll have to copy and paste this link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/950672392163896/members>

Once there just request to join and we'll get you in. Presently this will be open to EMPA members only. We know this will be a great tool for communicating and eventually getting new members to join.

We're also aware of the website and how we can use some updating. Robin Ervin has done, and continues to do, a great job of maintaining the website, however, we'd like to reach out to anyone who would like to help out with giving us a facelift. Again we need to use this vital tool in promoting ourselves.

Anyone who would like to help out here, please contact me at [dlmo@ptd.net](mailto:dlmo@ptd.net) or call my cell at 570.401.8168.



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



### Convention 2023 News

As of right now our 2023 convention, which will be the 50<sup>th</sup>, is tentatively scheduled for January 13-15 at Genetti's Best Western Hotel and Convention Center in Wilkes-Barre.

And, we'll be looking into improving the weekend with some of the ideas that have been sent in.

One of the items we're considering is to have more committees for the weekend. Yes, we have people for the photo contest but for other aspects of the weekend we'd like to see teams in place. This would include how we do Friday night and Saturday for both the morning sessions and the banquet.



## Convention—continued

Although nothing has been set as of now we are also hoping to have a summer gathering, preferably at a race event, with the intent to help spread the word about EMPA.

We'll keep you posted on that progress.

## **IN THE NEWS...**

Since our last newsletter we lost two important people within the motorsports media. AARWBA president Dusty Brandel and Al Robinson have passed. Both were key individuals in covering motorsports and we send along our deepest sympathy.

Here's a great piece on Greg Rickes and his 50 years as "The Voice" of Lime Rock Park. [https://www.thedrive.com/news/44582/lime-rock-parks-veteran-announcer-on-janet-guthrie-paul-newman-and-more?fbclid=IwAR2FtVVFhah3817J41kuEjiIjLIOM\\_Srb2B-gJV1csU8jVsxqu78cEKeyiU](https://www.thedrive.com/news/44582/lime-rock-parks-veteran-announcer-on-janet-guthrie-paul-newman-and-more?fbclid=IwAR2FtVVFhah3817J41kuEjiIjLIOM_Srb2B-gJV1csU8jVsxqu78cEKeyiU)

Again, you'll have to copy the entire link and paste on your browser. Congrats, Greg, and a really good read.



Midwest EMPA member and photographer, Yem Sanlaeid has accepted a position working as a full-time production assistant with NASCAR. Yem, a resident of Bowling Green, KY started shooting races at Kentucky Motor Speedway (Whitesville, KY) a few years ago and has been an associate photographer with Left Turn Media. Yem and his wife Hannah, will move to the Charlotte, NC, area later this month and he will assume his new position with NASCAR in May. Congratulations to Yem and Hannah! Rich Corbett photo

How about this neat item...

Our good friend and longtime supporter John Holland of New England Race Fuels has put together a very unique opportunity for us.

At this year's World Series of Asphalt Racing at New Smyrna Speedway, Matt Hirschman collected his 200<sup>th</sup> career feature win. A placement on the New England Race Fuels Facebook page congratulating Matt in the form of a commemorative print was posted. As it turns out we got to talking with John and there has since been 200 of those posters made up that will be signed by Matt and will be available for sale. John indicated that we would like the sales go to EMPA. Details on how to get your hands on one of these posters will be forthcoming.

This is really cool and awesome and THANKS, John and Matt!

Then there's this:

As you know EMPA has long been a voice on the voting panel for the NASCAR Hall of Fame. However, that will not be the case for the upcoming voting for the class of 2023 as we received word from NASCAR that will not be the case.

I share with you that Email I received on the next page.



April 4, 2022

Dear Mr. Oberto:

We wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and dedication to the voting process to select the annual classes of the NASCAR Hall of Fame. It has been an honor to have your participation in our meetings and discussions over the past several years.

Each year, prior to the beginning of the annual selection process, NASCAR reviews the members of the Voting Panel to consider any adjustments. As part of the continued evolution of the voting process, we have decided to make some changes to the structure of the Voting Panel and are no longer in need of your participation.

We thank you again for your prior service and wish you the best.

Sincerely yours,

Amber Wells

Until next time  
Peace, out  
Dino

**EMPA Board of Directors**

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