

VKA Board Meeting August 11, 2024

Call To Order: President John Copeland called the meeting to order at 8:04pm

Roll Call: Jim Kammuller called the roll with the following results:

Board Members in Attendance:

John Copeland

Marty Westen

Jim Kammuller

Joe Swantek

Kurt Bogerman

Bob Barthelemy

Bill McCornack

Lynn Haddock

Louie Figone

Scott Nagel

Skip Owen

Board Members Absent:

Sal Palatucci

Guest:

Rolf Hill

Amy Scoggins

President's Report:

President Copeland advised he has been looking at the participation numbers up through Avon, as it is $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through the season. In order for the VKA to grow, the promoters need to aggressively look for new ways to bring more people to their events, such as bringing special guests or having special events. J Copeland would like to challenge everyone to dig deep and bring new people to the events next year and work to make the event bigger for next year.

Vice President Report:

L Figone advised he does not have anything at this time.

President Copeland advised the July 2024 minutes were approved via email.

Secretary's Report:

J Kammuller stated he had received an email from J Donovan about completing the non-for-profit application for the upcoming year. B McCormick advised he will reach out to J Donovan and will get more information on what needs to be done and then will reach out to J Kammuller on how to proceed.

Membership report:

M Westen advised July was another busy month and provided an update on the membership applications processed for the month of July and total membership numbers broken down by region.

Total memberships as of July- 503

Northeast- 63, South- 85, Mid-West- 274 and West- 61

Sept. renewal cards have been mailed out. And the membership list is ready to be sent to the next promoters for the next event.

B McCornack asked if M Westen was going to Camden, M Westen advised he was going, along with S Nagel. B McCornack asked if they could just help or monitor the membership process at that event and help if needed. M Westen advised he would, and J Copeland advised he would be there as well.

Treasurer's report:

J Swantek advised the Treasurers report was approved via email.

J Swantek advised everything is good at the moment.

National Event Directors:

S Nagel wanted to provide an update on Avon since S Palatucci is not on the call. Avon didn't get as much attention as hoped, with approx. 25 entries. It was double that amount last year and will work on trying to figure out why the low numbers, so that doesn't repeat itself.

An update on Batavia: They have done some more paving and updates there. The racing surface is back to be able to have an event on. Someone questioned if it was going to be a real event, and S Nagal advised that it was, with three days of racing.

Next up is Camden, and has been hearing some good interest in it, with the new paving, it has peaked some interested.

T-Shirts, we are able $\frac{3}{4}$ away from selling out of the shirts.

B McCornack advised that the Avon event had rain predicted and was able to get the full event in, but the weather probably played a part in the attendance.

J Copeland advised that he had received a call from a group coming down to Batavia from Canada. J Copeland advised he has a commitment that Saturday but will be in attendance for the first part of the event.

Discussion took place among the board about getting T-shirts distributed out for the next few upcoming events.

Rule and Guidelines:

L Haddock advised he does not really have anything additional to report at this time as the weight discussion is going to take place in another segment of the meeting.

Judging and Shows:

K Bogerman advised he doesn't have anything to report. He is working on getting the Bakersfield event certificates ready. J Swantek advised there will not be a kart show at Bakersfield, so no show certificate will be needed for that event.

J Copeland advised that moving forward to 2025 it would be nice to incorporate the silver anniversary into the certificates. K Bogerman agreed.

Regional Reports:

Midwest-

B McCornack advised the Camden event is coming up August 22-24, 2024, right after that is Delmar Iowa, Sept 12-14 and then Whiteland event Sept 26-28, 2024.

B McCornack wanted to speak on safety, the New Castle track is so big, and there seems to be a lot of flips and feels that it needs to be addressed in the driver meetings. Haddock stated that it may also be driver experience/ track experience. With New Castle being the fastest track, some people with new karts aren't very experienced for a track like that. Discussion took place among the board on how to continue to monitor and keep the events safe.

Northeast-

S. Palatucci provided the following report via email prior to the call:

- The last of the NE event is coming up Sept 5-7, 2024

- Batavia will be the first NE event that VKA volunteers will be running instead of the property owner and a list of approx. 11 volunteers were included.

- Assuming the event is popular, we would like for the board to consider spacing out the **MW** events so Batavia can grow into a National Event, members from all regions might consider supporting financially - by attending - so having a VKA weekend slot is important to the owner.

B McCornack advised the board on the request of a few events wanting to move some dates, which would unclog some the events happening around the Batavia event.

South-

B Barthelemy advised he has reached out to M Sellers at CMSP via voicemail and may try to reach with email.

Night races are being run at Barnesville, and a few vintage karts have been showing up. They have been averaging 8-12 vintage 4 cycle karts weighing 370lbs. One of their bigger classes.

B McCornack advised they had 6-7, 4 cycle show up at Norway and was happy to have them at the event.

West-

L Figone advised he has nothing to add at this time, just a lot of VKCA events out there and waiting for the Bakersfield event.

J Swantek provided an update on the Winter National Tucson event regarding staffing and race format.

Old Business:

J Copeland advised the old business item is Billet engine and Parts. He has polled all the participants that he knew of in the class. He advised the poll was an interesting mix, as some people expressed approval for the parts, and the majority expressed they did not care one way or the other. J Copeland asked S Nagel what he has been hearing, and S Nagel advised he has experienced the same, no one has expressed much concern at this time.

B McCornack advised he had spoken to several people at New Castle and Norway, and when asked, they seemed more concern about the weights, then opening it up to Billet.

J Copeland asked the board if anyone else has heard any feedback?

J Copeland asked the board their thoughts on if allowing them or not allowing them? And if a motion should be made.

Motion made by B McCornack:

To approve Terry Dines Billet cylinders to be allowed in the 150cc VKA class in 2025, based on the insignia on the cylinder in order to recognize the approved cylinders.

Seconded by J Swantek

A Long discussion took place among the board on controlling only the approved cylinders and opening the class up to "non-vintage" parts and the availability of vintage parts out there on the market. The amount of cylinders currently out there and the approx. cost to purchase one, and the amount of them currently being used.

Discussion took place After L Haddock asked if anyone on the board had the ability to compare the Billet and the factory cylinder side by side. L Haddock advised he has not been able to see one yet.

Discussion Tabled until Sept. meeting.

J Copeland asked if someone could provide an update on the 25th Anniversary Committee. R Hill advised he had sent out a summary to the board of five things they feel are a must:

- Patches and stickers
- Community outreach, press releases etc.
- Endorsements by luminaries
- Something should be included in the Promoters packet they need to allow time to recognize during the event the 25th Anniversary of the VKA
- The best of VKA< pictures of members kneeling next to their kart w/ out helmets

B McCornack asked when do they want to start voting on the items, such as best sticker design? J Copeland asked if everyone could review the sticker options and vote on their top three choices to R Hill, by the next meeting, along with suggestion of changes.

J Copeland advised he had sent out a photo to everyone, of an old keychain he had, and asked for everyone's thoughts on that. R Hill advised that the "Patches and Stickers" section does include additional "bling" items, such as key chains, and other swag items.

R Hill also advised new banners for the tracks for the 25th year VKA anniversary, we also discussed.

J Copeland asked the board to please weigh in on their thoughts and get that back to R Hill so he can take the board's comments back to the committee.

New Business:

J Copeland stated- Driver weight requirements for 2025

J Copeland advised he would like to hear from everyone.

B McCornack advised he has been hearing grumbling for a while. His suggestion was to have a minimum driver weight of 150 lbs. The weigh-in would be at registration. If the driver weighs less than 150lbs they would be asked to put the difference in weight on their kart. If the driver weighs 125lbs, they will be asked to put 25 lbs of weight on their kart.

J Copeland advised he would like to look at it as the best way to divide the classes to ensure there is a reasonable number of people in each group and if a fixed weight is set, there maybe an instance where there is one person in light and eleven people in heavy.

B McCornack advised that maybe formulas could go in the promoter's package for guidance.

J Copeland stated he feels like there will be a lot of resistance from people that do not want to bolt weight on their vintage karts.

L Haddock advised that he does not agree with giving the promoter two options, and only one option should be given. L Haddock would like to do a little more research on this topic. L Haddock advised he will take a scale to the next event he goes to a weigh all the drivers, so there will be some weight data to review.

J Copeland advised; the next decision that needs to be made is minimum number of entries in the class before it can be separated? He would like to see some type of verbiage that states. "Classes with less than 10 entries cannot be split" in the promoters package.

Discussion took place among the board.

J Copeland advised there are two events that will take place between now and the next meeting. Camden and Batavia. Discussion took place among the board on how to obtain weights at each event and get it tabulated before the next meeting for continued discussion.

B Barthelemy advised the board that he has suggested having a set weight for the 4 cycle classes and would like to have the discussion added to the next meetings agenda as weight is being discussed.

Meeting adjourned 9:43pm EST.

Respectfully submitted by: Kelly Frazier