

The Board of Directors

November 2004

Welcome newly-elected Board of Directors members John Sheridan and Kaye Fairer and welcome back reelected members Charlie Clark and Brian Holtz! Many thanks and fond farewell to retiring members Tom Campbell and Phil Mellor.

SCCA is both a club and a business so the members of the Board of Directors must wear several hats simultaneously. It can be a rather humorous sight! But it's not very funny when the duties of representing your constituents conflict with your duties of corporate governance and strategic policy making. Mix in the difficulty of separating the loudest constituent voices from the actual desires of the majority of a constituency (which is almost impossible to determine), and further leaven with the reality that what works in one Region does not necessarily make sense in another Region, and you have the makings of a monumental responsibility. The expression "Damned if you and Damned if you Don't" springs immediately to mind. Frankly, I have rarely seen a Board issue which is actually as black and white as it is presented in a member communication or, even worse, posted on a bulletin board or chat room.

New Board members, you've got your work cut out for you and you'll have to explain it all to your constituents. You've got big shoes to fill but I know you'll be up to the job.

Members, please help your Director/representative by expressing yourself succinctly to him or her rather than to the world over the internet. Please don't belittle your Director's intellectual capacity or, worse, attribute low motives to him. Communicate with your director or run for his seat next time!

Directors, please don't be a one-issue Director and never say in a Board meeting "this is what's right and proper for the Club but I'll never be able to explain it to my constituents so I'll vote the other way". One-issue Directors, those who get elected to accomplish just one thing, often at the local level, usually find that the issue looks quite different from the Boardroom and you usually don't have the power to make sweeping changes. And, please don't sell your constituents short. Your constituents are pretty much big boys and girls and can fully understand how and why things are done when you explain it honestly and forthrightly.

But, no matter what you do as a member or Director, HAVE FUN in this wonderful sport!

I'll see you at the track,

Gary