

**March 2016 Tiffin Travelers Member Newsletter**  
**Words from Your Prez**

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**Greetings**

'Spring has sprung. The grass is riz. Wonder where them birdies is.'



Yes, it is spring on the calendar. And, depending upon where you are, and on which day of the week you read this, you may or may not be aware of it being spring. Crazy weather from one day to the next!

As predicted in the last newsletter, the first family is having a busy new year; and, as we've seen quite a few of you along the way, you too can probably say the same. Aren't we all blessed to be able to enjoy life in the manner we choose, while so many are far less fortunate?

The year started off with many of you enjoying the Florida RV Show at the Tampa Fairgrounds in January. We didn't have a Tiffin Travelers gathering, and the first family wasn't in attendance, but I hear our chapter was well represented.

That event was followed by the great time we had at the February Allegro Club Rally in Sarasota. The Allegro club provided great meals and entertainment throughout the week. The weather was near perfect, so we were able to enjoy coach-side afternoon chapter socials on several days. Although we were spread around the fairgrounds, our chapter had more than a dozen coaches on site, and we welcomed several new chapter members during the week.

March had us very busy in Perry, Georgia. But, I'll cover that later in the newsletter.

As of this writing, we are making final approach plans for the chapter rally at Coastal Georgia RV Resort in Brunswick. We have a full schedule and a record number of coaches reserved to attend (26).

Immediately after hosting the Brunswick rally, the first family will go to "unplugged" status for a month. No chapter or personal mail or email will be processed between April 16<sup>th</sup> and May 16<sup>th</sup>. But, we'll get all caught up when we come back online in May. Enjoy yourselves, wherever you roam.

**June Ashland, VA Tiffin Travelers Rally –**

**It's Time to Register**

Americamps RV Resort in Ashland, VA (I-95 Exit 89, north of Richmond) is the site of the Tiffin Travelers Rally on June 22, 2016. Four rally nights. This event will be hosted by Carol and Lou Mandik. Preliminary agenda info is

posted to the web site. Periodically check the web page. If we update the info, the web page will reflect the date of last update.

Call 804-798-5298 to reserve your full hook-up site at the nightly rate of \$40. Don't forget to mention "Tiffin Travelers"; and, send an email to the Mandiks at [cmandik@verizon.net](mailto:cmandik@verizon.net) to let them know of your arrival and departure dates. The site rate also includes breakfast each morning of waffles, coffee and juice. No deposit is required for site reservations.

Chapter members will receive up to \$10 per coach credit (assuming 2 members in a coach) toward the rally fee (amount yet to be determined).

### **Annual Dues Renewal**

Annual dues of \$12 were payable January 1. Three notices have been sent to those owing. A notice is also posted to the home page of the club's web site. Bylaws now stipulate that unpaid members will be deleted from the roster at month-end March. Because we were a bit late on this year's final email reminder, we extended the deadline to April 7<sup>th</sup>. Sixteen (16) members may be deleted if renewal payment is not received. Make checks payable to "Tiffin Travelers", and forward them to club Treasurer, Tom Fonner at 730 Segovia Road, St. Augustine, FL 32086.

We hope all our members will opt to renew. To make membership even more worthwhile, we now have several cash-value member perks in our operating procedures (see the newsletter item regarding March Business Meeting). If you miss the cutoff and later have your "aha" moment, get the check in the mail, so we can add you back to the roster.

### **Member Records**

The chapter has experienced the processing of 31 new member applications and 2 reinstatements since the January Chapter Spotlight article in the FMCA magazine and the February and March gatherings and socials. It pays to advertise. There have been only 7 withdrawals from membership thus far during 2016.

After the expiration of the dues renewal period, a full membership roster will be emailed to all members. When you receive the document, please check the record carefully for accuracy of your name, address, email and phone contact information. Forward any corrections to [tiffintravelers@gmail.com](mailto:tiffintravelers@gmail.com). Remember to send corrections if any of your contact information changes in the future.

### **March Business Meeting**

As required by our charter, the chapter held its annual business meeting. During the Perry, GA FMCA Family Reunion we had 28 member coaches represented at the meeting, plus 4 guest coaches. Minutes of the meeting are posted to the web page and were attached to the email notification of this newsletter's publishing.

Meeting Highlights Included:

- All officers' reports
- Review and approval of revised bylaws (now posted to the web page)
- Approval of one Standing Rule pertaining to membership reinstatement fee (now posted to the web page)
- Approval of cash-value member perk for attending rallies (see Cash Value topic below)
- Granting of Honorary Membership status to John and Vicky Ferrari
  - Well-deserved for long-standing service to the chapter
- Election of the nominating committee for spring 2017 chapter election process (see topic below)
- Selection of October 12<sup>th</sup> as start date for Hilton Head SC chapter rally (see topic below)

### **Chapter Bylaws Revised 3/17/16**

As a result of several things (FMCA bylaws changes; discrepancies between our chapter's practices versus our chapter's stated bylaws; and, a need for clarification and updating of some of our chapter's practices and bylaws), the bylaws have been revised. The new version, approved at the chapter's well attended March 17 Business Meeting, is posted to the web site and has been forwarded to FMCA for approval by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

Most of the revisions were not of procedural or significant substance, but were instead: changes to exactly mirror FMCA recommended verbiage and terminology; or, correction or change of punctuation; or, rearranging sentence structure to emphasize subject importance; or, addition of words or terminology to add clarity. The more significant changes can be found in four sections of the revision document:

Article III, Section 4, details the chapter level categories of FMCA membership available within Tiffin Travelers. Within the detail, it further clarifies that, with the exception of Honorary Members, all chapter members must own a Tiffin motorhome and pay dues to the chapter. Honorary Members are also required to pay dues to the chapter, but cannot hold office or vote in the chapter unless they own a Tiffin Motorhome.

Article III, Section 7, Subparagraph C was modified to loosen our strings pertaining to new members enrolled near year-end. Now, for applications accepted after September 1 each year, the dues will cover the remainder of that year and all of the next year. (As before, our dues are otherwise payable each January and are not pro-rated.)

Article III, Section 7, Subparagraph D has not changed, but is further clarified in a Standing Rule (posted in detail to the web site). Essentially, reinstatements of membership will be assessed a \$10 fee if membership has lapsed more than 2 years from withdrawal or non-payment of annual dues.

Article III, Section 7, Subparagraph E has been changed to reflect members will be dropped from the roster if they have not paid their annual dues by March 31. (Please don't get this far, as it is clerical work to repeatedly notify members; then update several records and notebooks; and then, notify FMCA of the roster change.)

#### **Cash Value of Chapter Membership**

As self-appointed steward and champion of the chapter's treasury, I saw the need to add another means by which the chapter funds could be enjoyed by those who participate, but at the same time not be wiped out by a single large event that only a small percentage of the membership might attend. Two previously approved proposals are still in effect:

1. From a pre-approved list of charitable causes, rally hosts will identify one in the geographic area of their rally to which the chapter will donate \$100.
2. The chapter will offset up to \$300 of the cost of a catered dinner for member coaches attending a rally, if 25 or more member coaches attend that rally.

The new proposal approved at the March business meeting stands in addition to the two aforementioned proposals and is as follows:

For chapter rallies (not gatherings) any member coach attending that rally will have a portion of their rally fee paid by the club. That portion will be 50% of the per person rally fee, or \$5 per person whichever is less. This rally fee credit for members will be a maximum of \$10 per coach per rally. The offer will extend until such time as the club's bank balance drops to \$4,000.

So, as they say on television, "Membership has it values". There is no per-year limit on the number of times we can exercise any or all of the proposals, as long as they occur in conjunction with a chapter rally. With the new proposal, your dues for one year could be recouped in just one rally.

#### **Post-Event Comments about Perry, GA FMCA 93rd Family Reunion**

Anyone not attending Perry this year, but having attended before, will be amazed to hear we had great weather. Yes! Shorts were the order of the day, with a light jacket at night. If it rained, it rained only at night while most

attendees were in the snooze zone. The first family particularly enjoyed the musical entertainment offered two evenings. You can read the FMCA version of Perry 2016 when it comes out in the next magazine.

In the meantime, I'll say we had a large contingent in attendance. And, there were probably not two of us parked together. Different arrival dates, different hook-ups and varying responsibilities had us quite spread out. Nick Paul may win the award for being in the extreme reaches of the "south 40", and he thought his payment for 50 amp service would get him "front row"! As previously stated, we had 28 member coaches at our business meeting, but I know there were at least a 10 more member units of us wandering around. And, happy to say, many of us did the right, and fun, thing to serve as volunteers during the event. Thank you to all who volunteered; showed up for the meeting; came by the "presidential retreat" for social; and, assisted with the "All Tiffin Owners Social".

For the social, attended by more than 200 people, we received financial support from Tiffin Motorhomes and the Allegro Club. Thank you so much to Bob Tiffin, Andy Baers, and Allegro Club co-presidents Kelly and Sally Moore (who happen to be members of our chapter). Andy, the Moores and Danny Inman were able to spend some time with us at the social while we enjoyed fellowship, a brief visit by FMCA Pres. Charlie Adcock and Nat'l. Senior V.P. Jon Walker, and an array of cheeses, wraps, meats, chips and other light snacks.

Thank you also to chapter members Linda Kolfrat, Nick and Ann Paul, Bill and Pat Murton, Tom and Carol Gulya, Brent and Ileen Penn, Bob and Marty Whitney and Boots and Joan Malin for the assist in setting up the venue. I extend my apologies for not naming others who assisted. I was a busy bee, hostessing with the mostessing.

We signed 21 new members during or immediately following the event week.

Be prepared. We'll do the social again in August in Massachusetts. Even bigger and better each time. And your help is greatly appreciated to make it happen.

#### **April Brunswick, GA Tiffin Travelers Rally**

By the time you read this, the event will be underway or completed. We have a record number of coaches registered – 26. Members present will be availing themselves of the cash-value benefits of reduced meal and rally fees. A short version of the agenda is posted on the web site and was emailed to registered attendees.

#### **October Hilton Head Motorcoach Resort Rally**

Put a placeholder on your calendar for this chapter rally. Don and Debra Beck will be hosting this four night event beginning October 12<sup>th</sup>. As of this writing, the web page has a brief bit of information, but registration has not yet begun. Registration information will be posted to the web by mid-June. Chapter members will receive up to \$10 per coach credit (assuming 2 members in a coach) toward the rally fee (amount yet to be determined).

The resort is considered the finest coastal resort in the country and has been rated in the top 15 resorts in the country from different sources. Hilton Head Island Motorcoach Resort is rated 10/10/10 in all Campground books

#### **Future Events**

- June 8th FMCA Great Lakes Area Glamarama in Goshen, IN.  
You can find registration info at [fmca.com](http://fmca.com).  
The first family will be in attendance, volunteering and hosting chapter socials.
- June 22nd rally at Americamps in Ashland, VA.  
See registration above.  
The first family will be in attendance, doing nothing but having fun. There's plenty of time to travel between the June events.
- August 3rd FMCA 94th Family Reunion and Convention in West Springfield, MA.  
You can find registration info at [fmca.com](http://fmca.com).

The first family will be in attendance, volunteering, hosting chapter socials, and hosting the big "All Tiffin Owners Social".

- October 5th FMCA Eastern Area GEAR in Lewisburg, SW.  
Registration information will be available after mid-April at [fmca.com](http://fmca.com).  
The first family will be in attendance, volunteering, hosting chapter socials, and participating in the Chapter Fair.
- October 12<sup>th</sup> Chapter Rally at Hilton Head Motorcoach Resort in SC.  
Registration information will be posted to the chapter web page after mid-June.  
The first family will be in attendance doing nothing by having fun.
- February or March of 2017 a possible south Florida rally is being researched by members James and Ada Doering. Stay tuned.

### **Nominating Committee**

At the recent chapter business meeting in Perry, your nominating committee was elected: Bill Murton, Tom Gulya and John Reynolds. Their mission is to present a slate of officer nominees for your consideration at the 2017 chapter business meeting.

Month-end May 2017 marks the end of the current term for all officers. There are no limits as to the number of terms a person can hold office in the chapter. The committee will be seeking candidates for: president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary/sunshine person, national director, and alternate national director.

Current officers are:

Frances Fonner, President

Boots Malin, Vice President (not seeking election to any office in the next term)

Tom Fonner, Treasurer

Phyllis Hunter, Secretary/Sunshine Person (not seeking election to any office in the next term)

Marge Mazzone, National Director

Nick Paul, Alternate National Director

### **Closing Remarks**

That does it for news from the oval office. As you can see, there's nothin' much happening here. Hah!

Again thank you so much to those who have and will assist with events and rallies. Let's support the Mandiks, Becks, and Doerings as they progress through their planning and execution.

As always, remember to periodically visit our [www.tiffintravelers.info](http://www.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, you can email [tiffintravelers@gmail.com](mailto:tiffintravelers@gmail.com) for assistance.

Stay safe and well. We hope to see you at the scheduled events. Don't forget to register and don't forget to email the coordinators regarding your attendance.

Our club calendar always has room for another rally. We'd like to get something going in the northern sector. Any takers on hosting? Let me know where you will be hosting our next rally.

See you down the road!

Frances Fonner, President  
Tiffin Travelers