



January 2020

John Humphrey

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

18 members braved the snow and cold weather to attend the January meeting at Bella Luna in Monroeville. It was good to see everyone after the Holidays. No one rode to the meeting, and I don't blame them!

Since we don't have a new Social Director yet, Vince Giannetti has volunteered to handle the Annual Banquet. The Banquet will be held at The Chadwick in Wexford. Like past years, paid members will receive a discount on the costs for the banquet. Many members paid their dues and banquet registration with credit cards at the January meeting.

The new BMW dealership in Pittsburgh: Mosites is renovating a building to open BMW, Ducati and Triumph at the current location in North Versailles. The building will open in the spring of 2020. In the meantime, Simeon at [www.BeemerParts.com](http://www.BeemerParts.com) has parts, Service and Sales are currently available from BMW of Cleveland or Kissel Motorsports in Tyrone, PA. Kissel will pick up and deliver BMWs for service.

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 members at member's houses are subsidized along with the Annual Banquet. It's our way of giving back to you.

The Forum is being utilized more and more. Remember, Diane or Joann must approve your request to post on the forum, but anyone can read the forum posts. Please look at the Index tab to keep your posts confined to the correct area in the forum.

I want to take a moment to talk about the website. There is a great deal of effort to go into a good website ...and we certainly have one. It is the envy of much larger clubs. Diane and Joann have done a lot of work in the background to keep it running smoothly. The "Members Only" section has been revised to make it easier to navigate. **You must be a member, request access and be granted to access this list.** If the Members Only doesn't seem to work for you, send an email to me or Joann or Diane.

We would prefer you do not pay in cash at meetings. At the end of the January meeting, Marge had a pile of cash for various Regular and Associate memberships and banquet fees. It's difficult to track cash payments. Credit Card purchasing from our online store for banquet, membership or rally does not require

a PayPal account. We have added a message that PayPal only processes the payment. You can use your credit or debit card. When it's time to pay, look for a small blue link that says "use your credit or debit card" for processing.

A reminder: Dues are payable BEFORE the banquet to register at the lower price. We will not be processing dues at the banquet, since you will have to register for the banquet by Feb 6<sup>th</sup>.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you for a good turnout at the Annual Banquet.

**Minutes**  
**Four Winds BMW Riders - General Membership Meeting**  
**Saturday, January 18,2020**  
**Bella Luna Trattoria, Monroeville PA**

John Humphrey, presiding

John called the meeting to order at 1 PM. 19 members were present. Old-Man Winter assured that no one rode.

As the first item of business, John reported the transition of responsibilities to the new Board were substantially complete. John complimented Joe Marnell on the past two membership updates distributed to members through the Mail Chimp application.

John asked for the Treasurer's Report. Marge advised of two expenses during the past month, a \$250 deposit for the annual banquet and the yearly \$15 dues payment to the MOA.

John next reminded all members to renew membership for 2020. Marge will accept checks and credit cards for dues payments and banquet reservations at today's meeting. Cash payments are strongly discouraged. John asked that members pay their annual dues prior to the February 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet and avoid waiting to renew at the banquet. He also noted that today's meeting provides a convenient time to make reservations and payment for the event.

John reported Vince was not able to attend today's meeting as he was under the weather but has confirmed to John most of the details for the banquet. The menu and reservation form are available on the club's website. The cut-off date for reservations is February 5<sup>th</sup> in order to receive the discounted price for members current with their 2020 dues. John advised that, at its meeting earlier today, the Board approved a modest subsidy for paid-up members to attend the annual banquet. The \$25 discounted price covers the cost of dinner charged to the club. The subsidy covers the service charge, taxes, the cake and any other incidentals. The price for non-members will remain at \$35 per person.

Banquet arrangements are confirmed with the Chadwick again this year and will include a cash-bar and a dinner buffet with menu selections similar to those enjoyed in recent years. One detail remaining to be decided is whether Restless Ray will be providing entertainment following dinner. Dennis, who was out of town and not attending today's meeting, is to advise further on the question of Restless Ray's availability. There will not be a speaker nor the Yankee raffle this year. John asked that any members interested in sharing photos from recent events send a copy to Diane for a background slide presentation during the evening.

Discussion about the annual banquet followed and included several opinions about the direction for future banquets. The Chadwick brings several distinct benefits as to location and price, although there are also interests in expanding to new venues and a different menu, even should they entail a higher cost to attend. John invited for the future that all members feel free to share their opinions and suggestions about the event.

Dan Weaver suggested that the club be certain to invite representatives from Mosites Motorsports to this year's banquet. The idea was well received. Also relevant as to the new dealership was the suggestion from the November general meeting that the club encourage Mosites to have a soft-opening next Spring for the new BMW showroom currently under construction. All agreed that the dealer might find the occasion to be a great way to get the attention of a large number of local BMW enthusiasts. John and / or Ed Tatters, who may have a point of contact at the new dealer, will pursue both matters.

As a final item of business for banquet arrangements was that Joyce Elk will again make arrangements for a cake to be enjoyed at this year's dinner. John and Marge expressed their appreciation to Joyce and all volunteers that pitch-in to make the evening a special one.

Other items of current business were reported as follows:

- No one has as yet stepped forward to chair the Annual Four Winds Rally in August;
- Kissell Motorsports (an authorized dealer in Tyrone PA) is still offering free pick-up and delivery in the Pittsburgh area for BMW owners wanting their bikes serviced over the winter; contact is Joe Earnest, Service Manager: (814) 861-7890, [ [www.kissellmotorsports.com/repair](http://www.kissellmotorsports.com/repair)];
- Several of the reliable and skilled people at the former Wexford dealership (parts and service) have found positions at other motorcycle dealers in the Cranberry and Gibsonia areas;
- No one has as yet indicated firm plans to attend the MOA national rally scheduled for Great Falls, MT, beginning June 25, 2020; the trip is reported as a roughly 1,800-mile trip from Pittsburgh by those who have previously made it;
- The monthly meeting for March is tentatively scheduled for the Rochester Inn (Rochester Road, Ross Township);
- Ed Syphan suggested Mitch's Bar-B-Que (Wexford) as a new location to consider for a monthly meeting.

John next introduced Sam Stanley, a club member who was attending his first monthly meeting, and asked Sam to share with the group his motorcycle interests. Sam lives in the Murrysville area and is in the process of returning his 1983 100 RT to the road. Sam appreciated the introduction and is looking forward to the wrenching involved, hopefully with some guidance on a few technical issues he is trying to solve.

John called for the 50/50 raffle. Jack Bramkamp's ticket was drawn, a testament to good karma. (Recall his most recent generous give-away of his motorcycle jackets.) He left today's meeting with an extra \$27. John asked if there was any other new business or updates for the group. Best wishes were sent to Ralph (pulmonary complications) and to Walt (slow recovery from knee surgery) for better health in 2020.

Upon motion of Jack, seconded by Ed, the meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Donley, Recording Secretary

BMW Motorcycles of Cleveland: 330.562.5200  
[www.bmwoc.com](http://www.bmwoc.com)

Genuine BMW Motorcycle Parts: 412.313.4918  
[www.beemerparts.com](http://www.beemerparts.com)

Kissell Motorsports: 814.861.7890  
[www.kissellmotorsports.com](http://www.kissellmotorsports.com)

Johnny K's Powersports: 330.302.4155  
[www.johnnykspowersports.com](http://www.johnnykspowersports.com)