

LEADERS WANTED *Give Time To Give Back*

By Rob Dingman

“Serving on the AMA board is not the only way to volunteer to assist your association in furthering its mission. The AMA has numerous volunteer opportunities.”

A strong AMA Board of Directors made up of representatives of the membership is essential for good governance.

In March of last year, I wrote a column in this space discussing the numerous changes that have been made over the last several years to improve the way the AMA Board of Directors does business. These improvements include the implementation of term limits, improvements to board election procedures and a change in the make-up of the board to provide more individual member seats than business member seats.

With the first term-limited board members rotating off the board, there is an ongoing need to recruit qualified candidates to replace them. That has been a challenge in recent years in some regions as interest in running for the board has not been high among individuals with the background necessary to help guide and govern an organization with a multi-million-dollar annual budget and very diverse and sometimes complicated business interests.

The AMA Board of Directors has addressed the lack of interest by qualified new board members by amending the AMA Code of Regulations with respect to term limits. The code previously allowed for individual directors to serve only two consecutive three-year terms. The new language allows a director who has already served two consecutive terms to run for a third term if approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the entire board. Under the provisions of the new regulation, current Southeast Region board member Ken Ford sought and received the AMA Board's approval to run for a third term.

Additionally, the AMA Board has abolished the requirement that a board candidate obtain signatures from at least 50 current AMA members from the candidate's region. The board felt that the signature requirement was a barrier to those otherwise interested in running for office and that the current candidate evaluation process conducted by the board's Nominating Committee negated the need for the signature requirement.

On July 15, 2017, the application period opens for AMA board candidates for the Southeast and South Central Regions. Candidates from those regions

interested in running for the board should contact the AMA at elections@ama-cycle.org or (614) 856-1900 to request an application. Applications will be accepted through Sept. 15 of this year.

A recently elected board member told me that that March column last year stimulated his interest in running for the board. Maybe this column will have the same effect on a future board member.

Often, serving on the AMA Board is a thankless job. In fact, it is not a job at all. There is no compensation for being a board member, but it is rewarding to dedicate your time to the organization and our mission to promote the motorcycle lifestyle and protect the future of motorcycling.

Serving on the AMA board is not the only way to volunteer to assist your association in furthering its mission. The AMA has numerous volunteer opportunities. A great way to find out more about those opportunities, and to learn more about the AMA, is through the AMA EAGLES volunteer education program. There is a story about this program on page 26 of this issue of the magazine.

Each letter of the EAGLES acronym stands for an important element of advocacy: Education, Activism, Growth, Leadership, Expertise, Skills. Through AMA EAGLES, members learn about the AMA and become better motorcycle lifestyle representatives, grassroots activists and membership advocates.

AMA EAGLES offers knowledge, tools and resources tailored to member interests and provides a foundation for helping AMA promote the motorcycle lifestyle and protect the future of motorcycling. For more information about AMA EAGLES or to start the program, visit www.americanmotorcyclist.com/For-Members/AMA-Eagles.

As always, thank you for being a member. While membership is an important step in supporting the AMA's mission, there are opportunities to do even more. We welcome your help, whether that is sitting on the Board of Directors or representing the association at a local race or event. After all, the AMA is your AMA, and we must all work together to grow motorcycling in America.

Rob Dingman is AMA President and CEO.