

Minutes - Four Winds General Meeting
Saturday, July 15, 2023
White Oak Park, White Oak PA

Beth Ann Brady, Vice-President *presiding*

In Joe's absence due to out-of-town travel, Beth Ann called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM. A total of 11 members and guests attended, arriving on 9 bikes. Thanks were extended to Ed for making the arrangements for today's meeting; the venue was great. No new faces to welcome, although it was great to see Scott Alexander return after a year or two's absence.

As the first item of business, Beth Ann reported the progress on planning for the 57th Annual Four Winds BMW rally to be held at Redbank Valley Municipal Park on August 18-20, 2023. She noted Joe B. recently circulated an email to the Board confirming details as follows:

- last year's caterer has been booked to return,
- menu selections are to be available shortly,
- the search for a musician or other entertainment on Friday or Saturday evening continues,
- complimentary non-alcoholic beverages and water are in hand,
- port-a-johns have been secured, and
- suggestions for movies that may be available are invited.

Discussion followed regarding airing of a movie, the location of video equipment, and motorcycle-themed movies that might be shown. A number of titles were suggested with further work needed on this subject.

Gene B. will be asked if he would be willing to handle the coffee service each morning.

Tee-shirt design is completed, and Diane will explore further on the details of ordering and payment. Our vendor will require all orders to be finalized no later than August 2. Orders are to be picked up at rally registration as in the past.

Bill Crookston will look further into possible conflicts in his schedule for the rally weekend and will confirm his availability for the field events on Saturday afternoon.

The suggestion was made to have more than one group riding to Friday's dinner plan so that the size of group riding will be more manageable. Consensus was that this idea will be an appropriate change from prior years and will allow those interested to choose from multiple departure times and routes to Cousin Basil's restaurant (Clarrington PA). Dana volunteered to lead one of the groups. Ed S. will handle another as is his tradition.

Diane reported that Wayne Dodge, a long-time Four Winds' friend, has volunteered to lead an extended ride on Saturday to the Kinzua bridge or another destination in that area; he knows the roads well. Discussion followed and further consideration will be given to options for Saturday afternoon rides, including Ed S.'s scenic route and an ADV option. Jay will be contacted to see if he might be available again this year to the ADV.

Don Scelza has volunteered to provide a presentation on his experiences and recommendations for long-distance, solo adventures; he is extremely well qualified. Sean will be contacted to see if might be willing again to lead a demonstration for tire-plugging.

Door prizes for this year's rally remain work-in-progress. Efforts to contact local dealerships and other vendors will be made with the understanding that all donors will be recognized at the event. So far, Diane has in hand several tee-shirts and accessories donated by Bob's BMW (Jessup MD.)

Pre-registration for this year's rally has been available through the club's website for a month or so now; members and guests are reminded that the pre-registration discount of \$10.00 will end after August 5.

Ed provided the Treasurer's report; funds for upcoming anticipated expenses seem adequate. He noted also that, at the direction of the Board, the club has voluntarily contributed to the expense of re-painting the concessions area at Redbank Valley Municipal Park. In addition to the club's contribution, Joe B. has contributed resources on his own. The club's appreciation was extended to Joe.

Ed also introduced a new opportunity for personalized member-identification name tags is in the works through the efforts of Greg McCall. Greg has secured the equipment needed to produce them at a very modest expense. Further consideration is to be given as to the best means of attachment on clothing as well as how members may sign up for one. The badges will be significantly cheaper than the current arrangements at \$15.00 apiece.

The Board will begin the search for a new Corresponding Secretary to take over Joe M.'s role following this year's August rally. All agreed it will be difficult to replace Joe, whose efforts will be sorely missed. All in attendance understand that Joe must attend to the challenges facing him and his family. Volunteers having a background in the digital world or email marketing are invited and may contact a Board member to pursue details.

Diane reported that the tweaks to the club's website have been completed to improve our presence for mobile device users.

Several members noted with sadness JoAnn Barr's recent passing. She was remembered as among the most dedicated of Four Winds members, playing a substantial role in the club's affairs for many years. She was a friend to so many members. Those in attendance shared memories and recognized her brave, fearless and successful approach to life's challenges, which included her long career in Pittsburgh's corporate culture at a time when the contributions and talent of women were usually overlooked. At her funeral, her family recognized how important her Four Winds connections were to her. R.I.P. JoAnn.

Hearing no further Old Business and no New Business adjourned the meeting with thanks to Dana and Tim for their masterful charcoal grilling of today's burgers and dogs as well as to Ed for bringing the food and supplies.

There was no 50/50 drawing.

Respectfully submitted,

David Donley
Recording Secretary