



President's Message



What a wonderful way to start the New Year by attending the 31st Annual Western Area Rally in Indio, CA. What fun we had, and amazingly, the little rain we had on Saturday morning was inconsequential to the fun being had by all of the attendees.

The parade entries this year were based on the Rally theme of *Once Upon A Time*. The winners were CCBAL, FMCA Presidents Trophy; Sierra Ramblers, WMHA Presidents Trophy; California

Heartland, Theme Trophy (tie); Roadtrek International, Theme Trophy (tie); Overland Trail Blazers, Grand Marshal's Trophy; and California Coasters, Indio Mayors Award. The Grand Marshals were Sharon and Virgil George. Congratulations to all who participated.

The 32nd Annual Rally theme in 2020 will be *At The Hop*, which was submitted by the Frustrated Maestros. Their chapter will have up front seating at Saturday night's entertainment, and their treasury will receive a check from WMHA for \$100.

Our photographer this year was Donna Wilson and her Assistant Michael Davidson. If you would like to see some of the wonderful pictures they took, please go to wafmca.com; scroll down to photos; and then click on flickr.com. And while you're at our website give it a good look. Our webmaster, Warren James, has been busily updating it and we feel it's one of the best.

I would like to thank all of the wonderful volunteers, Captains and WMHA Executive Board for the donation of your time to help make this Rally as successful as it has become. I would also like to thank all of the National Officers and Past National Officers who attended our Rally.

But mostly I would like to thank all of the attendees who joined us this year from all over the U.S. and Canada. We hope you enjoyed yourself and hope that you will return to sunny

Southern California on January 8-12, 2020, for another great Rally!!

Some FMCA business to report:

FMCA membership has been steadily growing. We are now at 78,380 strong and at this time last year we were at 74,486. Along with our growth we have been able to add more benefits to our members. To see the list please go to FMCA.com and click on membership.

Two International Conventions and RV Expos have been scheduled. Save the following dates:

- 100th Convention, Minot, ND, August 14-17, 2019.
- 101st Convention, Tucson, AZ, March 26-29, 2020.

There was an added bonus being offered in Perry by the FMCA Academy. FMCA, in partnership with the RV Driving School, developed a pair of programs for attendees – an RV Driving Class and an RV Backing Class. Both were well attended.

Also available in Perry was FMCA's popular RV Basics course, powered by the FMCA Academy. Members learned the dos and don'ts of RVing trouble-free from expert instructors in a relaxed setting with other RVers. Visit www.fmca.com/rvbasics for more information, and I'd recommend that you consider attending at a future convention.

HAPPY & SAFE TRAVELS...

LON CROSS, F233066
 WMHA PRESIDENT
 NATIONAL VP

Senior Vice President's Views



As I write this there is 5" of snow on the ground around our new house. A lot has happened over the last few months so let me back up and get started.

To start things off, we had our WMHA Governing Board meeting in Hanford the last week of September. We introduced our newest officers: Carole Hazeltine, our new Secretary, and Dave Franke, our new Southern Area VP. After

some deliberation we approved the budget for next year. We had our chapter break-out sessions with lots of lively discussions regarding issues that face chapters today. In the afternoon we had the Indio planning session and then it was time for the traditional catered dinner for all the board members. I would like to report that dinner went off without a hitch and it that was great, but, well, things don't always go as planned. While everyone was gathering in the big hall I asked Lon what time were the caterers supposed to arrive. He said they should have been there by now so he called them to see if they were on their way. "Oh, is that today?" replied the caterers. With a hall filled with hungry board members it was time to scramble. After a short discussion we decided the quickest way to feed the masses was to run over to Costco and get a stack of pizzas. Luckily they were able to support us as it was a big order. Though we ate late, everyone took it in stride and we even got apple pies for dessert.

Following the Hanford meeting, Debbie and I were off to Laughlin for a Beat-the-Odds rally. This time lady luck smiled upon us (or maybe it was my lucky gambling shirt) as I took 5th place in the slot tournament and Debbie took top honors in Bunco with the most wins. While there we were treated to a spectacular thunderstorm. Lightning flashing over the casinos, high winds and heavy rain made for quite a show.

From Laughlin we headed down to Hemet for the California Chapter's annual Oktoberfest rally. We have heard great things about this rally and we were not disappointed. They really go all out with this event. We had a great time and will be back again next year.

Now things really started to get busy. We decided at long last it was time for us to get a new house. We had been looking for several months and finally found that "right" house. With preparations for the move underway it was also time for Thanksgiving. Since our house was in upheaval, we gathered at a friend's house and had our dinner there. Then it was off to Indio for our pre-rally inspection and contractor meetings. We were also getting our equipment and supplies for the rally on order and taking care of last-minute details. Once back home, in the midst of packing, it was time for

Senior Vice President's Views (Con't)

Christmas. We celebrated at Debbie's brother's house which took the strain off of us. After Christmas, Debbie started getting sick. Within a couple of days after Christmas she was in a lot of pain so I took her to Urgent Care where she was diagnosed with an infected gallbladder. She was admitted that day and had surgery the next morning and spent 3 days in the hospital to make sure the infection was abated. After a week of recovery, she was cleared for travel and we were off to Indio for our annual rally.

Normally we arrive in Indio 2 weeks before the rally starts to oversee all the preparations that are underway, but due to Debbie's surgery we arrived a week later than normal. I want to thank the regional VPs for stepping up and taking care of the things I would normally have taken care of you guys are the best. Although attendance was down a little from last year and we had some material shipping issues, I think overall the rally was again a success. For once we did not have any torrential rains, although we did have light rain Saturday morning. We had far fewer incidents to take care of, great ice cream, vendors reported they did well and we had great entertainment all 3 nights. I received many compliments about the rally which makes all the work worthwhile. My thanks to all the volunteers and rally captains for a great job. Now we get to relax for a few months and then we start the process all over again for the 2020 rally.

Debbie and I wish you a wonderful springtime and safe travels.

Bob Golk, F316752
WMHA Senior Vice President

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

Northern Area Vice President's Message



Hello to All. Another year has gone by. The rally in Indio has come and gone, too. Everyone that I have talked with who attended the recent Indio rally told me that they had a good time. All of the entertainment was mentioned as being very enjoyable.

After Indio, my wife, Jeanette, and I traveled to Joshua Tree to attend a Safari R US Southern California

rally at the Sportmen's Club. We enjoyed the catered breakfasts and dinners, but it was especially nice to see some of the members that we had not seen for a year. It rained most of the time while we were in Joshua Tree, but we still had fun. Jeanette hiked through the drizzle to the dam at Joshua Tree National Park with a few friends. She says that it was a gorgeous desert hike.

From Joshua Tree we drove on to the Bluegrass Festival in Blythe. It was our first time dry camping in our bus, and we survived. Then we travelled a few more miles to Quartzsite, Arizona. We had some work done on our RV, we wandered through the big tent, and made several purchases from the vendors.

From Quartzsite we drove to Laughlin, Nevada, to explore the area and to attend the Beat the Odds rally. We took a ride to Oatman, Arizona. We saw several donkeys walking the main street and nudging many pedestrians for food. Oatman is a unique mining town.

My wife and I wish you safe travels. And remember, it's all about having Fun!

Stephen M. Shade, F395353
Northern Area Vice President

Central Area Vice President's Message



It is time again to catch up on our doings and travels.

In September we attended a Golden State Tracker Rally held at the River Run RV Park in Bakersfield. The Kern County Fair was going full swing and most attended the fair. Senior day is a good time to attend the fair. Joanne and I checked out the new Harley Davidsons at the Harley shop. It was not senior day at Harley

Davidson.

From Bakersfield it was off to Hanford for the WMHA Board Meeting with Indio Captains attending. What a great bunch of volunteers the WMHA has. This is where the planning comes together for the rally at Indio. I marvel each year at how well the rally comes together. This is due to the excellent effort put forth by all involved.

October, and time for the California Chapter Oktoberfest Rally in Hemet. It is one of our favorites. While attending the rally we had some work done on the coach.

We then attended the Coaches for Christ Rally held at the River Run RV Park in Bakersfield. It is always a great Chapter to visit. Very well organized with active members.

December and time to visit family for Christmas in Las Vegas. We stayed at the Clark County Shooting Range RV Area while visiting. Great place to visit.

December 27 and time to head to Indio to prepare for THE RALLY.

Indio is another tale this year and I am sure a lot will be said concerning same in the next Byways.

Be safe in your travels and remember "It's all about having fun."

Guard Your Health.

Fred Wells, F128327
Central Area Vice President

Southern Area Vice President's Message



Hello everyone, especially those of the Western Motor Home Association's Southern Area!

Having completed about six months OJT, I'm continuing to learn the various aspects involved as your VP. There are 17 chapters in the Southern Area, each staffed by very dedicated groups of volunteers. I experienced my first chapter visit with the California Chapter in

September at Hesperia. My next was the Southern California FMCA Elk in November at Vista. It is not hard to see, or understand, why Chapters, the WMHA, and FMCA are all so successful and continue to grow. It would not if it weren't for all of you dedicated volunteers.

With the California Chapter I enjoyed watching them progress through its bylaws introducing towables, as well as selecting a slate for their upcoming chapter elections, to the final planning for their Oktoberfest extravaganza. Speaking of their Oktoberfest, it was the best attended, having more crafts and competitive events, than any previous year. Having attendees from as far away as Phoenix to the Southern Sierras, this Chapter's yearly event should be on everyone's calendar.

Our next visit was the Southern California FMCA Elk, a chapter that meets quarterly, represents a blend of prior service members, professionals, retirees, and anyone whose primary interest is having fun, relaxing, talking, bean-bag baseball, campfires, and other games. This particular meeting was the Chapter's recognition of its 30th anniversary. While the Chapter isn't as old as some of its members, age had nothing to do with the festive mood, celebration, decorative cake, and the presentation of a 30-year certificate and monetary gift.

Attending these two rallies was an honor for my wife, Marilyn, and me, and we're thankful to the Chapters for allowing us to attend!

With 2019, the next event was the WMHA yearly rally at Indio. As this was my first as a VP, I can't recall learning so much in such a short period of time. No words can express the support and guidance I received from the Captains, not only those that I support, but all the Captains throughout the Rally. Additionally, the Rally had many memorable moments, such as superb entertainment, great seminars, numerous vendors, the best ice cream, and an off-site tour. There was nothing better than renewing old acquaintances and you can't help but make new friends at this Rally. We attended numerous Chapter parties, and at each one we were welcomed and made to feel right at home. For us, this was another example of the "key" that makes FMCA what it is.

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

With the Indio Rally in our rearview mirror, I know 2019 will be a great Chapter rally year. Already there are eight rallies Marilyn and I plan to attend. From January to October we'll be stopping by to say hello.

Having fun in your RV is but a rally away; attend them, enjoy them, and be safe!

Dave Franke, F443367
Southern Area Vice President



Membership/Chapter Fair Message



If you are looking for members, you can contact the National Office and they can help you with lists of FMCA members who are in your area. There are a number of people joining FMCA each month – I receive a list of all the new members in the Western Area each month and I send them a welcome e-mail to Western Area (WMHA) and FMCA. I get some response from these e-mails, people who are interested in chapters,

and I send them information on most of the chapters that are available.

I hope that by now you have updated your bylaws – either to accept all recreational vehicles or not. It is important that you update your bylaws, as there are several changes. Just contact the National Office or go to the website and get a copy of the model bylaws so that all you have to do is fill in the blanks and mark a few boxes to change the bylaws and then send them to the National Office to be approved.

We had a successful chapter fair at our January Rally in Indio. Several chapters signed up new members and a number of them were first timers. Again this year if someone joined a Western Area Chapter that has never been in any FMCA chapter, WMHA will pay their first years dues.

This is a good way to introduce your chapter to new (and old) members of FMCA. Think about having a table in 2020 – the main objective is to get the name of your chapter out where people can see and get information on your chapter.

Another thing to remember – I keep a list of all the chapters in the Western Area and would like for you to keep the listing up to date – especially your contact person. I do receive requests for information on the various chapters and it helps to have the contact person so interested people can contact someone in your chapter.

A big **THANK YOU** to those chapters who participated in chapter fair 2019.

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



*Enjoy the beauty of winter but stay
safe and warm also!*

A Note From The Editor:

I would like to thank all of the chapters' newsletter editors that send their newsletters to me on a monthly basis to be reviewed for the awards that are presented at the following year's rally. So many of you put a lot of work into them and I really enjoy reading about how much fun you have and all of your adventures!

Also, webmasters please email your websites to me (my new email address is: dgolk56@gmail.com) so that you can be awarded for your work for the best website!

Congratulations to the 2018 best newsletter and website winners!

Ruth & Terry Wood—Komfort Kruisers—Best Newsletter, Small Chapter

Jan Macy—Southwestern Bus Nuts—Best Newsletter, Midsize Chapter

Fred Lockwood—California Heartland—Best Newsletter, Large Chapter

Court & Cris Warren—California Coasters—Best Overall Newsletter

Paulette Boyd—Apollo Amigos—Best Website

Again, thanks to all who have submitted your newsletters and website addresses to me. If you have not done so in the past, it is not too late to start.

Take care and travel safe,

Debbie Golk

Western Byways Newsletter Editor

dgolk56@gmail.com

661-599-0865

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.

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...



83-791 Date Avenue Indio, California 92201
(760) 347-4741 www.MarthasVillage.org

Western Motor Home Assoc. Inc
3500 Skyview Dr
Auburn, CA 95602-9397

Dear Kurt,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$1,043.50 to Martha's Village & Kitchen. Your gift will go a long way in changing the lives of so many people in need. We are grateful to have your support!

Your donation dollars will be put to work immediately to help the homeless and the impoverished in the Coachella Valley. Because of the generosity of people like you, Martha's Village & Kitchen is able to offer wrap-around services to all of our clients to ensure that their needs are being met. These services include crucial community resources such as our Emergency Pantry, daily lunch service, a Resource Room, Thrift Store, an in house medical clinic, and more. We serve our homeless clients by offering shelter, professional Case Management, employment resources, and classes that inspire change from within. We can only do this important work with your support.

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
Martha's Village and Kitchen
lbarrack@marthasvillage.org



Please keep this letter as your receipt for your generosity. NOTE: As required by IRS regulations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code we provide this information as a written acknowledgement of your donation to Martha's Village & Kitchen (Tax ID 33-0777892). No goods or services were rendered for your contribution.

PLEASE CONSIDER MARTHA'S VILLAGE & KITCHEN IN YOUR PLANNED GIVING



January 30, 2019

Western Motor Home Association Inc.
3500 Skyview Drive
Auburn, CA 95602

Dear Kurt Simon,

In our astonishingly beautiful community of majestic mountains and bright blue skies, hunger hides in plain sight.

While it isn't always easy to see, it is indeed a harsh reality for an average of 85,000 residents each month across the Coachella Valley. That is why we are so grateful for your donation to FIND Food Bank. Thanks to you, many of the children, adults, and seniors we serve won't go to bed hungry tonight.

Your support is especially important for working families who increasingly turn to FIND Food Bank to help make ends meet. Most of them have jobs. Some have 2 or even 3 jobs, but they're most likely part-time. These working families are just one flat tire, one toothache, or one unexpectedly large utility bill away from having to stand in line at a local food pantry. **Because of YOU**, FIND Food Bank will be there to help.

Your gift of **\$1043.50** helps FIND Food Bank provide 10+ million meals to our Coachella Valley neighbors annually. With the generosity of donors like you, we expect to stay on track to distribute 10+ million pounds of food this year across our valley.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Debbie Espinosa, President and CEO

P.O. Box 10080 ● Indio, CA 92202 ■ 760-775-3663 ● FINDFoodBank.org

No goods or services were provided in exchange for your contributions.
For tax-reporting purposes, FIND Food Bank's federal tax ID # is 33-0006007.

MEMBER OF
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Alpine Coach NorCal
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California
California Capitals & Bay Area
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California Coaches for Christ
California Coasters
California Cruisers
California FMCA HMC
California Heartland
California Pacers
Colorado River Ramblers
Crafty Crafters
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Frustrated Maestros
GMC Forty Niners
GMC Pacific Cruisers
Gold Diggers
Gold Dust Travelers
Golden Spike
Golden State Trackers
Komfort Cruisers
Midweek Wanderers
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NorCalRex
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Southwestern Bus Nuts
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Western Bus Nuts
Western GM Coach

Western Motor Home Association, Inc. Executive Board 2019

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