

**OHIO VALLEY KARTING ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
CINCINNATI MARRIOTT NORTH
SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER: President Aaron Banfield called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the annual membership meeting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Lynda Coombs reported that the transponder donation she mentioned at the monthly board meeting earlier this month has been received and a thank-you note mailed to Bob Wood, who donated it to OVKA.

TREASURER'S REPORT: No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BANQUET: Aaron Banfield reported that Emily Schanie and her team have been working extremely hard for today's banquet.

RULES COMMITTEE: Aaron Banfield made a motion to accept the 2024 rulebook. The motion was seconded by Don Boles and passed unanimously.

SWAP MEET COMMITTEE: Bruce Wyke reported on booth rentals and said the seminars are filling up. He explained the hotel block is full and said if somebody wants a room, he can provide a hotel contact. Wyke discussed the need for a few more volunteers. Ray McKibben and Wyke will be doing a walk-through of the facility tomorrow then the layout will be done. Wyke shared while two vendors have conflicts this year and cannot attend, others have increased their footprint. Ethen Bokeno detailed the online presence advertising the Swap Meet. Wyke said there will be OVKA 60th anniversary hats for sale at the Swap Meet, as well as this evening.

TRACK IMPROVEMENT: Aaron Banfield reported the track has been repaved.

SHOWS & PROMOTIONS: Don Boles suggested people promote OVKA at car shows and give out flyers. Elliot Bokeno reported on a car show where he represented OVKA. Ethan Bokeno said he can promote events if someone can coordinate them. Elliot Bokeno made a motion to appropriate \$250 for business cards and postcards. The motion was seconded by Rick Coombs and passed unanimously. Dan Fiehrer said we need to try to dedicate a Saturday or Sunday to go to Full Throttle. Aaron Banfield reported he has karts we can display there and suggested getting three or four volunteers to talk with people in the lobby. Banfield asked that anyone who is interested in coordinating this, to please let him know. Huntsbarger suggested having people sign up. Fiehrer asked about pricing for awards. Banfield wants to look at the awards tonight and will provide pricing for a couple of options at the February board meeting. Ted Cradlebaugh shared we do have a podium. Banfield explained we will need people to give out the awards. Elliot Bokeno reported Emily Schanie had a backdrop made for tonight that can be used. Fiehrer said it is important to do awards right after tech. Boles stated if we get one person from any show, that's success. Andy Richard suggested marketing in the Columbus area. Banfield and Elliot Bokeno asked Richard to provide information about opportunities and well-attended car shows in that area.

MARKETING & DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS: Ethan Bokeno asked people to take pictures this evening and tag OVKA so the pictures can be re-shared. Elliot Bokeno reported a great video will go live at 4:00 p.m. today. Ted Cradlebaugh extended thanks to Elliot and Ethan for all of their assistance.

TECH DEPARTMENT: No report.

SPONSORSHIP / PIT SPOTS: Rex Johnson reported the pit spot map is current as of right now. He asked that people spread the word to let him know of their intentions about keeping their pit spot; the sooner the better. Johnson explained he is getting a lot of phone calls and he has a list of people wanting pit spots and once March 1st arrives, he will give out spots. Aaron Banfield stated we do not have the ability to extend the date after March 1st. Elliot Bokeno stated we need to pull the date out of the rulebook or bump it up to the Swap Meet to have more time. Ryan Springer said there were people who didn't come. Aaron Banfield responded they may have had the best of intentions and he doesn't know that we can say you have to be there. Andy Richard inquired whether we negotiate to have our spot with CKNA. Banfield replied historically, if you talk to them. Brian McBride shared that CKNA has an online system for pit spots. Elliot Bokeno made a motion we pull the pit spot date out of the rulebook for 2025 and release a date independent of that when it has been decided. The motion was seconded by Brian Huntsbarger. Don Boles responded you have to have a date. Banfield suggested setting the date at the Swap Meet. Rick Coombs amended the motion to make the date February 1st. The amendment was seconded by Brian Huntsbarger. Elliot Bokeno asked Lynda Coombs if she takes pit spot reservations at the Swap Meet. Lynda explained she has not, but that can be done, to which Johnson agreed. Lynda added that Johnson has kept her informed about pit spots. Rick Coombs' amendment was voted on and passed unanimously. Elliot Bokeno extended appreciation to Johnson for all of his work and Johnson received a round of applause.

BUSINESS / OPEN DISCUSSION:

ELECTION OF 2024 OFFICERS: Having been nominated at the December 5, 2023 board meeting, nominees were voted on by a show of hands. The following officers were elected for the 2024 season:

President – Aaron Banfield
Vice President – Elliot Bokeno
Board Secretary – Dawn Schroeder
Track Secretary – Lynda Coombs
Treasurer – Jason Gregg

FUEL ATTENDANT: Brian Huntsbarger explained we are in need of a fuel attendant for the upcoming season and said it is almost a two-hour job in the morning. Huntsbarger offered to assist with training and said some shade will be set up.

CKNA RACE: Don Boles reported a fuel attendant is needed for the CKNA event at G & J Kartway.

TRACK VEHICLES: Brian Huntsbarger reported he is waiting on parts for the limo cart and one of the carts is in need of some typical repairs and maintenance. He said the vehicle that the Race Director drives needs a full replacement and asked what we have for a budget. Elliot Bokeno asked if we know our cost for track repaving. Aaron Banfield replied no, but he thinks

we can afford a new golf cart. There was discussion about storage of the vehicles. Huntsbarger explained if we stick with gasoline, we need to winterize them. Calvin Shappard said if there is an immediate need, he can offer use of an Ebike. Ryan Springer provided pricing for a brand-new Yamaha golf cart at a cost of \$6,800. Dan Fiehrer stated as many times as we've bought used, he thinks the club should look seriously at new. Brian McBride suggested going with new because of the warranty and recommended going with a dual-purpose cart that can pull karts off the track. Banfield replied putting a hitch on a trailer is easier to store. Ted Cradlebaugh added a trailer will get multiple karts off the track. Tyler Abel shared a brand-new jet ski trailer costs \$1,200. Banfield said he has a trailer he can bring out. Dan Fiehrer made a motion to appropriate \$7,500 for a brand-new, fuel-injected golf cart. The motion was seconded by Aaron Banfield and passed unanimously.

END OF SEASON CLOSE-UP: Ethan Bokeno extended appreciation to members of the Racing4Vets team who put away crash bags at the conclusion of this past season.

RACING4VETS: Craig Moore asked if the club has been involved in fundraising for Racing4Vets and shared that Dan Fiehrer has an idea to put it on the entry form to donate \$5 or \$10. Don Boles suggested rather than putting it on our paperwork, he suggests making an announcement. Aaron Banfield asked administratively, if other organizations want to do this, how would that be handled in the tower. Bruce Wyke asked what ideas Racing4Vets has. Rainer Pansch shared that Sarah Fisher did a donation. Banfield explained Whiteland collects for parking then they donate to charity. Rex Johnson shared that Racing4Vets has elected him as President for the national organization. He said Racing4Vets is extremely grateful to OVKA for what they provide and thank Craig Moore and Dan Fiehrer for the offer. Ted Cradlebaugh asked how many entries they get to which Johnson replied five; this past year he thinks they used three. Johnson stated they are not asking for more spots. Wyke raised the question of some type of event. Johnson reported they are looking at a gala / dinner in Newport. Banfield said they could do a barbecue on a double-header weekend. Banfield suggested placing a bucket at registration; he thinks this is the proper way.

TRACK IMPROVEMENTS (addendum): Elliot Bokeno asked if we have seen plans regarding the bathrooms. Tyler Abel replied he has not heard from the Gregg family. Aaron Banfield will follow up. Brian McBride inquired about lighting for the pit area. Banfield reported in trying to get an electrician to come out, we have struck out so far. He said if anyone knows someone, please let him know. Banfield added we are looking at lights on the track, in the pit area, and some power in the pits. Elliot Bokeno stated the problem is getting people to commit.

DIFFERENT TRACKS: Brian McBride asked if there is any discussion for next year about going to different tracks. Elliot Bokeno replied there is definitely some appetite for that; tracks that we used to go to, no longer exist. McBride said we call it Ohio Valley; he wants to put a bug in the ear. Elliot stated he likes to go to MCC. McBride shared that the reason he brought his son to OVKA is because tensions get high at some other tracks. Aaron Banfield explained the President sets the schedule and he's travelled and not travelled; with travelling, there's a tremendous effort and a drop in entries. He said this year, we are working on a new track; he is starting to pencil in for 2025 and is not making a commitment right now. Rainer Pansch added the Board follows what the membership wants.

TRACK CONFIGURATIONS: Emerson D'Agostino asked about track configurations for the upcoming season. Elliot Bokeno replied he has them and they will go live with the schedule before the banquet starts.

NIGHT RACES: Ryan Springer said we do a lot of night races in the fall and spring and asked if it would make sense to put them in the summer. Andy Richard added fall and spring wreak havoc for kids. Elliot Bokeno noted the races before and after the Champ Race are double-headers and seven weekends are already taken up. Aaron Banfield stated writing the schedule is the worst part of the President's job and shared there are things the Gregg family asks us to factor in. Elliot added there is Mother's Day, Father's Day, and other holidays and said half the schedule writes itself. He extended thanks for the feedback. Ryan Springer asked about a Friday/Saturday night race. Banfield replied in looking at the track staff, he is not sure how we could do that. Richard suggested for night races to move the kids up as far as they can. Banfield explained that Dylan Cradlebaugh and Lynda Coombs do as good as a job as they can and these are conversations we have every season. Rick Coombs shared that he and Dylan have a conversation about this every race.

MICRO SWIFT: Austin Williamson asked if drivers who race Micro Swift will be allowed to move down to Mini. Elliot Bokeno replied yes and explained he requested to add Micro; he doesn't want entries for Micro to not feel comfortable here. He added Dylan Cradlebaugh pushed for it to be a championship class. Bokeno further stated you can move up or down.

MARKETING & DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS (addendum): Bruce Wyke asked if we can our schedule on Kart Chaser. Elliot Bokeno will send an email and reported they broadcast from MCC.

RACE SCHEDULE: Andy Richard asked what can be done about the races that overlap with MCC. Aaron Banfield replied incentivizing the races; it's the product, the officers, board of directors, and race day staff. Richard stated he thinks putting out our schedule before MCC is key.

BANQUET (addendum): Don Boles displayed a championship jacket from 1980 and shared that the club used to give prizes to only first, second, and third place. He explained this led to only those racers in first, second, and third showing up and the board decided to use the money from the Swap Meet for the banquet. Boles stated that we now have nice jackets and great prizes and have come a long way and it is because of the Swap Meet. He discussed how it takes everybody to make it a club and added we have the best show anywhere.

60th ANNIVERSARY: Elliot Bokeno shared that 2024 is the 60th anniversary of OVKA having started in 1964.

VOLUNTEERING: Calvin Shappard extended thanks to the older people and said our board is getting older and we have got to step up. He said he is volunteering to fill some of those steps. Don Boles added it takes all of us. Aaron Banfield explained the club is most successful when we diversify and spread things out among the 250 to 300 people, even if it's small things.

ADJOURNMENT: Aaron Banfield, seconded by Rick Coombs, motioned to adjourn at 3:27 p.m. Motion carried.

SUMMARY OF COMMITMENTS:

- Aaron Banfield – Provide pricing for awards, provide trailer for golf cart, follow up regarding bathroom plans.
- Brian Huntsbarger – Provide training for fuel attendant.

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS:

- OVKA 2024 Swap Meet – Saturday, February 3, 2024.
- OVKA Monthly Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 6, 2024, virtually via Microsoft Teams (link on the OVKA website).
- G & J Kartway Opening Day – Saturday, March 2, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: A. Banfield, Elliot Bokeno, D. Boles, R. Coombs, T. Cradlebaugh, D. Fiehrer, B. Huntsbarger, K. Schanie, B. Schroeder, and B. Wyke.

MEMBERS / VISITORS PRESENT: M. Abel, T. Abel, L. Begoon, C. Bogan, Ethan Bokeno, M. Cole, M. Cook, L. Coombs, H. Cradlebaugh, E. D'Agostino, T. Douglass, D. Jennings, R. Johnson, B. Lance, B. Langley, B. McBride, C. Moore, R. Pansch, A. Richard, D. Schroeder, D.C. Shappard, R. Springer, B. Whitaker, A. Williamson, and four illegible names.

Respectfully submitted by Lynda Coombs, OVKA Secretary, 1/28/2024