**NOTICE OF 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR MEMBERS OF THE MERCEDES–BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA VANCOUVER ISLAND SECTION**

**WHERE:** Coachwerks Restoration

**WHEN:** Sunday, September 25, 2021

Meeting begins at 12:00

**AGENDA**

1. Call to order

2. Elect an individual to chair the meeting, if necessary

3. Determine that there is a quorum

4. Approve the agenda

5. Approve the minutes from the last general meeting

6. Deal with unfinished business from the last general meeting

7. Receive the directors’ reports of activities and decisions since the previous annual general meeting including a report on the financial statements of the Society for the previous financial year

8. Elect or appoint directors

Appeal for volunteers to be on the Board

**Directors and Officers Proposed for 2021 – 2022**

Alex Currie, Dennis Ostrowerka, Hazel Ostrowerka, Barry Patchett, Rob Watson

9. Deal with new business, including any matters about which notice has been given to the members in the notice of meeting

Suggestions for events in 2021 – 2022

10. Terminate the meeting

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS’ REPORTS**

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

*Rob Watson*

Twenty–two of us emerged from our Covid cocoons in June to start our event season at the seemingly now annual Summer Solstice Dinner at the Farm Table Inn. Three successful events followed –the Cobble Hill drive and lunch at Enrico winery; the New Tech and car event at Three Point Motors; and the tour of Coachwerks – with an average attendance of 26. Of our primary and associate members, 40 of us – or 44% – attended at least one event over the last four months. In addition, we had 18 non–member guests for a total attendance of 58 different people. That is an astonishing turnout for such a short event season; many thanks for your for your continuing to support of our Section.

Next year, we are planning a full event schedule. New ideas include a multi–day drive and tour around the Sunshine Coast, a Show and Shine where we can show case our cars; and our annual Tech event but hopefully this time at the Vancouver Island Motorsports Circuit. Your ideas about events are very important – please bring forward your suggestions.

My thanks to our small team of Board members during the last year – Dennis and Hazel Ostrowerka, Barry Patchett and Alex Currie – who have worked hard over the year running our events and contributing to the success our Section. Philip Early resigned from the Board in August and we thank him for his work as Treasurer and his contributions to the Board. With Philip’s departure, I have taken on the role of Acting–Treasurer.

This leads to an ongoing succession problem. With only five members on a Board which should be 8 members to be fully functional, we are having to take on multiple roles, which means an increased demand on our time. We need volunteers for the Section Board to help with help with the arrangement of all the great events we hold; provide new ideas; and share in the duties so we have a strong, viable Section. If you are willing to step up and join our Board , please let me or one of our Board members know.

**ACTING–TREASURER’S REPORT**

*Rob Watson*

This has been a straightforward year. Our opening balances on September 30, 2020, was USD $417.83 in our US savings account and CAD $6,494.85 in our Canadian chequing account. After receiving membership rebates of USD269.50 plus negligible interest and less account charges, our closing balance in the USD account was USD $683.35. On the Canadian side and as of the date of this report (September 21) we incurred $555.36 in expenses, reducing our cash balance to $5,939.49. Our expenses included $40.00 for BC Society Fees (an annual requirement); $39.99 for a one–year license for Quicken t maintain our financial records; $166.94 for MBCA complimentary memberships for two representatives at Three Point Motors and Mercedes–Benz Nanaimo; and last $308.43 for the food and beverages at the New Tech and Car event in August.

The dark cloud with our finances is MBCA National has decided to suspend the Section rebate of USD $11 per member to ease pressure on the finances at National. This is not an insignificant amount and will result in a loss in revenue of about USD $800 (CAD $1,000). We used those funds to subsidize or pay for events and awards and it will likely require us to charge a small fee for events where we incur costs so we remain “revenue neutral” and don’t incur losses.

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| **Mercedes Benz Club of America** | |  |  |
| **Vancouver Island Section** |  |  |  |
| **2021 Statement of Cash Flow as of September 25, 2021** | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | **CAD Community** |  | **USD Business** |
|  | **Account** |  | **Account** |
| **BEGINNING BALANCE: OCTOBER 1,2020** | **$ 6,494.85** |  | **$ 417.83** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **REVENUE** |  |  |  |
| MBCA Membership Rebates |  |  | $ 269.50 |
| US Dollar account interest | - |  | 0.28 |
|  | $ - |  | $ 269.78 |
|  |  |  |  |
| **EXPENSES** |  |  |  |
| Events | $ 308.43 |  |  |
| BC Society Fees | 40.00 |  |  |
| Dealer representative meberships | 166.94 |  |  |
| Supplies and miscellaneous | 39.99 |  |  |
| Bank charges |  |  | 4.35 |
|  | $ 555.36 |  | $ 4.35 |
|  |  |  |  |
| **OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)** | **$ (555.36)** |  | **$ 265.43** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **ENDING BALANCE: SEPTEMBER 25, 2021** | **$ 5,939.49** |  | **$ 683.26** |

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR’S REPORT**

*Alex Currie*

2020-2021 has, to say the least, been both interesting and challenging for a club like ours on many fronts including sustaining membership. We ended October 2020 with 74 Active members and 14 Associate members only to see our membership drop to 68 at one point during the past year.

That said, I am pleased to report, we have seen a rebound in the last few months as our activities resumed. We have acquired 8 new members in the past year and extend a heartfelt welcome to you all. We have 74 active members and 17 associate members. We had four memberships expire, 3 of which were due to transfers to other sections of MBCA.

For those who are not aware, you can add an associate member to your membership at any time.

It is also not necessary for someone to have a Mercedes Benz to join.

I continue to see that we have significant untapped potential to grow our Section membership.

We all see the large number of Mercedes-Benz automobiles on the roads of Vancouver Island and in particular the Capital Regional District.

I continue to take my daily walks around Sidney, always taking membership brochures with me to put under windshield wipers around the various neighbourhoods I travel through on foot.

When I do get an opportunity to speak with an owner and ask, “Are you a member of the Vancouver Island Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club?” the answer often is “I didn’t know there was such a club.” This tells me we have room to grow and we all can be ambassadors for our Section.

The Board continues to seek opportunities with the GAIN network to make customers aware of the section.

We are preparing some direct advertising to run through the Black Press chain of community newspapers but we could use some help to get a presence on line.

If we have a member with social media skills who would be willing to give us a hand, please contact any board member.

If you feel you would like to be an ambassador for our Section, we can get brochures to you. Even without them, a conversation and direction to https://www.mbca.org/join/international is all some folks need.

While Covid is likely to haunt us for some time, we are enthusiastic about the club’s future.

I wish you all good health and safety in the months ahead.

Happy Motoring!

Alex Currie