

Minutes - Four Winds General Meeting  
Saturday, October 15, 2022  
Monheim's Farm, Vandergrift PA

Beth Ann Brady, Vice President, *presiding*

Beth Ann called the meeting to order at 12:30 P. Joe Burns was out of town and not able to attend. 20 members and guests were in attendance, arriving on 12 bikes. Beth Ann thanked our hosts, Bob and Kelly Monhiem, for all of the preparations and hospitality.

Beth Ann asked if there were any new members or others present enjoying their first meeting. A question followed as to whether there had been any follow-up from the several new faces attending the September monthly meeting at the new BMW dealership, Pitt Cycles in Warrendale PA. Apparently no membership requests have followed to date.

Ed raised the next item of business, the Treasurer's report, highlighting receipts from the Four Winds BMW Riders Annual rally at New Bethlehem in August which are currently pegged at about \$2,500 over expenses with one invoice yet to be received. The result is attributable to the increased attendance over the recent "covid-19" years as well as the Rally Chair (Joe Burns) and his committee's diligence in keeping expenses in line.

Ed next noted that the annual MOA mileage contest will conclude at the end of the month, so those interested should tend to the paperwork requirements. Further details are available in the latest BMW Owner's News magazine. Several people noted the publicity our Four Winds club received in the articles recounting the earliest efforts in organizing a national organization. Articles included mention of T.J. Sheridan from Bethel Park among the earliest organizers and the large contingent of BMW owners attracted over several years to the Four Winds Annual rallies in the early 70's. (October 2022 edition at pages 34-39.)

Beth Ann suggested the next item of business was election of officers and directors for the coming year. She inquired if any participants not currently serving were interested in a position or learning more about how the club is governed. Several current board members encouraged those in attendance to consider volunteering; new blood will be welcome and would most likely benefit the club's direction. No additional interest appeared. Beth Ann reported that each of the incumbents has preliminarily agreed to continue with his or her responsibilities, meaning the 2023 slate of candidates is reported as:

President - Joe Burns,  
Vice President - Beth Ann Brady,  
Treasurer - Ed Tatters,  
Corresponding Secretary - Joe Marnell,  
Recording Secretary - David Donley ,  
Webmaster(s) - Diane Pears and JoAnn Barr, and  
Director at Large - Dennis Mickanin.

Beth Ann asked for the group to approve this slate, and hearing no objections, she reported the incumbents have been elected unanimously to serve another term.

Beth Ann asked for suggestions on where the November monthly meeting should be held. The preference is for a location is a restaurant with a private room, the ability to order from the menu, and flexibility as to a minimum requirement, if any. Ideas included a trip to Greensburg for BBQ, Hartmann's at Evans City, Sunny Jim's on Camp Horne Road and Butler's golf course in Elizabeth. Other recommendations are welcome; please contact Beth Ann or another Board member with suggestions.

Planning will soon be required for the 2023 annual banquet. No location has been confirmed, but, if possible, the Board would like to consider ideas for locations other than north of the city so that members residing at other points will not be required to travel as far. This would be a change from recent years. After discussion, the group's preference as to timing is to return to the traditional third Saturday in February. Members are encouraged to contact a board member with any suggestions; the facility should be big enough to handle approximately 70 persons.

With the end of riding season looming ahead, the discussion of upcoming rallies and events was brief, including:

- the Not-A-Rally in Bryson City NC on October 21,
- Four Winds November monthly meeting, November 19,
- the 2023 MOA National Rally is scheduled for Doswell / Richmond VA and will start on June 8,
- the 2023 RA time and place has not been announced but has been teased as a location closer to Pittsburgh than Waynesville NC

Discussion turned to the group's recent rides and rallies, which have included:

- some leaf-peeping in the vicinity of Brady's Bend during the past week's beautiful Fall weather,
- the Sept 29-Oct 2 RA national rally in Waynesville NC, characterized as a "non-event" this year due to low attendance numbers most likely attributable to hurricane "Ian" and related travel concerns,
- the Sept 16-18 Twin Valley BMW Riders rally at Meadows of Dan VA,
- a western odyssey extending 18 days and 6,800 miles or so for a group which included 5 or 6 Four Winds members; the route wandered through the UP / Soo Locks, Brainerd MN, Sturgis SD, 107°F Wyoming heat, Coeur d'Alene ID and a constant haze due to forest fires, Astoria OR, Tahoe NV, US Route 50 through Utah, Bryson Canyon, Utah state route 12, Torrey UT; the return east included Colorado's Million Dollar Highway, the less spectacular portions of KS, KY and TN, and the not to be forgotten home of Hillbilly Hot Dogs in Lesage WV,
- the Oct 5-9 Barber Vintage Festival at Leeds AL,
- Don's 6,000 mile journey which included the US Route 50 adventure from Sacramento CA to Ocean City MD, a requirement for careful attention to fuel consumption over certain legs, a temperature swing of 70° in less than 24 hours (100°F to 30°F), and the importance of evaporative cooling vests and tips and tricks on soaking them at remote locations,
- Bob's return to the Alps for 10 days of spectacular riding, the charm of Austria and the challenges of carving endless hairpins,

- Vince's return to Italy to tour the length of the country on mountain roads and 125 cc Vespa's with frequent stops to experience the good food and friendly people in small villages,
- Tim and Diane's four-week, RV vacation to Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, with two-wheel riding uncharacteristically limited to some e-biking in Acadia National Park.

Beth Ann asked if there was any old business to report. There was none. Beth Ann asked if there was any new business to report. There was none.

Beth Ann thanked Kelly and Bob for their hospitality. Upon motion of Ed and second by Dennis, the business portion of the meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David Donley, Recording Secretary