

January 2025 SOVREN BOD Meeting Minutes

1/8/25

5:30 Social time

6:00 Call to order

Board members in attendance; Craig Larsen, John Allen, Eric Schlichte, Rich Newman, Jamie Buskirk, John Rankin, Mike Lawler, Bruce Boyd, Tom Masterson

Officials and guests present; Linda Grass, Sherri Masterson, Charly Mitchel, Jim Johnson, Doug Kirk, Stephen Newby, Mike and Lynn Evans, Martin Rudow, Devon Newby, Loren Campbell, Mike Nau, Mike Stone, Mary Zeitner, Phil Edwards

1. Approval of December minutes. The December minutes were circulated with the meeting invite, and approved on a motion by Mike Lawler.

2. Action items:

President Craig Larsen's plan to attend the annual VMC meeting in Indianapolis on February 22nd has changed, and he has suggested that Registrar Sherri Masterson attend in his stead. The cost to SOVREN is estimated to be approximately \$1000. The Board approved this. Jim Johnson, who is currently the VMC Secretary and is attending as usual, spoke in favor of Sherri's attendance.

Loren Campbell provided an update on the fledgling Youthful Driver Assistance (YODA) program. Sherri reported that there have been inquiries about it coming through Registration. Loren's wife Brynn has been contributing work on graphics. Sherri provided clarification regarding the need for changes to the bylaws to accommodate the program, saying there's no need. However, language in the bylaws concerning membership and race fees needs to be removed, as they need to be adjusted by the Board as needed, and the bylaws aren't meant to be modified on a regular basis. Vice President Bill Simer is working on the bylaw language change re fees. There is a proposal to collect good, usable safety gear, like fire suits, gloves, shoes, etc to provide to YODA participants. The AGM will be a good collection point for these items.

Next the Board addressed a housekeeping item from the November election. The Race Chairmen need to be approved by the Board. The Race Chairs are Tom Masterson, Bruce Boyd, and Mike Lawler. John Rankin interjected at this point, stating that he as a Competition Chair isn't clear as to his duties, and would like more clarification. Jim Johnson suggested looking at the by laws.

A motion to approve the Race Chairs for 2025 was made, seconded, and approved by the Board.

Next, Craig brought up the need to place and pay for SOVREN's advertisement in Pacific Raceway's annual program. The cost is \$600. Doug Kirk and Martin Rudow didn't seem to be able to help with the graphic work on this, so Loren Campbell will prostrate himself before his wife and hopefully get it done.

3. Finance report from Treasurer Rich Newman. He provided a P&L, balance sheet, and a bank account reconciliation. Racing operations produced a gross profit of about \$31,000. After factoring in non racing activity, i.e. membership and administrative operations the club's net income was about \$14,000. Rich noted that on a race by race basis, a couple of interesting things came into view. One, the Spring Sprints produced a much larger than normal loss. Second, the income from the CRC and FF almost exactly offset that loss. The profit from the Historics then represented the gross racing income for the year.

John Rankin asked whether or not a budget projection for this year's Spokane race. Rich shared a screen he prepared using historical expense data and current projections, factoring in about \$7,000 from gate and sponsorship, and 70 entries at \$450, showing basically a break even scenario.

4. Administrative report from Sherri Masterson. She reports over 90 tickets sold so far. Capacity is about 150. The museum will close at 5pm, and the banquet area will open at 5:30. Ticket holders will be able to tour the museum before the event at no additional cost, and parking will be free to ticket holders, who just need to identify themselves as SOVREN members. Dinner will start at 6:15, with awards, a slide presentation and raffles to follow. Stephen Newby pointed out that there is a Monster Jam scheduled for the same night at the Tacoma Dome, so everyone should allow a little extra time to park and enter, and to be careful to enter the LeMay, not the Tacoma Dome.

The next topic was the race cancellation policy, and the cancellation insurance being offered through MSR at the online portal. A few members have found and read the fine print and find that the stated conditions for cancellation claims to be honored are much more restrictive than what SOVREN's policy has been in the past. A long, circular, discussion followed.

Sherri will continue to try to get more information from MSR and the actual insurance provider regarding these conditions, and will have an opportunity to discuss this at the VMC meeting in February with representatives from other vintage racing clubs. More information to follow, hopefully. As it stands, if you enter a race online, "caveat emptor" is the operative phrase if you select to purchase the insurance. If a racer enters a race directly through Sherri, either with a paper entry form or a phone call, the standard SOVREN cancellation policy stands.

There had been a move toward encouraging widespread use of the cancellation insurance in the interest of improving the Club's finances, as the number of cancellations due to weather, car readiness, etc impacts the viability of certain races. The topic will be back on the agenda for the February BOD meeting, Stay tuned.

Sherri continued with a membership update. She noted the number of drivers licensed by other clubs who raced with us in 2024, with 39 SCCA license holders, 10 CSRG, 7 Conference, 6 licensed by CACC, 5 with FIA licenses, and 1 from VRG. Maybe more importantly, of 162 SOVREN licensed racers, 53 didn't compete in a SOVREN race last year. 5 of those were on medical holds. She urged members to update their information with her, and for proposed changes to the Handbook to get to her by the end of January.

5. Race Chair report. Tom Masterson and Craig Larsen reported on a meeting they had on January 7th with Eric Newland of the ABFM. The tone was reported as upbeat and constructive, and focused on opportunities to grow the joint event. ABFM did report a loss on 2025's event, the first ever.
6. Looking forward. Spokane preparation continues. Vice President Bill Simer was unable to attend this meeting, as he is a Gonzaga season ticket holder 😊 Bill has been tasked with organizing the cruise into town and the car show. Craig requested help with modifying our full page ad in Victory Lane to a ½ page format.
7. Other business. John Rankin would like to work on job descriptions and definitions for our volunteer officials.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52pm