



## 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.

### Board of Directors:

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

Greetings all,

I would like to open this newsletter by wishing you and all of your families a wonderful Thanksgiving.

May this time of gathering and reflection be one of peace and joy with you and yours.

At this time I want to remind you all that the respective contest deadlines are VERY near so please if you haven't yet sent in your entries it is now crunch time to do so. We need to get them into the hands of the judges, which then begins a timely process.

Also, we sent out the ballots in the most recent newsletter (November 2021) and while a good stream of votes has arrived on our desk we still await others. Once again, for those who have yet to cast a vote please take the time to review the nominees and return those ballots. I continue to stress that over the years each and every vote counts including yours!

Reminder—all eligible voters must have their 2022 membership (\$50) paid and likewise if entering one or more of the contests. Also, your paid dues is your ticket to the convention.

With that said, I would like to put out an official statement in regards to one of our award nominees, Darrell 'Bubba' Wallace, who is on the ballot for the Chris Economaki Memorial Newsmaker of the Year Award and the tweet he released on November 19 pertaining to the trial outcome of Kyle Rittenhouse which stated...

*"Ha, let the boy be black and it would've been life...hell he would've had his life taken before the bullshit trial.. sad"*

Wallace has since put out additional tweets with a bit more clarity on the matter and his position.

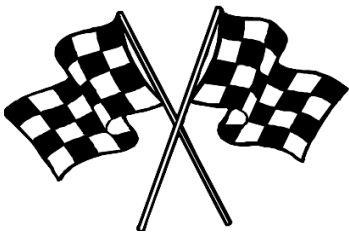
Let me say that there is no room for racism in racing. And, this tweet has weighed heavily on my mind and I have gone back and forth in trying to make the right choice as to keeping him on the ballot or removing him for the remarks with the reasoning of: is he creditable after such a statement?

Being that votes have already been cast – some for Wallace – I remain at odds. Wallace was placed on the ballot for his accomplishments this past season, and that is what put him in the "news" category.

This incident is also newsworthy although much at the opposite end of the spectrum.

I have conferred with the EMPA Board and it comes down to my decision, which is the ballot will remain as is.

Therefore, I respectfully ask that you vote accordingly by how you view the respective nominees as that is your choice.



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



**THE FINAL DAY FOR VOTING AND BALLOT RETURNS IS DECEMBER 12.**

With the convention just weeks out we now need to know about attending since we did not add that in the last newsletter. Please indicate on what days you will be attending and return to me ASAP so we can plan accordingly.

This is vital, as we need exact headcounts for Friday evening and both Saturday lunch and dinner. Be advised that the hotel provides a complimentary breakfast to anyone staying there as a guest.

If you plan on bringing a **guest for the weekend the fee is \$100.**  
If you are **only attending the Saturday dinner the guest fee is \$65.**

Member's name \_\_\_\_\_

What will you be attending?

**Friday evening** – Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

**Saturday Dover International Speedway lunch** – Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Lunch guest and name \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday evening dinner** – Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Dinner guest and name \_\_\_\_\_

We also need your dinner meal choice (please check one per person attending)

**Chicken Francaise** (*Chicken battered in egg with light zesty lemon butter sauce*) \_\_\_\_\_

**Burgundy Sirloin Tips** (*Tender beef tips braised in a classic Burgundy wine sauce*) \_\_\_\_\_

If you have not have not made your room reservations yet you have until December 12th to obtain the special rate. Let them know you are with EMPA.

If there is any person or persons, track or organization that you know of that would like to be part of the Saturday morning press conference, please get in touch with me for arrangements.

We will continue to put out more convention info over the coming weeks.

***In closing, it is with deepest sympathy and our thoughts and prayers go out to the Ovens family on the recent passing of Brad Ovens. Brad was a member of the organization and brother to Steven, both very committed to our sport. Brad's death came just 16 days after the passing of their father. May Brad rest in peace.***

Until next time

Peace, out

Dino

**EMPA Board of Directors**

President	Dino Oberto	dlmo@ptd.net
Vice President	Earl Krause	earl@aarn.com
Secretary	Carol Houssock	carol2race@aol.com
Treasurer	Jeff Gromis	jig495299@comcast.net
Member	Karl Fredrickson	kfredrickson@speedwayillustrated.com

