



Wisconsin Unit WBCCI



Fifty years—1959 to 2009

April 12, 2011

To: Wisconsin Unit Members

From: John Sellers, Wisconsin Unit President

Proposed Revision of WBCCI Constitution

Last fall WBCCI International President Norm Beu formed a special committee called the Constitution and Bylaws Revision Committee to propose a revised constitution and bylaws for the WBCCI. (The Constitution and Bylaws *Revision* Committee, a *special* committee, should not be confused with the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, a *standing* committee.)

The Revision committee reported at the Mid Winter IBT that they had completed a proposed revised constitution, and this was distributed to Unit presidents in hard copy form on or about April 1. It has now been made available to all members on the WBCCI web site.

The provisions of the proposed new constitution will be voted on at the Delegates Meeting at the 2011 International Rally in Du Quoin, IL. These provisions will be discussed at the May unit business meeting and members will have an opportunity to vote on them, either in person at the meeting or by mail ballot. Consideration of the proposed revised constitution is an important undertaking, for which complete information should be provided to every WBCCI member. In the Wisconsin Unit we are doing this two ways:

If you receive the unit newsletter, the *Badger Bulletin*, in electronic form, this letter is being sent to you in electronic form and you are urged to download the entire WBCCI Constitutional Revision package in electronic form from the WBCCI web site, at the following URL:

<http://www.wbcci.org/documents/Delegates%20Mailing%203-30-2011.pdf>

This is an 85 page document package the same as the paper copy mailed to each unit president. A few of the documents included pertain to other aspects of the Delegates Meeting, but most are supporting documents for the proposed constitutional revision.

If you received this letter in electronic form but need a copy of the proposed constitutional revision package in paper form, please contact me at email: sellersj@erinet.com, phone 937-848-5924, or cell 937-478-7267 and I will mail you one. Be aware that reproduction and mailing of each paper copy will cost the unit between five and ten dollars. We will also bring a few extra copies to the May business meeting.

If you receive the *Badger Bulletin* in paper form by mail, the document package is enclosed in paper form with this letter.

A table of contents of this 85 page document is provided below as an aid to navigating it. You may find it helpful to do as I have done and punch all the pages for a ring binder with separators between the various documents.

The proposed new constitution is a complex and controversial issue. Like practically everything else in WBCCI, there is no shortage of conflicting opinions.

I would recommend reading the following documents in this package to get “up to speed” on the proposed revised constitution:

1. International President Norm Beu’s introductory letter explaining the proposed revision and the procedure by which it will be handled at the 2011 Delegates Meeting (pages 7-8).
2. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee’s synopsis and analysis of the proposed revised constitution and its recommendations. (pages 10-18). This is a fairly readable summary of the proposed new constitution. It also contains the committee’s *opinion* of the changes, which the committee is mandated to provide by the present Constitution. You are welcome to agree or disagree with the committee’s opinions as you wish! I agree with some and disagree with others. Also note that the Constitution and Bylaws Committees formal **recommendation**—which it is also mandated by the present Constitution to provide—is that the proposed revised constitution **not be adopted**.
3. Guide to the Proposed Constitution Revision (pages 19-23). This gives an overview of the changes and notes editorial changes such as the use of “WBCCI” rather than the full name “Wally Byam Caravan Club, International” throughout the document.
4. Proposed Revision of the Code of Ethics and Constitution in 3-column format (pages 36-80). These show the existing Constitution, the proposed changes, and the resulting proposed new constitution side by side. (They are more readable on the screen if you have them in electronic form since the changes are shown in color, something we couldn’t afford to do in the printed copies.)

If all this is confusing to you, you’re in good company! It’s confusing to all of us.

Here’s **my** opinion. It’s tentative and subject to change, but it represents my current thinking. Like the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, I recommend that the proposed revised constitution **not be adopted**. In other words, **vote NO**.

The reason has less to do with **what we have been told** about the proposed new **constitution**, but rather **what we have not been told** about the proposed new **bylaws**. The Constitution and Bylaws Revision Committee was tasked with coming up with a proposed new constitution and bylaws, which they have apparently done. But they haven’t told us anything about the bylaws.

If you are familiar with the existing WBCCI Constitution and Bylaws, you know that the Constitution is the basic framework of the organization. For example, the Constitution specifies that Units will be grouped into Regions, but does not set the number and boundaries of Regions. That is done in the Bylaws. The proposed new constitution changes the name of these from Regions to Areas, but does not set the number and boundaries of the new Areas. If the proposed new constitution is adopted, these will be set by the new bylaws, of which we know nothing. Nor will we have any say-so in them, as they are the exclusive purview of the IBT.

The devil is always in the details, and we haven’t been told the details. It’s as if we are being asked to approve the plans for a *foundation*, without being shown the plans for the *building*.

The other problem is that the process of adoption is badly flawed. The sections of the proposed new constitution can be amended at the Delegates Meeting—and we have no way of knowing what the proposed new constitution will look like afterwards.

Let’s ring up “**All Stop**”. Then we can have a serious discussion of whether we *need* a new constitution, and if so, what it should say.

Enjoy! We’ll have a lot to talk about at the May business meeting.

2011 Delegates Meeting Package, including Constitutional Amendments

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