



Volume 31, Issue 4

Western Area FMCA

Debbie Golk - Editor

Winter 2018

## President's Message



The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Western Area Rally was Awesome and Amazing!!

The *Viva Las Vegas* rally was so much fun to attend and we had outstanding weather to boot. There were 884 RVs in attendance. We also sold 1,180 Day Passes and 41 Passports, making this a very well attended rally. There were over 70 new and used RVs on display and I'm told there were at least four that were sold. We also had fabulous entertainment: Wednesday we had \$500 Blackout Bingo (sponsored by Bakersfield RV Resort); Thursday, and back by popular demand, were the Flashback Boyz; Friday saw the comedy of Brad Zinn; and on Saturday with a theme of Viva Las Vegas you knew that Elvis was going to be in the house...and he was!

How lucky we were that Sandy King and her painting crew decided to come back to paint this year's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual theme for our stage and side panel. I can't thank them

enough for the wonderful pieces of art they've painted for the past eight years!!

And then we had this wonderful parade. Leading off was this year's Grand Marshals, Sandy and John King. So many chapters working with this year's theme saw Showgirls, Blackjack Dealers, and guys named Elvis everywhere you looked. Thank you to all the chapters that participated and for helping to make this a memorable event!

I would like to thank our Regional VPs, Captains (including first-time Captains), and all of the Great Volunteers that assisted with the Indio Rally. You come from so many places...not only from the Western Area but also from Northwest Area, the Rocky Mountain Area, the Midwest Area, and even from the International Area, just to name a few. Thank you to all for helping make the Indio Rally special. Most of all I would like to thank all of you who came for a good time. I hope we met and exceeded your expectation.

Several long-time Captains have decided to retire from their current positions. Jerry Stacey, Coffee Captain: for many years Jerry has helped us start each morning the right way with a cup of coffee and a fresh donut. Fred Lockwood, Golf Cart Captain: Fred has been the keeper of the Motor Pool and whenever we needed a cart, Fred seemed to always have one ready. Shelley Herman, Commercial Captain & Co-Captain: Shelley became captain in 1995 and through the years has seen many changes; once the vendors were located in building 3. Shelley mentioned that back in the hey-day there were as many as 178 vendors. Thank you for a job well done!

On a sad note, we lost Gary Robinson, who was President of the Frustrated Maestros for several years and was

## President's Message (Con't)

Music Conductor for more years than I can remember. He will be missed.

Photos of this year's rally, taken by John King and his assistant, Judy Goulart, can be viewed by going to the Western Area website, wafmca.com and clicking on "photos" in the left-hand sidebar.

Work on our 31<sup>th</sup> Annual Rally has already begun. With their submission of Once Upon A Time, the California Coasters chapter were the winners of the 2019 Rally Theme Contest. They will receive \$100 for their treasury and will get to sit "up front" on the last night of entertainment.

We hope all of you had a good time and will return next year!

Please save the date of January 9-13, 2019, for the next Indio Rally.

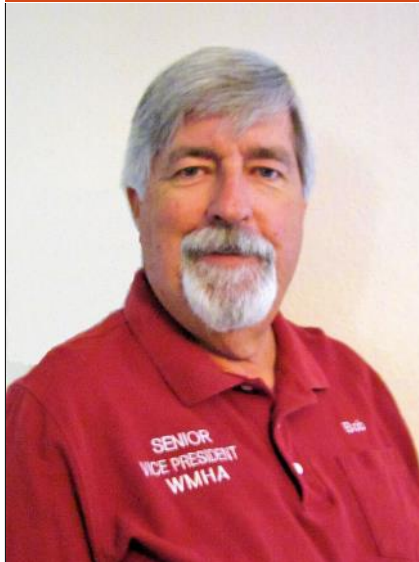
- FMCA's 97th International Convention was held March 15-18, 2018, at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry, GA. A great time was had by all.
- FMCA's 98th International Convention will be held July 18-21, 2018, at the CAM-PLEX Multi-Event Facilities in Gillette, Wyoming. Go to [fmca.com](http://fmca.com) for registration information.
- Please take a moment and visit [RVillage.com](http://RVillage.com), a free social networking website that can help promote your FMCA chapter. To learn more about how to use the website, you can register for an ongoing webinar that takes place on the first Monday of each month. Go to <https://goo.gl/9OU8kx>.

Happy and safe travels,



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

## WMHA Senior Vice President's Views



Greetings everyone,

My, how time flies. It seems we were just finishing up our planning for the Indio rally and now it is over. Let me back up a bit here. Right after Christmas when we got ready to head to Indio I came down with a bad cold virus. Now it has been years since I have had a cold. Not to be selfish, I let Debbie get it also and as it turns out so did our daughter. All in the family I guess. This caused a delay in traveling down to Indio as I did not want to spread this illness to everyone there. Many of you will remember the great Indio rally sickness that happened many years ago. I did not want to see a repeat of that. Once past our contagious stage we headed down to Indio and found preparations already underway. We were also greeted by some great weather. It is always fun to arrive at the fairgrounds while it is still empty and watch the event come together: parking crews laying out the parking; electric crews installing electric cables; watching the big tent go up; watching the decorating crew as they put together another fabulous stage set; watching the vendors and new coach displays arrive; and the steady stream of RVs coming into the fairgrounds for the rally. More people walking around greeting one another, the tempo picks up and then the rally is upon us. What a great rally it was. Attendance was up again from last year and we had over 400 first-time attendees. We had great entertainment (Elvis did make it) and a special treat: hand-dipped ice cream and cookies to celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It took lots of people to serve the ice cream so I want to thank the Golden Spike chapter for their help

## Senior Vice President's Views (Con't)

in making this happen. Although we had rain on Tuesday, for the remainder of the week the weather was perfect, with temps in the upper 70s to 80 and no wind. I do want to thank our rally captains and all the volunteers who work to make this rally happen. Without your help we would not have a rally.

After the rally Debbie and I stayed on for a few days to make sure everything was taken down, picked up and shipped. From Indio we headed over to Lake Havasu for the annual Havasu Balloon Festival. We stayed at Havasu State Park right on the lake shore with the balloon festival right next door in the event center that was added to the park last year. With the festival scheduled for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday wouldn't you know it, the nice weather we enjoyed all week ended on Thursday. Friday seemed nice but there were upper level winds that prevented the balloons from going up, and then a cold front swept in for Saturday and Sunday, whipping the lake up with white caps on the lake and waves on the shore. Needless to say, the balloons did not go up for the entire festival, which was a shame as they would have gone right over our campground. We did manage to fight the crowds and walk around London Bridge and have fish and chips for lunch. That night I managed to drive our tow car over a wooden stake and put a 2"-square hole in the tire sidewall, which meant I spent Saturday running around getting a tire. On Monday it was time to leave and head home to take care of some appointments and get ready for our next venture – a trip to Arizona to visit some friends and then head up to Laughlin, Nevada, for a Beat-The-Odds rally. Maybe my new "gambling" shirt I bought at Indio will be my lucky shirt.

Take care and safe travels to all,

Bob Golk F316752  
WMHA Senior Vice President

## Northern Area Vice President's Message



Hi to All.

Now that the rally in Indio is over we are beginning to plan for next year's 2019 events. For those of you who attended Indio during this year's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary it was a lot of fun, especially enjoying the delicious, hand-dipped ice cream.

While I was at Indio I visited a few chapters: CCBAL, Golden Spike, Gold Diggers and Sierra Ramblers. I asked Jon Walker and Rett Porter to give the Golden Spike Chapter their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary certificate. There was much celebration when the certificate was presented.

The evening entertainment this year was great as usual. People were having fun.

From Indio we drove with a few couples to the Sportsmen Club in Joshua Tree where we visited the Southern California Safari group. As we entered the Sportsmen Club R.V. Park the greeter stated, "Here comes Steve with his entourage!" Everyone had a good time, and we really rested.

From beautiful Joshua Tree we then travelled onto Quartzsite, Arizona, where I attended the Western GM Chapter rally with Jon Walker and Rett Porter. With much celebration the Western GM Chapter was given a check and a certificate for their 30 Year Anniversary. The chapter owns 1930 to 1980 GM Buses that look brand new!

From Quartzsite another couple and us began our long journey home by driving to Laughlin, Nevada, where we

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

spent one night. The next day we drove to the Orange Grove R.V. Park in Bakersfield where we picked their yummy oranges as we do every year. We continued driving home the next day and were thankful for a wonderful time with good friends and great warm weather. That's about all, except remember the journey is all about having fun.

Stephen M. Shade, F395353  
WHMA Northern Area Vice President



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

## Central Area Vice President's Message



We have been busy. We were able to visit three chapters in November.

We started with a visit to the Golden State Trackers Rally at Orange Grove RV Park near Bakersfield. Trail Boss Buck Youngblood and his wife, Pat, set the theme for the rally around honoring our veterans on Veterans Day. Members had made a collage of family members, including themselves, who had served or were now serving. It was very nicely done.

From there it was off to Pismo Dunes RV Resort to visit the California Coaches for Christ Chapter. Weather was wonderful on the coast and it is a very nice venue. I was pleased to be able to present their president, Anna Markwell, a certificate from the FMCA, honoring the chapter's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Joanne and I were honored to be a part of their daily morning hymns led by Don and Bertie Bibler, Musical Evangelists. They are a wonderful couple and a lot of fun.

Then it was off to the Elks Rest Area in Santa Maria to meet another great chapter, The Midweek Wanderers. We were greeted by the Chapter President, Jean Kammerer. She invited us to sit in on their chapter business meeting following the evening potluck. Their meeting was informative, and the items concerning them are the same facing all chapters: Aging membership and the rising cost of booking rallies, to name a few. They have great and loyal members, as well as strong leaders to meet the challenges.

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

From Santa Maria it was home again to prepare for Indio.

We spent Christmas at the Thousand Trails Park in Palm Springs and then went into the fairgrounds at Indio to help prepare for the WMHA rally. We enjoy being a part of the team preparing for the rally. We get to watch the tents go up and watch as the attendance swells to over 850 RVs for the rally.

I was able to touch base with a number of RVers who attended the rally with towables. They all were enjoying themselves and were pleased to learn of the rule change including towables. Several stated they would spread the word to their friends about what a great rally was being held in Indio, and the fact they were well received.

The parade was great and started on time. Hand-dipped ice cream was served with cookies to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the WMHA Rally in Indio. The evening entertainment was excellent. Elvis was there as was Brad Zinn, but "The Flashback Boyz" stole the show. The Ladies Social was enjoyed by those who attended. Another great rally!!!

After the rally we stayed to help as it closed down.

From Indio we visited the Apollo Amigos Chapter and their outing at Lake Havasu for the balloon festival. We had a great camping spot right on the lake. We all shared one of the most beautiful sunsets we have ever been blessed with. The weather was great for us but not for the balloons. They were unable to launch due to the weather. Just visiting with the members and the good fellowship was all we needed.

What a great task Joanne and I have. We are charged to go out in our motorhome and meet the best people on the planet.

Guard Your Health,

Fred Wells F128327  
WMHA Central Area Vice President

## Southern Area Vice President's Message



Our Western Motor Home Rally for 2018 is behind us, and as I reflect back on the great times we had, I deem it a great success. Of course the reason it was so successful was because of the Captains and volunteers. I have had the pleasure of working with some of you for four years, others only one, but I can honestly say all of you made my job a lot easier. So a special thank you for each one of you; keep up the good work.

I would also like to thank all the chapters that provided us with the great food. We enjoyed everything from breakfast to dinners and a great bar-b-que.

Our association puts on the rally for a number of reasons, some of which are: entertainment of the guests and to educate them through the seminars. It allows not only the individuals to interact with others but chapters to exchange information. The chapter fair is a very good recruiting tool for new members. In talking with the various chapters I learned that they were able to sign up anywhere from one to twenty new members.

What makes this all possible is the guest who pays the rally fees and stays on the fairgrounds. Their support allows us to rent the fairgrounds, tents, sound equipment, entertainment, and all the other things that make the rally work. So, we invite all of you to come and stay with us on the fairgrounds.

On the humorous side I have to tell on myself. My wife needed some boxes to move supplies from the motorhome to the auditorium, and asked me to find some. I located a number outside the tent area and

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

loaded several on my golf cart. Then I started looking for my key to the cart when a gentleman came up. I looked at him and said, "I can't find my cart key." While I was fumbling around looking for the key, he started unloading my boxes. I said I need those boxes, and he politely said I need my cart. Red faced I took the boxes to my cart, which was ten feet away. I look forward to seeing you at the rally next year.

Roy D. Mc Daniel, F322490  
Southern Area Vice President



### CHAPTER FAIR/MEMBERSHIP

We had a very successful chapter fair at Indio in January. A number of chapters signed up new members (a number of them had not belonged to an FMCA chapter before, so Western Area will pay their first-years dues if they joined at Indio – this is for Western Area chapters only). I want to thank all of the chapters who had representatives attending. Hopefully in 2019 other chapters will attend – remember you do not have to have a fancy table – just get the name of your chapter out there and have someone there to explain what your chapter is all about. Also please let me know who your contact person is for membership so I can keep in touch with them about any items that may change about Western Area's chapter fair and/or membership.

Be sure and let your chapter know about the change in towables now being able to join FMCA. Also, your chapter has the option of accepting towables in your membership – this is something you may want to discuss at your chapter meetings and vote on.

I am still receiving a list each month of new members to FMCA (your chapter can request a list of new members – usually by zip code or some other special request). Unfortunately, they cannot put e-mail addresses with the names, but they do have phone numbers and regular addresses so you can contact those in your area. Each chapter can get \$125.00 from FMCA for advertising or mailing to select zip codes. Contact your Regional VP (VPs information listed on last page of Byways) and he will send you the instructional brochure.

Alice Bernard, F079098  
Membership, Volunteer Coordinator and Chapter Fair Captain



## **An Important Message for the WMHA Chapter Secretaries**

Thank you for volunteering to be the Secretary in your chapter. The hours that you spend performing your responsibilities is really appreciated.

I have an important request. Whenever your chapter holds an election of officers, or has an officer change, could you please send me the same information that you send to FMCA.

As WMHA Secretary, I need to communicate with your officers during the year. To make sure that your officers receive the correspondence that I send out, I must have their current information.

If you have any questions about your duties as Secretary, please contact me. I am very happy to help you.

Thank you for your assistance,

Sharon Roach, F279409  
Secretary, Western Motor Home Association  
[srwma@ix.netcom.com](mailto:srwma@ix.netcom.com)  
408-472-3908



**Congratulations to the Chapter Newsletter winners:**

**Best small chapter: Dorothy Reiersen – Midweek Wanderers**

**Best midsize chapter: Mary Jamora – Frustrated Maestros**

**Best large chapter: Alice Bernard – Sierra Ramblers**

**Best overall chapter: John Painter – Golden Spike**

**Best webmaster: Sally McClenaghan – CA FMCA HMC Chapter**

**Please keep up the good work and continue to send them to me for consideration.**

**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](mailto: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.

**The Nominating Committee Needs Your Input**

**We have two important positions to be filled by April.**

**They are:**

**Southern Area Vice President and Western Area Secretary**

**If you, or someone you know, would be a good candidate, please contact any of the following Nominating Committee Members with names and contact information.**

- June Davis, [june.davis@earthlink.net](mailto:june.davis@earthlink.net)**
- Marla James, [marlajames@pacbell.net](mailto:marlajames@pacbell.net)**
- Carole Hazeltine, [dkhaze@pacbell.net](mailto:dkhaze@pacbell.net)**
- Rick Ricordati, [janrickr@live.com](mailto:janrickr@live.com)**
- Phil Dougherty, [pdhighland@aol.com](mailto:pdhighland@aol.com)**

**Thank you for your assistance in our talent search.**

**June Davis, Chairperson**





## WMHA Donations Help Local Charities

Of the many activities at our annual Indio rally, one of them is the 50/50 drawing. Half of the money taken in through ticket sales is split to 3 winners. The other half goes to charity. We elect to give to local charities in the Indio/Coachella Valley area as a way of giving back to the community that supports us in our rally. This year we donated to FIND Food Bank and to Martha's Village & Kitchen. We recently received thank you letters from both agencies. The letter from FIND Food Bank reads in part:

"Thanks to you, many children, adults and seniors we serve won't go to bed hungry tonight. Your donation of \$1,075 provides 7,525 meals for hungry neighbors and families – every dollar donated provides (7) meals. Your New Year's brunch provided quite a windfall for FIND. Our sincere gratitude for your help making the Coachella Valley a 'Hunger-Free Zone.' Working together, we are making a difference in the fight against hunger.  
– Sincerely, Lisa Houston, President/CEO."

The letter from Martha's Village reads in part:

"Thank you for your generous donation of \$1,075 to Martha's Village & Kitchen. Your willingness to help our homeless community through their tough time makes all the difference to those we serve. It takes a community to support the work that we do and we are so grateful to have your support. Your gift will not only help the homeless, but help people from becoming homeless in the first place. We thank you again for your generous donation to help our local neighbors in need. Together we are changing lives. – Sincerely, Linda Barrack, President and CEO."

It is very gratifying to see our donations making a difference. We will continue to donate to local charities as the amounts we are able to donate seem to benefit the most people. WMHA thanks all of those who participated in purchasing tickets to the 50/50 drawing.

Bob Golk  
WMHA Senior Vice President





## 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.  
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