

KEEPING IN TOUCH

FMCA
Your RVing Family
www.fmca.com

A CHAPTER SERVICES DEPARTMENT PUBLICATION



MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL SECRETARY

Winter 2024

I guess it is true what they say: Time flies when you're having fun. Terry and I had a great time last year with our FMCA Family, attending Chapter and Area Rallies and two International Conventions.

Thank you for all the support leading up to my election at the FMCA International Convention in Gillette, Wyoming. I look forward to the next two years, as your National Secretary, a member of the Executive Board, and especially working with and supporting the Area and Chapter Secretaries.

Terry and I look forward to spending time in 2024 at the International Conventions in Tucson, Arizona, and Redmond, Oregon, along with several Area and Chapter Rallies. Our first stop is a weekend in January with the Florida Roll'n Gators in Crystal River, Florida. In February we travel to the Southeast Area Rally in Lakeland, Florida, and then we are off to the 108th International Convention in Tucson, Arizona. I hope you have registered for the International Convention in Tucson. If not, there is still time to complete your registration.

I will facilitate a Secretaries' Roundtable in Tucson. The date, time and location have not yet been determined. The Secretaries' Roundtable is a great opportunity to discuss topics of interest or areas of concerns that the Chapter and Area Secretaries may have. To make the Roundtable as productive as possible, I would like your input for the agenda. Please let me know of any special topics that you would like to discuss or if you have any areas of concern. Also the Roundtable is open to everyone. If you have someone who is interested in becoming a Secretary, please ask them to join us.

Please do not forget that the Area and Chapter Certifications, along with the Officer and Roster updates, are due the end of December. The forms are located in the DOCUMENTS AND FORMS section of the FMCA website. If you need any help, please feel free to contact me.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at prichard@fmca.com or 513-220-6350. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season along with a safe and happy new year.

Have Fun and Safe Travels,
Pamela

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pamela J. Richard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CHAPTER ANNIVERSARIES

October, November & December

10 Years

Certificate

Shalom Roamers (12/23)

20 YEARS

Certificate

Gold Dust Travelers (10/4)

Carolina Heartlanders (10/4)

Bluebonnet Travelers (10/11)

Coaches for Christ Eastern (10/18)

Rolling Red Hatters (10/18)

Lake Ashton Travelers (11/25)

25 YEARS

Certificate & \$100 Check

Discovery Club of California (11/4)

30 YEARS

Certificate & \$150 Check

Wanna-Go's (10/30)

35 YEARS

Certificate & \$200 Check

Spinning Wheels (10/26)

GMC Dixielanders (11/5)

Maine Wheels (11/22)

40 YEARS

Certificate & \$250 Check

GMC Cascaders (12/15)

Knot Fore Buses Only (12/15)

45 YEARS

Certificate & \$300 Check

Paumanack (10/1)

Will you help us help you? ...

- * **The following items are imperative for Chapter administration!**
 - All Chapter secretaries **MUST** have an email address and phone number on file with FMCA!
 - Chapter contact – must be someone who will quickly respond to inquiries.
 - Chapter and Area Secretaries – **shall report new chapter officers within 30 days of an election**, per the National Bylaws, Article XVII, (8), and Policy and Procedure #3020, Chapter Secretary's Responsibilities.
 - Please check your chapter description and make sure it is up to date. We recommend it be very short; no more than five sentences. Members looking for chapters may only read the first two sentences unless they are looking for your specific chapter!
 - Copilots **MUST** be on the membership records to be covered by FMC Assist! This is FMCA's medical emergency and travel assistance program. Please ask your members to update their membership record. If a copilot is not listed in FMCA's records, *they are not covered by the policy!*
 - Would you be interested in chapter officer educational videos? We are trying to explore new ways to help chapter officers. If we keep the videos short, would you be interested in watching? What should we cover in the videos? What other ways can we help you?



Rallies are Supposed to be FUN!

After all, that's why you have the RV anyway - to have fun! Getting together with friends is a bonus. When you get together, it's nice to see long-time friends and meet new ones too. Each of FMCA's chapters has its unique qualities. There are so many types of chapters, and chapter rallies. Does your chapter have potlucks? Does your chapter play games? Does your chapter do something special that you don't just see every-day? (We'd like to know, and please share photos!) Let's encourage our chapters to schedule chapter rallies at FMCA Commercial Member Campgrounds, too. Show your support for FMCA, and all of its members. Use your chapter banner when you rally. Let people see the FMCA logo. Maybe they'll come and ask you about it. Encourage new attendees to your rally. You could live longer! A July 2010 study by Brigham Young University reports that "social connections - friends, family, neighbors or colleagues - improve our odds of survival by 50 percent." What? . . . just meeting people and having fun, who knew?



Call the FMCA National Office to see how we can help you with your recruiting efforts. It just may help you live longer.

Reminder! Don't forget to sign up for the **Chapter Fair in Tucson, AZ**. You don't want to miss a great opportunity to get the word out about your exciting chapter!

Contact Leah Timmers, ltimmers@fmca.com to get signed up!

The "**CHAPTER BYLAWS FORMAT**" is intended to serve as a reference for FMCA chapters forming or revising their bylaws. The model document contains the basic provisions that conform to FMCA National Bylaws and are binding upon chapters. The Chapter Bylaws Format is available on FMCA's website in the Documents and Forms section, which requires a member sign-in.

CHAPTER SERVICES IS HERE TO HELP

Items we can help you with are listed below:

- Area Newsletters
- Bylaws
- Chapter Anniversary Materials
- Chapter Certification
- Chapter Directory
- Chapter Formation
- Election Questions
- Rally Insurance Certificates
- Recruitment Mailings

Penny Gortemiller, Director of Chapters & Governance
Extension 238
pgortemiller@fmca.com

Danielle Powell, Chapter Services Assistant
Extension 232
dpowell@fmca.com

Leah Timmers, Chapter Services Coordinator
Extension 233
ltimmers@fmca.com

HOW DO I UPDATE MY CHAPTER MEMBERS' INFORMATION?

Please note that individual members are responsible for updating their own information with FMCA. They can update the information online at FMCA.com. Once logged in, they can click the Membership drop-down, then click Profile on the left side of the page. Or they can email membership@fmca.com.

MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS?

Call (800) 543-3622
membership@fmca.com



Upcoming Events

**FMCA 108th INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION & RV EXPO**

March 20-23, 2024

Tucson, Arizona

**FMCA 109th INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION & RV EXPO**

August 14-17, 2024

Redmond, Oregon

SOUTHEAST AREA RALLY

February 7-10, 2024

Lakeland, FL

INTERNATIONAL AREA RALLY

May 17-21, 2024

Muskogee, OK

GREAT LAKES AREA RALLY

June 5-9, 2024

Greenville, OH

NORTHEAST AREA RALLY

July 11-14, 2024

Essex, VT

MIDWEST AREA RALLY

July 24-27, 2024

Amana, IA

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

CONTACT CHAPTER SERVICES

513-474-3622

800-543-3622

chapters@fmca.com

VISIT US ONLINE: WWW.FMCA.COM

Please feel free to use any
articles in this newsletter.

DO YOU HAVE

SOMETHING TO SHARE?

Please send letters, comments, and articles to FMCA Chapter Services,

8291 Clough Pike, Cincinnati, OH 45244;

fax them to 513-474-2332; or email them to chapters@fmca.com.

Please let us know if we can use articles from your area's/chapter's publications. Articles used for publication may be edited for space and clarity, and they will also appear on FMCA's website: www.fmca.com.