



Special Edition - IMBA Chapter Program - March 2011

Resources

For more information:

[IMBA Chapter Program information on MMBA.org](#)

[IMBA Chapter Program FAQ on MMBA.org](#)

[IMBA Chapter Program information on IMBA.com](#)

State Board

Executive Board

Nate Phelps, President
Diane Ursu, Vice President
Glen Ruczynski, Secretary

At-Large Members

Bruce Geffen
Martin Hall
Diane Ursu
Larry Verna

Chapter Representatives

Brad Hranach, Holly/Flint
Nick Shue, Metro North
Dave Thompson, Metro South
Chris Mensing, Mid-State
Troy Gerding, Northeast
Glen Ruczynski, Northern
Mark Fraker, Potowatomi
Cathy Needham, Southwest
Nate Phelps, Western

Kim Dittmar
Treasurer
treasurer@mmba.org

Contact Us

Introduction

The International Mountain Bicycling Association developed the IMBA Chapter Program to strengthen mountain biking advocacy by combining local and national efforts. Mountain biking advocacy comes to fruition on the local level, but there are challenges for local clubs, especially those that are growing. Business and legal savvy rapidly dominate the clubs, causing volunteer burnout without even hitting the trails with tools in hand.

IMBA advocates travel the country speaking at different mountain biking events, teaching volunteers how to build sustainable trails, and advocating on national and regional levels. IMBA points out that volunteer burnout is a real issue affecting all clubs, and that a partnership between IMBA and local clubs would relieve local volunteers of demanding task associated with running an organization, which would minimize burnout.

The Michigan Mountain Biking Association knows firsthand how business and legal issues dominate the state organization, and that maintaining effective insurance policies and adhering to the law can be quite costly. The MMBA wants to focus more on local advocacy. It is because of this that the MMBA chapters are moving forward with the IMBA Chapter Program application process.

During this process, the MMBA Chapters have the option to draw new boundaries and change their names. They will ultimately become IMBA Chapters, with IMBA tending to the administrative business of the organization.

Frequently Asked Questions

We've been compiling a list of Frequently Asked Questions on the MMBA website. These are questions that we have heard out in our community, as well as some Frequently Asked Questions that IMBA has fielded from other clubs as they work through this process. [For the most up-to-date information, visit the IMBA Chapter Program page on MMBA.org](#)

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Webmasters

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Join or renew your
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Why is the MMBA transitioning into the IMBA Chapter Program

One of the greatest benefits of partnering with IMBA is to have paid professionals run the business of the organization. Currently, we have part-time non-professionals running a business, making sure taxes are done correctly, ensuring books are handled in the way they need to be, and attempting to comply with dozens and dozens of laws very specific to running a 501(c)(3). This is not in the best interest of the organization.

What will happen to my MMBA membership?

IMBA will grandfather all single and family memberships into the program. For example, if you just renewed your MMBA membership, it will convert to an IMBA membership for your IMBA Chapter. For the same membership fee, you will become both an IMBA and a local Chapter member; one membership for both local and national efforts.

What will happen to the MMBA?

The MMBA will continue to exist. Since the administrative tasks will be handled by IMBA, the MMBA will be able to focus on state-level advocacy efforts.

There is a vision and a direction that is being followed. The state board will be working with other like-minded organizations to become members of the MMBA. Each Michigan IMBA Chapter would also be a member of the MMBA. The member organizations would help decide the direction and strategize for funding, advocacy and events.

Our current Advocacy Team (lead by John Gonway) will continue to bridge the gap between state and local advocacy.

There is much more information on the MMBA.org website.

To view more Frequently Asked Questions, please visit the MMBA.org IMBA Chapter Program Page and FAQ

[IMBA Chapter program information on MMBA.org](#)

[Complete list of Frequently Asked Questions on MMBA.org](#)

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Designed by Diane Ursu, Moronacity.com

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