

KEEPING IN TOUCH

FMCA
Your RVing Family
www.fmca.com

A CHAPTER SERVICES DEPARTMENT PUBLICATION



MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL SECRETARY

Welcome Winter!

I hope you had a terrific Thanksgiving! It is hard to grasp how fast this year has flown. Events that happened in March feel like mere weeks ago, but as I write this, there are just 16 days left in 2022. I guess it is time to think about the goals we want to set for 2023. Thank you to the Area and Chapter Secretaries who have completed their certification process either online or by mail. We had the first prize package drawing on December 6, 2022.

One Area and nine Chapters were drawn (prize winners listed on page 2 of this newsletter). We will have another drawing in early January for another one Area and four Chapters. All prize packages will be mailed after the new year. The information on the certification documents that you submit should have the information as of **December 31, 2022**.

Welcoming all newly elected Area and Chapter Secretaries is always fun for me. As I say every year, you are the person Area or Chapter members come to when someone has a question about anything—like you magically know everything off the top of your head! If you need help answering your member's questions, I will be happy to help you in any way I can. Just email me at kbalogh@fmca.com or call me at **513-319-0198**.

Speaking of growing your chapters, why not have a table during the Chapter Fair at FMCA's International Convention in Perry, Georgia? In addition to the Chapter Fair at the convention, there will be many FMCA seminars, including the President's Update, FMCAssist, Member Benefits, and a Treasurer's Roundtable. I encourage you to attend as many as you can. Also, there will be an informal Secretary's Roundtable, so please stop by to share any ideas you may have that pertain to the duties and responsibilities of the Secretary's position. You could write an article about your chapter rallies for the *Family RVing* magazine and even add a photo. Please see Policy & Procedure #3016, Chapter Membership Recruitment, for information about the qualifications for having the National Office mail out information to non-chapter members in your area. These are just some suggestions on how to increase your chapter membership.

Once again, I would like to mention that my second term as your National Secretary, ends on August 26, 2023, at the Gillette, Wyoming, convention. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the responsibilities and duties of the National Secretary position.

I am looking forward to 2023. I start my travels with the Western Area rally in Indio, California, January 11- 15, 2023. The next stop will be the Quartzsite, Arizona, RV Show, January 21- 29, 2023. Please drop by the FMCA booth and say "hi." On our way to "LUCKY 13th," FMCA's 106th International Convention, to be held in Perry, Georgia, from March 15 -18, 2023. We will be stopping and visiting chapters. I will be presenting Secretary seminars in Indio and Perry and hope you can attend.

Before I close this edition of my newsletter; on behalf of myself, all the area and chapter secretaries, a big THANK YOU to Penny Gortemiller, Danielle Powell and all the FMCA staff for all your help this past year! We appreciate you so much!

Whether you are traveling south for the warm sunshine or enjoying the winter wonderland of the north, I wish you a wonderful winter! May all your days with family and friends this holiday season be merry and bright!

Happy and safe travels, and remember to Keep In Touch!

Kathie

PRIZE WINNERS

2022 Chapter Certification

1. Allegheny Mountain
2. Arizona
3. The Challengers
4. Columbia Basin Cruisers
5. Leisure Travel Vans International
6. Mohawk Romers
7. Ontario Great Lakers
8. Rocky Mountain Area
9. Sooner Coaches
10. Traveling Friends

The Chapter Services Team wishes you Happy Holidays and a prosperous New Year.



CHAPTER ANNIVERSARIES

FMCA congratulates the following chapters that celebrated special anniversaries in October, November, and December.

20 YEARS

Letter and Certificate

Workhorse Chassis Motorhome Club (11/5)

25 YEARS

Letter, Certificate & \$100 Check

Frustrated Maestros

Eastern Sharps and Flats (10/12)

Monacos in Motion (11/29)

30 YEARS

Letter, Certificate & \$150 Check

Colorado Columbines (12/6)

35 YEARS

Letter, Certificate & \$200 Check

Thousand Trails of Texas (12/5)

40 YEARS

Letter, Certificate & \$250 Check

Massachusetts Minutemen (11/1)

Southern Arizona (11/26)

45 YEARS

Letter, Certificate & \$350 Check

Bussin' Buddies (10/28)

Mohawk Roamers (10/28)

Your Area Vice President is responsible for coordinating the anniversary materials, so you will need to make arrangements with him or her for presentation.

A Few Things To Remember

- Please encourage your chapter officers to update their email addresses with FMCA. This helps with communicating important information regarding chapter business and the FMCA Governing Board.
- Can you help us? For marketing purposes, FMCA would love to hear about your experiences being in a chapter. If you would like to submit a testimonial, please send it to chapters@fmca.com. Don't forget to send pictures, too. Share the joy of chapter membership with your fellow members.
- Submit your chapter rallies online at FMCA.com. You can find the 'Submit a Rally' page under the Chapters tab.
- **Perry, Georgia, Tuesday, March 14, 2023, the Chapter Fair** will be held, and on Thursday evening, March 16 the **Chapter Block Parties** are scheduled. They will be held in the parking areas.

CHAPTER BYLAWS

When was the last time you looked at your chapter's bylaws? If you don't have a current copy, you may send an email to chapters@fmca.com or call the national office to request one.

Your current bylaws could be lacking in some important areas. Do you know that the offices of Secretary and Treasurer can be combined into one position? Also, the Alternate National Director position is now optional. With this change, it is possible for three members to complete the officer requirements of your chapter. A member may hold two offices in one chapter or an office in two different chapters; however, they may only hold the office of National Director or Alternate National Director in one chapter.

Some members are afraid to become a chapter officer because of liability. A new article concerning liability indemnifies the chapter officers and members of the chapter in accordance with FMCA's Bylaws. Hopefully this will relieve those fears and encourage members to become officers of the chapter.

To assist with updating your chapter bylaws, you may obtain a copy of a suggested format by logging on to FMCA.com and navigating to the Chapter Documents section. <https://www.fmca.com/documents-and-forms> You will find the chapter bylaws format and a guide to help you.

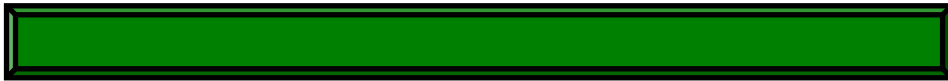
Both Membership Committees, USA and Canada, are looking for ways to increase our membership. We can help them by encouraging our friends and chapter members to each recruit one member; just think if every FMCA member recruited just one member, we would double our total membership to over 150,000 RVs. At the same time, we could grow our chapters and create new ones.

Perry Chapter Fair & Block Party

We are bringing back the ever-so-popular Chapter Fair and Block Party at FMCA's 106th International Convention and RV Expo in March 2023, during the Perry, Georgia, event. If you or any of your chapter members are planning to attend the "LUCKY 13" event, March 15-18, 2023, we want to make sure your chapter participates in these activities!

The Chapter Fair will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, and the Block Parties will be held on Thursday, March 16, 2023. You must participate in the Chapter Fair in order to have a Chapter Block Party and receive the \$75 seed money.

Decide who from your chapter will be in charge of the Chapter Fair table and who will be the host of the Block Party so that individual(s) can register your chapter. We will provide each chapter signed up for both events with \$75 of seed money to buy food, drinks, and supplies you may need for your Block Party. One important detail is that the person who signs up the chapter *is the only one who can pick up* the money onsite. More information will be provided to you after the first of the year, but it's never too early to start planning! Until then, if you have any questions, you can reach out to chapters@fmca.com or 800-543-3622. We can't wait to see you there!



CAN-SPAM

Please make sure your chapter members know that they can choose their email preferences. This means that they can log into their FMCA.com account, click "Menu," then click "My Account." One of the options you will see is "Email Preferences." From there, you can opt out of receiving emails from FMCA that are not chapter or governance related emails. <https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1795503/1758239/>

Please encourage chapter members and officers to select to receive emails from Chapters and Governing Board. This is how we communicate to the Governing Board members. You do have the option to opt out of receiving information that you have no interest in .



CHAPTER RALLY INSURANCE

If your chapter normally signs a rally contract, this contract must be reviewed by FMCA **prior to signing**. FMCA's insurance rates could be affected if the contract is not reviewed prior to signing. If your next chapter rally requires a certificate of insurance, please be sure to contact the Chapter Services Department. *Please do not contact the insurance company directly.* The COIs are processed in a timely manner.

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
- Governing Board Mailings
- National Elections
- Rally Insurance Certificates
- Recruitment Mailings

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

Danielle Powell, Chapter Services Coordinator
Extension 232
dpowell@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

WESTERN AREA RALLY

January 11-15, 2023

*Riverside County Fairgrounds
Indio, CA*

FMCA's 106th International Convention & RV Expo

March 15-18, 2023

*Georgia National Fairgrounds &
Agricenter
Perry, GA*

GREAT LAKES AREA RALLY

June 7-11, 2023

*Darke County Fairgrounds
Greenville, OH*

NORTHWEST AREA RALLY

June 7-11, 2023

*Linn County Fair and Expo Center
Albany, OR*

MIDWEST AREA RALLY

June 13-16, 2023

*Northern Wisconsin Fairgrounds
Chippewa Falls, WI*

INTERNATIONAL AREA RALLY

July 6-11, 8-13, 2023

*Calgary Stampede
Max Belle Centre
Calgary, AB*

NORTHEAST AREA RALLY

August 3-5, 2023

*Herkimer County Fairgrounds
Herkimer, NY*

FMCA 107th INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION & RV EXPO

August 23-26, 2023

*CAMPLEX
Gillette, WY*

SOUTH CENTRAL AREA RALLY

September 13-16, 2023

*Heart of Oklahoma Fairgrounds
Shawnee, OK*

EASTERN AREA RALLY

October 4-8, 2023

*State Fairgrounds of West Virginia
Lewisburg, WV*

ROCKY MOUNTAIN AREA RALLY

October 24-28, 2023

*Pima County Fairgrounds
Tucson, AZ*

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.

**FAMILY
MOTOR
COACH**
ASSOCIATION

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