

Minutes  
Four Winds BMW Riders - General Membership Meeting  
Saturday, September 18, 2021  
Rochester Inn Hardwood Grille, Ross Township PA

Joe M. welcomed all present and the called meeting to order at 12:50 PM. 13 members and guests attended, arriving on 8 bikes.

The first item of business was a recap of the 55th Annual Four Winds BMW Riders rally in August. 115 were registered and a few additional dinners were sold for Saturday. Discussion followed with the consensus that the event was well organized and sufficiently attended during difficult times. All are encouraged to visit the website ([www.4windsbmw.org](http://www.4windsbmw.org)) or the Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/groups/74936103201](https://www.facebook.com/groups/74936103201)) for photos. Thank you's were extended to Joe B., Gene, Ed, Diane, and JoAnn for all of the planning together with the detail work during the rally to make this year's event go so smoothly.

Joe M. voiced his concern that dues payments for the current year remain well behind recent years. About 50 percent of members have not sent their dues to Ed. While it is not clear what the specific reason or reasons may be, all agreed that that is dismal place for the club to be. A number of comments were offered as to how the situation might be addressed and what the reasons are underlying the issue. included in the discussion of possible reasons were:

- club membership has lost its value for some persons,
- loss of interest in club activities,
- uncertainty for some as to whether they've paid in for the current year, or
- assumptions that participation at club events is not dependent on payment of dues

Among the suggestions in moving forward were

- change the club organization so that a small fee is to be paid at each event to replace the annual dues payment
- change the timing for dues payment from the beginning of the year to April 1 to coincide with the beginning of riding season
- a telephone reminder to each non-paid member along with an inquiry as to why the reluctance to pay
- expand the effort to attract new members by tracking new BMW buyers through local dealers and / or through new MOA memberships

The general agreement was, if nothing else, to move the time for collection from the beginning of the year to April 1.

Ed offered the Treasurer's report. Rally receipts are on the positive side, about \$460 above expenses to date, Ed has yet to receive invoicing for two items. Included in this year's expenses was \$1,000 spent for door prizes, and questions followed regarding what the appropriate amount for the club to spend in the future beyond the prizes donated by vendors. The consensus was that, with the uncertainty of how many registrations are going to materialize, the effort should be made to prepare a list of donors to be contacted by Board members soliciting door prizes. The task of contacting and soliciting should be spread across as many Board members and other rally workers to spread the burden. The number of registrations will be clearer in the week or so before the starting date as will the progress, if any, in obtaining donations. At that time, the level of door-prize expenditures

appropriate for the club may become easier to gauge. A suggestion was also made regarding the list of contacts to make to include the local state representative; apparently, representatives routinely help non-profits through contributions intended to assist the local community.

A prospective new member, Keith Glabb, was asked to introduce himself and share a bit about his motorcycling interests. Keith has known Joe M. since their school days. Keith made today's trip from his home in Shaler on his 99 Road King. He has his eye on a BMW K1600 LT but is also budgeting for the start of graduate school. All in attendance welcomed Keith and encouraged him to make a habit of attending our events. We hope he will join the club. Lively discussion followed next about the merits of riding 2-up versus solo. No verdict was pronounced, only the assurance that all motorcycle enthusiasts are welcome on our rides and at our monthly meetings.

The next item of business was a brief discussion about planning for the annual banquet for next February. Suggestions as to location are invited as we are inclined to find a place other than the Chadwick. The Board will be exploring further the Waterhole Restaurant (Hartman's Golf Course) in Harmony PA to learn of costs, menu details and availability. Several people recalled the May 2021 monthly meeting was held there and commented that banquet room would work well for our group and that the location is close to the Evans City exit on I-79.

Joe M. advised that the election of new officers and directors is scheduled for the October monthly meeting. He invited all present to consider the Vice President's position for the coming year as a candidate has yet to emerge. The other Board members present volunteered to assist with explaining what's involved for anyone interested as well as to help throughout the year with duties.

The October monthly meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 16 at Kelly & Bob Monheim's deer farm outside of Vandergrift. Please look for further details on the website as the meeting date approaches.

There was no 50-50 raffle today.

Upon motion of Leo and second by Ed, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David Donley, Recording Secretary