



OPC CHAIRPERSON CANDIDATE - 2024

A Category Chairman shall be elected by the category members for a term of two (2) years.

BILL GOHR ***Lake Villa, IL***

Bill Gohr entered the marine industry in 1973 as the only master technician at the Midwest's largest Evinrude dealer. In 1978, Gohr became involved with the OPC category, racing JP and SJ boats. To this day, he has had continuous involvement in both the consumer marine and OPC racing arenas.

Gohr first joined APBA in the early 1980s after meeting Ron Baker Sr. and becoming involved with the Mod VP class. He spent many years as a member of the Great Lakes Boat Club volunteering his time at races as an official.

Concurrently, Gohr was hired by OMC where he spent nearly 20 years in various capacities.

At OMC, he started in Corporate Service, and moved into many other areas of the company. As the liaison of Corporate Services, he became involved in many aspects of the company such as sales, parts and accessories, engineering, manufacturing, technical service, promotions and, of course, high performance and racing. Gohr has always been a member of APBA, doing his best to promote the sport.

While in sales, Gohr assisted by working with dealers in the field as well as product promotion.

As a parts and accessories agent, Gohr was involved in sales, promotions and the advancement of products including being a member of the propeller improvement team as well as working in the hydrodynamics engineering department.

Within the engineering department, Gohr was involved with engine and part failure analysis and discovering those resolutions. This blended in with his responsibilities working in the service and warranty departments. Simultaneously, Gohr worked closely with the technical literature team assisting with writing literature and procedures, and producing outboard service seminars in the U.S. and overseas.

Gohr was appointed by Duke Waldrop as the public contact for the OMC Performance Group as their high-performance specialist.

While assisting sales and promotions, Gohr managed many events such as the Bass Master Classic tournament and was solely in charge of the AWSA tournament water ski events. Gohr also was many times a guest on live radio shows in Chicago on WGN promoting new products and as the "tech answer-man" taking live, phone-in questions.

In the early 1990s, Gohr sat down Danny McManus as well as a couple other racers, and together created the APBA Outboard Drag category. Gohr and McManus supported this category for several years, after which Gohr again worked with McManus to introduce the Super Sport class. At the same time, Gohr worked with Fred Miller to introduce the SST classes and provided his expertise and technical assistance.

Gohr spent 34 years drag racing outboards, winning numerous championships with the NIDBA at Blarney Island, later becoming the vice president NIDBA in charge of outboard racing. Gohr competed in several APBA events, and in 2004 competed in the Champ class, finishing eighth in points and was Rookie of the Year. Unfortunately, Gohr was forced to end his racing career after a horrific crash in Pittsburgh in 2005.





OPC **2024 CATEGORY VISION** **BY: BILL GOHR**

During his time with APBA, Gohr has worn many hats. He's put many people on podiums, building engines for a countless number of members. Gohr has held several APBA positions, including OPC chairman.

Currently, Gohr believes that APBA and the OPC category have done what they believe needs to be done to keep the sport alive. However, OPC has failed to change with the times. This group is stuck in the past, and the "this is what we used to do" mentality must go. Our beloved rule book needs to be reviewed and updated. Old procedures and old thinking need to change while maintaining the integrity of our association. This sport has been treading water for too long.

- Bill Gohr