



President's Message



Fond farewell...

Hello Everyone,

I hope that you all have been practicing safe and sane health during these trying times. It's been reported that some chapters have beaten back cabin fever by getting in their RVs and heading out to places where there are trees

and green grass and meeting with friends...that's what RVing is about!

FMCA News:

FMCA Headlines this past month have been either COVID-19 or the budget. Mostly it's been about the 2021 budget and the heavy losses in membership and revenue. On June 5, 2020, the Executive Board (includes me) passed a budget that consisted of keeping the FMC Assist program, adding a \$10 FMCA liability insurance assessment charge to every RV that attends any Area Rally and keeping the dues at \$75 per year - these were just some of the heavy hitters. Well, the budget was passed but it also resulted in a \$230,000 deficit. Passing a budget having a deficit has actually happened twice in FMCA and as recently as October, 2011. We took this action based on the voting results of the Minot Governing Board and survey information we had in hand at the time of our voting.

Well, the Executive Board has gone back to the drawing board, and we've been working on a budget correction. Based on President Walker's letter dated 7/13/2020 the write-in comments have been about two to one in favor of dropping the Assist Benefit and reducing the dues to \$50. Of course the budget would be balanced with a small surplus. There sure was a lot of folks on both sides of the Assist benefit fence who wanted it gone to save FMCA from failure or wanted it as an important benefit to our RVing members. We will continue to keep you informed.

WHMA News:

It is with great disappointment that we must announce that the WMHA Executive Board has decided to cancel our upcoming 33rd Western Area Rally, which was scheduled for January 6-12, 2021. There were just too many obstacles to overcome. The fairgrounds are being used as a federal medical station. Indio is one of two such stations in the state. We found the earliest the feds are planning to leave would be December 31, 2020, and only if there wasn't a spike in new cases. With only 3 days to prepare for our rally and having to work within CA and CDC COVID guidelines it was just too much for us to handle at this time. The health and safety of our members must be first and foremost. The good news is that the Rally is being postponed until January 12-16, 2022. The theme remains the same...*In The Land Of Oz*.

The new WMHA Executive Board was installed on June 23, 2020, during a two-day WMHA Executive Board meeting via Zoom. A letter was sent out earlier to all chapters announcing the new officers. They are: WMHA Senior VP, Dave Franke; Secretary, Carole Hazeltine; Treasurer, Dale

President's Message (Con't)

Ford; Northern VP, James McDaniel; Central VP, Rick Ammerman; Southern VP, Jesse Bassford. Bob Golk was elected in May as the new Western Area President and on August 29, 2020, will be installed as the new FMCA National Vice President of the Western Area. Congratulations to all of the new officers.

Well, that about does it for me. As of August 29, 2020, I term out of office. I have had a great ride these past 10 years serving on the WMHA Board, with the last 4 years serving as your WMHA President and FMCA National VP, Western Area. I very much enjoyed serving the needs of all of our members and the work involved setting up the Indio Rallies. In doing so Christine and I have met the most wonderful people!

I would like to thank all chapter members who have supported the Western Area and all the Indio Captains for contributing your time and effort given unselfishly for the fun of the rally. I also would like to thank the many volunteers who stand at doorways, give directions, set up stuff, all the vendors, and those that continuously set up and tear down tables and chairs. I would like to thank those that slosh around in the rain, mud, and hot sun to get RVs off the road and parked. Thank you to the Volunteers that held various committee positions and ran the website. There are so many to thank and not enough paper BUT PLEASE KNOW how thankful I am of everyone's service. I also want to thank all the patrons that attend the rallies just to have a good time.

I need also to thank the outgoing Executive Board for their unwavering support of the Western Area. They are just the Best Bunch of folks to work with! My sincere gratitude to Bob Golk (SR VP moving up to Prez), Carole Hazeltine (remains as Secretary - the keeper of all lists), Kurt Simon (a true Rocket Scientist as Treasurer), Steve Shade (Northern VP - has friends everywhere), Fred Wells (Central VP - always there first and ready to go), Dave Franke (Southern VP moving up to SR VP). I'd like to thank Dick Gibbs (recently passed) who was the Immediate Past President of WMHA for his guidance, for showing all of us what great fun there is to RVing with family and friends and the rewards for serving the members in the Western Area and FMCA.

Lastly I would like to thank Christine, my lovely wife, for her gracious support through the years.

Please give Bob Golk the love and support that you've shown me...he will serve you well!

HAPPY & SAFE TRAVELS...ALWAYS,



LON CROSS, F233066
Western Area NATIONAL VP of FMCA
WMHA PRESIDENT

Dates to Save

March 10-13, 2021	102 nd FMCA Convention, Perry, GA
July 7-10, 2021	103 rd FMCA Convention, Gillette, WY
January 12-16, 2022	WMHA Area Rally, Indio, CA (Theme: <i>In The Land of Oz</i>)



President Elect's Views



I am writing this as a “man without a country” so to speak. I am no longer your WMHA Senior VP but I also am not yet sworn in as your new WMHA President and FMCA National Area VP. That will take place at the end of August. So, I was sitting back thinking about the path that has led me to where you have elected me to take on the office of WMHA President.

being Central Area VP?” I guess you can say the rest is history.

So here I am, poised to assume command of the greatest area in FMCA, the Western Area. I am humbled by the fact you all have put your trust in me to take the helm of this organization. I am really looking forward to when things get back to normal and I can once again work with all the wonderful people in the Western Area.

Until then, safe travels to you all.

Bob Golk , F316752
WMHA President Elect

When we joined FMCA back in 2002 I didn't know much about the organization but at least we got a monthly magazine out of the deal. Then one day we got a letter from FMCA announcing the formation of a new chapter and that we were invited to be a part of that. We jumped at the chance to be involved in forming a new RV club. We soon learned that they are called “chapters” in FMCA. Thus was born the Golden State Trackers. In that first year I was asked if I would like to come to Indio and volunteer to work “Tables & Chairs.” I had no idea what they were talking about but intrigued, I said yes. When we arrived at Indio we were overwhelmed with what we saw. We had no idea something like this was taking place. The first night of entertainment the emcee welcomed everyone and introduced the WMHA President. He in turn brought a bunch of people on stage, all dressed alike in tan trousers and black monogrammed shirts and introduced them as the WMHA officers. Wow I thought. All these people, stage, spotlights, music, entertainment and not in my wildest dreams did I ever think that one day I would be that person on the stage doing introductions and making announcements.

This path started one evening over the campfire at one of our chapter rallies. I had served as Vice President and then two terms as chapter President and was in my final months of my term. The late Bobby Donald was in attendance at our rally and I leaned over to Bobby and said, “Hey Bobby, I'm finishing up as chapter president. What else can I do now to further my activity with FMCA?” He answered, “How about



Senior Vice President's Message



In the late 1950s, early '60s, there was a lighthearted sitcom on TV starring William Bendix, "The Life of Riley." This character consistently got himself into one predicament after another. As his frustration and confusion grew, he eventually would say "What a revolten development have I gotten myself into." By now you're trying to figure out, what does that have to do with

anything. Well, let me explain, or attempt to. I sit here basically confined to my home due to COVID 19. Yes, I get out for grocery shopping, as that's how Marilyn and I have agreed to do things. But "what a revolten development," that's about the only place I can go.

Our 10-year-old Border Collie mix ruptured a disc in his neck. The sounds he made going to the veterinary neurologist would stop the stoutest of hearts. He gave us one heck of a "revolten development."

But sitcoms in those years always ended on a positive note, and so has our adventure into a "revolten development."

During this COVID period we've used our motor home twice. First was to Mt Lakes, a membership campground that has restricted amenities and specific rules. But nevertheless, it provided a change of scenery, relaxation, a brief escape. With the motor home sitting idle for a month or more, I was gratefully surprised and thankful everything worked, no "revolten development."

Our other motor home outing was a brief local trip to celebrate my daughter and son-in-law's one-year wedding anniversary. Adhering to all the suggested mask and distancing rules, we had a great time. Again, no "revolten development."

As the sitcom ends and all is well, the best of all events has occurred. The Presidents and National Directors of the Western Motor Home Association have elected me as their Senior Vice President. Your support, faith, and confidence is humbling and while I'll do my best, you must help me know your desires and concerns. While we say "feel free to call or text," I seriously mean this. Your assistance will help me ensure your opinions and thoughts are heard. Thank you for your vote of confidence.

Dave Franke, F443367
Sr. Vice President
Western Motor Home Association



Southern Area Vice President's Message



After my election to the WMHA Southern Area Vice President's seat, I recently sent an introduction email to the Southern Area Chapter Presidents. In my email, I noted my wife, Carol, and I were in the middle of moving to Menifee, California. After 43 years in the same home in Ontario, California,

we decided to move close to the grandchildren and torment them for a while. (Might as well torment grandkids! Can't use the RV much!) Besides, telling my 15 year old granddaughter she can't date until she is 25 is fun. My 19 year old granddaughter is already seeing a nice young man. (Too bad they can't marry until she is 35!) I'm looking into my 12 year old grandson's future as well. (The Marine Corps is preferable, but the branch of service is up to him.)

Temporarily, we stayed with our oldest daughter until our new home in Menifee was ready. I think 3 weeks of tormenting my oldest daughter about her teen years was enough. Now I can work on three grandkids about their futures and how grandpa wants them to go.

It occurs to me that most of us were probably raised in the '40s, '50s and '60s. So our current issues of war, politics, international problems, a virus and social unrest is nothing new. If we think back long enough, I'm sure we can recall similar issues in our youth. Sure, this time in history is probably more noted because we have more communication outlets than ever before. (I just found out I should not shake my cell phone when it freezes up.)

However, I am a glass half full and God fearing kind of guy. I strongly believe in the adage that goes "This too shall pass." Why things happen as they do is not up to me. I firmly

believe in our American way of life, with all its frailties. Wars end, politicians come and go, viruses will be controlled and social unrest will both change things and also be a thing of history.

FMCA/WMHA is going through its own dark days. However, the nature of camping and human contact will, in the end, come back stronger and more vibrant. I believe there is a reality of what happens when we are stopped from doing what we love doing. Camping is part of American freedom and freedom is something Americans will never give up.

I am, however, very unhappy about one thing. My RV sits there with tears in her windshield eyes and a smell I can't find. (I'm sure I cleaned the refer like Carol told me!!!???) Carol and I miss the friends we have made in our camping trips. I enjoy the education of how people take care of their RVs and towables. I miss the games. Well, stay positive. This too shall pass.

Jesse Bassford, F44869
Southern Area Vice President



Northern Area Vice President's Message



Hello to all

My name is James McDaniel. I am your newly elected Northern Area Vice President. My wife, Janie, and I are very excited to visit and participate in each of your chapter rallies. However, due to COVID-19 we are all constrained by not being able to get together at this time.

Since having been elected, the team and I have been busy planning the 2021 Indio Rally. However, due to COVID-19 the rally has been postponed until 2022. In the meantime, I have a lot to learn regarding the planning of WMHA rallies, how to communicate with each chapter, and how to best present issues or concerns to our Vice President. It is my goal to be as transparent as possible and establish a strong relationship with each chapter.

As Northern Area Vice President, I truly want to represent each and every one of you to the best of my ability.

Our Journey:

My wife and I have been members of FMCA since 2004, the same year we purchased our first motor home. For 10 years, I took my family to various RV shows and factories in Oregon to look at different motor homes, as I dreamed of owning one myself. Finally, after my wife, Janie, agreed, we happily purchased our first RV. I did everything possible to ensure our RVing experience was the best. Our first FMCA rally we attended was in Pomona, Ca. Learning all about our first RV and attending our first rally was challenging and a bit stressful, yet exciting all at the same time. What we enjoyed most were all the activities we could participate in and all the helpful RVers willing to show us the ropes. Now that we have experience under our belts we have completely immersed ourselves into the

RV lifestyle. We have traveled across the great United States with a caravan of our closest friends and have been accompanied by our wonderful grandchildren.

We are looking forward to many trips and activities with our friends and families, as well as getting to know you all through the various rallies and activities. But for now, I hope and pray no one is impacted by the virus and that you all stay safe.

Hope to see you soon.

James McDaniel, F371784
WMHA Northern VP



Central Area Vice President's Message



Hello everyone. Let me introduce myself, Rick Ammerman, your new Central Area VP. Not much to report on so I will start with some of my background. I am a retired small business owner of 25 years. I owned and operated an automotive repair facility in Loma Linda, Ca., performing repairs on Automotive,

Marine and RV's. I still do a little repair work but mostly on my own stuff. I do work part time at my son-in-law's race engine shop. My wife, Paula, is retired from California State University at San Bernardino, Ca. We have three children, Stacey, Christopher and Elizabeth (Libby). We have seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Trying to keep up with the great grandkids is becoming a little more difficult with age. We just came back from a 14-day camping trip to the Big Bear, Ca., area and had a great time, except for the moth issue. There were at least one million of those little pests.

I just completed my first official board meeting for the Western Area. It was very interesting, to say the least. I learned a lot about how our great area is run. I'm looking forward to serving as your Central Area VP. Filling the shoes of Fred Wells won't be easy, but I'll do my best.

You will need to check our website for some new procedures for the upcoming rally season. Go to <http://www.wafmca.com> and check out the new information available. If you need help with any problems that arise, all you need to do is send an email or a phone call and I will do my best to help you through it.

Remember to smile and have fun. Stay safe and healthy.

Rick Ammerman, F442485
WMHA Central VP





MEMBERSHIP/ CHAPTER FAIR

I'm still sending e-mails to the new members of Western Area of FMCA. The numbers went down for a month or two but are coming back up.

It's not too early for your chapter to think about having a table at Indio for Chapter Fair. It doesn't have to be fancy – the main idea is to get the name of your chapter out there. It helps if you have a couple of you to answer questions and if you have a newsletter and some pictures of what you do that interests people. And of course everyone likes the free candy (but I bet half of them shouldn't be eating it). Some chapters sign up new members and some get some good leads and if they don't join at that time some people like to think about the information they get.

Don't forget that the National office can help you with mailing for new members.

I am still looking for someone who would like to do the Membership/Chapter Fair position. It isn't hard and doesn't take a lot of time but it is interesting to meet the new people and to see where our new members are from. The only reason I am looking for someone is that I have done this for about 10 years and am getting older and would like to see someone take it over before I need to give it up. I would be willing to give you any help you might want. Just contact me if you are interested either by e-mail – bernardfrogfarm@yahoo.com, cell phone 530-519-7346 or talk to me at Indio.

Also if there is anyone who would like to be the Volunteer Coordinator for the same reason (haven't done it as many years) I would like to have someone think of doing this position.

I have really enjoyed the years I have worked in WMHA and hope to continue to help but would like to see someone else have the pleasure of volunteering.

Alice Bernard, F079098
Membership, Volunteer Coordinator
and 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.



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...



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 FlickrR 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-](http://www.flickr.com/photos/12765661@N06/5362080447/in/set-72157625715483763/)

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

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.

**Next Byways
Due Date is
October 15, 2020**

A note from the editor:

First off, I would like to thank everyone for their support over the years that I have done this job. I have to say that I really enjoyed doing this. Not just putting the newsletter together, but getting to read everyone's newsletters that are sent in for competition was fun. It's neat to see how all the chapters spend time at their rallies.

I would also like to thank Pete Jautaikis for offering to take over the Newsletter Editor position. From now on, chapters will send their newsletters to him at newsletterwmha@gmail.com. I am sure that Pete will enjoy reading all of the adventures as much as I did.

I would like to thank Lon for proofreading my Byways before they go to the "big guys" at FMCA. It's nice to have a second set of eyes!

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at Indio again when we get back to it all in 2022. Hopefully all of this COVID stuff will be over and life will be back to normal as we knew it.

Thanks again,
Debbie Golk
Western Byways Newsletter Editor (Outgoing)

Indio Captains needed!

Do you want something else to do at our Indio rally? Do you feel a need to get involved? Would you like a challenge? Well, we have an opportunity for you. We are in need of the following Indio Captains:

- Volunteer Dinner & Vendor Party**
- Sign Shop & Sign Shop Assistant**
- On-Site Registration**
- Day Pass**
- Information Desk**
- Donations**

If you have any questions or would like more information on these exciting and challenging positions feel free to contact Lon Cross at 661-886-5077 or Bob Golk at 661-599-3548 and thanks in advance for stepping up.

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 FMCA HMC
California Heartland
California Pacers
Camping Squares
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 2020

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Immediate Past President (As of 29 Aug 2020)

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