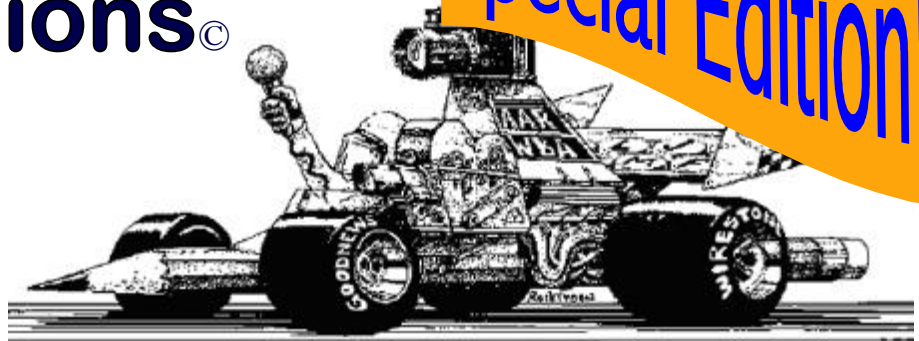


# ImPRESSions<sup>©</sup>



Special Edition!

The Official Newsletter Of The American Auto Racing Writers and Broadcasters Association

August 2011



Vol. 44 No. 8

## Second Annual AARWBA Driver's Breakfast Announced!



**Friday, September 16  
at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca  
co-sponsored and co-hosted  
by Mazda and Porsche**



**Event: The Monterey Grand Prix American Le Mans Series weekend  
Time: 7:30am for breakfast, with the presentation of drivers at 8:00 am  
Place: Mazda pit suite #12 above the pit garages**

**Chance to meet and interview all the top American Le Mans Series drivers during their only trip to Northern California. Media people can also pick up an AARWBA application and meet other AARWBA members.**

**All the top sports car drivers including names recognized from other series including Klaus Graf, Scott Sharp, Luis Diaz, Chris Dyson, Bruno Junqueira, and Anthony Lazarro, plus Porsche, Ferrari and BMW factory drivers and others.**

**Credentials: if you don't already have credentials, go to the race track web site at this link to start your application:  
<http://www.mazdaraceway.com/media>**

**Contacts: Andy Schupack – Porsche 401-741-6980; Dean Case – Mazda 310-318-4582;  
Johanna Koch – Mazda Raceway PR 831-242-8225**



American Auto Racing Writers & Broadcasters Association, Inc. ([www.aarwba.org](http://www.aarwba.org))  
"Dedicated To Increasing Media Coverage Of Motor Sports"

## AARWBA Past President Chris Economaki inducted into the 2011 SEMA Hall of Fame

### *Press Release from the SEMA HOF*

There can be no doubt that our 2011 Hall of Fame inductees represent the finest of these SEMA traditions. Gray Baskerville, Art Chrisman, Chris Economaki and John Towle are all legendary names within the automotive realm. Their careers, enthusiasm, innovation and personal genius are synonymous not only with the growth of the specialty-equipment market but with the hobby, sport and overall mystique of automobiling itself. Indeed, it would be impossible to conceive today of racing, performance or driving adventure without their contributions.

Visit the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and you'll find the Economaki Press Conference Room. At the New Jersey Motorsports Park, you'll find The Chris Economaki Media Center. And each year on the day of the Daytona 500, thousands celebrate Chris Economaki Day.

Having served as a motorsports commentator and journalist for more than 70 years, Economaki is hailed as the founding father of American motorsports media. Even those unfamiliar with his name are instantly likely to recognize the voice behind the trademark horn-rimmed glasses.



Born in Brooklyn, New York, Economaki got hooked on motorsports at age nine after watching an auto race at the board track in Atlantic City. By age 13, he was selling copies of National Speed Sport News (NSSN) at the fairgrounds racing events cropping up in the mid-'30s. A year later, he was penning a column for the publication. By the '50s, he had complete charge of the title, became publisher and turned NSSN into what many have called "The Bible of Motorsports" and "America's Weekly Motorsports Authority," reporting on races throughout the country, regardless of series or track.

Economaki even flirted with midget-car competition himself at a Pennsylvania cinder track.

"It wasn't for me," he recalled later. "It was a really frightening experience. That was the first and last time I drove in competition."

Deciding he was better suited to covering motorsports, he became a track announcer in the '40s, even as he continued to churn out NSSN.



"We all came to know Chris because of the wonderful National Speed Sport News that he published," said Steve Lewis, publisher of Performance Racing Industry [PRI] magazine and producer of today's well-known PRI trade show. Like many in the industry, Lewis became an avid reader of Economaki's publication in the early '60s. "That was the pipeline to knowledge of racing back then. There was no ESPN, no SPEED Channel, nothing. The national and daily papers didn't cover racing. He covered it in-depth. He covered NASCAR and Indy car and also covered weekly short track.... Chris' paper was so important because it provided information and developed the hero status of people such as Bobby Unser, A.J. Foyt and Mario Andretti."

That could be considered achievement enough, but Economaki next turned his attention and energies to broadcasting, covering several Indianapolis 500s, Daytona 500s, Formula 1 Grand Prixes and other motorsports events for "ABC Wide World of Sports" in the '60s. Two decades later, he moved on to CBS Sports and later contributed to ESPN and TBS motorsports programming.

"All that wasn't an accident," explained Lewis. "Chris pushed the networks to expand their coverage. He was the driving force behind it, and his insightful interview technique and unique voice as a real wordsmith made his before-and-after race interviews with drivers classic. He was very good at asking unexpected questions that made drivers have to think. Some of us forget the work he did that helped develop a racing industry. He's not just a publisher, editor or writer. He had the vision, knowledge and energy to put forth an effort to upgrade and bring racing to the forefront."

NSSN ceased print production in March 2011, but Economaki continues to impart his original vision, knowledge and insights through daily contributions to his famous publication's new online version.

## Your AARWBA Officers



President - Dusty Brandel  
[dusty.brandel@gmail.com](mailto:dusty.brandel@gmail.com)

National  
Vice President  
- Kathy Seymour  
[kathysey@hotmail.com](mailto:kathysey@hotmail.com)



Western Vice  
President - Anne Proffit  
[anne.proffit@gmail.com](mailto:anne.proffit@gmail.com)

Midwest Vice President  
- Ron LeMasters  
[rlemasters14@comcast.net](mailto:rlemasters14@comcast.net)



Eastern Vice  
President  
- Lewis Franck  
[lfranck@ix.netcom.com](mailto:lfranck@ix.netcom.com)

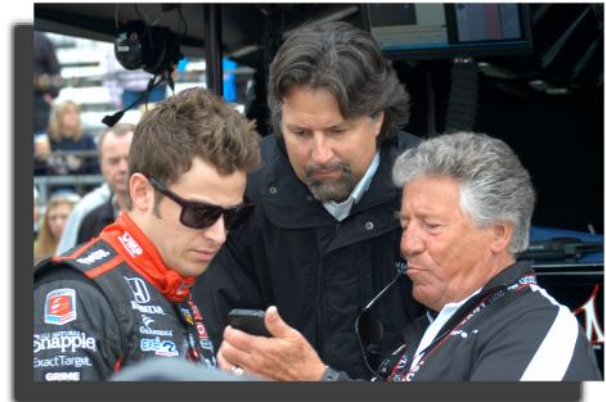


Southern Vice President  
- Joe Jennings  
[jjennings500@hotmail.com](mailto:jjennings500@hotmail.com)

All members of the AARWBA are encouraged to reach out to the elected officers and ask how they can volunteer to help grow the organization and support the objectives and goals of AARWBA. The board members can't do it alone!



## Were you there?



### Bruce Bennett Was!

*"I was at this year's 100th Anniversary Indy 500, and of the 22 Indy 500s I've covered to date, it will certainly rank up there among the most memorable. The pomp and ceremonies were impressive, the racing was exciting, and the finish was phenomenal. But of the 300 or so photos I shot at the speedway that weekend, this one is probably my favorite. I call it, "Hey look... Gramps got an iPhone!!!"*

*"Few families have contributed as much to the Indy 500s history and lore as the Andrettis. Three generations and counting."*

## Were you there too?

If you attended the 100th Anniversary of the Indy 500, please drop us a line or three about the experience. Who did you meet? What did you see? What were the high points? Did you take pictures? Did you enjoy the race / the finish? Come on and share the excitement with the members who were unable to be there in person.

**Send your comments to  
Andy Hartwell at [ashartwell@att.net](mailto:ashartwell@att.net)**

**Or to Dusty Brandel at  
[Dusty.brandel@gmail.com](mailto:Dusty.brandel@gmail.com)**

# IMPORTANT CHANGES PROPOSED!

**SUBMITTED TO: AARWBA NEWSLETTER**

**SUBMITTED BY: STEVE MAYER [PH: 310-275-8423] [stevemayer@usa.com]**

**ARTICLE: Proposed Changes To the AARWBA Constitution and Bylaws**

**SUBMITTAL DATE: 08/15/2011 (DRAFT!!!)**

**ISSUE DATE: August, 2011**

The Board of Directors of AARWBA is proposing two changes to the Constitution and Bylaws. This is the official publication of the proposed changes. A vote of the general membership will be taken by past AARWBA president Ross Olney in the near future.

**There are two proposed changes:**

(1) The Board has recommended that the terms of the Area Vice Presidents be extended from one year to two years (Constitution: Article V, Section 4).

The main reason for this proposed change is that a number of members expressed their opinion to the Board that an election every year was more of a distraction in comparison to the democratic benefit it provides. Such an opinion has been exemplified by the traditional low voter turnout.

(2) The Board has also recommended establishing guidelines as to the conduct of the AARWBA meetings and officer elections (By Law No. 9 – New).

The main reason for this proposed change is as an outgrowth of the last November's contentious election. Many members have told the Board that they were quite disturbed by the lack of civility and order during the election process. The Board is proposing that Roberts Rules Of Order be the governing reference.

Should you have any questions, please contact your Area Vice Presidents. They are:  
Anne Proffit ([anne.proffit@gmail.com](mailto:anne.proffit@gmail.com))

Ron Lemasters ([rlemasters14@comcast.net](mailto:rlemasters14@comcast.net))

Joe Jennings ([jjennings500@hotmail.com](mailto:jjennings500@hotmail.com))

Lewis Franck ([lfranck@ix.netcom.com](mailto:lfranck@ix.netcom.com)).

**The proposed changes to the AARWBA Constitution and By Laws are:**

***Constitution: Article V, Section 4***

4. Vice-Presidents representing the West, Midwest, South and Northeast. Their terms of office shall be one two years and they may be reelected to an unlimited number of terms.

***By Laws: No. 9 (New Addition)***

9. The conduct of the meetings and officer elections of the American Auto Racing Writers and Broadcasters Association shall be governed by the Roberts Rules of Order, 9th Edition (Newly revised 1990)



## American Auto Racing Writers & Broadcasters Association Inc.

922 North Pass Avenue, Burbank, CA 91505-2703

Phone: 818-842-7005 FAX: 818-842-7020

### "Dedicated To Increasing Media Coverage of Motor Sports"

The AARWBA is the oldest and largest professional organization of its kind. Founded in 1955 in Indianapolis, it has grown to more than 400 members throughout the United States, Canada and Europe. Each year the AARWBA members select a 14-driver All America Team from Open Wheel, Stock Car, Sports Car, Drag Racing, Short Track, Touring Series and At Large championship categories. An annual banquet is held to honor these drivers each January. AARWBA also sponsors several contests for its members and established the "Legends in Racing" auto racing hall of fame.

## AARWBA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

<b>Name:</b>		<b>Date:</b>
<b>Company:</b>		
<b>Title:</b>		
<b>Business Address:</b>		
<b>City:</b>	<b>State:</b>	<b>ZIP Code:</b>
<b>Phone:</b>	<b>E-mail:</b>	<b>FAX:</b>

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

<b>Home address:</b>		
<b>City:</b>	<b>State:</b>	<b>ZIP Code:</b>
<b>Phone:</b>	<b>E-Mail:</b>	<b>FAX:</b>
<b>Preferred Mailing Address: HOME OFFICE (Please note that our newsletter, "ImpRESSIONs", is sent via e-mail)</b>		
<b>Preferred E-Mail Address For Newsletter:</b>		

### MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

<b>Media Professional (\$45.00)</b>	<b>Affiliate Member (\$65.00)</b>	<b>Associate / Corporate (\$300.00)</b>
<b>Signature of applicant:</b>		<b>Date:</b>

#### **Active Media Member**

Applicants for active media membership status must submit the following materials to the membership committee for consideration. Materials must be submitted with your check.

- ✓ A fully executed membership application. **(This information will appear in the membership directory unless you specify otherwise. Attach a note to this application if necessary.)**
- ✓ Two 1" x 1.5" head shot pictures for use in the directory and for an I.D. badge.
- ✓ Tear sheets or samples of work as follows:
  - Two published articles on the subject of auto racing in a publication of general circulation within the past year.
  - Photographs on auto racing appearing in two publications of general circulation or two separate times in one publication, within the past year.
  - One video or audio tape of any race broadcast where spectators attended and exhibited the applicant's work within the past year.
  - One book on the subject of auto racing within the past year or three books on the subject of auto racing, or one book contracted from any trade publisher for a book on auto racing

**Your  
Photo  
Should  
Be This  
Size**

#### **Affiliate Member**

Open to public relations, team representatives, motorsports advertising personnel. Full voting rights and privileges except to hold office.

#### **Associate/Corporate Membership**

Open to any person, regardless of affiliation or professional orientation, who is interested in furthering the aims of the American Auto Racing Writers & Broadcasters Association and/or motorsports in general. Corporate membership is limited to three (3) non-voting memberships for the \$300 fee.

**Mail completed application, photos, and your check to the address shown above.**

The American Auto Racing Writers & Broadcasters Association 922 North Pass Avenue Burbank, CA 91505-2703 (818) 842-7005