

# California Heartland News

## FMCA's 103rd. International Convention and RV Expo



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Even though the months of June and July were dark for official rallies, there were plenty of other activities going on involving the Club and many of our Members. **Julie Burger**, our National Representative to the FMCA governing body, had been preparing to attend the National Convention for several months. She left Visalia June 16th. With plans to make stops at relatives and friends on the way to Gillette. This Newsletter will focus mainly on her adventures. She has prepared a detailed report of the convention which follows below and continues on page 2.

### FMCA 103rd International Convention & RV Expo held in Gillette Wyoming National Director's Report

It may be an understatement to say as a first time National director I had a lot to learn. All my literature said the rally was from the 7th through the 12th of July 2021. My first learning curve is the fact that for all National directors it started on Monday the 5th. Luckily I had attended a pre-rally with Monaco International who held an afternoon seminar for all national directors the week before. This was my first indication of what a national director really was sent here to do.

We went over a booklet almost a hundred pages long that outlined in detail the bylaw Amendments proposed up for vote. The discussion was very

Lively and insights were certainly drawn over pros and cons.

To not get ahead of myself, My traveling Buddies became quite ill over the weekend due to high altitude illness and the 24-hour flu that required a trip to the walk in clinic and referral to the ER for tests on the fourth of July.

Arrangements were made for a flight home for two. I spent Monday after a very concerned and hectic weekend decontaminating my rig. Bedding including mattress pads and comforters were washed and dried. From ceilings to floors everything was scrubbed and disinfected. Tuesday morning was spent making sure George and Judy had arrived safely. Plus putting back the last reminisces of my cleaning efforts. ! I had missed Monday's FMCA area caucuses for the Western area. directors welcome and briefing.

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### Officers & Directors

- President Dave Mendonca
- Vice President Mike Davidson
- Secretary Sam Mendonca
- Treasurer Melanie Freeman
- Natal Director Julie Burger
- Asst. Natal Dir Kim Cummings
- Director (open)
- Director Marilyn Peterson
- Director Woody Wilson
- Wagon Master Louise Wilson
- Membership Sam Mendonca
- Immediate PP Sandy Emerson



*Julie's report continued on Page 2*

That afternoon I opened up my booklet to see what I was going to do the following day. Surprise! Surprise I had missed Monday's FMCA area caucuses for the Western area. Tuesday Morning the national directors welcome and briefing along with the directors Workshop and the chapter Fair. All a thing of the past.

However I was first in line Wednesday morning at 7:30 a.m. to register for the governing board registration. Our meeting started promptly on time with a quorum of 237 delegates attending of the 332 registered. All 19 standing rules were voted on and adopted. We went over the agenda. John Reynolds national treasure gave the treasuries and finance committee report for the fiscal year 2020. It was the first positive operating income year since 2013 with an income of \$7,309 for the year. The proposed budget for the years 2021 through 2022 also showing a surplus were voted and approved. Committee reports continued. The CEOs report to the executive board reported 74,918 current members to the board after a low in 2016 of 70,154. And did you know our FMCA assist medical emergency and Travel Assistance Program is underwritten by Lloyd's of London and is good anywhere in the world. We approved the ongoing contract with them.

Bylaws amendments that have been approved and passed include clarifying electronic governing board meetings when not able to have an international convention. 90-minute discussion resulted over one word..... " special"... And that was special!

The following list of FMCA conventions are now approved and under contract:

Winter 2022	Tucson, Arizona	March 23rd-26th
Summer 2022	Lincoln, Nebraska	August 24th-27th
Winter 2023	Perry, Georgia	March 15th-18th
Summer 2023	Gillette, Wyoming	August 23rd-26th
Winter 2025	Perry, Georgia	March 12th-15th
Summer 2027	Gillette, Wyoming	July 14th-17th

Approved was FMCA returning to Tucson, AZ and Lincoln, NE for 2024 Conventions pending successful negotiations and events in 2022.

Policy and procedure amendments were next. Commercial memberships will now be the same as family yearly dues, \$50.00 each. The statement of investment policy guidelines for the purpose of investing cash Reserves and investment guidelines were passed. Also passed was an amendment that allow chapters to change there status to eliminate the \$35 formation fee. This particularly pertains to accepting towables is part of your clubs bylaws.

Discussed and passed was reimbursement of \$50 to those that were not given the full refund on the Tucson International Convention cancellation occurring during covid-19 closure by order of the Arizona governor. Also passed was an amendment to allow the president planning committee to identify strategies for membership Recruitment and Retention. Also approved was to develop a committee to review Tech articles in the FMCA magazine.

John Walker National president gave his final report. He States it's imperative to keep membership and growth up. Also an operational budget that is solid and includes the assist program. He believes we should not borrow from the reserves, but keep the operation real, solid and achievable. **He then welcomed your new governing board of FMCA. Elected is Rett Porter National president; Gary Milner National senior vice president; Kathie Balogh National secretary; and Barbara Smith National Treasure.**

More details can be found on the FMCA website for those of you that would like to know more. However, this was my overview of the many important things that were passed. I did not go into detail on the things that we decline to pass due to the fact that our policies and procedures would not be changed or affected. We were dismissed at 5:15.

Thursday I attended the Western area Gathering that includes all the Golden State of California the silver state area of Reno Nevada and the Arizona Colorado River Ramblers chapter . Bob Golk vice-president of the western area and wife Debbie emceed the seminar. We each had a chance to talk about are chapters. I enjoyed telling about our California Heartland group and giving praise for all the work our club does in Indio. Bob made sure to mention that he was also a member of our chapter!

I hope that anyone following in my foot prints as the future National director will find some wisdom and help from this article . It has been quite an experience being your National director and an honor to serve.

Most sincerely, Julie Burger



**Dan Dieterich**, California Heartland member from Visalia, holds the fort down at our reserved space at the Chapter Fair. I think Dan was strolling by and noticed we weren't set up. We had materials to display but couldn't get coordinated. FMCA headquarters does email lists of new members to chapter secretaries close by for follow up to a chapter. Sam personally called 8 members and 5 were interested in receiving more information. Emails were sent.



General Membership meeting with the entire Governing Board and officers



Another new "Full Timer" ....the Dieterichs, Dan and Laurie . Dan said they had a great experience as First Time attendees at the FMCA Convention in Gillette. After the convention, they're headed home to Visalia, CA to finalize the sale of their home.

Then it's up Hwy. 101 into Oregon and working their way to South Dakota to set up "residency".

Good luck and congratulations. We hope your travels will cross paths with a California Heartland rally somewhere.



**FMCA**  
Your RVing Family

# Getting there is half the fun !

**Julie Burger**  
4d · 👤

The hospitality in Colorado is overwhelming.. as we were getting ready to leave, Shorty's buddy John delivered diesel right to the rig... you RV'ers can eat your heart out it was \$3.15 a gallon...

**Julie Burger**  
1h · 👤

This is the size of the Jaws that feed the coal trucks as shown to the right on my tour of the Eagle Butte Coal Mine in Gillette Wyoming

Our tour guide taking us on the eagle but coal mine tour about what to... the trucks are huge just looked at the size of the tires compared to me... part of the mining process is to restore the ground to Natural bubbles and they're rebuilding the mountain with The Dumping of regular topsoil.. the whole process is absolutely fascinating

**Julie Burger**  
20h · 👤

On our way through we stopped at the battleground of the Little Bighorn National Park and Monument... the ranger gave us a blow-by-blow description of how Sitting Bull with two thousand indian warriors overcame 8000 Calvary members at Custer's Last Stand. Grave sites remain on the top of the battlefield. The Indian drawings were done telling the story. The museum there shows many of them; these are just two.

👍👎 Sam Mendonca and 17 others 5 Comments

👍 Like      💬 Comment



# Get connected, stay informed, be involved:



**Facebook** is a great way to stay in the know, share information, and see pictures of our events. **Follow us at [www.facebook.com/californiaheartland](http://www.facebook.com/californiaheartland)**

**Flickr** is where you will find all the event pictures taken, We currently have over 5,800 pictures indexed over 21 Rallies.. Once inside the site, click on the Albums tab.. **Go to [www.flickr.com/photos/caheartland](http://www.flickr.com/photos/caheartland)**

**Western Motor Home Association WMHA** Family Western Motor Home Association of FMCA is located at <http://wafmca.com/>? **This website takes you deep inside the 50 chapters represented by the Western Association of FMCA. Check out the newsletters and websites of the chapters. Here's where you can find tons of pictures and histories of past Indio Rallies.**

CALIFORNIA HEARTLAND CHAPTER - FMCA  
Treasurer's Report 7/07/2021

Beginning Balance	Checkbook Balance as of May 15, 2021		\$ 6,425.86
Monies Received and Deposited			
05/24/2021	Dues	New Membership	26.00
	Total Received		26.00      26.00
Disbursements			
06/04/2021	3136	Julie Burger, FMCA Gillette	500.00
06/15/2021	3137	Dave Mendonca, Misc. Supplies	49.60
07/01/2021	3138	CeC Fischer, Heartland Badges	19.50
	Total Expenses		569.10    (569.10)
	Checkbook Balance		\$5,882.76

NOTES TO STATEMENT:

Advance deposits paid pending:  
 Orange Grove RV cancellation-roll over, 4/12/2019  
 Old Floating Deposit on file for Hanford Rallies  
 Casa De Fruta RV Park (\$50)

by: Melanie Freeman



## Presidents' Corner

“The Best is yet to come “

**W**ell here we are in the middle of summer and we have no official rally for the months of July and August. That doesn't mean that all the California Heartlanders stayed home. Not by any means.

The big activity was the 103rd International Convention in Gillette, Wyoming. Julie Burger, National Director for California Heartland Chapter, was our official representative at all the business meetings of the FMCA Governing body. I can't begin to thank Julie enough for her participation and the detailed report published in the first two pages of this News Letter. Over the top! Sam and I had hoped to attend the convention but medical fate kept us home as reported in the last news letter under Hospitality.

While on the subject of hospitality, we are not getting much feedback from members or friends about medical difficulties other members may be having. In any case, **our heartfelt Best Wishes** go out to those ailing for a speedy recovery.

Another topic I feel compelled to comment on is about volunteering to be a Trail Boss at one of our rallies. One should not be hesitant to step forward and try it. We have many seasoned members to help out and it really isn't all that hard. Whether it be sending out the rally flyer, establishing a budget, food selection and activities. Location, Location, Location and weather considerations. It's a chance to put your own stamp on The party. Believe me, we will help get you going and remember; the trail boss get a free registration (camping and food) as a stipend.

California Heartland holds an election for new officers and directors every two years at the Hanford Rally in November. We will be establishing a nominating committee very soon for balloting at our annual meeting in November. We elect a new board every two years...and year 2021 is an election year. Please keep an open mind about being an officer or director. I can't offer any pay but will say this is great time to help mold the direction of our RV club in it's 32nd year and beyond. New members bring fresh Ideas.

### November is election month at the rally in Hanford

As I continue to try to fill pages on the news letter, I invite your comments and opinions. Want to write an article about your trip or other, publish photos, recipes, place RV related items for sale, etc : Be my guest.

Sandy Emerson has agreed to take over the Hospitality chair for California Heartland RV. She will compile a report to be included in the current Newsletters. Please let her know when our members and club friends have reportable medical issues. I'm sure the rest of our RV Family would like to keep up. Please keep in mind that you must have the persons permission before we can publish. Contact Sandy at: gsemersonangels@aol.com Email

Cell Ph: (209) 401-1593

#### **By the way:**

Shirley Mendonca (SAM) is recovering nicely from her neck surgery. We expect to get the green light next week from the Neurosurgeon to travel. We'll start slow- there's a casino close by with a nice RV Park. Of course, we'll be doing research for a potential rally in the future.

## CALIFORNIA HEARTLAND FMCA - RALLY SCHEDULE 2021-2022

Date	Year	Venue Address	Trail Boss
August	2021	DARK	
September	2021	Grass Valley	Sandy Emerson Coordinating, Not Heartland Rally
October	2021	Not enough interest from Members to plan a Rally . Two Members going to Taft. One going to Hemet. No interest in other places. Several showed interest in going to the Balloon festival in October 2022. Expecting Mike Davidson to help with that. These are the results of the Questionnaire , 14 Responded. I'm concerned that we have an Interest Problem, partially due to Covid. Since Covid is behind us now, Let's start over!	
November	2021	Hanford Fairgrounds, Hanford, CA	Mendoncas & Davidsons
December 7-10,	2021	Orange Grove Park, Bakersfield, CA	Julie Burger & Kovachenkos
January	2022	Western Area FMCA Indio, CA	WMHA At this time Indio WMHA Rally is questionable. The new management at the Indio Fairgrounds hasn't approved a Contract yet.
February	2022	DARK	
March 8-11	2022	Casa De Fruta RV Hollister, CA	Steve & Cindy Murray
April	2022	If enough interest Golden Village Palms	Hemet, CA
May	2022		

Possibly : October , 2022 Albuquerque, NM Balloon Festival or  
 October , 2022 Oxnard, CA Seaside Highland Games Will discuss later.  
 May , 2022 Black Oak RV Park Sonora, CA  
 June , 2022 Jackson Rancheria Jackson, CA

**Call Louise Wilson with comments or concerns: 661-706-3686 Cell (L)**

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR RALLY TRAIL BOSS. CALL IF YOU WANT TO TRAIL BOSS AT A PARTICULAR VENUE OR DATE AND I WILL BOOK IT FOR YOU.

**Melanie and I**, traveled with **Ed & Judy Wristen** to Eagle Lake for a campout with the Cal Fire Wagon Train. The first night we stayed at the Durango RV Resort in Red Bluff, which would make for a nice rally location. They have a huge pool, clubhouse and barbeque patio, located right on the Sacramento River. The next morning we continued on to Eagle Lake, up out of Susanville, and arrived at Merrill Campground. If you ever get the chance, I really recommend this campsite. It is a USFS campground in the pines, right on the lake, with full hookups. We would start each day paddle boarding on the lake and enjoying the wildlife. The water is so clear you can see the trout swimming about, and the pelicans will come right up to you. We spent our days eating, playing Corn Hole, Bocce Ball, Croquet, and then eating some more. One evening we had a Dutch Oven Cook Off. The local firemen came in to judge all the tasty concoctions. I was amazed at how many entries there were. Melanie was deemed the winner with her South-western Chicken. I must point out she won the Chili Cook Off the previous year. She is getting quite the reputation for being a good cook. Melanie and I left camp one day and went to the **Susanville Bluegrass Festival**, where we hooked up with **Jerry & Barbara Rutch**. It was a great day sitting in the shade of the trees listening to fine music. Heading home at the conclusion of the campout, the Wristens, Pingrees, and us, stayed at the Elks Lodge in Lodi, where we finished the 14 day trip with a nice restaurant dinner. Now that we are home, we are preparing for our next adventure, 14 days at a resort in Cabo San Lucas. We are looking forward to seeing all of our California Heartland friends, and hearing what adventures you have been on. Be safe out there!!!



Mike Davidson



Melanie Freeman



Mike's turn on the board.

**Michael Davidson** and **Melanie Freeman** made it to the Susanville Bluegrass Festival and hooked up with Jerry and **Barbara Rutch**. Maybe we can get a rally up here next year.



Michael Davidson

**Jean Pellicano**  
16 hrs · 🌐

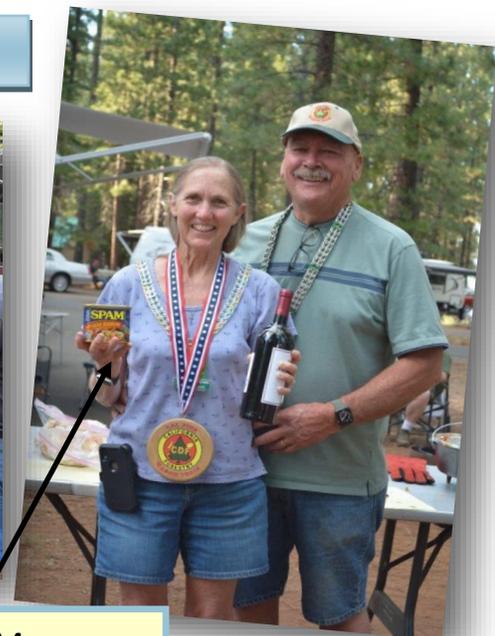
**LOOK** what we found!!!! Turtle was crossing the road. we stopped the car Floyd got out and put it out of harm's way. Is that not the sweetest thing? 🐢🐢 The Oliver and VW. Floyd wanted Oliver me the little yellow bug.

The lineup today is Central Valley Boys, Nu-Blu, Keith Little and the Little Band, Westwind, High Plains Tradition, Steve Spurgin, Hillbilly Fever, & Fast Track. Look them up and give a listen.



More Photos





Sizzle, Pork, And Mmmmm

### Ingredients

- 2½ cups chicken, cooked and chopped
  - 2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese, divided
  - 1 10¾ oz. can cream of mushroom soup
  - 1 10¾ oz. can cream of celery soup
  - 1 10 oz. can RoTel Diced Tomatoes and Green Chilies, undrained
  - 1 4 oz. can diced green chilies
  - ¾ cup sliced green onions
  - 10 flour tortillas (8 inch), cut into small piece
- 1 tbsp sliced green onions for garnish

### Instructions

1. Lightly oil or spray Dutch oven. You can also line with tin foil and coat with a non-stick spray. Combine chicken, 1 cup cheese, both soups, undrained tomatoes, green chilies and the ¾ cup green onions in large bowl.
2. Mix tortilla wedges into chicken mixture. Spoon mixture into prepared Dutch oven.
3. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until bubbling and hot. Top with remaining 1 cup cheese, bake for 5 minutes or until cheese has melted.
4. Let sit for 10-15 minutes before serving. Garnish with 1 tablespoon green onions.

### Dutch Oven Southwestern Chicken, Author Chelsey

**APPLE DUMPLINGS: From Julie K, to Louise Wilson From Wilson’s Rally in Shafter 2021**

2 Granny Smith Apples	2 8 ounce cans Crescent Roll Dough
1 Cup (2 Sticks) Butter	1 ½ Cups Sugar
1 ½ tsp Vanilla Extract	1 12- ounce can Mountain Dew Soda
to taste	Ground Cinnamon
	Vanilla or Cinnamon Ice Cream for serving

Heat Oven to 350 degrees

Peel the Apples, Core them, Cut into 8 Slices . Wrap each wedge in one piece of Crescent Roll Dough, beginning at the wide end and ending at the point. Place the rolls, seam side down, in a buttered 8 x 10 inch baking dish. Melt the butter in a medium saucepan over low heat. Add the sugar and vanilla , stir for a few minutes, no need to dissolve the sugar, you want the mixture to be grainy. Pour the butter, sugar mixture evenly over the top. Next pour the can of Mountain Dew all over the top. It’ll look liquidy and weird but don’t worry, it’ll make sense in the end. Finally sprinkle the cinnamon all over the top . Bake 40 minutes or until golden brown. Serve the dumplings with vanilla Ice Cream and spoon some of the syrup from the bottom of the pan. Substitute ripe peach, pear or apricot slices. Substitute ginger ale or lemon lime soda for the Mountain Dew

You won’t believe how good these are. No, really. You seriously won’t believe it! (from the author)

Recipe for SPINACH SALAD

From Nancy to Louise Wilson via Julie Kirschenmann 2021  
From Wilson's Rally in Shafter

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| ¼ C Sugar                  | 2 Bunches Spinach                            |
| 2 tsp Worcestershire Sauce | 2 Hard Boiled Eggs, Sliced into small pieces |
| 1 C Oil                    | 5 Slices Bacon, cooked & Crumbled            |
| ¼ C Vinegar                | Sliced Mushrooms                             |
| ½ C Ketchup                | Sliced Water Chestnuts                       |
|                            | 1/2 Red Onion, Diced                         |

Mix above Ingredients well then pour over



*Don't ask the Editor...*

Must be good stuff though, photo  
submitted by Dan Dieterich



Saturday night entertainment at FMCA Convention, Gillette, Wy