

**59th Annual SDC Board Meeting
Manitowoc, WI
September 13, 2023**

SDC President, Denny Foust called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM Central Time.

Welcome to Manitowoc: Jim Pepper

Jim welcomed everyone to the 59th Annual Meet of the Studebaker Drivers Club. They hope everyone enjoys events scheduled throughout the week.

Jim presented a proposal to revise the International Meet schedule to encourage and include ASC and AOAI attendance. And, additionally consider opening the entire event to the general public.

Jim made a request to consider a name change of the annual cooperators seminar to the Bob Palma Memorial Cooperator Session. Mark Carson thanked Jim for making this suggestion and the board will definitely consider it.

Jane Stinson, International Meet Chair, commented that a committee had been established to discuss the possibility of combining SDC, ASC and AOAI into the annual meets. The committee members consisted of representatives from ASC, AOAI, and current & past IM chairs. After discussing several options, the representatives discussing these options with their respective boards, decided to continue individual meets, and not combining their clubs into the SDC International Meets at this time. Notice of this decision had been posted in all club magazines.

All board members were in agreement of changing the name of the annual Cooperator Session, held at the International Meets, to The Bob Palma Memorial Live Cooperator Session. No vote was needed.

Roll Call: Cindy Foust

Attendees: Denny Foust, President; Jane Stinson, Treasurer; Cindy Foust, Secretary; Mark Carson, Pacific Can Am Zone; Don Cox, South Central Zone; Warren Thompson, International Zone; Harvey Snitzer, Crossroads Zone; Frank Philippi, Atlantic Zone; Tom Sexton, Upper Mississippi Valley Zone; Ed Smith, Pacific Southwest Zone; and Tom Cantral Zone Coordinator for the North Central Zone. Virtual attendees were: Tom Curtis, Past President; Don Jones, Vice President (arriving at 9:15AM); Steve Grant, Northeast Zone; Allan Dias, Southeast Zone; Chuck Donkle, North Central Zone, and Carl Thomason, Parliamentarian.

I. Minutes of the special SDC BOD meeting held August 20, 2023:

The minutes of the Special SDC BOD meeting were approved on a motion from Mark Carson, seconded by Harvey Snitzer. The motion passed by all Board members attending both virtually and in person.

II. Officer Elections: Peter Wendt

Peter reported that no nominations were put forth except those for the existing officers. Officers reelected by acclamation were: President: Denny Foust; Vice President: Don Jones; Secretary: Cindy Foust; and Treasurer, Jane Stinson. Denny thanked Peter for his years of service as the chair of the Officer Elections Committee. Peter had chaired the Officer Elections Committee since 1999.

III. Introduction of the new members of the Officer Elections Committee: Denny Foust

Denny appointed co-chairs: Ernie Brown from Arab, AL, who was able to attend the SDC BOD meeting today; and Brian Ott from Windber PA, who will be arriving later today and will be introduced at the Members Meeting to be held Thursday. Ernie and Brian will be taking over the duties of officer elections.

IV. Studebaker National Museum: Pat Slebonick and Andy Beckman

Pat Slebonick reported receiving the reaccreditation award from the American Alliance of Museums. The SNM is one of 3 museums to receive this honor; which means the SNM continues to meet National Standards and Best Practices for US Museums, and the museum has shown itself to be a good steward of its resources held in the public trust and committed to a philosophy of continual institutional growth.

Attendance has increased 170% since the pandemic. YouTube videos which include lectures are available on the museum YouTube channel. Recently the museum has received gifts from two estates. Solar panels will be installed, anticipating a 25% reduction in electric usage.

Andy Beckman reported on collections. The museum recently received vehicles from the Mark James and Ralph Snyder collections.

The Capital Cost Committee submitted a request for \$7,500. The funds will be used to modernize the Club Room. The estimated budget is as follows: \$1,000 for screen and monitor, software, \$4,000 for furniture, \$2,000 for carpet, window treatments, electrical expenses, paint, etc., and \$500 for assorted materials. Mark Carson made the motion to advance the funds, Warren Thompson seconded the motion; the motion passed by all board members attending both virtually and in person.

The Restoration Fund Committee submitted a request for \$25,000 to be applied to the cost of acquiring the #34 Studebaker Special Indianapolis race car from August Grasis. Andy reiterated that the museum has no intention of selling vehicles in the collection. Vehicles that aren't on display or housed in the museum are in off-site storage. Tom Curtis made the motion to advance the funds, Warren Thompson seconded the motion; the motion passed by all board members attending both virtually and in-person.

V. Studebaker National Foundation: Chris Collins

Chris stated the SNF board consists of 12 members and are considering adding another member to their board.

Chris thanked SDC for allowing the check off box on our membership application for donations to the SNF; and also allowing the use of Go-To-Meeting for their quarterly board meetings. Donations from individual donors, SDC Chapters, estates, etc. average between \$15,000 - \$20,000 per year.

The SNF continues to offer scholarships to students participating in and seeking careers in auto restoration. They have established a Bob Palma Scholarship and donated to the Bob Palma Internship Scholarship at the SNM.

Challenges continue to be operating expense for museum participation support, transportation, and insurance. Currently they have 7 vehicles in museums.

The SNF website lists all scholarship recipients, tax returns, and audit information. Audit expenses are ¼ of their expenses.

Chris presented SDC with a check for \$2,000 as a contribution to the SDC Bob Palma Internship Scholarship Fund.

Denny Foust reappointed Carl Thomason as the SDC representative to the SNF board.

VI. 2024 International Meet: Tony Urich

Tony reported on the 60th International Meet to be held in Dubuque Iowa scheduled for June 25 – 29, 2024. Information on the meet, T-Shirt and memorabilia, maps, etc. can be found at their table in the swap meet. He briefly talked about plans; the ice cream social will be moved to Wednesday evening.

VII. Budget/TW: Jane Stinson

Jane reviewed her analysis of cost associated with the production and mailing of Turning Wheels. The analysis consisted of historical information regarding mailing

expenses for not only TW, but for the mailing of membership documents produced by Cornerstone.

By offering a digital option for TW, we can substantially reduce these costs. This gives us the opportunity to increase our membership base, especially in the international marketplace. We can still offer hard copies of TW, however members opting for the hard copy will bear the cost. Sheridan has the capability to produce digital copies that can be printed, but not able to be shared. Don will post an article in TW explaining the cost concerns and survey the membership.

A motion to proceed with offering digital issues and possibly increasing the dues was withdrawn. The board will discuss this situation further at the October SDC BOD meeting, giving Jane the opportunity to put more information together regarding the fixed vs variable costs. Anticipated rollout would be with the January 2024 issue of TW.

We have 2 years remaining on the contract with Sherridan.

Additional avenues of attracting new members are through the SDC YouTube site, SDC Facebook, and the club website.

VIII. SDC GroupWorks: Cindy Sale & Kevin Holtzclaw

Cindy Sale reported on the activity on SDC GroupWorks thus far: over 3000 members of SDC are on SDC GroupWorks, since 9/1/23 there have been 9000 interactions. Digital issues of TW could also be circulated to members. We began this project approximately 1 year ago.

Zone Coordinators and Regional Managers have been added to our listings in SDC GroupWorks; we are in the process of getting all chapter information gathered, at that point chapter information will be added. Right now, we have an obstacle due to firewall issues with international members, we are unable to add them to SDC GroupWorks.

SDC GroupWorks and Element3 have a table in the swap meet area in Manitowoc to promote SDC GroupWorks. Kevin Holtzclaw from GroupWorks/Element3 and Cindy Sale are in the booth, assisting members with logons, and explaining SDC GroupWorks and Element3. There has been a lot of activity at the booth thus far.

Kevin Holtzclaw from GroupWorks/Element3 explained the connection of Element3, the parent company of GroupWorks, and, with their sponsorship, the ability to offer GroupWorks free of charge to clubs and organizations. Element3 consists of numerous health care organization that recognize the importance of keeping Medicare age individuals active, which improves their overall health. Club and organization

members taking advantage of the services offered by Element3, can earn points for the activities they participate in. These points equate to compensation back to their club or organization – which can offset club costs (for instance, and individual’s club membership dues). Participation is up to the members of clubs, and IS NOT mandatory.

Element3 is NOT an insurance company; they are NOT selling insurance; Element3 offers incentives for club members to stay active and healthier. Studebaker GroupWorks CANNOT share member information due to HIPPA regulations. The member initiates the contact with Element3 if they wish to take advantage of those benefits.

Denny Foust also reported speaking with the president of AACA, Steve Moskowitz. AACA participates in Element3, but not GroupWorks. Their experience with Element3 has been very successful; he highly recommended Element3. Participation in Element3 does require a contract. AACA was able to negotiate terms and conditions that were agreeable to AACA. The same would apply to SDC. Cindy Foust recommended that the contract be negotiated by the Executive Committee, before presenting to the SDC BOD for approval. Tom Sexton made a request that SDC BOD be given the opportunity to sit in on the Executive Committee meetings when contract negotiations are discussed.

IX. For the good of the Order:

Tom Sexton asked about the future of International Meets. Jane reported currently we do not have a location for 2025; there is a possibility of an IM for 2026, details are still being worked out.

Ed Smith said the Studeopoly project is moving right along, he has received numerous suggestions on games pieces and properties. A sample Studeopoly board is set up in the ASC hospitality room and also in the SDC hospitality area in the swap meet building.

Per SDC Bylaws, directors could receive a stipend for attendance at meetings, if such a stipend has been established by the Board of Directors. All directors except Tom Curtis and Allan Dias voted in favor of foregoing a stipend.

With a motion by Frank Philippi seconded by Don Jones, the Meeting Adjourned at 11:28 AM Central Time.

Respectfully Submitted, Cindy Foust SDC Secretary

Next meeting dates:

EC: Oct. 1, 2023, at 4PM EDST

SDC BOD: Oct. 8, 2023, at 4PM EDST