

## **GVC ELECTION CANDIDATES**

### **President - Ian Dickerson**

I have been a member of BMW CCA since 1992 and joined GVC in 2003 when I moved to Rochester. I enjoy working on BMWs and driving them on the track at our high performance driver education (HPDE) program and on the street in casual driving tours through the beautiful upstate NY countryside. Since joining GVC I have served as Chief Tech Steward for our HPDE program for 10 years, organized the spring Pancake Run and Fall Foliage Tour for the past 5 years, served as Vice President of the chapter for one term, and have served as President of our chapter for the past term.

During my first term as chapter President I worked on expanding our social events to include all of the GVC territory, from Binghamton to Buffalo, extending from Lake Ontario down to Corning, and we developed a Zoom-based social events committee to coordinate this broad club territory. I have also worked to ensure the continued success of our HPDE program at Watkins Glen and our Tire Rack Street Survival course for teen drivers. During my first term I worked closely with Adam Gerken, our Board Secretary, to develop our social and driving events and I look forward to our continued collaboration as Adam moves into the Vice President slot during my second term. Adam and I will continue to work with our enthusiastic GVC Board to further expand our GVC activities to include ever more club members, whether they choose to drive on the track, on the street, or attend local club gatherings.

### **Vice President (choose one):**

#### **1) Adam Gerken**

Happy 40th GVC! It has been an honor to serve as Secretary of the club for the previous four years and I have really enjoyed working with the current board and committees to expand the offerings of GVC both by creating more events inclusive of families and younger people, as well helping to push the popularity of the club outside of the immediate Rochester area. These efforts by the board and committees have been highly successful with lots of great activities across Western NY, and reviving past events such as the Summer Picnic. In addition to being Secretary I've been on, and helped, multiple committees including the Driving Events Committee. I believe that the DE Committee and events are a vitally important facet of our club and as such, this past year I challenged the DE Committee to take a deep look at our traditional HPDE programs and reevaluate the formats to address some of the shortcomings. This led to a new format of HPDE at Watkins Glen this year that was extremely successful, very well received, and appears to be a more financially viable solution for the future.

I have also been a part of the push to modernize the club's social media presence through Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and the website. I will continue to ensure these channels are expanded and maintained to better communicate with our membership in a professional, timely manner. As our membership changes and evolves, so should the club and nowhere is this more apparent than on social media.

I look forward to further serving the club in the coming years and continuing the push to ensure that our membership across the state have fun and engaging things to do, while expanding the types of events to ensure there's something for everyone. I am eager to maintain the board's strong

relationship with the HPDE programs and the DE Committee to ensure the club's financial future for the next 40 years.

## **2) Tony Barbagallo**

Member since 1986. A former GVC president once said, "When you get one Barbagallo, you actually get 3". I have been an active member of the Genesee Valley BMW Club since 1986! My wife, Christa Barbagallo is currently a member at large and was the chapter's social director for almost 4 years. Our 22 year old daughter, Isabella is also an active member. Some of you know us by the Cars and Coffee events we host at our garage in Macedon, but most people know us by our long standing membership and involvement in GVC.

My knowledge, experience and years of contributions to this club have given me a broad view of where the club started, where we are today and where we are headed in the future. Over the years, I have chaired many events from driving to social. I have been an active contributor for many club matters for over 36 years (too much to list here).

My reason for running for VP is to work on behalf of the "entire" GVC Membership, work with the GVC Board for the good of the club and interface with the National office to help ensure GVC remains a healthy, strong and a well run club. As our national mission statement states, "to enhance the BMW experience for our members by providing services, support, information, and activities that promote camaraderie and encourage social awareness and responsibility". With this in mind, I want to look to our youth for creative energies and inspiration, yet look to our elders for guidance and wisdom. A club where all can be heard. I am steadfast in making sure our chapter stays true to our mission as we move forward.

I am flattered so many of you have asked me to run for VP. I continue to be committed to this chapter. Thank you, Tony.

## **Treasurer - Andy Blake**

I have been a member of GVC for twenty two years now and have thoroughly enjoyed sharing experiences with like-minded car people during the past two decades plus. I was the chair of GVC's autocross program from 2007 through 2010, served as Chapter President from 2011 through 2014, and have been the Treasurer for GVC since 2015. I participated in high performance driving events during all of my years with the club and have been an HPDE instructor since 2007. I also assisted (read: cone wrangled) in our Street Survival program since we started running teenage driver safety events in 2006. My current track car is a 2013 M3 with a naturally-aspirated V-8. I also own a '91 E30 318is with electrical glitches and a '95 E36 M3 in need of a refurbished power plant, still. I will keep tabs on the club's financial needs as we continue to serve area auto enthusiasts by hosting social and driving events.

## **Secretary - Adrian Sultana**

Although I had an impressive Matchbox car collection at age 5, I really caught the car bug when I first laid eyes on a copy of Car Craft in my middle school library. That prompted me to start dreaming of building my first car, a 1967 Camaro. I've been a car nut ever since, but it was a ride in my friend's E36 328is which turned me on to BMW's. I now own an E46 M3 (which I track), a 1976 2002 (undergoing a M42/5-spd conversion this winter), and a 1972 Opel GT that I transplanted a fuel injected M10 into.

My first outing with the GVC Club was at the 100<sup>th</sup> Ultimate Driver's School at Watkins Glen in 2018. Soon afterward, I was helping with tech inspections and registrations in following Driver's Schools, as well as coaching in the Street Survival program. I've enjoyed getting involved with the Club and getting to meet a great group of people who are passionate about cars and the BMW brand. As the Buffalo Director at Large, I organized GVC events for the Buffalo/Niagara area and continue working to hold more events in that area to help us better serve our largest membership region of our Club.

**Director at Large (pick up to four):**

**1) Allan Landes**

I'm in the Southwest suburbs of Syracuse; a lover of the 2 series (coupes, not 4dr) with both a 228 and an M2c. I got into the club for the HPDE events, but have really enjoyed the group drives and other activities like Cars & Coffee and the guest speakers. My main interest is bringing more club activity to the Syracuse area, also hoping to get more new members signed on, and more current members onto the track. Last year was my first in this position, and we were able to start offering local tech night track inspections and some local drives/meetings. For next year I'm hoping to continue with this momentum – we have plans for a big car meet/C&C; I'd like to also add a regular monthly C&C and more driving events (Adirondacks, Finger Lakes), perhaps even some collaboration with the local dealership or other industry sponsors.

**2) Andrew Altoft**

Hello! I'm Andrew Altoft and I am running for Director at Large. I was also appointed as Social Chair earlier this year. I grew up going to local ovals and annual trips to Watkins Glen for NASCAR, so the roar of an engine has always been part of my soundtrack. My relationship with BMW began in 2018, when I acquired my F31 Diesel Wagon in Estoril Blue, which you may have spotted around town. I joined the club shortly after and have enjoyed attending car meets, social events, and particularly the driving and karting events. After experiencing an autocross at Pineview Run, I knew I had to get into HPDE. Lucky as I am, I received a 2005 330Ci ZHP as a wedding present from my wife in August of 2021. After a long winter in the garage, I was able to attend all four HPDEs this year, and am absolutely hooked at this point. I also became Social Chair earlier this year, and enjoyed planning the Summer Picnic. I am currently planning the Holiday Party and look forward to working with the board and other members and planning a series of new and exciting events this coming year. One of my main goals is to recruit new members and help bring in a new generation of enthusiasts.

**3) Jerry Ludwig**

There must have been some gene that I inherited, related to the "Four Wheel Syndrome" and after nearly 60 cars and trucks later, I have yet to find a cure for this affliction. VW beetles, Woodie wagons, Shelby Mustangs, an Allard, and, of course, BMWs have all been in the garage. I joined the CCA and Blue Ridge Chapter 40 years ago when I bought my first BMW, an E21. Now, an E39 and two 2002s call our garage home.

In addition to cars, I have been fortunate to have a career in housing that I've totally enjoyed. As a long time board member and past President of the Landmark Society, we created a new event, Cocktails & Carburetors, now in its eighth year. (There's that car syndrome again!)

We're extremely fortunate to have a car club with such a wide variety of events, from track time to teen driver safety to touring and other social gatherings. Many organizations have seen a decrease in membership; hopefully, as an at-large Director of the Board, I'll be able to share some of my experiences and help our chapter continue to thrive.

#### **4) Michael Aronis**

My name is Mike Aronis and I have been a member of the BMW car club since the early 90's. My first BMW was a '94 325is. I also had a '97 M3 Luxury. I had been away from BMW for years due to my desire to have an AWD sedan and came back to BMW when I got a '16 M2. Then the long awaited AWD F90 M5 caught my eye. I recently re-joined the BMW car club and participated in some local events here in the Binghamton Area. The GVC is the closest BMW club to my area and as such I have tried to increase membership interest in the Binghamton area. I enjoy the social gatherings and general car talk when I can. I'd like to increase the activities here in my area, since it is very difficult for me to get away due to work to travel to Rochester. There are many BMW car fans here and a group of us are M5 drivers. I also have a gathering of guys who have rehabbed older 3 series cars and we do a good amount of DIY projects. I hope to see Ian's 3 series actually up and running some day.

I have three sons, two of whom are still at home and in high school. My wife works as a teacher's aide in the Vestal School system. I'm a General Surgeon. We have been in Binghamton since 2006. I have done my own car maintenance and repair since high school. I am glad to be able to do DIY whenever possible.

I would like to be able to serve on the GVC Board this year.