

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

FINGER LAKES SECTION

Minutes of October monthly meeting, 10/15/2009

Meeting was called to order at 7:PM by President Pete Van Denberg. Present were Mike Carroll, his guests Austin and Dave, Secretary/Treasurer Judy Handzo and Bob Handzo.

Treasurer's report: the checking account balance as of 10/13/09 is \$2539.83.

Judy reported on the Genesee Valley Hunt Races event held 10/10/09. The turn out was disappointing, 5 members, 3 affiliates, 1 guest. Four member's cars were displayed. They were joined by a spectator driving a vintage sedan. He was invited to join FLMBCA. Pete and Mort handed out membership information to other Mercedes owners at the event. Because the attendance did not reach the number of cars expected an additional \$40.00 was added to the gate fees we paid to help cover the cost of the brochures, tickets and advertising done by the Hunt Committee on the Club's behalf. Eight picnic tickets, at \$12.00 each, were sold. Food and supplies totaled \$136.97 resulting in a loss of \$40.97. Postage expenses for the mailed brochures were not immediately available.

We are waiting for a response from National regarding quorum requirements for the November Annual Meeting. We will need to send, or e-mail, election ballots to our current 102 members.

Mike mentioned that our website needs to be kept current on a consistent basis. Mike's friend Dave, a PR Director for the Seward House in Auburn, is willing to add FLMBCA information on his blog.

We discussed the large geographic area FL covers and how this impacts negatively on our meetings and events. There is a concentration of membership in the Rochester area, followed by Syracuse, Ontario County, Wayne County, Erie County and followed by smaller numbers throughout Central New York. We discussed alternate meeting locations hoping to generate more attendees.

A comment to focus on the classic models was suggested since owners of new cars seem to have little interest in becoming members. Hoping to retain current member interest, jobs such as "Historian", "Photographer", etc. could be assigned to willing members.

Mike knows a mechanic, with MB experience, willing to furnish advice to members but does not want to host a tech session. Since "veggie conversion" interest is high for diesel owners, this could be a tech topic. Pete reported that Mort will furnish us with information on a car collector in the Victor area who might be interested in giving us a tour on a Sunday drive type event. Bob will follow up.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 15th at noon at the Yacht Club Town Houses club house in Canandaigua. The proposed slate is: Mike Carroll, President; Bob Handzo, Vice-President; Judy Handzo, Secretary/Treasurer. Pete has agreed to serve as Web Master. He will put the Annual Meeting information on the web site, send an "e-mail blast" to members with internet and mail announcements to those that don't. "Regrets only" will be requested for the meeting. He will also ask

for feed back for interest in a holiday party and suggestions for 2010 events.

The meeting was concluded at 8:30PM

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Handzo, Secretary