



**February 2020**

**John Humphrey**

## ***PRESIDENT'S CORNER***

It was good to see everyone with their "Sunday best" clothes on at the banquet. It's the one time of the year when we don't have motorcycle or casual clothes at a meeting.

I want to thank Vince Giannetti who volunteered to handle the Annual Banquet and Marge Humphrey who handled membership and banquet payments and attendee lists. Joyce Elk for the dessert cake and Diane Pears for the photo review and Joe Marnell who figured out the slide show. We had 50 members and guests attend the banquet at The Chadwick in Wexford. Like past years, paid members received a discount on the costs for the banquet. The food was upgraded from past years and I hope everyone enjoyed it and the company. Restless Ray, who played music at the Rally for the last several years, provide the musical entertainment before and after the meal.

Each year, we preset the MOA Medallion to the club member who has provided exceptional service to the club. This year, Diane presented the MOA Medallion to Marge Humphrey. The Medallion is supposed to be a surprise, but since Marge is involved in EVERYTHING, it's difficult to get this past her, but after a couple of years of trying, Diane and I conspired to find a way. Congratulations and thanks to Marge.

Soon, BMW of Pittsburgh will open this spring by Mosites Motorsports. They were not able to attend the banquet. However, Josh Nolten and Dave Myers from Kissell Motorsports and "BMW of Tyrone" attended and made a presentation. Although Kissell is located mid-state, they are doing lots of business in Pittsburgh. Kissell is running 2 trucks and will pick up and deliver new and used BMWs and service them. Service and Sales are also available from BMW of Cleveland. It will be good to have multiple BMW dealers offering sales and service for the area. Simeon at [www.BeemerParts.com](http://www.BeemerParts.com) attended the banquet and has parts.

Vince is planning a good year for club meetings. Two meetings at County Park Shelter Houses and a restaurant meeting in Donegal near 7 Springs are planned. These meetings and meetings at member's houses are subsidized along with the Annual Banquet. It's our way of giving back to our members.

An email went out recently to everyone talking about the demise of the motorcycle club. It is your club and it's up to you to participate in the club and keep it strong. We have 90+ members and a handful do all the work. I want to thank all those who have held positions in the past and encourage every member to help with the rally.

There is a great deal of effort to go into a good website ...and we certainly have one. We are expanding our club communications to include Facebook. Patrick Barrett is the administrator. You need to send a request to join the group and post to the page. The website "Members Only" section has been revised to make it easier to navigate. Like Facebook, you must request access to post to the forum. If any of this doesn't seem to work for you, send an email to me, Joann or Diane.

We would prefer you don't pay in cash at meetings, we sometime end up with a pile of cash and it's difficult to track. Credit Card purchasing from our online store for banquet, membership or rally does not require a PayPal account.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you when we can start riding again this Spring.

## **Banquet Photo Gallery:**

<https://fourwindsbmw.smugmug.com/Banquets/Banquet-2020>

## **Minutes**

### **Four Winds Annual Banquet - February 15, 2020 The Chadwick , 10545 Perry Hwy, Wexford, PA 15090**

Vince welcomed all to the annual banquet and introduced John for the business portion of the meeting.  
John Humphrey presiding.

John welcomed all in attendance, reporting that over 50 members and guests have gathered to enjoy the evening. With the suggestion that the evening provides an appropriate time for a "state-of-the-club" message, he offered a presentation which included a brief review of the club's 2019 activities and the outlook for the coming year. His message included a slide presentation.

The 53rd Annual Four Winds BMW Riders Rally in New Bethlehem was a highlight of the past year with just under 200 people attending. By all accounts it was a success. Thanks are due Joe Burns, Rally Chair, and the other volunteers for the work in putting it together and assuring it ran smoothly. Joe has agreed to chair the event for 2020 and has begun the search for volunteers to assist. John invited any club members having an interest in helping to him or Joe.

A special message of appreciation was offered to Vince for his significant contributions to the club's welfare over the past year. He served as Vice President, made substantially all of the arrangements for this evening's banquet and once again played a key role in assuring the success of the Four Winds annual rally.

John next thanked John Hetzel for his work over the past several years in bring the MailChimp application into the club's inner workings. With John's effort it works and has become the principal means to communicate with members. The transition in responsibility from Hetz to Joe Marnell is essentially completed, and Joe's abilities demonstrate communications with the membership are in good hands.

John suggested the club's website has evolved to one of the highest quality sites for groups of our size and budget, and it's success largely attributable to the work of Diane and JoAnn. Their efforts assure this resource remains available on a 24-7 basis and up-to-date. Not only is it available for current club members but it also promotes the club to prospective new members. He noted Diane and JoAnn will continue their work for the coming year; their efforts remain a key to the club's success.

John next thanked Marge for her work as Treasurer as well as her relentless efforts in the background to keep the club's affairs organized. Through her efforts, which will continue for the year ahead, there are few if any unpleasant surprises in club operations. Also on board for 2020 will be the undersigned as Recording Secretary and Ed Tatters, Director at Large, who brings many years of experience as an active club member. John noted the position of Social Secretary remains vacant. The club is looking for a volunteer. John invited any interested person to contact him or Mary Hetzel, who through her past efforts, can provide sound advice as to what is involved.

John reported that memberships for 2019 stood at 95 members, an increase of 4 over the prior year. The process of collecting dues for 2020 is still underway. The Board of Directors remains hopeful that membership will increase again in the coming, and John invited any suggestions that might work toward that end.

Plans for 2020 include:

- organizing groups rides to monthly meetings, which will include locations in state or county parks as possibly one to the Laurel Highlands;
- continued efforts to develop strong relationships with local BMW motorcycle dealerships;
- track days hosted by Mosites Motorsports (North Versailles) scheduled for June 19 and August 17 at PittRace (Wampum PA).

John introduced Josh Nolten and Dave Myers, owners of Kissell Motorsports in Tyrone PA, and invited their comments. Josh thanked the club for the invitations to the banquet and the opportunities to meet so many BMW enthusiasts. Josh suggested the division of labor between Dave and himself remains that Josh handles all compliments and Dave handles all complaints. Laughter followed.

Josh briefly recounted the history of the dealership and some of the challenges to making its location in Tyrone PA the center of the universe for BMW owners and prospective owners. Early on, Josh and Dave settled on an aggressive business plan which focused on a large inventory, innovative pricing, strong after-sales support and event-driven promotions. The dealership has distinguished itself through a significant presence at BMW gatherings, such as the national RA and the Finger Lakes rallies and will continue for the MOA rally at Great Falls MT in June.

Josh invited questions or comments; a question and answer session followed. Notable are:

- the dealership's winter servicing program offering free pick-up and delivery remains available and has proven a success;
- plans are being finalized for the coming Soggy Bottom event for adventure riders to begin on July 24. The dealerships website, [www.KissellMotorsports.com](http://www.KissellMotorsports.com), will include details.

John thanked Josh and Dave.

John turned the meeting back to Vince, and Vince introduced Diane for the presentation of the MOA Medallion award.

Diane briefly recapped the purpose and history MOA Medallion award program for the club. She commented upon how well-deserved this year's award is and presented it to Marge, who was in turn caught by surprise. Diane highlighted Marge's role in our organization as including not only financial oversight as Treasurer but also most aspects of the club's e-commerce initiatives, the budget, the supply-chain, hostess for the club's October monthly meetings and the un-official "handler" of the club President. A round of applause for Marge followed.

Marge thanked all for the honor, noting also that she was quite surprised by this turn of events. She now understands why her inquiries about the selection process over the last several weeks went unanswered.

Vince concluded the meeting and invited all to enjoy the music of Restless Ray which was to follow.

Respectfully submitted

David Donley, Recording Secretary