



President's Message



What great fun we're having...

Having just returned home from attending FMCA's Executive Board and Board of Directors meetings in Cincinnati, during the week of May 7th, there is much to tell...but first I'd like to start with the recent convention in Perry, GA.

FMCA's 97th International Convention in Perry, GA, was one of the largest conventions in recent history. The Convention started out with rain, wind, and cool weather but cleared up and we had good weather thereafter. There were almost 2,900 RVs in attendance (second largest Perry attendance); 989 first-timers; and 179 RV Basics Attendees, with Gary Bunzer, the RV Doctor, at the helm. We had four nights of really good entertainment with the last night being Jeanne Robertson. There were loads of seminars, daytime entertainment, an ice cream social and just a good fun time.

FMCA's Events Director, Doug Uhlenbrock, had instituted several new ideas at this convention and one I liked a lot

was an App called Crowd Compass. This App literally has all of the convention details on your Smartphone. It has the entire schedule, seminars, maps, and emergency information. You can make your own daily schedule and even post messages and pictures. It's a great way to navigate through the convention and it will be used during the Gillette convention.

While I was at Cincinnati for the Executive Board meetings, we acted upon and approved changes to Policy & Procedure (P&P) #3011/B, Chapter Bylaws Format. This incorporated changes mandated by the membership vote on the Constitution and Bylaws amendments in 2017. The modified P&P #3011/B specifically allows chapters to determine if they want to open their membership to all FMCA members or restrict membership to specific groups. Remember, this is a chapter choice. We also approved Operation Procedure A303, Convention Registration Refunds. A change was made to reflect current practices.

The Convention Committee worked on the 2019 conventions (based upon approval and successful negotiations): winter being in Perry, GA, and the summer convention to be scheduled for Minot, ND. The Finance Committee worked on and then presented a balanced budget for the coming year. Both of these items will be presented and voted upon at the Gillette Governing Board meeting.

We also worked on some last-minute details of the 2018 summer convention in Gillette, WY. The 98th International Convention & RV Expo on July 18-21, 2018, is going to be a really fun time in Wyoming. Currently there are over 1,600 signed up with 165 coming from the Western Area. There are over 100 attending the RV Basics seminar and 437 first-timers!

Financially, overall, we are strong. As of March 2018 we are under budget by \$63,410. The big drain though is FMCAssist, which we are over budget by \$7,317.00. Our investment account balance is \$7,813,976.00 and we

President's Message (Con't)

continue to replace the monies we borrowed from this account.

Some Tidbits: In May we saw history being made with our first release of the *Family RVing* magazine. As of March 2018 our membership has increased over 1,660 from this time last year. We had over 1,400 towables join since December 2017.

At the Western Area: On June 4th we will be having our 2-day Executive Board meeting at the Bakersfield River Run RV Park. We will be working on many things, which include the Indio rally, and presenting a balanced budget at the Hanford Governing Board meeting.

We have two WMHA officer positions that will be filled by new candidates. The Nominating Chairperson, June Davis, presented a slate that included Carole Hazeltine for Secretary and Dave Franke for Southern Region VP. All other Officers ran for reelection.

I also ran for reelection for FMCA National VP, Western Area. I can't thank you enough for your support in reelecting me to this very rewarding position...Thank You!

As mentioned we are about to install two new WMHA Officers. I would like to tell you about the two Officers that are about to be replaced. Sharon Roach (and husband Tom) has been our Secretary for the past 2 years. Her duties didn't just include taking minutes at meetings but included maintaining the chapter officers and Indio captains lists, correspondence letters, sending out various cards, putting together the Executive Board and Governing Board rallies and emailing all of the associated attachments. In other words she was my right hand and kept me on my toes. Thank you Sharon for everything you have done for WMHA. I appreciate and thank you for your dedication.

Roy McDaniel (and wife Ann) has been our Southern Region VP for the past 4 years and during this time he has worn so many hats I venture to say that I can't name them all. Roy has been very successful in visiting every chapter that has had an anniversary to celebrate. He has helped establish policy during our Exec Board meetings and has assisted chapters with obtaining answers to their questions. During the Indio rally he tirelessly has worked from morning to late evenings. Thank you Roy for everything you've done for WMHA. I appreciate and thank you for your dedication.

When you see Sharon or Roy, whether it be at a chapter rally or at Indio, please thank them for the wonderful job they have done as WMHA Officers!!

President's Message (Con't)

Dates To Save:

July 18-21, 2018.....98th FMCA Convention, Gillette, WY

Sept 24-26, 2018.....WMHA Governing Board meeting, Hanford, CA

(Attended by at least one President or National Director from each WMHA chapter or alternate and all Indio Captains).

January 9-13, 2019WMHA Area Rally, Indio, CA, (Theme is: *Once Upon A Time*)

Happy and safe travels,



Lon Cross, F233066
National Vice President, Western Area
WMHA President



WMHA Senior Vice President's Views



Greetings everyone. Springtime is here and a time for us to relax a little with the 2018 Indio rally behind us. After taking care of some business at home we were off to see our friends in Arizona in the little town of Bouse. This is out in the open desert with dark nighttime skies – great for stargazing. While visiting, our friends announced that they were in the market for a motorhome and giving up on their 5th wheel. Since they are not too far from Quartzsite, off we went to spend a day looking at motorhomes. It was nice seeing the rock formations in and around the area as we took local back roads to and from Quartzsite. The next day we went into Parker and up to the famous Desert Bar out in the desert back hills. This is a very popular gathering spot for off-roaders with food, bars and live music. Quite the place out in the middle of the desert with lots of people there having a good time. After our visit we motored up to Laughlin for a Beat-The-Odds rally. Always a fun event and great people. If you remember from my last message I mentioned that I purchased a gambling shirt at our Indio rally that I hoped would turn out to be my lucky shirt. Well, sad to say it did not. It was still fun watching the other lucky ones win and we had a good time anyway. Maybe next time? We are getting ready to leave for Sonora for the annual “Cow Capers” rally with the Apollo Amigos. Such a pretty area up there and we always have a good time.

I mentioned that this is the time for us to relax a little following the Indio rally. Well, not entirely true. The WMHA Executive Board has been working on some initiatives to increase the number of vendors at our Indio rally. Many of our past vendors have retired or quit their business so we are reaching out to find new vendors. We already initiated handing out personal invitations to vendors at events inviting them to come to our rally. We also discovered that FMCA will do e-mail blasts to vendors

Senior Vice President's Views (Con't)

in the Western Area on our behalf. We are considering a few other things, all of which we hope will give a big boost to the number of vendors at our 2019 rally. In the meantime, Lon and I have been working with the FMCA art department in designing our artwork for the 2019 rally with the “Once upon a time” theme. This artwork will be on the registration form, advertising posters, the rally program cover and a portion of it on our hat pins. Lon and I have also been working with our entertainment agency in selecting a slate of entertainers for our 2019 rally evening entertainment. We review several acts by way of links sent to us by the agency representative and haggle between us which ones we want to select, eventually whittling it down to 3 for the rally.

Next up is our WMHA Executive Board meeting in June in Bakersfield. During the meeting we will discuss possible changes to the Indio rally using the Captain’s Critiques from the last rally as well as comments heard during the rally and observations noted. The other big subject will be discussing the budget and looking into our crystal ball to see what kind of rally attendance we can expect as well as any possible rally cost increases. These factors determine what the rally fees will be. Once we crunch all the numbers the goal is to have a balanced budget to present to the Governing Board up in Hanford in September as well as any changes to the rally itself. Once September gets here things really start ramping up as the rally dates get closer.

Debbie and I wish you an enjoyable summer and safe travels to you all.

Bob Golk F316752
WMHA Senior Vice President

Northern Area Vice President's Message



Hi to All.

I have been going through a few medical issues, and I am happy to say that all is well now.

I had the pleasure of visiting the Ambassadors Club Rally at the Hatterle Vineyard in Lodi. While we were at the 4 day rally some members went wine tasting at about 15 wineries that Linda Hatterle, President of the Ambassadors' Club, knew. Each day Linda graciously prepared breakfast and dinner for about thirty members and/or guests. There was plenty of food, and the meals were delicious. We also shopped at the huge Lodi Street Fair where there were many vendors.

In April, I was able to visit two chapters: Safari R US and the Sierra Ramblers. All of the Safari R US meals were catered during the Safari R US Rally at the Almond Tree RV Park in Chico. The food was outstanding, and everyone had a good time. We traveled to Anderson right after the Safari R US Rally to be with the Sierra Ramblers. While in Anderson we enjoyed a '50s theme rally to celebrate 27 years as a chapter. One night there was a wonderful catered dinner with 50s music. Some members even danced! The weather was beautiful, and many of the ladies attended the quilting show that was at the fairgrounds at the same time as where we parked our RVs.

Soon I have three more rallies to attend. One rally that I will attend is with the Golden Spike Chapter at the Kinetic Races which takes place around the Eureka area. The other rally that I plan to attend is with the Alpine Coach NOR CAL Chapter at Casa de Fruta. Finally, I will visit the Gold Dust Travelers at the Elks Club in Merced.

I am looking forward to the gorgeous drive on Highway 101 to Coos Bay, Oregon, in June, for the Northwest Area Rally. The weather will be cool, the food will be delicious,

Northern Area Vice President's Message (Con't)

and the classes offered will be unique. And that's what FMCA is all about: Having FUN! Happy Trails!!

Stephen M. Shade, F395353
WHMA Northern Area Vice President



Here's looking at you!

Central Area Vice President's Message



Again it has been a busy few months.

In April we traveled to the Chapter Rally held by the Southern California FMCA Elk. The rally was held at the Elks Lodge in Hesperia. We attended their business meeting. The Elks Lodge was sponsoring a vintage car show in their parking lot. BBQ hamburgers and hot dogs were available. I found I am now older than some of the vintage automobiles on display. They are in better shape also.

From the Elk Rally we proceeded to Boulder Creek RV near Lone Pine. We attended a Midweek Wanderers Rally. There is a lot to see and do in this area. Mount Whitney Portal was closed due to there still being snow on the road. The film museum on the outskirts of Lone Pine is always a great place to visit, as is the Alabama Hills. It is fun to watch the old westerns and be able to identify the landscape of the Alabama Hills.

As the Midweek Wanderers were breaking camp and leaving, the Golden State Trackers were arriving for their Lone Pine rally at Boulder Creek. As is the norm for the Trackers and in keeping with their motto "Leaving tracks by giving back," they brought donations for the handicapped of Bishop.

We then visited our home Elks Lodge with the motorhome. While parked in their rest area I was able to attend the Lodge Meeting and witness a friend join the order.

It was then time to travel back to Hesperia and attend the HMC Chapter Rally held at Desert Willow RV Resort. Upon arrival we were warmly greeted by their president, David Althoff, and his wife, Vicky.

Central Area Vice President's Message (Con't)

There were a lot of questions being asked by people I met in my travels about the towable issue. From the feedback I am getting, I think we are going to experience a growth in membership.

We are getting ready for our trip in June to attend the NW Rally in Oregon and then on to visit family in Washington and Montana.

Please be safe in your travels this summer, and remember it is all about having fun.

Guard Your Health,

Fred Wells F128327
WMHA Central Area Vice President



Southern Area Vice President's Message



I recently had the pleasure of visiting the California Southwinders chapter outing at Calico, where I attended their business meeting. One of the topics was whether to change the name of the chapter or not. Part of their concern with the current name was that it was brand specific. While they accept all brand owners as members, the name might deter owners of other brands from looking at joining them. After discussion, it was decided to change the name to the California Cruisers, so we welcome the California Cruisers. While the name will change, their history remains the same. This is a fun group, and I appreciate the hospitality shown me by Carla, George and the gang.

In May Barbara Van Ru was kind enough to invite me to attend their Rexasaurus Chapter rally in Indio. She even made sure I would not suffer from the cold (it was 110 degrees). I really enjoyed the opportunity to visit with all of the members over a delicious dinner. At the dinner I was honored to present the chapter with their 20-year anniversary award. We also had a general discussion with the group on whether towable owners should be allowed to join FMCA. The group was supportive of allowing them to become members.

On the subject of allowing towable owners to become members, I thought it was interesting that all of the chapters I spoke to on the subject were in favor of the amendment except one.

In June, Ann and I took the motorhome out for the first time since January, when we attended the WMHA Executive board meeting in Bakersfield. I would also like to say, it is a pleasure working with this board. They are very dedicated, and did an excellent job of developing the budget and plans for the Indio outing.

Southern Area Vice President's Message (Con't)

On a personal note, Ann has completed her chemo treatments and is starting to gain her strength back. We are starting to get out and about again which is great. We have some very good friends who have supported Ann and our daughter (who is also undergoing Chemo and Radiation treatment). Thank you for being there.

Roy D. Mc Daniel, F322490
Southern Area Vice President

**Next Byways
Due Date is
August 15, 2018**



A Note From Your Secretary

A Reminder to the WMHA Chapter Presidents: Please contact Lon Cross or Sharon Roach if you have questions regarding chapter representation at the 2018 Gillette, Wyoming, Governing Board meeting.

I also want to *Thank You* for letting me serve as your Western Motor Home Association Secretary for the last 2 years. It has truly been an honor. I have met many **wonderful** people in our Western Area, and when attending the conventions in other FMCA areas. I have enjoyed working with the dedicated Officers of the Executive Board, who work all year to make sure that the Indio Rallies run smoothly and are enjoyed by all. I also want to thank the many volunteers who work diligently at their assigned tasks at the Western Area Indio Rallies, which contributes to them being so successful.

That is why we say, "**The WEST is the BEST !!!**"

Sharon Roach, F279409
Secretary, Western Motor Home Association
srwmha@ix.netcom.com
408-472-3908



CHAPTER FAIR/MEMBERSHIP

I hope your chapter is getting new members – there are a number of new FMCA members in the Western Area. There is a new form from the National Office to update your bylaws so that you either accept all recreational vehicles (this includes towables) or decide not to accept them. Your chapter should request this document and update your bylaws. We have had a large number of towable owners join FMCA since the change in the National Bylaws. Hopefully this will help to increase the membership in your chapter.

I am still receiving the list each month of the new members to FMCA in the Western Area. They have started putting the e-mail addresses on the list again so I have been sending welcome letters from Western Area to those members who have e-mail addresses. The response is not great but if we can get a few of these new FMCA members into our chapters it is great. Your membership person can also get this list.

As I have said before, it is not too early to plan on having someone represent your chapter at Chapter Fair in Indio in January. Some chapters put a lot of effort into attracting new members but the main idea is to get the name of your chapter out to all of the first-timers who attend the rally.

It would be of a help to me if you would keep me informed on who is the contact person for your chapter. Please e-mail: bernardfrogfarm@yahoo.com or phone: 530-519-7346.

Each chapter can get \$125.00 from FMCA for advertising or mailing to select zip codes. Contact your Regional VP and he will send you the instructional brochure.

Alice Bernard, F079098
Membership, Volunteer Coordinator
Chapter Fair Captain

Need a Western Area Badge?

Anyone who is interested in a Western Motor Home Association badge, please contact Alice Bernard by phone: 530-934-7346 or cell phone 530-519-7346 or e-mail: bernardfrogfarm@yahoo.com

The price of the badge is \$11.50 (which includes your name and F number). The hangers are \$2.75 each. The hangers can be for your city or your job or your chapter. You may have several hangers if you like.

Results of Western Area Elections

President: Lon Cross

Senior VP: Bob Golk

Treasurer: Kurt Simon

Secretary: Carole Hazeltine*

Northern Region VP:.....Steve Shade

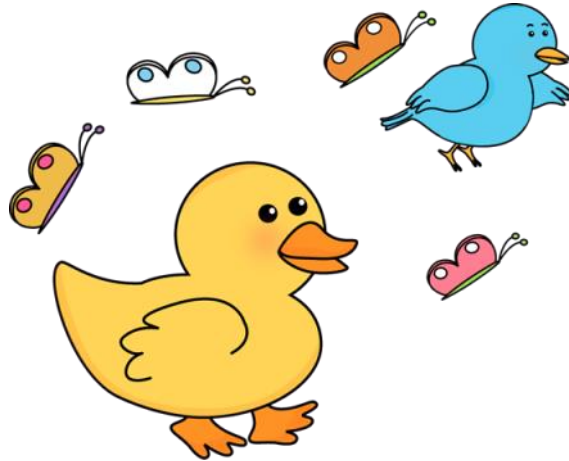
Central Region VP:.....Fred Wells

Southern Region VP:.....Dave Franke*

Richard Gibbs continues as Immediate Past President

***Congratulations to our new officers!**





Looking for Western area photos?

FlickR Photo Tutorial

There are several ways to get into FlickR to see many RV photos.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/12765661@N06/>

or

<http://www.wafmca.com/> (look for link to photos)

Once in FlickR Photostream, click on Sets, (Do Not use Photostream)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/12765661@N06/sets/>

then click on the Set you wish to see. (Sample)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/12765661@N06/sets/72157625715483763/>

Double Click on the photo you want to see or download:

(Sample)<http://www.flickr.com/photos/12765661@N06/5362080447/in/set-72157625715483763/>

Right Click on the photo—Click on All Sizes, and decide the size you want.

(Sample)<http://www.flickr.com/photos/12765661@N06/5362080447/sizes/o/in/set-72157625715483763/>

Then click on Download the Original Size

I would then click Save As, and give it a name and location to Download. (I put them in a Folder on my Desktop called “Photos” and make a new Subfolder called (?) “Indio”)

Once Downloaded, you can choose to either; keep it, e-mail it, print it, or save on CD to have printed somewhere else.

CHAPTER RECRUITMENT BENEFIT

• LET FMCA ASSIST YOUR CHAPTER •

Each chapter is entitled up to \$125 in recruitment funds from FMCA per year. There are three options to choose from (Brochures, Mailings, and Advertising). You can do only one of the three options per year.

Contact your Regional VP for COMPLETE details...

...START PLANNING NOW...

Western Motor Home Association Chapters

Alpine Coach NorCal
Alpine SoCal
The Ambassadors
Apollo Amigos
Beat the Odds
The Big E
California
California Capitals & Bay Area
Liners
California Coaches for Christ
California Coasters
California Cruisers
California FMCA HMC
California Heartland
California Pacers
Colorado River Ramblers
Crafty Crafters
Cruisin' Condos
Discovery Club Of California
Dolphins, The
Frustrated Maestros
GMC Forty Niners
GMC Pacific Cruisers
Gold Diggers
Gold Dust Travelers
Golden Spike
Golden State Trackers
Komfort Kruisers
Midweek Wanderers
Monaco Nor' Cal
Monaco Romers
NorCalRex
Northern California FMCA Elk
Outdoor Resorts Palm Springs
Overland Trailblazers West
Rexasaurus'
Rockwood West
Roamin' Catholics, Southwest
Safari of So Cal
Safari R Us
Sierra Hi Rollers
Sierra Ramblers
Southern California FMCA Elk
Southwest Country Coachers
Southwestern Bus Nuts
Thousand Trails West
Western Bus Nuts
Western GM Coach

Western Motor Home Association, Inc.

Executive Board 2018

President

Lon Cross F233066 Cell 661-886-5077
e-mail: lcross@fmca.com

Senior V P

Robert Golk F316752 Cell 661 599-3548
e-mail: rgolk@bak.rr.com

V P Northern Area

Steve Shade F395353 Cell 925-337-0633
e-mail: 67jeep.ss@gmail.com

V P Central Area

Fred Wells F128327 Cell 760 384-8338
e-mail: frdcwells@aol.com

V P Southern Area

David Franke F443367 Cell 909-973-1051
e-mail: dfranke928@msn.com

Secretary

Carole Hazeltine F376336 Cell 916-838-7200
e-mail: dickhazeltine@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Kurt Simon F166058 Cell 530-305-0265
e-mail: kurtsimon@gmail.com

Immediate Past President

Dick Gibbs F278983 Cell 661 203-9180
e-mail: dickgibbs349@gmail.com

APPOINTED OFFICES 2018

Membership

Alice Bernard F79098 Tel. 530-934-7346
Cell 530-519-7346
e-mail: bernardfrogfarm@yahoo.com

Bylaws Chairman

Phil Griffin F128165 Tel. 818-346-9869
Cell 818-406-4619
e-mail: griffip@earthlink.net

Western Byways Editor

Debbie Golk F316752 Tel. 661-822-0920
Cell 661-599-0865
e-mail: dgolk@bak.rr.com

Webmaster

Warren James F352839 Tel. 925-212-4450
e-mail: wajames@pacbell.net