

## **Newsletter April 3, 2015**

**The following is a message from Vice President/President Elect Frances Fonner, and contains information on several topics:**

1. Greetings and Miscellaneous
2. Results of March Charleston Rally
3. Newly Elected Officers
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### **Greetings and Miscellaneous**

Spring has sprung in the South and will soon spread throughout the land and touch all of our members. Pollen and bugs are in the air, but the land is turning green and the flowers are blooming. I hope everyone finds some measure of comfort in the changing season and has antihistamines and bug repellent to ease your way. With the onset of spring, our club activities are also blooming. Please take note of each of the topics and content within this newsletter. Bear with me, it may be a long read, but it is an important one.

As a reminder, emails forwarded to the membership are mass distributed by the club Secretary (currently Diane Friedel). If you have questions regarding content of club emails, please note who is responsible for a particular content and address your inquiries to them. Don't simply "reply to sender." You will see in this message, forwarded by Diane Friedel but composed by Frances Fonner, there are several possible contact points depending upon the topic about which you are reading.

### **Results of the March 30 Charleston Rally**

Outgoing President Bill Murton and First Lady Pat hosted our rally at Oak Plantation in Charleston, SC. Thirteen coaches attended and we had in hand voting proxy forms from three additional coaches in order to conduct our business meeting and election of officers.

For the most part, the weather cooperated and was agreeable, with only a few sprinkles to keep us on guard but not slow down our fun or interfere with daily meals and afternoon socials. The gnats sure did give us a whirl though! The final agenda of the event can be found on our web site [tiffintravelers.info](http://tiffintravelers.info), then use the "Rally Archives and Rally Guide" link and click on the Charleston sub page.

You'll see we enjoyed dinner at the rv park, daily socials, morning coffee and donuts, a restaurant dinner, a carriage ride tour and sightseeing and dining on our own. Members Charles and Mona Trahan enhanced an afternoon social by bringing a wonderful, dinner-size shrimp and rice dish for all. And, they generously provided each coach with one-pound bags of their "Cajun Country" popcorn long grain aromatic rice, milled and packed at their family rice mill in Louisiana. Some of us enjoyed the Firefly Distillery and Irvin House Vineyards. Others visited the Christopher Columbus Association Nina and Pinta replicas in Charleston Harbor. Others enjoyed garden and home tours. Others enjoyed a classical music evening while strolling the grounds and touring an historic home. Then there was the shopping, eating, touring and shopping, eating, touring.....

Minutes of the Business Meeting held on March 31st will be posted to the web site later this month.

Thank you to the Murtons for a good time. Time to relax and shed a few of those fun pounds we added.

### **Newly Elected Officers**

At the dinner meeting in Charleston, SC on March 31, new officers were elected. A slate of nominees was presented by the Nominating Committee chair, and there were no nominations from the floor. Congratulations to the new officers who will assume their roles June 2015 for a two-year term. And, a personal thank you for the vote of confidence and support from those casting their votes. Your newly elected officers are: Frances Fonner, President; John "Boots" Malin, Vice President; Phyllis Hunter, Secretary; Tom Fonner, Treasurer; Marge Mazzone, National Director; and, Nick Paul, Alternate National Director.

### **Rallies and Gatherings on the Drawing Board**

Two Rallies and three Gatherings were added to the drawing board. A glimpse of the rally info is provided here, but please periodically check the [tiffintravelers.info](http://tiffintravelers.info) web site "Rallies and Gatherings" link to get any updates as they develop and more events are added to the calendar. It seems far off, but we are also working toward a February 2016 rally in Florida immediately prior to or after a Gathering at SEA in Florida. Stay tuned.

**Please don't hesitate to make your reservations early for these rallies.** Parks during these times can only hold sites for so long, and then must release them to the public to meet the summer break demand (June) and the leaf turning demand (October). He who hesitates misses the fun!!

#### **Rally June 24, 2015, Best Holiday Trav-L-Park of Chattanooga.**

Located on Mack Smith Road near Exit 1 on I-75 at the Georgia/Tennessee state line. Four rally nights. **Call [\(706\) 891-9766](tel:7068919766) to reserve your site** at a nightly rate of \$34.85 (includes tax) for 50-amp, full hook-up, pull thru sites.

When reserving a site, be sure to mention "Tiffin Travelers Rally", and email your arrival and departure dates to rally hosts Tom and Frances Fonner, [atomfonner@aol.com](mailto:atomfonner@aol.com)

**Deadline to reserve is May 24**, as the park will begin to release sites to the public.

See our club web page for info regarding booking a train ride for June 27.

**Act now to reserve your rv site and to book your train ride.**

**Rally October 18, 2015, Rutledge Lake RV Park in Fletcher, NC.** Four rally nights. Less than five miles from the FMCA (GEAR) Eastern Area Rally. Attend GEAR and then move to more fun!

A limited number of sites is available for this rally due to leaf changing season.

**Call [828-654-7873](tel:8286547873) now to reserve your site at a nightly rate of \$45 for full hook-ups (rate includes tax).**

When reserving a site, be sure to mention "Tiffin Travelers Rally", and email your arrival and departure dates to rally hosts Phyllis and Dave Hunter, at [Phyllis@aslsystems.com](mailto:Phyllis@aslsystems.com)

**Gatherings** are in the early planning stages for: FMCA National Convention July 29 in Madison, WI; Allegro Club Rally August 17 in Columbus, IN; FMCA GEAR October 15 in Fletcher, NC. Stay tuned to the "Rallies and Gatherings" link on our club web site. (As a side note, we didn't plan a Gathering for the Allegro Club Rally just held in March in Orlando, but we counted 11 member coaches in attendance. We are confident there were quite a few more we were unaware of. Five of us happened to park together, and we had well attended social hour each day, allowing us to sign a few new members. We see Gatherings at future Allegro Club rallies as an opportunity not to be missed.)

### **Procedure Change for "Sunshine Lady" Correspondence**

Phyllis Hunter, Secretary Elect, has agreed to continue as our "Sunshine Lady". Thank you so much, Phyllis.

At our recent Business Meeting, the members present voted to slightly amend the Sunshine process. Effective immediately, greeting cards will no longer be sent to members in recognition of their birthday or wedding anniversary. We will continue to issue get well and sympathy cards. We will also continue to mail to new members the oval-shaped Tiffin Travelers decals, enclosed in a welcome-to-our-club greeting card.

### **Dues and Member Info**

March 31st ended our renewal period. Outgoing Secretary/Treasurer Diane Friedel will put the finishing touches on the most recent version of our membership list and will forward it when it is available (if it isn't already attached to this mailing or didn't get out ahead of this mailing). Having had a peek at the draft, it looks like we will have a membership of right at 124 coaches. After withdrawals, non-payments, renewals and new members, that comes to a drop of about 15 coaches since a May 2014 listing.

The slight drop is not startling and we will have numerous opportunities in the coming months to enlist new members. However, let's work on being active members and keeping an active Rally and Gathering schedule. The point is to have fun together and to share experiences and knowledge with each other.

### **Updates to the Club Web Site**

The "Home" page has had a document added: "A Brief Introduction to Tiffin Travelers". This document is in Word format and can be downloaded and printed or emailed by those of you whom are interested in spreading the word about our club. I prepared it to help save my breath on the occasion of meeting new club prospects, and thought it a good recruiting tool to share with the membership. I hope it serves you well.

The "Rallies and Gatherings" link has info about our most recently booked upcoming rallies for 2015, as well as the placeholders for Gatherings being planned for 2015.

The "Rally Archives" link has been re-titled to "Rally Archives and Rally Guide". This link is gradually building sub pages of previously held Rallies and Gatherings to be used as fodder for future rally masters to swipe-and-adapt their rally and gathering plans. Newly added to this re-titled page was an active link to another page "Hosting a Rally Guide". The "Hosting a Rally Guide" is also a tool for future rally masters as a how-to guide inclusive of our club's rally protocols. This document is my adaptation of a previously circulated document of the same name, originally penned by Bill and Pat Murton. (Thanks to Bill and Pat for laying a foundation for me to work with.)

### **Closing Remarks**

As always, remember to periodically visit our [tiffintravelers.info](http://tiffintravelers.info) web site for possible updates regarding upcoming "Rallies and Gatherings". If you have questions about events on the calendar, please contact the point person for that particular event as indicated on the web site. If no point person is listed, such as for an event on the drawing board, please contact me or another club officer.

And, act now to make your reservations for the two 2015 rallies on our schedule.

And, last but certainly not least, many thanks to Diane Friedel for serving as our club's Secretary/Treasurer for three consecutive terms (six years). All the best to Diane in her future of fun.

Stay safe and well. See you in Chattanooga in June and down the road.

Frances Fonner, Vice President/President Elect  
Tiffin Travelers