



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,

I sincerely hope that, despite the circumstances we are all contending with due to COVID-19, you all enjoyed a great Thanksgiving.

I would like to pass along some updates as we near the end of voting for the Hall of Fame and respective contests.

When you received your ballots it was noted that voting ends on December 13 so please do your best to return those ballots to me by that date either by email or snail mail. (**Note: email works best**).

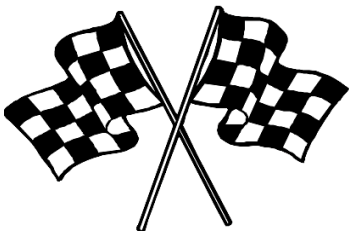
I will say that the voting for the Hall of Fame is very close; likewise, there are other tight runs going on in all other award categories. With that said, I cannot stress the importance to send in your selections as every vote does indeed count.

The Pocono Raceway EMPA Writers Contest has very respectable number of entries and rest assured that the judging will be tough. They are all very good.

In the Brice's NAPA Auto Parts EMPA Photo Contest the online move to go virtual is really working out nicely. Kudos to Bob Yurko and Brent Smith for all the effort in arranging and setting up everything. The rules had been sent out and if you have not received them please go to our website www.empaonline.org and click on Contest Rules and scroll down to them.

We are continuing to plan an adequate setting to hold an awards gathering and it is very promising as of now. Keep in mind there is the matter of state regulations due to the virus but we are confident we will be able to gather in a safe and suitable manner.

For those of you who have sent in their 2021 renewals thank you and I must remind everyone else kindly send in your dues.



www.empaonline.org



We must pass along some sad news.

John Rickes, son of longtime EMPA member Greg Rickes, passed away suddenly on November 18 in Austin Texas. John was born in Albany NY, May 1986.

John attended Colonie Community Day Care, and was a graduate of St. Pius X School, Shaker High School, SUNY Cortland and St. John's University School of Law. He played football at Shaker and SUNY Cortland, where he was a member of the 2007 ECAC Northeast Bowl Championship team. He always enjoyed a round of golf with Eric DeMichele, who he'd known since they were 3 years old, and Mike Caplan. Sometimes he would go hiking by himself in search of solitude.

In lieu of flowers the family would be most grateful for donations in John's memory to: Safe in Austin, a sanctuary bringing together animals and people with special needs, Colonie Community DayCare Center, or National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Safe In Austin

14601 Honeycomb Dr., TX, Leander TX 78641

Tel: 1-512-296-4584

Web: <https://www.safeinaustin.org/>

Colonie Community DayCare Center

701 Sand Creek Road, Colonie NY 12205

National Alliance on Mental Illness

4110 Guadalupe St bldg 781 room 428, Austin TX 78751

Tel: 1-512-693-2000

Web: <http://www.donate.nami.org>

Rita Church, sister of former EMPA President Ron Hedger, passed away last month as well.

Rita received her Associates Degree in nursing at SUNY, Morrisville and worked at several facilities as an RN until retiring. Rita was a talented crafter and photographer. She worked for years at Shangri-la Speedway as track photographer. Surviving are her children, Dana Cox and Deborah Church; and brothers Ronald, Raymond and Randy Hedger.

Contributions in her memory may be made to

Wanderers Rest Humane Assoc.

PO Box 535,

Canastota, NY 13032.

Until next time

Peace and out, Dino

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