



NEWS FROM NATIONAL

FROM: Wynne Smith, Executive Director
 TO: BMW CCA National and Service Officers,
 Chapter Presidents, Newsletter Editors
 DATE: January 25, 2006

MEMBERSHIP STATS as 01/23/2006

	<u>Full</u>	<u>Associate</u>	<u>Total</u>
Current Membership	65,820	9,316	75,136
Last Month's Membership	65,800	9,286	75,086
Monthly Net Gain (Loss)	20	30	50
Monthly % Change	0.03%	0.32%	0.07%
Last Year's Membership	66,428	8,765	75,193
Annual Net Gain (Loss)	-608	551	-57
Annual % Change	-0.92%	6.29%	-0.08%
New Members, 01/06	916		
Renewals, 01/06	50.3%		
Roundels Mailed	66,650		

BMW CCA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

So far **530** members have signed up **708** new members! Keep up the good work!

Watch the www.bmwcca.org website for updates to the prize list – and if you need applications or membership drive business cards to help you recruit – just email: jennifer.skatzes@bmwcca.org

ZF AUGMENTS PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM!

Watch your email in-box for a press release concerning ZF's enhancement of the already outstanding Public Service Awards Program.

DEC CONGRESS – DALLAS - JANUARY 20 –22, 2006

Yesterday I returned from the Driving Events Congress in Dallas, TX. This year's conference was IMO the most unique and valuable conference the club has hosted to date. To give credit where credit is due - the [Driving](#) Events Committee organized two days of amazing sessions that kept everyone in attendance engaged and offered as much a two-way dialog as you can imagine. Speakers such as Richard Brekus of BMW North America, Dr. John Melvin of TanDelta Safety, Tony Funicello, Tom Strahs, the list goes on and on. This conference broke previous attendance records, with more than 140 people from more than 55 BMW CCA Chapters. An incredible success for a program that is becoming more and more important as a way for the BMW CCA to interact with the driving events community. We were even able to share a couple of hours with [PTG](#) Driver (and Sacramento Valley member), Joey Hand. Absolutely wonderful.

I have posted a list of attendees and their email addresses to the DEC digest in the FILES section – For those of you on the list, please correct/update the email info in case it is incorrect or outdated.

2006 MOTORSPORTS INSURANCE RATES – have gone up 8%. This is a slight reflection on our loss and incident rate due to our first fatality, and also based on the rise in how many events have been put on in the 2004 and 2005 season. Cost for certificates **per event** will be as follows 2/1/2006 – 1/31/2007:

Club Race	\$ 1,650
CR/Driving School	\$ 1,550
Driving School	\$ 1,400
Autocross/CCC	\$ 275
Tours/Rallies/Concours	\$ 150

ADDITIONAL INSURED STATUS with respect to MOTORSPORT LIABILITY COVERAGE – There continues to be some confusion regarding who and what may be added as an additional insured to the certificates issued for events by Wisenberg. Please be sure everyone in your chapter involved with obtaining coverage for events understands that any participant that signs a waiver is covered as an additional insured. **However**, if the individual has a “business”, that business can’t be added as an additional insured to our policy. Often chapters are then asked to “indemnify” such a business, but if we ever had a claim, this would not be looked upon favorably by the carrier. Be sure your corner workers, instructor trainers, driving instructors, etc. sign the waivers at each event. Be sure to **READ** contracts carefully and thoroughly so that you are not agreeing to indemnify the business of a paid participant. If you have questions or need help with reviewing contracts submitted to you – please call me or your regional D.E.C. representative.

DISCRETIONARY FUNDS

How many of you are aware of the fact that each of the Regional Vice Presidents has \$500 in discretionary funds that may be used to assist chapters each quarter? Per the Operations Manual:

Subject to approval of each year's budget, Regional Vice Presidents each have \$500 per quarter or \$2,000 per year of discretionary funds at their disposal to spend for the betterment of the BMW CCA and primarily to aid chapters. If a Regional Vice President is a candidate for office in the upcoming national election, then the maximum discretionary allowance is \$500 in the first quarter. Each Regional Vice President is responsible at the subsequent Board meeting to report the purpose and amount of all discretionary funds disbursed since the previous meeting.

Discretionary funds support the changing and emerging needs of chapters. They are the most flexible type of fund. Discretionary funds were put into the budget so that Regional Vice Presidents could provide monetary assistance to chapters in a variety of circumstances. The discretionary fund's purpose and use should be clear. The Board of Directors intend that the monies in the fund are to be used solely at the discretion of the RVP for purposes consistent with the club's mission -- funds to assist chapters with financial and communal needs that may be necessary to be met in a confidential manner, or whose needs would bring a benefit unable to be met through other means. For instance, funds to help chapters with smaller treasuries purchase software or equipment to assist in the production of Newsletters or Websites; funds to help chapters augment corral funds for approved corrals; funds to assist rebuilding a chapter after a catastrophic event – such as Katrina.

Please understand that with respect to the custody and management of discretionary funds, the Regional Vice Presidents recognize that these funds should be used to supplement membership dues rebates to the end that a chapter may improve and increase its functions, may extend its areas of service to serve more of its members in remote areas of the chapter, and to become more useful to a greater number of chapter members.

An RVP cannot have money placed into the discretionary fund budget and then use the fund for personal needs. So, the discretionary fund should not be used by the RVP to attend a chapter event or travel out of region or to host a party; but the funds *can* be used by the RVP to help chapters to send additional attendees to National Conferences -- a definite benefit to the chapter. The funds are generally earmarked for smaller chapters with smaller treasuries to help in maintaining the chapter's minimum standards or (as indicated above) to assist in providing more chapter volunteers with opportunities to expand their knowledge and experience. It is a little exasperating to see distributions made to chapters with treasuries of more than

\$50 – 75,000 to augment corral funds, when other chapters in the same region can't afford to send a volunteer to a \$149/day seminar to learn to use a program that will streamline a chapter function.

A reasonable test of appropriateness for expenditure should include the following questions:

1. Is this expenditure demonstrably in the best interest of the region/chapter?
2. Is this expenditure clearly for the purpose of meeting club objectives and not for any political gain or benefit of any volunteer?
3. Will this expenditure be justifiable under the scrutiny of a membership concerned with disparity in funding from one chapter to another?
4. Would you be proud to have your name associated with this expenditure if reported on the front page of a chapter Newsletter or on the National website?

It seems as though over the past few years we've lost sight of what the funds are to be used for and we've seen discretionary funds channeled repeatedly into only one or two chapters within a region; rather than provided to chapters that have genuine needs. This is likely due to some chapters knowing the funds are available, while many do not.

If you have questions about the availability of funds for your chapter, please contact your Regional V.P. for more information and details on distribution. Because the funds are discretionary, your RVP has the final say as to what chapters will qualify for what amount -- but you'll never qualify if you don't ask.

BMW CCA ELECTIONS

The January issue of Roundel contains your ballots – **your mailing label to affix to the ballots** and the detailed information on the proposed bylaws change. **PLEASE DO NOT THROW YOUR LABEL AWAY – you will need it to vote.**

All ballots must be received by February 11, 2006. The results will be posted February 13th.

GATEWAY TECH

More and more vendors and presenters are signing up each day. Special presentations by BMW CCA Club Racing, Wisenberg Motorsports, BMW CCA Foundation Street Survival and many others. Don't miss this 25th Anniversary technological bash. Will Boris Said be reprising his performance at Oktoberfest 2005? Indeed he will. This will be a great place to visit with members of the BMW CCA Board; and rumor has it there may be a gathering of Roundelians for a staff meeting!

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BMW CCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Held this year at Gateway Tech – St. Charles, MO March 25 and 26. For details or to observe, please call the National Office. 864 250-0022.

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**The National Office
will be closed
Monday, February
20th for Presidents'
Day**

best regards,

Wynne