

To: The R.E.'s and members of Great Lakes Division

From: Larry Dent, Area 4 SCCA Director

I was happy to see a number of you at convention, and to have a chance to discuss some of the issues affecting our members. Thanks for your time and support.

For those that were not able to attend, I am happy to report that this was by far the best convention I have attended for many years. A lot of positive things came out of convention and here are just a few, in my view.

First and foremost was the very positive financial condition the national office was able to report to we members. You will recall that last year the club was in pretty dismal financial condition, for a variety of reasons, not the least of which was the support that had been given our professional racing arm, and a major looming law suit settlement. The suit is behind us now, and the pro situation is at least under control, if not completely resolved. This, combined with staff cuts in the Topeka office, reduced expenses, some modest fee and membership increases, plus efforts at every level to contain costs, has resulted in a very positive financial end of year position. The reorganized financial statement has been published, is much easier to understand, and is available for all members to see, and this is as it should be. No secrets, no surprises.

Mr. Julow has, in the opinion of the BoD and members in general, performed to a very high standard in his first year as the CEO of SCCA, Inc. He interacted with the membership at all the meetings and was very plain spoken as concerns were voiced to him about various aspects of the club's operation. I firmly believe we have chosen very well in his hire as our leader and look to him for continued improvement in the clubs operation's and financial condition.

As I have been appointed the Chairman of the BoD of the SCCA Foundation, one of the conventions highlights for me personally was my report to the annual meeting about the status of the Foundation. Hopefully you all are aware that the SCCA Foundation is the charity arm of SCCA Inc, our parent club corporation, and as such is a 501 C (3) not for profit corporation, separate from SCCA Inc. This allows the Foundation to accept donations that are 100 % tax deductible to the limits of the tax laws. The Foundation is launching a youth driver-training program, called "Survive The Drive" in conjunction with the BMW-CCA Foundation and the Tire Rack as partners. The program was developed by the BMW Car Club, but they have not the resources (read that regions and members) around the US that the SCCA has, and so they have asked us to partner with them in a very ambitious nation wide youth driver training program.

In 2007 we will be developing our own version of the program in 6 regions around the country, with the intention of making the program available to all our regions in 2008. Since more young people age 16 to 24 are killed in car accidents than die from any other cause, the need for an advanced driving program is everywhere.

To that end we do need additional funding, so I am urging each and every member to add an extra few dollars to your membership renewal by checking the Foundation donation box and including this extra amount with your annual dues.

I will keep you all posted on progress on this very interesting and vital program, one that I hope will be embraced by each and every region in 2008.

The 07 racing and solo season is just around the corner now, and I hope all of you participate in some manner. It is the only way you will receive back in enjoyment the full measurement of your dues.

For the sport, I am Larry Dent, Director, Area 4 (Great Lakes Division)