



Volume 32, Issue 8

Western Area FMCA

Debbie Golk - Editor

Spring 2019

President's Message



What great fun we're having!

I just recently returned home from attending the FMCA Executive Board and Board of Directors meetings in Cincinnati during the week of May 6th where we worked on many issues that will be presented to the

Governing Board for their voting consideration.

FMCA's 99th International Convention in Perry, GA, was a huge success and very well attended. I would like to thank the Eastern Area Captains and Volunteers who helped put this event on as they all did an outstanding job! By the numbers: There were 2,292 Family RV's, 352 Commercial RV's, for a total of 2,644 in attendance. Educational attendees: RV Basics 175, RV Driving School 69, RV Backing School 25. First-Timers 866 (which represented almost 38% of the attendance), Towables 30, total Exhibitors 418. There were many seminars and crafts to attend.

The evening entertainment was outstanding. It started out on Wednesday night with comedian and FMCA member *Jim Pelley*, who lives in northern Calif. Jim, previously a writer for Saturday Night Live, brought loads of laughs to the audience. Thursday was the Chapter Block Party where over 570 members joined many chapters. Friday, we saw

The Coasters, The Platters, and The Drifters. To close out the Convention was *Louis Prima Jr. and The Witnesses*.

The 100th FMCA International Convention & RV Expo will be held in Minot, North Dakota, August 14-17, 2019, at the North Dakota State Fairgrounds. This is also our Governing Board meeting (Aug. 14) where we conduct FMCA business. It is also where elections for the offices of National President, National Senior Vice President, National Secretary, and National Treasurer will take place. We would like to have as many Governing Board members from the Western Area attend the meeting as possible. Please make sure your chapter's delegate is on file with Dianna Mitts 800-543-3622 (ext. 210) or dmitts@fmca.com. If your Chapter is not able to send your National or Alternate National Director and would like to be represented with a Temporary Delegate, please contact WHMA Secretary Carole Hazeltine for information at 916-838-7200 or dickhazeltine@yahoo.com.

This is FMCA's 100th Convention, "Minot Magic-100 Times the Fun," and there will be loads of "specials" for your enjoyment. Our featured speaker on Thursday night will be Captain Sully Sullenberger (Miracle on the Hudson), and this is only the beginning of the fun!

Every day our FMCA membership is growing stronger. To date we have 79,785 members, which includes 4,603 towables.

President's Message (Con't)

Western Area News: On May 21-24, 2019, we will be holding our Executive Board meeting at the A Country RV Park in Bakersfield. We will be working on several issues, which include the Indio rally and preparing a balanced budget for consideration at the Annual Governing Board meeting in Hanford.

I'm very happy to announce "no more curtains" on the Indio stage as a Stage Decorating Captain has been located for the 2020 Indio Rally. His name is Dave Shinn and he is currently the President of the Gold Dust Travelers Chapter. Dave has many years of experience with stage decorating both at the high school level and community theater. Welcome aboard, Dave!!

Indio evening entertainment has been set for 2020: Thursday, Neon Circus - a Brooks and Dunn Tribute; Friday, Dick Hardwick - clean, standup comedian; The Alley Cats - a cappella vocal group.

Dates to Save:

August 14-17, 2019 - 100th FMCA Convention, Minot, ND.

Sept 23-25, 2019 - WMHA Annual Governing Board meeting, Hanford, CA, (to be attended by at least one President, National Director, or alternate from each WMHA chapter and all Indio Captains).

January 8-12, 2020 - WMHA Area Rally, Indio, CA (Theme is: **At The Hop**)

HAPPY & SAFE TRAVELS,



LON CROSS, F233066
WESTERN AREA NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT OF
FMCA
WMHA PRESIDENT



Hi folks,

We have a few positions that need to be filled for the rally at Indio:

1. **Donations Captain**
2. **BINGO Caller**
3. **Pet Extravaganza Captain**
4. **Chaplain**

If you are interested in any of the above positions, please contact either Bob Golk, 661-599-3548 or Lon Cross, 661-886-5077. Please remember, we can't have a rally without volunteers. Thanks!

PLEASE NOTE:

If your chapter is unable to send a representative to the Minot Governing Board meeting on August 14, 2019, and would like to be represented you can contact Carole Hazeltine for information at 916-838-7200 or dickhazeltine@yahoo.com to have a member of your chapter elected as a Temporary Delegate.

Senior Vice President's Views



Greetings, everyone. I hope you are enjoying the springtime weather. In my last message, I stated that there was snow on the ground at our new house. That turned out to be an understatement as after that message we had record snowfalls for our area. I mention this

because the one thing I did not talk about with our new house was the fact that there was no parking for our motorhome. This includes the driveway, which is a horseshoe design with one part under low-hanging oak trees and the other part on a steep incline. In addition, there is no street parking as the community works department saw fit to put high curbs on the street (which is very narrow) so you can't even park a car in the street let alone an RV. My plan all along was to have an RV parking pad graded on the property below our house. After the necessary permits were taken care of we got the rough grading done and then we were hit with snow and rain all through February and March. This put the whole project way behind waiting for the ground to dry up. We had to miss the February Beat-The-Odds rally in Laughlin, as there was no way we could use our motorhome as it was parked at our old house and, of course, everything else was at our new house. Fast forward a month and the weather finally cooperated and we were able to get the final grading done and gravel put down and compacted. Then the big day came when we brought our motorhome over to the new house to find out if I could even back it in on the property, given how narrow the street was. Everything turned out OK, it is parked here and we are now ready to resume RVing.

Senior Vice President's Views (Con't)

First up is the WMHA Executive Board meeting. We have a full agenda including reviewing the Indio rally, setting up a preliminary budget, and going over a long list of discussion items. This meeting kicks off the string of events that will take place over the coming months culminating in the WMHA rally in Indio in 2020.

Following the Executive Board meeting, Debbie and I will be heading over to Pismo Beach for a chapter rally that is in conjunction with the big annual custom car show over there. This is quite an event with over 2 miles of cars on display as well as vendors and lots of food choices, all on the streets of Pismo Beach.

Enjoy the springtime and the upcoming summer season and be safe.

Bob Golk, F316752
WMHA Senior Vice President



Northern Area Vice President's Message



Hello to all! I hope that all is well with everyone.

The only RV activity going on with us is getting a new windshield installed in our coach. The installation of the new windshield has been problematic.

First, since the windshield would be glued, there needed to be a week of fair weather, which took until May. Then, the wrong windshield was sent to the RV repair shop and installed and taped to our coach. We are currently waiting for the new, correct windshield to arrive at the repair shop for another final installation, I hope!

Remember, it's all about having fun! Safe travels to all of you, and we will see you all in Indio.

Stephen M. Shade, F395353
Northern Area Vice-President



Central Area Vice President's Message



In March it was off to Lake Elsinore where I had the very pleasant task of presenting a 30 Year Certificate to the WMHA HMC Chapter. What made the event more memorable was the opportunity to present the certificate to not only the President of the chapter, David Althoff, but also to a founding member of the chapter, Leo Metzler. Mr. Metzler is also the father of Mrs. Vicky Althoff, the first lady of President David Althoff.

This chapter appears to have solved how to get new members as every time I visit them they have at least one or two new members. They are a very happy group with no strangers around the "campfire." Could it be the margarita machine and the initiation required of new members? Even the visiting VP and his wife took a turn. What fun.

Following the outing with the HMC Chapter, it was off to visit the Golden State Trackers at their rally at the Valencia Travel Village. It was a small rally as most of their members had previous commitments. The rally hosts Dee and Tom Williams hosted an excellent and fun rally and we were all able to catch up on news of each other and some news of members not attending. This was accomplished over several games of cards.

Next, we attended a rally held by our local Elks Lodge Sidewinder RV Group. It was held in Pahrump, Nevada. They had 12 rigs in attendance. We spent some time recruiting for the FMCA and our local chapters.

In April, we traveled to Templeton for a visit with our Granddaughter and her family. Also present was our

Central Area Vice President's Message (Cont'd)

youngest daughter and her husband. What a treat to visit our two great granddaughters. Boy, do they grow up fast. Of course they are the BEST. There is nothing like family.

It is time again to attend the upcoming Executive Board meeting in May. It will be held in Bakersfield at the "A Country RV Park." Another fun group. Then it will be off to the Northwest Area Rally.

Mark your calendar with the following dates:

100th Convention, Minot, ND, August 14-17, 2019
Western Area Rally, Indio, CA, January 8-12, 2020
101st Convention, Tucson, AZ, March 26-29, 2020

Remember, it's all about having fun!!!

Guard Your Health.

Fred Wells, F128327
Central Area Vice President



Southern Area Vice President's Message



To all the Byways readers, HELLO, and I'm honored to be writing this article.

Traveling to rallies in the southern area included Outdoor Resorts of Palm Springs, The Dolphins, the Southern California FMCA Elks, the

California Chapter and the Colorado River Ramblers. Each visit brought a plethora of games, entertainment, food, music, and merriment.

The Colorado River Ramblers met at Buckskin Mountain State Park, Parker, AZ. Nestled on the banks of the Colorado River, the river's relaxing flow fits perfectly with this chapter's mantra – have fun and relax. Hikes in the state park provided an overview of the campsites and the river. Nightly campfires along with barbecuing your own meat ensured you could blame no one if your steak was burnt! The final meal at a nearby restaurant capped a weekend of great camaraderie.

The Outdoor Resorts of Palm Springs was a short visit to present a 25-year anniversary certificate. This chapter whose members come from all points of the US, gather here to enjoy the warm southern California winters and share adventures from whence they came. Their banquet dinner was their annual meeting, and election of Pamela Rose as their chapter president was the highlight.

Golden Village Palms, Hemet, CA, was the location of the Dolphins 30th anniversary celebration. With all meals catered, you cannot help yourself from getting loads of fun and enjoying superb activities. Brought back by popular demand was an event started years ago by Lon Cross: building and racing small wooden cars down a race track. The

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

imagination to build, customize, and paint the cars was something to see. No two cars were close to being the same.

The Southern California FMCA Elks meeting at the Elks Lodge, Vista, CA, was their 30th anniversary celebration. With a cake, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and sharing a campfire, this chapter that meets four times a year is always fun to visit. While no one can predict who will win beanbag baseball or cornhole, you can rest assured the fun is watching the attempt and reaction to where the beanbag actually lands.

Bakersfield, home of Orange Grove RV Park, was the site of the California Chapter's spring rally. An RV park nestled in an orange grove, where trees abound with oranges and other citrus fruits available, was a perfect setting. While snowing in other parts of the country, the sun was abundant and the use of Easy-Ups became necessary. From the shade provided, bingo was the event, cool drinks were a must, and fun was had by all.

As the summer will be here soon, check your RV tire pressure, put some fuel in the tank, and get out there and attend your chapter's rallies.

Dave Franke, F443367
Southern Area Vice President

**Next Byways
Due Date is
August 15, 2019**



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 towables 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 will be 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 the Chapter Fair in Indio this 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 email: 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.



Looking for Western area photos?

Flickr Photo Tutorial

There are several ways to get into FlickrR 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
- Beat the Odds
- The Big E
- California
- California Capitals & Bay Area
Liners
- California Coaches for Christ
- California Coasters
- 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 NorCal
- Monaco Romers
- NorCalRex
- Northern California FMCA Elk
- Outdoor Resorts Palm Springs
- Overland Trailblazers West
- Rexasaurus'
- Roamin' Catholics Southwest
- Rockwood West
- Safari of Southern California
- Safari R Us
- Sierra Hi Rollers
- Sierra Ramblers
- Southern California FMCA Elk
- Southwestern Bus Nuts
- Thousand Trails West
- Valley Cruisers
- Western Bus Nuts
- Western GM Coach

**Western Motor Home Association, Inc.
Executive Board 2019**

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