

**BMW Car Club of America  
Board Meeting  
Hyatt Regency, Minneapolis, MN  
September 11, 2022**

**Sunday, September 11, 2022**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Eddy Funahashi at 9:07 AM CST.

**2. Attendees**

**Board Members:** Eddy Funahashi, President; Lou Ann Shirk, Executive Vice President; Darlene Doran, Secretary; Brian Thomason, Treasurer; David Brighton, North Central RVP; Larry Engel, North Atlantic RVP; Simone Harrison, South Atlantic RVP; and Jeff Gomon, Central RVP

**Absent:** Steve Libby, Pacific RVP

**National Office and Roundel:** Frank Patek, Executive Director; Heather Tollison, Director of Financial Operations; Jason Kazian, Director of Corporate Relations; Len Rayburn, Creative Director; and Satch Carlson, *Roundel* Editor-in-Chief.

**Guests:** Barbara Adams, Windy City Chapter; Larry Schettel, Windy City Chapter; Pam Imholy, Windy City Chapter; Tom Imholy, Windy City Chapter; Forrest Bennett, X Chapter; and Valerie Capirgno, X Chapter.

**3. Minutes**

The minutes of the April 10, 2022 Board Meeting were approved by vote during the June Conference Call. Reading of the minutes will be waived.

**4. Reports**

**4.1 President**

Eddy Funahashi had nothing to add to his pre-meeting report.

**4.2 Executive Vice President**

Lou Ann Shirk had nothing to add to her pre-meeting report.

**4.3 Secretary**

Darlene Doran had nothing to add to her pre-meeting report.

**4.4 Treasurer**

Brian Thomason added to his pre-meeting report our net loss as of August 31, 2022 was \$84,641.00, which is an improvement over July 31, 2022.

**4.5 South Atlantic RVP**

Simone Harrison added to her pre-meeting report the Bayou Chapter is trying to move forward. Simone has had several conference calls with them trying to

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keep the chapter going and is happy with the progress. River City has been merged with Old Hickory and River City has been dissolved.

**4.6    *North Atlantic RVP***

Larry Engel added to his pre-meeting report he has two chapters involved in conflict.

**4.7    *Pacific RVP***

Steve Libby added to his pre-meeting report chapter conference call dates.

**4.8    *Central RVP***

Jeff Gomon had nothing to add to his pre-meeting report.

**4.9    *North Central RVP***

David Brighton added to his pre-meeting report, the NordFest event was well attended from folks all over the US.

**4.10   *Executive Director***

Frank Patek had nothing to add to his pre-meeting report.

**4.11   *Roundel***

Satch Carlson had nothing to add to his pre-meeting report.

**4.12   *Driving Events Committee***

Steve Stepanian had nothing to add to his pre-meeting report.

**4.13   *Club Racing Committee***

Scott Reiman had nothing to add to his pre-meeting report.

**4. Affirmation of Votes on conference calls since last Board Meeting**

Nothing to report

**6. Discussion Topics**

**6.1    *National Events***

**6.1.1   Oktoberfest 2022**

Frank Patek reported we have had to cancel one of the half day Performance Center events and two social events. Attendance is down and we could not fill all spots.

**6.1.2   Regional Conferences 2022**

Simone Harrison, South Atlantic RVP will be holding one at the BMW CCA Headquarters on November 12, 2022. The other RVP's have not made any arrangements as of our meeting. The RVPs need to get their

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schedules, criteria and presentations for the conferences ready and advise the national office.

**7. National/Regional Events**

**7.1 *Updates***

- 7.1.1 Bimmerfest – may be coming back
- 7.1.2 Flat Out Classics, June 2023
- 7.1.3 MX1, June 2023
- 7.1.4 Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix – July 2023
- 7.1.5 Monterey Legends Weekend, August 2023
- 7.1.6 The Vintage, May, 2023
- 7.1.7 Pacifica Escapades, September 2023
  
- 7.1.8 Vintage at Saratoga, October, 2023
- 7.1.9 Legends East, November 2023

**8. National Programs and Services**

**8.1 *Updates***

- 8.1.1 IT – See attached report
- 8.1.2 Club Racing – See attached report
- 8.1.3 Driving Events – Nothing at this time
- 8.1.4 Raffle  
Frank Patek reported as of the meeting we have sold 24,610 tickets which equates to 4 cars.
- 8.1.5 Roundel  
The combination of a post-Covid slump and continuously rising paper and postage costs have met up with flagging advertising sales. Both *Roundel* and *BimmerLife* must undergo changes for 2023 to right size our media budget. *BimmerLife* will most likely move from 5 volumes per issue to one larger volume. *Roundel* does not lend itself to a physical change unless we lowered paper quality. That is not a realistic option if we want to maintain quality. What

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we are left with is cutting production from 10 issues per year to 8. The elimination of two print volumes of *Roundel* will yield savings of approximately \$250,000. A portion of those savings should then be invested in enhancing our digital media presence.

**Motion:** Simone Harrison made a motion to reduce *Roundel* from 10 issues to 8 issues per year, beginning with the calendar year 2023. This is being done to reduce operational costs for budgetary reasons, with a future allocation of cost saving to be invested in a more robust digital platform. Larry Engel seconded the motion. 8-1 absent

8.1.6 BimmerLife

Len Rayburn reported the postage rates were increased last year and periodical size and weight limits also changed. The weight limit increased from 16 ounces to 24 ounces. The allowed physical dimensions were reduced. Changing *BimmerLife* to the size of *Roundel* would allow us 184 pages plus covers. Thereby providing the opportunity to condense the 5 regional volumes into one national publication. Moving to this format should save us 1.25 to 1.5 in costs. We will take the cost savings of changing the publication and put toward digital media experience. Len further indicated that twenty (20%) percent of our chapters did not provide copy for the fall edition of BimmerLife..

**Motion:** Larry Engel made a motion to authorize the national staff to modify the format of BimmerLife to a single edition with 2 issues per year. Simone Harrison seconded the motion. 8 - 1 absent

8.1.8 Member Committees

8.1.8.1 Recognition Program Committee – See attached report

8.1.8.2 Technology Committee – Nothing at this time

8.1.8.3 Election Vetting Committee – See Lou Ann Shirk’s Pre-Meeting Report

8.1.9 National Office

8.1.9.1 Misappropriation of Club Assets

During a recent event, it was reported that a member of the national board was approached by a past national board member stating that they intended to form a separate BMW club using the funds held by the past national board member’s chapter and all relevant club intellectual property. Their stated intent was to use these funds and intellectual property to start this parallel club. The basis for these comments where that the current BMW CCA is failing, in their opinion, and the only remedy they want to start a new club. For the record, it is unlawful for any chapter member(s) to attempt any such

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activity. The club has dealt previously with Sunshine Bimmers Chapter and with the e30 Chapter. In both instances, all property was recovered, and all funds were repaid under court order.

Any club member or national board member with knowledge of any activity occurring and/or purported to occur in the future has a fiduciary duty to alert club officials. The Executive Director explained that what these members are threatening to do is unlawful. The Club will vigorously defend itself from these kinds of activities or threats.

8.1.9.2 BMW CCA Business Plan – Nothing at this time

8.1.9.3 History Project  
Frank Patek reported the history project distribution should be in November, 2022. We had 3,392 members contribute to the project. We are very pleased with the results.

## **9. Policy and Administration**

9.1 Ombudsman – Nothing at this time

9.2 Benefits Update – Nothing at this time

9.3 BMW Clubs International  
Frank Patek reported this meeting will be held in October, 2022.

9.4 Operations Manual – Nothing at this time

## **10. Foundation**

10.1 Street Survival  
Frank Patek reported ongoing conversations with the Foundation board.

## **11. Financial**

11.1 2022 Status  
Brian Thomason reported that as of August 31, 2022 our net loss was approximately \$85,000.00, which is reduced from July, 2022.

## **12. Chapter Issues**

12.1 RVP Conference Call schedule for 2022

**Pacific Region** – Nothing at this time

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**Central Region**– Nothing at this time

**North Central Region** – Nothing at this time

**South Atlantic Region** – Completed for 2022

**North Atlantic Region** – September 15, 2022

**12.2 RVP Chapter Visitation schedule for 2019**

**Pacific Region**

*Visitation Plans:* Inland Empire Meeting, November 6-8, 2022

**Central Region**

*Visitation Plans:*

**North Central Region**

*Visitation Plans:* VINFest – Windy City Chapter, September 17, 2022

**South Atlantic Region**

*Visitation Plans:* November 2, 2022

**North Atlantic Region**

*Visitation Plans:*

**12.3 Chapter Probation Report – Nothing at this time**

**12.4 Dealer Engagement Program**

Staff presented a newly redone engagement package for use by Chapters when working with their local BMW centers.

**12.5 Corporate Status - Nothing at this time**

**12.6 Chapter Elections**

Board discussion for each chapter will work with national staff to establish a voting period, which will be a minimum of thirty (30) days. Prior to the voting period each chapter will call for nominations by announcing the nomination and voting periods by mail or email to all eligible chapter members. This notice may be part of a general newsletter. The nomination period announcement should be made at least thirty (30) days prior to the beginning of the election period. Nominations should close at a date to be determined by each chapter but no later than the beginning of the election period leaving sufficient time for national staff to set up the election. (This set up period to be determined by prior agreement with national staff.) Nominations should be transmitted by each chapter secretary (or other officer determined by the chapter) to national staff by email immediately after closing of nominations. Paper ballots will be mailed to any eligible member requesting one.

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Completed ballots must be returned to the national office by the end of the election period. This process will be phased in over the next three (3) years. Each chapter will need to make this permanent change to their Chapter Bylaws. This process will be in full effect within the next three (3) years (needs a final dates-month and year)

**Motion:** Larry Engel made a motion to align the fiscal year for all chapters to the calendar year and to require that all chapter elections utilize the national office electronic system for the term year and fiscal year beginning January 2025. These changes will be phased in between the passing of this motion and the end of 2024. The phase-in period is to allow anticipated necessary revisions to chapter by-laws and to give national staff and chapter officers enough time to schedule future election time period cycles. Darlene Doran seconded motion. 8-1 absent

### **13. Membership**

#### **13.1 Membership**

Frank Patek reported membership is our biggest concern to date. For far too long we have debated shifting demographics and whether our 19<sup>th</sup> century business model would hold up in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. While we weathered Covid and the idling of most or all activities – chasms began along the foundations of our structural problems. Chapter leaders in place for decades are leaving. Chapter activities do not always serve the greater chapter membership. In places with high population density, we have seen no activity this year. Volunteerism today is very different than it was in 1969. BMW customers today resemble our founders in their passion for the brand, but how they express that passion can vary greatly. Recruitment and Retention are the two things that have never changed. They are now and always have been the business and responsibility of everyone.

It is time to get about our business. Change is always inconvenient, easily derailed by the complacent and generally a pain in the ass. Change is also inevitable. We can either co-opt the change in front of us and drive it to success – or we can sit on the sidelines and as change drives us into the ditch.

#### **13.2 Sponsorship and Marketing**

### **14. BMW NA**

### **15. New Business**

### **16. Future Meetings**

#### **16.1 Board Meetings**

December 2-4, 2022, Providence, RI

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February 2-5, 2023, Retreat, Santa Margherita, CA

16.2 Conference Calls

**17. Adjourn**

**Motion:** Darlene Doran made a motion to adjourn at 4:42 PM EST. Eddy Funahashi seconded the motion. Motion passes 9-0