

**MISORVA**  
**General Membership Meeting (annual) – Wednesday October 23, 2021**  
**Location: Gaylord, Michigan**

- I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/WELCOME:** Meeting was called to order by President John Newman at 10:00 a.m. Welcoming of attendees was given by Michigan State representative Ken Borton.
- II. INTRODUCTION OF OFFICERS, GUESTS, AND OTHERS:** President John Newman introduced Vice-president: Jeramey Valley, Secretary: Stephanie Hubbarth-Bergen, Treasurer: Mark Pankner, Past President: Jim Kelts, and Executive Director: Karen Middendorp. Guests include Tabitha Zimny and Sam Olsen of Karoub Associates and Christine Jourdain of ACSA. Electronic attendees include Karl Davenport, Sean O'Neill, and Dave Nuechterlien.
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** No changes presented.  
*Motion by Ron Corbett to accept the agenda. Agenda approved by unanimous vote.*  
*Motion by John Houk to take the agenda out of order. Motion approved by unanimous vote.*
- IV. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** Minutes were made available at this meeting. (Placed on file.)  
*Motion by Kaye Houk to accept the minutes as presented. Motion approved by unanimous vote.*
- V. GUEST SPEAKERS:** Tabitha Zimny and Sam Olsen of Karoub Associates gave an overview of our lobbyist group's one-on-one contact with our legislators. Christine Jourdain gave an overview of the American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) voice at the federal level. Representative Ken Borton stressed the importance of organized efforts to continue the fight for our sports.
- VI. NOMINATION OF OFFICERS:** The Nomination Committee consists of John Houk (chairperson), Dave Gentry, and Brad Beardsley. Karen Middendorp nominated John Newman for President. David Low nominated Jeramey Valley for Vice-President. Christine Jourdain nominated Stephanie Hubbarth-Bergen for Secretary. David Low nominated Mark Pankner for Treasurer. All nominations are suspended until after lunch.
- VII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** John Newman stated that most of his year was detailed in the MISORVA magazine's From the President column. The Executive Board has been meeting virtually every Wednesday morning. Some highlights of his year included the Legislative Ride, the Seney Vet Ride, International Snowmobile Congress (ISC), Camp-out, Nelson's Snow Show, and Senator Lauwer's SxS ride. John feels that our number one goal is to make motorized recreation better for everyone.
- VIII. VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Jeramey Valley expressed that the Officers, Board of Directors, MSEAF, SAW, and ORVAW meetings are only a portion of the more than 50 meetings that he has attended as Vice-President. Jeramey is also a participant of his local ORV club and owner of VV Mapping, both of which he gave a tremendous amount of his time.
- IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Karen Middendorp provided a written report. (Placed on file.)
- X. TREASURER'S REPORT: Mark Pankner.** Balance Sheet and Statements were provided and reviewed. (Placed on file in office.)  
Mark disclosed that the income report exceeded expectations. Our financial success has not come without our hard work. MISORVA benefits from Karen Middendorp and Carly Kraima's office skills and dedication. Mark also noted that Grand River Bank donated all of the drinks for this meeting.
- XI. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
  - a. Legislative: Lyle Curry.** Lyle focused his report on the direct impact of our legislative ride resulting in a \$1.15 million grant for motorized recreation. House bills 4205 and 4206 have passed and are on their way to the Senate. House bills 4535 and 4536 passed the House with a 101-2 vote. The Senate should hear them soon. Use the links included in our Fresh Tracks newsletter for the actual wording and history of these bills. John Newman informed everyone that as a Polaris ambassador, Paul Anderson acquired balaclavas and hats for everyone to have during our legislative ride.
  - b. Membership: Brad Beardsley.** Brad was assigned chairperson of this committee after only two months of being on the Board of Directors. Membership is riding a wave of new interest in motorized recreation. Brad fielded questions about our numbers. Karen Middendorp stated that we add approximately 5 new members a day and that we currently total around 10,000 members. Brad detailed some of the mailings which included expired commercial members as well as old (expired) members. He thanked Karen and Carly Kraima for their diligence and expertise that has allowed the committee to excel.
  - c. Publication: Rich Rottier.** Rich reported that MSPN has taken over as our new publisher. They have added Midwest Rider as a supplement to our magazine. The committee is still working on changing our status to a periodical so that we can save money on mailing costs.
  - d. Trails Coordination: Rob LaLonde.** Rob provided a report for Region 1. (Placed on file.) Rob suggested clubs create a wish list for smaller items (duct tape, etc.) that individuals could donate.

- XII. OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS:**  
**By-Laws: Jim Kelts.** Due to lack of involvement from committee members, Jim met with the Executive Board and Karen Middendorp several times to create a proposed revision to our by-laws. The proposed revised document was published more than thirty days in advance of this meeting. Jim detailed the changes with those in attendance and answered any questions that were presented.  
**Motion by John Houk to accept the revisions to the current by-laws. Motion approved by unanimous vote.**
- XIII. FINAL NOMINATION OF OFFICERS:**  
**Motion by Christine Jourdain to close the nominations for President and vote. Motion approved by unanimous vote.**  
John Newman accepted the nomination for President. Attendees unanimously voted, by show of hands, to elect John Newman as President.  
**Motion by Todd Maschke to close the nominations for Vice-President and vote. Motion approved by unanimous vote.**  
Jeramey Valley accepted the nomination for Vice-President. Attendees unanimously voted, by show of hands, to elect Jeramey Valley as Vice-President.  
**Motion by Archie Cole to close the nominations for Secretary and vote. Motion approved by unanimous vote.**  
Stephanie Hubbarth-Bergen accepted the nomination for Secretary. Attendees unanimously voted, by show of hands, to elect Stephanie Hubbarth-Bergen as Secretary.  
**Motion by Ernie Reimann to close the nominations for Treasurer and vote. Motion approved by unanimous vote.**  
Mark Pankner accepted the nomination for Treasurer. Attendees unanimously voted, by show of hands, to elect Mark Pankner as Treasurer.
- XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Pete Finch is seeking comments, via e-mail, in regards to grant sponsorship of US National Forest roads (not trails). Jim Kelts explained that it is too late for 2022 summer season grooming reimbursement unless you are an approved sponsor. John Newman stated we are still waiting on grant money distribution direction. David Low questioned if the grant is a 1 or 2-year distribution. Jim Kelts confirmed that it is for one year and that SAW is aware of the confusion. Chuck Pope complemented the Board of Directors for direction of snow/ORV coordination. Dan White mentioned that Ogemaw Hills had a Jeep group stop and help with brushing on their trails. Jeff Mariuchi discussed previous negative comments on social media platforms. The talk had quieted down until the recent House passage of wheeled vehicle legislation. Misinterpretation is being combatted by many individuals. Please continue to educate whenever possible. Todd Maschke read Ron Schroeder's Public Relations Committee Report aloud and asked that it be admitted and placed on file. Jim Kelts commended Karen Middendorp on her growth and commitment to the Executive Director position.
- XV. PRESIDENT'S CLOSING REMARKS:** John Newman requested everyone's continued involvement in our desire to move motorized recreation forward.
- XVI. ADJOURNMENT:**  
**Motion by Archie Cole to adjourn. Adjournment of meeting approved by unanimous vote.**  
**Meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.**

## **Standing Committees**

### **Legislative - Paul Anderson~ Legislative Comm Progress from May - September 2022**

1. HB 4535 - Draft 8 has addressed many of the concerns that other groups have had with the bill. Currently our committee is happy with the current language and is back in the hands of legislators.
2. Bill 1003 was submitted by Curt VanderWall which would allow agencies to deputize a member of the public after training. This already exists in the snow and marine program and works very well. It's now in the hands of legislators.
3. HB4332 ORV Stickers on 2 wheeled vehicle placements have PASSED. You may now place your stickers on the forks of a motorcycle.
4. Future projects include the ORV Sunset which expires in 2024. Still waiting on movement of this change. To my knowledge nobody has picked this up.
5. The Legislative Luncheon was held on May 24th in Lansing and was a huge success.
6. Camp Grayling Expansion. Letter of opposition was generated signed by the President and released to the public.
7. The survey we put out to see who was buying permits for what purpose and where they operate their ORV's was completed. SxS's and ATV's were the majority and they used them on Forest Roads and ORV Routes.
8. UP Wild stays on our radar but as of July the Republican led Michigan Senate approved a resolution to oppose the wilderness designation that was authored by Sen. Ed McBroom R-Vulcan.

### **Membership - Brad Beardsley ~ Membership Committee year end report.**

We had a great year for membership and this is due to all of us who work to spread the knowledge of what MISORVA does for motorized recreation. As a committee we met almost every month and the all members attended them, as the chair of the committee I really appreciate that. We bounce a lot of ideas around in each meeting some are good and some are not some have been tried before with not the best results. IN our last meeting we discussed the biggest win of the year and we all agreed it is the Key Card that will be a real nice perk for our members.

### **Publication Brad Beardsley ~ Publication Committee year end report.**

I was named the chair of the publication committee a month and a half ago. We have not had any meetings since I was named the chair and I was not a part of the committee earlier in the year so I am unable to relay what they may have worked on this year. I do look forward to the committee writing some articles about MISORVA and making the magazine more about what we are doing and the great opportunities for motorized recreation in Michigan.

## **Trails**

**Region 1 - Todd Blanchard ~**

**Region 2 - Ted Truckey ~**

### Region 3 Jim Berens ~ A few items of interest from 2022...

The West shore council (Muskegon area) has a new warming trailer provided by the 231 club to take the place of the TeePee that was so popular for many years in that area

West Michigan Snowmobile council reported that the Tucker groomer received new tracks, and rebuilt the drivetrain costing around \$33,000. Land was lost near Middleville and the clubs are working with the **DNR** to secure passage through the Barry game area there is also a long stretch of pavement by the Thornapple river crossing that is needed to connect to the Alto trail Update a re route is in place in Middleville now still need to remove a few tree stumps this fall. Snowbusters club had a 12ft disc donated to help with trails and they are getting a roller with the funds from the special grant money. They have a bridge that needs new decking this fall which will help with their wider grooming equipment.

Allegan county and several surrounding counties continue to open more roads for ORV use as the trend for ORV access continues to move into the southern part of the state

The Ride Allegan club held an event that I attended There were a few others from MISORVA on hand as **we** were invited to join them for a ride and some group games. I don't have the final **count** but there were 4 groups of about 12 machines in each group, (SXS, ATVs and me on my motorcycle)

The president of the Cycle Conservation Club rode to the event on his adventure bike and addressed the group with words of encouragement.

The Silver Lake ORV area is busy as **usual**. There is a **new** "dune ready" access this year to help alleviate some lines on the weekends, it was nice to be able to drive right in There was talk of maybe having a 3 way permit specifically for the dunes with both the ORV required decals and the REC passport on the same sticker. Not **sure** if that will happen

- ❖ The ORV parks in region 3 continue to be busy with expansions at holly oaks this summer. There should be more in the future as more land becomes available

I have contacted several clubs in region 3 but have not received a response in time for this report. Hopefully next month I will have more information for everyone.

### Other Committee Reports

**Charity - Kaye Houk** ~ Not much to report except that only 15 clubs *responded* to the request to report their individual volunteer/charity hours to Survey Monkey Lets hope more clubs will respond next year.

**Bylaws - Roy Hart** ~ The Michigan Snowmobile & ORV Association Inc. Amended & Restated Bylaws were last approved in General Session on October 23, 2021. Since then no requests for addressing any Articles or Sections have been received by the Committee

**Public Relations - Jeff Marriucci** ~

The Public Relations Committee wasn't as active as we'd hoped to be this year. It was our plan to generate a series of articles for publication throughout the year in our magazine as well as other publications and social media sites related to snowmobiling and ORV'ing The goal of these articles were to promote MISORVA the sport of motorized recreation and educate the riding public on subjects where there appears to be a lot of confusion and ignorance In doing so we hoped to show the sport that we can be a reliable source of information and truly are here to help We wanted these efforts to pay off by gaining more members to the association through actively keeping our name in front of

everyone, as well as hopefully convert those in the ORV community who still have misgivings about us As it turns out, there aren't any Ernest Hemingway's on this committee and we struggled to reach those goals and for our efforts have only produced one article which has yet to be published

On a more positive note, the committee continues to fight the good fight on social media Whenever one of us sees a post that is incorrect or negative about the MISORVA or motorized recreation in general, we try to provide the correct information in an enlightening way. I'm happy to report that the number of on line conversations that turn into "battles" or where people continue to argue against the facts just because they refuse to believe them, is greatly reduced from what it was just a year or so back

We want to continue our efforts as we go forward and we are always looking for new members who would infuse new ideas into the committee as we work to promote MISORVA, OrVing and Snowmobiling

## Presidents Report John Newman

In addition to phone calls and emails I attended the following events I tried to remember them all but may have missed a few.

### October

MISORVA ORV Ride Gaylord  
MISORVA General Membership meeting  
DNR Grant Snow Sponsors Pre season UP  
Officers Coffee Zoom  
Region 2 District 4-6 BOD Bections  
ORV Advisory Workgroup (ORVAWG) Teams Meeting  
Region 3 District 7-9 BOD Bections  
DNR Grant Sponsor Pre Season LP  
Grace Performance Open House

### November

Region 1 District 1-3 BOD Bections  
NOVI Snowmobile Show  
NOVI Snowmobile Safety Class  
Region 1 District 1-3 BOD Bections  
Officers Coffee x2  
Michigan Trails Advisory Council Teams Meeting  
Support the Sport Zoom  
MISORVA BOD Meeting  
Sportsmen's Caucus Breakfast State Capital  
Saw Equipment Sub Committee Meeting  
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### December

Officers Coffee x3  
Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup (SAW)  
Teams meeting December BOD Meeting  
DNR Event Manager Training Class  
Western UP Grant Sponsors Teams meeting  
Support the Sport x2  
OnX Offroad Zoom  
DNR Catch Up Zoom Meeting

### January

Officers Coffee x2  
MISORVA BOD zoom Meeting  
DNR Safety Instructor Teams meeting  
Snow Trails Conservancy Zoom  
Support the Sport x2  
DNR Catch up zoom  
SAW/ORVAWG Zoom HB 4535 x2  
DNR Land Use teams meeting

### February

DNR Grant Sponsor Workshop  
Officers Coffee x3

Legislative Committee zoom meeting

Miracle Millions Zoom

Support the Sport

Groomer Workshop Zoom

### **March**

Groomer Workshop Zoom

Support the sport x2

March Ride St. Ignace Michigan

Legislative Committee Zoom

MISORVA BOD zoom Meeting

Officers Coffee x2

MSEAF Zoom

Michigan Trails Advisory Comm. Teams meeting

Publication Committee zoom

### **April**

Legislative Committee Zoom

Officers Coffee

ORV Trail Improvement fund Grant Sponsor

Teams meeting Publication Committee

Meeting Support the sport zoom

Gateway Trail on Belle Isle

Ribbon Cutting ceremony

MISORVA Budget Planning Meeting Saginaw

### **May**

MISORVA ORVAWG/SAW HB 4535 zoom

MISORVA Budget Zoom

ORVAWG Teams Meeting

Legislative Committee zoom

MSEAF Zoom Meeting

Support the sport zoom x2

Public Relations Committee zoom

Miracle Millions Zoom

Publication Committee zoom

MISORVA BOD zoom

Miracle Millions meeting Gaylord

Legislative Luncheon Planning zoom

Legislative Luncheon Lansing

Support the Sport Zoom

May ORV Ride Indian River

MISORVA BOD Zoom

American Council Of Snow mobile

Associations Teams meeting

Officers Coffee

### **June**

Huron-Manistee National Forest

10 year plan zoom

Legislative Committee Zoom

Support the Sport x2  
MISORVA BOD Zoom  
ORV Safety Instructor Safety  
Class by DNR Higgins Lake

### **July**

Officers Coffee x2  
ORV Activity Zoom  
Support the Sport Zoom

### **August**

Officers Coffee x2  
BOD Ride with Ride Allegan  
County Group  
Legislative Zoom  
Support the Sport  
MISORVA BOD Zoom meeting  
Public Relations Committee zoom  
ORVAWG Teams Meeting

### **September**

Officers Coffee x2  
SAW Teams meeting  
International Snow mobile Hall  
Of Fame Induction Ceremony  
Eagle River WI  
ASCA Trails Committee Meeting  
Central UP Grant Sponsor Teams meeting  
Western UP Grant Sponsor Teams meeting  
Eastern UP Grant Sponsor Teams meeting  
North Central LP Grant Sponsor Teams  
meeting MISORVA BOD zoom meeting  
SW LP Grant Sponsor Teams meeting

### **October**

American Trails Using Social Media  
Teams Meeting  
Membership Committee Zoom Meeting  
Officers Coffee Zoom Meeting  
ORV Ride with DNR Trail Coordinator Tim Novak  
Guest speak at Rosco Higgins Trail  
Cruisers ORV and Snow mobile Club  
Kick off Party

Thank you for all your help and support

John Newman

# 2022 Will this be the new normal?

Karen Middendorp Exe Director 2022

This past year has been a very big learning year, due to the continuing restrictions and sudden uptick and down turn of positive cases of COVID, many meetings were held virtually which allowed me to attend literally hundreds of meetings! Actually, a big benefit to me, many I would not have otherwise been able to attend. So, for that extremely small, very tiny piece of COVID I am thankful! Thank you also for allowing me this job, to do what I love every day and sincerely hope you all are as satisfied with my performance as I am to give it.

Virtual and Hybrid meetings have been the norm for longer than we care to remember, while we have been able to gather and ride a few times, it sure will be nice when we finally find that new normal with the meetings.

I continue my position as Region 3 representative on the Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup and have thrown my hat in the ring as a snowmobile or ORV representative on MTAC. I am also pursuing a representative position with NOHVCC, the national association representing OHV. While not elected to the committee yet I do attend all meetings and keep a watchful eye on their progress.

MISORVA has had many successes in the past year! Our membership continues to increase, and we all can thank Brad Beardsley and his committee for their diligence and commitment to the task! You guys have done well again for the second year in a row!

I continue to work with all the committees, as each one is moving along at their own pace, all are making strides for a better MISORVA!

In February, I worked with Legislative Chair Paul Anderson, together we facilitated a legislative lunch. Due to the Covid the Legislative Ride usually held in person with our legislators on snowmobiles was canceled due to a sharp rise in COVID cases. So always thinking on his feet Paul Anderson suggested a Legislative Luncheon! The event was well attended by Representatives, Senators and lots of staffers! Some good conversations and connections were established! The event was held in the Capitol Building and all costs to the association were covered by a grant from the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association. We invited ACSA Exe Director Christine Jourdain and ISMA Exe Director Ed Klim both attended and joined in the education we were hoping to achieve with the legislators! The event was very successful and a great source of networking. We are planning another in person ride for the upcoming season! Fingers crossed that we receive another grant from ISMA! Each year we are able to facilitate a snowmobile ride with our legislators to help them understand not only why we love motorized recreation of all types but also to observe the economic impact first hand, that motorized recreation is a boost to the economy in Michigan!

We continue to work with Representative Ken Borton and the DNR to pass HB 4535 and HB 4536 through the Senate committee. We are still waiting on the Senate floor for a vote although I do not expect that before elections. The legislation passed through the House with a 101-2 vote! Representative Borton and the others that are helping us pursue the legislation are true champions to all motorized recreation!

MISORVA partnered with Representative Steve Johnson and Representative John Roth, SAW and DNR to introduce HB 4205 & 4206 this legislation allows Free Snowmobile Weekend. This Legislation has passed and the date for Free Snowmobile Weekend 2022 will be Feb 11&12 2023!

There have been many recreational law changes introduced this last year. I have enjoyed working with Paul Anderson and the Senators and Representatives as the legislation is moved along the legislative sequence to become a law. Thank you Paul for your diligence!

State Trail Coordinator Tim Novak has been on board for a few months and is proactively working with MISORVA to plow through some changes, shortcomings and improvements needed in the programs! Recently I had the opportunity



to have Tim Novak join Paul Anderson and John Newman, the area Snowmobile trail sponsor and myself on an ORV ride. Tim had only ever been on the old gator that his family had on their working tree farm. He drove my cart and had the best time splashing through the puddles! The rain held off for the most part and while it was cold we had a good ride! Paul pointed out some beautiful areas in the Traverse City area and also some areas that need work. We talked about relationships, accountability and working together to improve the programs and how we might do things a little better together! Tim seems to be excited to experience our recreation and learn about the changes and improvements we would like to see in the future! I invited Tim to the Dec meeting and he took up the offer! So for those of you that plan to attend the meeting in Munising you will have an opportunity to meet Tim as well!

In June I traveled to Iowa to attend the International Snowmobile Congress. At this event all the snowmobile states come together and share ideas and talk with manufacturers. This is an educational event with great speakers and gives an excellent forecast of what we may be seeing in our state either currently or possibly in the near future.. The networking at the event is a wealth of resources of leaders from all the snowmobile states.

We are continuing to keep a vigilant watch on the Camp Grayling Expansion, this could have a large impact on the area trails. We are asking for clearer answers to the impact this will have on the area and until we as an association have the answers to the many questions we remain opposed to the expansion. ( see the press release )

Support Your Sport meetings have paused as I pursue some new ideas for the program, stay tuned! Watch the MISORVA calendar on the website for more information!

We have received notification from Tim Novak that the snowmobile trail improvement fund will pay for 2 volunteer registrations from each maintenance club to Groomer Workshop 2023! This event is open to anyone that would like to learn more about the snowmobile program and what our volunteers do to keep us riding! Watch for more information soon!

We have a draft of proposed legislation to remove the sunset clause in the ORV legislation, we are currently working with ORVAW and DNR to establish the appropriate language. This legislation change is necessary to help propel the ORV program forward. ORV trail improvement fund is not going away and therefore we need the sunset removed. ORV travel is here to stay!

Senator Curt VanderWall is seeking a legislative change to help enable law enforcement with ORV travel, SB4003 - it is written with compatible language to the snowmobile law enforcement capabilities.

I attended the Permanent Trails meetings and we are definitely gaining miles! Snow Country Trails Conservancy was instrumental in obtaining an integral part of the trail near Big Bay that will remove 2 road crossings. This purchase was completed in the spring by SCTC and then added to the permanent trail miles managed by the DNR. Should you have a landowner ready to allow the permanent easement please let me know and I will get you to the proper parties!

At the request of the SAW chair, I have been working with a few sponsors and Jessica Holly - State Motorized Trail Specialist on the Snowmobile Grant Handbook. There were many sections that needed language clarification and wordsmithing. Now it will need to work through the rest of the channels in the DNR to eventually get into the hands of the sponsors by next season.

I continue to work with the DNR in the Ride Right Ride Here Program to promote safety and awareness. Although the meetings have not currently started I look forward to working with DNR on a Off Trail Riding team.

Miracle Millions update!

**September 24 2021** is a day I don't think I will ever forget. The first ever that I am aware of, the MEDC Grant, 1.15 Million awarded to MISORVA for our trail maintenance volunteers! It is good to see the voice of motorized recreation being heard in other aspects! Motorized recreation & Trail Maintenance groups received a grant for 1.15 million dollars. MISORVA is the facilitator for the grant, all Michigan Snowmobile Grant Sponsors and ORV trail maintenance

Groups were eligible to request funds for their club needs that were not provided in the program. For instance, chain saws, pole saws, help with a groomer barn. Perhaps it is safety training, safety lights for a disabled groomer. There are many items that our volunteers need to complete the job they have signed on for that are not provided under the Snowmobile Trail Improvement Funds. The grants are being dispersed and we can see the improvement for the volunteers and the daunting job they do!

This is your membership dollars being used in the best way possible, by working together with our legislators! As our legislators learn more about our chosen recreation they see the value of motorized recreation to the economy and are willing to step up to help.

I want to thank the BOD and the members for the opportunity to work with you and I will continue to work diligently for you, the members and supporters of MY chosen recreation. Karen