



Eastern Area Motorhome Association



Eastern Area News from Otho

September 2011

FMCA NEWS

FMCA's 86th Family Reunion and Motorhome Showcase "Family A'Fair" ended on Saturday, August 13th, 2011. Alice and I were looking forward to visiting our grandchildren and great-grandchildren in Illinois afterward, but our motorhome had other ideas. As I write this *Newsletter*, we just left Mt. Vernon, IL, after ten days of being towed five times; three repair facilities; a new fuel pump, which went bad after 160 miles and had to be replaced; and other related parts. I don't need to tell you how expensive all of this has been!

That's enough bad news on my part. Let's get on with the positive things at the convention. The Alliant Energy Center in Madison, WI, was a great venue. Some of the family members were parked about three miles from the Center in a naturally beautiful area named Lake Farm Park. I visited with some of the ones parked there. They all were happy with the quiet, beautiful location. Bus service went regularly between there, the campground and the Alliant Energy Center. The seminar rooms in the Exhibition Hall were outstanding. Indoor vendors were in the same building, which made it very convenient for our family members. To make things even better, the coach display area was in the parking lot adjacent to the Exhibition Hall.

The attendance at Madison: Family Member coaches – 1,809, exhibitor live-ins – 101, display/demo coaches – 233, for a grand total of 2,143 coaches.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Dane County was selected to be the recipient of this year's charity. "Purses for a Purpose" was a resounding success. Everyone enjoyed bidding on the silent auction for the purses and their contents. Over \$2,000 was raised for this worthy cause.

Eastern Area Motorhome Association Officers



President
Otho Tew,
F152425

Senior Vice President
John Reynolds, F171042

Northern Regional Vice President
John Breisch, F258217

Central Regional Vice President
Jerry Cohen, F259701

Southern Regional Vice President
Gaye Young, F284657

Western Regional Vice President
Bill Gunther, F43475D

Secretary
Mary Hunter, F351247

Treasurer
Bob Holliday, F96151

Immediate Past President
Judy Czarsty, F79148

This was election year for National Officers. The Governing Board elected:

National President – Charlie Schrenkel
National Senior Vice President – Allen Rein
National Secretary – Vicky Ferrari (from our own Eastern Area)
National Treasurer – Wil Young (re-elected)

At the Annual Membership Meeting the newly elected Area Vice Presidents were installed:

Midwest Area – Bob Nebel
Rocky Mountain Area – Harry Montgomery
South Central Area – Charlie Adcock
Southeast Area – Ralph Marino
Northeast Area – Paul DuBois (re-elected)

The Governing Board voted not to have a winter convention in 2013 in Pomona, CA. This does not mean that FMCA will have only one convention a year in the future. FMCA's 87th Family Reunion and Motorhome Showcase will be at the Indiana State Fairgrounds, Indianapolis, IN, August 27th - 30th, 2012. The Governing Board also adopted the 2011 - 2012 fiscal year budget.

FMCA's 88th Family Reunion and Motorhome Showcase will be held in Hutchinson, KS, in 2013. The dates have not been announced as yet. We are very excited about this Convention, which will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of our great organization.

EASTERN AREA MOTORHOME ASSOCIATION

The Annual Meeting of the Eastern Area Motorhome Association will be held at GEAR 2011, Dixie Classic Fairgrounds, Winston-Salem, NC, October 22nd. Election of officers will take place. Running for re - election are:

Senior Vice President John Reynolds
Secretary Mary Hunter
Treasurer Bob Holliday
Northern Regional Vice President John Breisch
Central Regional Vice President Jerry Cohen
Southern Regional Vice President Gaye Young
Western Regional Vice President Bill Gunther

If you would like to nominate someone or are willing to serve in one of these positions, notify Bev Wyman, Chair, bevwyman2@aol.com.

EAMA OFFICERS

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

My wife, Jayne, and I are sitting in a campground in Indiana just having left the FMCA Convention in Madison, WI. The convention was held at the Alliant Energy Center, a very nice facility. There were 2,143 coaches and many vendors. The display coaches were less than in past years.

The Governing Board voted not to have a winter convention in 2013 at Pomona but approved the summer convention to be held in Hutchinson, Kansas. This will be FMCA's 50th Anniversary.

On another note, as of August 24th, we have 267 coaches registered for GEAR 2011. There are less than 100 electric sites left. Let your chapter and committee people know so that they can get registered. Volunteers, make sure your Chair of whatever you volunteered for has your name.

We are looking at two sites in Pennsylvania for the GEAR 2012. No decision has been made. Otho and I will be looking at these sites. We will let you know as soon as a decision is made.

The FMCA membership is declining. If you still have any of your free memberships, please try to find someone that is interested. Once they fill out the membership, offer to mail it for them. That way you will know it was not inadvertently put in a throw-away pile.

That is all for now. Hope to see you all at GEAR 2011. Safe travels.

John Reynolds F171042
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NORTHERN REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Where has summer gone! Nancy and I just returned from FMCA's 86th Family Reunion in Madison, WI, which was a fun event filled with seminars, meetings and special events.

All of the newly elected officers felt we needed to focus on increasing our membership. To that end, fifty members joined the "Recruitment Team" during the "G.R.O.W. – Go Recruiting on Wheels" – seminar at Madison. We'll be repeating this seminar at GEAR. If you like to tell folks about our great organization, we need YOU! In the seminar, we'll tell you about the tools you can use to recruit new members and the rewards you can receive for recruiting them. Participants joining the "G.R.O.W." Recruitment Team will receive a free kit with FMCA recruitment materials. Please encourage your members to attend so together we can "G.R.O.W." FMCA.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at GEAR 2011.

John Breisch F258217
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CENTRAL REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

I congratulate the new Executive Board for FMCA, which was elected at the convention in Madison, WI, and look forward to working with them.

One of the goals of the new administration is to increase new members. With the sales of new coaches down, it becomes very important that each FMCA member obtain new members. So carry applications to join FMCA and pass them out while visiting campgrounds in your area. Many times you can meet prospective members if you just talk to people with newer-looking coaches. They may have never heard of our fantastic organization. If they are already FMCA members, it could lead to a new chapter member. Friendly people get good results.

Check the August *Family Motor Coaching* magazine, page 54, for lots of benefits to inform new members they can now enjoy. Register for the GREAT EASTERN AREA RALLY (GEAR) 2011, October 19th - 23rd at Winston-Salem, North Carolina, for an enjoyable time. If you volunteer to help with this rally, you meet new fellow members.

My wife, Millie, and I will look forward to meeting you in Winston-Salem.

Jerry Cohen F259701
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SOUTHERN REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

There is nothing like propping up your feet on the dashboard of the coach, leaving the corporate world behind and chilling out while traveling to an FMCA gathering...unless, of course, you are in the driver's seat!!! Jerry and I have just returned from the beautiful countryside and lakeside of picturesque Madison, Wisconsin, fun times with friends and definitely cooler temperatures. If you have not discovered this area, you need to add it to your bucket list.

We enjoyed the tours, tasted the cuisine, learned more at the informative seminars, feasted our eyes on the new coaches, purchased those "gotta haves" from the vendors, and enjoyed the array of entertainment. This is what "Family A'Fair" was all about. I must mention the "G.R.O.W." seminar. This is a must for you to attend at GEAR 2011 with John Breisch. Stay Tuned!

A little closer to home is GEAR 2011 at Winston-Salem, October 19th - 23rd. The Chapter Fair is on Wednesday afternoon and the Chapter Parade is scheduled for Saturday afternoon. Come compete for the coveted trophies that many proudly display on their Chapter Fair tables. Show off your chapter spirit and strut your stuff at "Autumn in North Carolina". Presidents, gather your chapter members and come rally with us. Leave that corporate world behind, prop up those feet, and chill out while driving your chapter caravan to Winston-Salem!

Jerry and I will see you there!!

Gaye Young
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WESTERN REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Since being elected to the position of Western Regional Vice President of EAMA, I have had the opportunity to visit with 4 of the 10 chapters in the Western Region. My wife, Jayne, and I have enjoyed visiting each of the chapters and getting to know the members at the rallies. We look forward to meeting with the rest of the chapters in the future.

Along with the chapters visited, I have contacted the rest of the chapters, via phone or email, to discuss the possibility of holding a "Region Wide Rally." It would be held at the Ward Agricultural Center-Lebanon Fairgrounds, which is located at 529 W. Baddour Parkway, Lebanon, TN. The dates would be May 3-6, 2012. I am pleased with the enthusiastic response the plans have received.

The purpose of the rally is to encourage non-chapter members to experience more fully the fun of chapter membership and to have the opportunity to join a chapter. At this rally each chapter will participate by running an event and taking part in the Chapter Fair. We will have live entertainment nightly, games and other activities throughout the weekend.

I would like to meet with a representative of each chapter in the Western Region at GEAR 2011. We will discuss a schedule of events. If you have questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at any time via email.

Bill Gunther F43475D
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TREASURER

Doris and I have thoroughly enjoyed the FMCA summer convention at Madison, WI. We were with many friends and saw the latest and greatest in new RVs and vendor offerings. From Madison we traveled with our friends, the Lains, to Wisconsin Dells and Baraboo, which is an old circus town. Then, on to Milwaukee for a few days. As I write this, we are in Sturgeon Bay, which is on the Door County peninsula.

But I don't need to tell you about the RV lifestyle. However, I would like to remind you about this fall's GEAR 2011 in Winston-Salem, NC, October 19th - 23rd. We are really looking forward to all the festivities with this year's GEAR. So if you haven't already registered, why not take care of it now, particularly if you want electric, since those sites are limited. Hope to see you at GEAR 2011.

Bob Holliday F96151
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GREAT EASTERN AREA RALLY (GEAR) 2011

October 19th - 23rd is fast approaching. Another exciting, educational and fun-filled rally is planned. Rally Masters John and Jayne Reynolds have been working hard to coordinate the activities that will please and challenge all who attend. First - Timers have always been a special part of GEAR. Greet them with a big, Southern smile. Welcome the National Officers who have taken time from their busy schedules to be in Winston-Salem with us. From the seminars to the games to the entertainment to the Chapter Fair and Chapter Parade to the display coaches, there is something for everyone. Don't forget the Ice Cream Social. Plan to patronize the exhibitors who have made the effort to attend our rally. Let our volunteers know that they are appreciated. Without them we couldn't have a successful rally.

It was necessary for me to have open-heart surgery on May 31st and so we could not do any traveling for three months. Therefore, the site visits to determine where GEAR 2012 will be held have been delayed. I plan to announce that location at GEAR 2011.

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

I'm very pleased to say that the Eastern Area was well represented at the Governing Board Meeting in Madison, WI. 42 of 51 chapters, 82.35%, were in attendance. My sincere thanks to each of you for your participation in the governance of FMCA. This organization belongs to us, the members. It is our responsibility to keep abreast of its needs. I feel that we can achieve 100% participation in Indianapolis in 2012 if we begin to plan now. Encourage your National Directors and/or Alternate National Directors to attend. If they cannot attend, plan to elect a Temporary Delegate. Apathy will not help this great organization to move forward and survive current economic trends.

Please emphasize the importance of using your free memberships from FMCA to recruit new members for FMCA. If you have some you haven't been able to use, let me know. There are folks who would be glad to use them for recruiting new members into FMCA and will give the credit to your chapter. John Breisch will be giving a seminar on "G.R.O.W. – Go Recruiting On Wheels" at GEAR 2011. This is a must-see for all who are interested in the future of FMCA.

Do you know of any members of your chapter who have not registered for GEAR 2011 but are planning to attend? The electric sites are limited and cannot be held for anyone.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Judy Czarsty, F79148, for her many years of devoted service to FMCA and, in particular, the Eastern Area. No one has worked harder, with less recognition and appreciation. I don't know what your next venture will be, Judy and Steve, but I know it will be done with enthusiasm, excitement and pride.

This has been a very eventful year for Alice and me. We have visited as many chapters as possible. We plan to help the Twentieth Century Wagontrainers celebrate 45 years as an FMCA chapter in October. The Executive East Pioneers and Mountaineers, whom we will visit on September 8 - 11, will be 35 years "young" in December. Chapters are the heart of FMCA. I congratulate each of the 51 chapters in the Eastern Area for "hanging tough" during these difficult times. And I encourage you to continue to uphold the traditions of FMCA with chapter rallies. This is where lasting friendships are made, ideas exchanged about the motorhome lifestyle, camaraderie with your peers and just having fun! "You might be a stranger when you arrive; you'll be a friend when you leave." (Anonymous)

ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING

Be kinder than necessary, for everyone is fighting some kind of battle.

Live simply. Love generously.

Care deeply. Speak kindly.

Alice and I hope and pray for your safe travels wherever the call of the open road takes you in 2011.

