

**NOTICE OF 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR MEMBERS OF THE MERCEDES–BENZ CLUB
OF AMERICA VANCOUVER ISLAND SECTION**

WHERE: Coachwerks

WHEN: Sunday, January 15, 2023

Tour of Coachwerks begins at 11:00 AM

Meeting begins at 12:00 noon

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Determine that there is a quorum
3. Elect an individual to chair the meeting, if necessary
4. Approve the agenda
5. Approve the minutes from the last general meeting: September 21, 2021
6. Deal with unfinished business from the last general meeting
7. Receive the directors' reports of activities and decisions since the previous annual general meeting including a report on the financial statements of the Society for the previous financial year
8. Approve Bylaw Resolution to allow eTransfers from the Section's bank account (see below)
8. Elect or appoint directors
9. Deal with new business, including any matters about which notice has been given to the members in the notice of meeting
Suggestions for events in 2022 – 2023
10. Terminate the meeting

MBCA Vancouver Island Section

2022 Annual General Meeting – Sunday, January 15, 2023

President's Report

Rob Watson

Our Section's year according to the Societies Act is October 1 through September 30. As I was out of the country in the fall, I was not able to conduct our AGM fall but the Act has the provision to delay the AGM under specific circumstances. So, Sunday, 15 January, 2023 it is. We are once again fortunate to have an invitation from Eric Cherneff at the newly renovated Coachwerks to enjoy a tour and hold our AGM. We will follow that by a lunch.

Last year, there was still uncertainty about the direction Covid was taking. That left us with a partial and irregular calendar – not much was formally planned! We did manage to hold seven events between October '21 and September '22 though that included some of our "classics" such as the Holiday/Christmas lunch, a Malahat brunch on a warm and sunny February day, a detailing presentation with Andrew O'Keefe, and the Summer Solstice Dinner at the Farm Table Inn. A group of members completed the Taste of the Circuit at the Vancouver Island Motorsport Circuit in early June, we had an inaugural Show and Shine in July, and the year was capped off by an invitation-only GAIN-TPM "reveal" of the new AMG-SL at Coachwerks the end of September.

What was characteristic of ALL these events was the excellent turnout and enthusiasm from you, our Section members.

There were several initiatives at the MBCA National level that impacted us. In the past, Sections received a USD11 rebate for each member. This year, National made the decision to permanently cease providing the rebate and instead, use the funds to improve their financial position. Their finances had been steadily eroding over the years. The second event is that Mercedes-Benz Canada has decided to no longer offer a rebate on the purchase of new cars by MBCA members. However, this is not as big a hit as it may have been because those rebates had gradually shrunk over the years until they were almost irrelevant.

That said, we as a section are in good shape financially despite the loss of the rebate (see financial statements below). We were helped with a transfer of our USD funds to our CAD account, which resulted in a foreign exchange gain of \$221. We had net expenses of \$559 that were used to pay for events (food, beverages, and gifts) and some administrative fees. Next year, we will be looking at what to do with our funds and financial administration. For example,

we know we need to change our bank accounts to allow for eTransfers. That means we will need to pay monthly account fees at our bank (currently they are minimal). This change is also why we need to update our “payment” bylaw so the Section’s signing authorities have the appropriate controls and authority to do eTransfers.

In 2023, we have been given a real boost to our membership prospects. Three Point Motors will introduce an initiative where new car owners will be offered a one-year complimentary membership in our Section. Alex Currie has been ably leading that initiative on behalf of our Section and working with Jason Mui at TPM to set it up. This is an exciting development with great potential for our Section. The key will be engagement and retention.

The core of that engagement is our events. We will be starting the year with a bang. First, there is the tour of Coachwerks on Sunday, 15 January. Next, on Friday, 27 January, is a tour of the Viking Air Factory. Alex Currie has worked diligently since the beginning of Covid in 2020 to try and set the Viking tour up. Finally, the window opened up for us.

Your feedback and ideas about events are important. We will discuss our event plan at the AGM before they are formalized into a final schedule. One event we will be implementing is a regular monthly ‘coffee klatch’ alternating between locations in the Victoria area and up towards Chemainus so we can attract as many members as possible from the various areas on Vancouver Island.

I thank our Board members – Dennis and Hazel Ostrowerka, Dennis Aitken, Alex Currie and Barry Patchett – for efforts to move us forward, their commitment to our members, and their engagement over the last year. I also thank you, our Section members, for your enthusiasm and participation.

May we all have a healthier 2023. Let’s make it a good year.

Membership Chair Report 2022/2023 AGM

Alex Currie

2022 has continued to raise challenges sustaining membership. We ended 2022 with 65 active members down from with 73 Active members as of the last AGM in September 2021. We have 17 Active Associate members up from 14 in 2021.

Unfortunately, we have had some members pass away. Some members have come to that point in life where they are no longer able to drive or get out and about, so they have opted out of the Club. Two new members in 2021 have found that their life-styles are such that being a car Club member really doesn't fit. These kinds of things are the primary movers in the decline of our membership.

I still continue to believe that we have significant, untapped potential to grow our Section membership, but our challenges are getting the message out. We have our website and of course a site on the national website but getting folks to visit is a challenge. There is a Facebook page created in 2018 which does not seem to receive much action. We have looked at advertising with Black Press which covers 5 areas of the island but with our next to zero cash flow from national these days, the cost of doing so is prohibitive.

At the 2021 AGM we reported that we were working with GAIN to have them partner with our Section to build the membership. It has taken some time and effort, but we are pleased to announce that GAIN, through its two Mercedes Benz dealerships, will now be offering a free one-year membership in MBCA – and specifically our Section – at the point of purchase of a new Mercedes Benz.

This means that some of our growth will come more naturally and the challenge will be retention of these new members. It is to be anticipated that new members will be younger, more likely to stay with the Club and bring their talents with them and be able to take on more of the responsibilities of running the Section.

That does not mean we should cease attempting recruiting on our own.

When I do get an opportunity to speak with an owner on the street and ask, "Are you a member of the Vancouver Island Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club?" the answer often is "I didn't know there was such a Club." This tells me we have room to grow and we all can be ambassadors for our Section. We need more outreach from you, the members.

I have brought with me today a number of MBCA brochures with a Section specific insert. Please take some and keep them handy when out shopping or going for a walk. You can put them under windshield wipers or engage owners in conversation and hand them one.

I wish you all good health and safety in the months ahead.

Happy Motoring!

**Mercedes Benz Club of America
Vancouver Island Section**

2022 Statement of Cash Flow as of September 30, 2022

	CAD Community Account	USD Business Account
BEGINNING BALANCE: at September 25, 2021	\$ 5,939.49	\$ 683.26
Adjustment for June to September, 2021 Interest		\$ 0.12
BEGINNING BALANCE: at September 30, 2021		\$ 683.38
REVENUE		
USD Transfer	\$ 675.66	\$ (675.66)
USD Transfer Foreign Exchange Gain	\$ 221.28	
Event Receipts	\$ 300.00	
US Dollar account interest		3.10
	\$ 1,196.94	\$ (672.56)
EXPENSES		
Events	\$ 733.27	
BC Society Fees	40.00	
Dealer representative memberships	86.21	
Supplies and miscellaneous	-	
Bank charges		-
	\$ 859.48	\$ -
OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$ 337.46	\$ (672.56)
ENDING BALANCE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2022	\$ 6,276.95	\$ 10.82

ByLaw Resolution – ¾ Vote

eTransfer receipts and payments

The Board is proposing an update to the bylaw below to include the payment of monies by electronic financial transfers (eTransfers) and to allow electronic approval of those eTransfers. We require two members of the Board to approve a payment and this would remain unchanged. The proposed changes are shown in bold below.

BE IT RESOLVED AS A ¾ VOTE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MBCA VANCOUVER ISLAND SECTION THAT THE SECTION AMEND ITS BYLAWS BY REPEALING BYLAW 8.4 AND REPLACING IT WITH THE FOLLOWING:

8.4 Cheques, **electronic financial transfers (eTransfers)** and other orders for payment of monies in the name of the Section shall be signed **or electronically approved** by any two members of the Board who are registered with the Section's bank and who are not members of the same household.