



President's Message

December 6, 2021

Dear Capital Vipers Owners Association Members-

RENEWALS

The Capital Vipers are starting the December with 42 members for 2022 including eight Board Members. This is 31% ahead of 2021 renewals and 5% behind total membership. In comparison to 2019, the region is 40% of renewals and 27% ahead of total membership. The CVOA leadership appreciates your support and 2022 is shaping up to be a fun year!

CVOA Board

I would like to officially announce the election of 2022 -2023 officers.

President – Andy Scrafford

Secretary – Joan Chall

Treasurer – Ben Keethler

These three have my full confidence. All have a strong passion for Viper, keen interest in continuing Capital Viper traditions, and the curiosity to improve the experience for you, the members.

With the Officers and the other appointed positions, the 2022 – 2023 Capital Vipers Board will ensure we all have fun with our Vipers and continue building lifelong relationships and friendships.

Events in December

Loch Raven Reservoir Social Cruise & Lunch
New member Bill 1st event!





NOVA Toys for Tots



Please send 2022 ideas to your Area Director or the President for 2022 planning.

Parting Thoughts

As I write the last *President's Message*, now more than ever one phrase comes to mind. It is a phrase crucial to successful volunteer organizations. When acted upon, people make a difference.

Three months after I bought a Viper, I decided to join the Viper Owners Association on December 25, 2017. On December 27, I learned there was not an active region for Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. I had two choices. Enjoy my pride and joy by myself like I did with my 2008 350Z Nismo or enjoy it with others like Laura & I did with our 1987 E30 M3 with the BMW Club. I decided the latter.

It started with calls and a forum post. The first call I made was to former member (sold his 2016 ACR-E) David Affeldt. His sage advice, having gone through the previous club's issues and some in the region, was "it's just a F-----g car club. Keep it fun with no drama." Luckily, being the father of three soccer players, Laura & I have seen more than our fill of drama. We have learned those creating soccer drama are most likely drama queens. Dave's advice has been spot on! To the members, I have appreciated your controlled steadiness and help with ZERO drama.

With the help of three guys, Ian as VP, Bob as Secretary, and Wes as Treasurer, the Capital Vipers was created on May 1, 2018. If any one of them were missing, the region may not have hit the starting grid. These three guys embody the phrase.

We were all busy in life. Ian was finishing advanced schooling for the Air Force on his way to Colonel while he and Andia were raising two teenage daughters. Bob was recently retired and travelling with his wife, Donna, as much as possible. Wes was trying unsuccessfully to retire from the Marine Corp, had a couple kids in college, building a Viper, and helping his great wife, Tina. I was in the same boat with two daughters left at home, one in middle school playing soccer and one running varsity cross-country and track, a business career with some travel, and trying to keep up with Laura who plays soccer herself and is at yoga three nights a week. All of us had a lot to juggle and prioritize.

As it turned out, our passion for Viper was a driving force. The passion attracted other passionate owners. It attracted others to help spread the load and increase the fun! A special thank you to Charlie, Margaret, and Jonathan for their contributions as officers. Thank you to Braden, Mike, and James as part of our first



adventure into Area Directors. Thank you to Barry as Deputy Treasure. Thank you to Frank for helping with marketing. A heartfelt thank you to Joan who streamlined the operation. Wes for his continued financial stewardship. Kevin for reviewing our financial operation. Matt for dealing with membership and technology advice. Alec, who holds the record for joining and volunteering, for taking over all technology. To John and Tom for your work as Area Directors and keeping it fun for your area members. To Rob who is a new Area Director. To Ben, Deputy Treasurer and now Treasurer Elect, thank you! To Andy, thank you for your passion and leadership. And a thank you to all those who have organized drives, held house parties, held pool parties, and provided advice. Invariably, to those I have forgotten, your contributions over the four years have been appreciated. All of you embody the phrase.

I have seen the flip side in other regions and other organizations. Leaders who are worn out from drama and/or being the life of the organization because few, if any, are willing to lift a finger.

In many organizations, the behind-the-scenes work goes unrecognized, taken for granted, and, even, belittled by those not doing the work. This is especially true for volunteer organizations. Thankfully, the Capital Vipers has a different culture. Any time we have talked, you have been appreciative of the boards work and those who have contributed. I truly appreciate the respect given by members to those who have made fun look easy.

What's the phrase? "If not me, then who?"

They are busy people and busier than most, but they still volunteer to step-up so others can have fun. In life, there are a few who choose to lead and help. When the bell rings for your turn, please answer the call. With the special group we have, trust me, it is easier than you think. The Capital Vipers, if anything, should be known as the "more hands, less work" region. A little help goes a long way. Everyone can play a role. Everyone is appreciated. Everyone is needed. Everyone makes a difference.

So now it is time to hand Andy the keys. It is a difficult thing to do, but necessary. I have taken pride in representing you and the great region we have built. I will miss leading the region more than you know. However, the Capital Vipers needs its own personality, not the personality of any one person. Andy is the perfect person at the perfect time. For those that have spent time with him and Shirley, especially at Oktoberfest the last two years, understands his passion, his positive temperament, and his leadership.

To that end, thank you for everything. Thank you for great memories and experiences. Most of all, thank you for great friendships.

Cars bring us together, people keep us together!

Brian
President Capital Vipers