

August 2016 Tiffin Travelers Member Newsletter
Words from Your Prez

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Greetings



Hot, Hot, Hot!

Most of us have been experiencing the sweltering heat, while some lucky ones have managed to find cool spots in this expansive land. Before returning to home last week, the first family logged 4,500 coach miles bouncing from one event to another during June, July and August. We saw many of our chapter members at GLAMARama in Goshen, Indiana; and at our chapter's rally in Ashland, Virginia; and, at the FMCA Convention in West Springfield, Massachusetts. In both Goshen and West Springfield we had a crowd gather coach-side for afternoon social. Whenever you plan to attend an RV event, keep an eye on our chapter's web site (the Rallies and Gatherings page) to see if we are looking for chapter members at that event. If we are looking for our members at an event, we'll post a request for you to let us know so that we can keep you informed of socializing opportunities.

Thank you are in order for several members. Nick Paul conducted the annual audit of the financial records. Carol and Lou Mandik hosted a great time at the Ashland, VA rally. Marge Mazzone represented us at the annual Governing Board meeting. Those and other contributions are mentioned later in this newsletter.

On a somber note, our thoughts and prayers go out to those who are in the Gulf Coast region experiencing tremendous flooding. We have several chapter members in that area. Wouldn't it be grand if Mother Nature would be so kind as to spread her bounty by giving some of that over-generous rainfall to the areas experiencing tremendous drought and devastating fires? I fear the years ahead will only continue to show us the vast extremes of her temperament. But, we are fortunate to motorhome on.....

October Hilton Head Island, SC Tiffin Travelers Rally –

Speaking of motorhoming on, **it's time to register** for our next chapter rally. Hilton Head Island Motorcoach Resort in South Carolina is the site of the Tiffin Travelers Rally beginning October 12th. There will be four rally nights, but you can make your reservations to arrive early or stay on longer. This event will be hosted by Don and Debra Beck. The efforts of our rally hosts are greatly appreciated.

Call (843) 785-7699 to reserve your full hook-up site at this 10/10/10 rated resort. Be sure to mention "Tiffin Travelers Rally" to get the reduced rate of \$54.39 per night (includes taxes). **Also, send an email** to the rally hosts,

Don and Debra Beck, at mgmtexpert@aol.com to let them know of your arrival and departure dates. They need to know you are coming in order to include you in activity head counts.

Deadline to reserve a site is October 1st.

Chapter members will receive \$10 per coach credit (assuming 2 members in a coach) toward the estimated rally fee of \$42 per person. The per person rally fee covers group meals and activities identified as "included" in the preliminary agenda shown on the Hilton Head rally web page at www.tiffintravelers.info. Periodically check the web page. If we update the info, the web page will reflect the date of last update.

Annual Audit of Treasurer's Records

On July 2, 2016, Alternate National Director and Past President, Nick Paul, conducted the required annual audit of the Tiffin Travelers treasurer records. Made available to Nick were: the official Treasurer's Reports of 2015 (full year) and 2016 (through 6/30/16); and, monthly bank statements for 2015 and 2016 (through 6/30//16); and, receipts and/or invoices for expenses and disbursements occurring during the audited time period; and, the Master Record of members; and, receipts or copies of all income during the audited time period.

A copy of the Treasurer's Report of 7/31/16 is available to all members upon request to tiffintravelers@gmail.com.

Proposal for "1-Year Dues Forgiveness" for Current Members

Because our chapter is fortunate to sustain an ample treasury balance, I propose we consider a worthy suggestion made by one of our members. The proposal is as follows: "For all chapter members in good standing as of 9/1/2016, we will 'forgive' dues payment for the 2017 year." The proposal, when suggested to a gathering of 13 of our member coaches during the August FMCA event in West Springfield, received a unanimous vote of approval. Your President and Treasurer recommend a vote of "yes".

An email, citing treasury balances and explaining the financial angles, will be sent to all members from tiffintravelers@gmail.com. The email will serve as a ballot, allowing members to reply either "yes" or "no", to this proposal. The reply ballot email responses must be received before October 1, 2016. The voting results will be determined by the majority of responses received, "yes" versus "no".

Looking at the current available funds and projecting expenses through 2017, the estimated treasury balance at year-end 2017 will remain ample. Even with approval of this dues forgiveness proposal, we may still be discussing additional expansion of member benefits at our annual membership meeting in February 2017.

FMCA Dues Increase

At the August FMCA Governing Board meeting in West Springfield, MA, a vote passed to increase annual FMCA dues. Effective October 1, 2016, annual dues will increase by \$10. To postpone the impacts and continue receiving the other worthy and money-saving benefits of FMCA membership, you may want to consider renewing now. Don't wait until after the increase, even if your membership will not be expiring now. If you buy 5 years now at the current rate, it would be like getting 5 years for the price of 4 at the higher rate.

And, for those of you thinking, "I don't know if I'll have a motor home 5 years down the road", no worry. Even when you no longer own a coach, you can maintain all the money-saving benefits as an Associate Member of FMCA. Go to fmca.com and click on the "Benefits" tab. Keep reading through all five (5) pages of benefits and you'll find discounts at Staples, Office Max, car rentals, international travel insurance, wholesale shopping clubs and more.

August 2016 FMCA Governing Board Meeting

The following report was submitted by our National Director Marge Mazzone:

The Governing Board Meeting of the Family Motor Coach Association met on Wednesday, August 3rd, 2016 in West Springfield, Massachusetts. Of 391 current chapters, 216, or 55% were present for the meeting.

Proposed amendments to Policy and Procedures were approved by the Governing Board, including the amendment to reverse the 2015 decision regarding residency requirements for each area vice president.

The 2017 proposed budget was approved which included a \$10.00 raise in member dues to take effect starting October 1, 2016.

Discussion was held about the Executive Board's decision to spend \$250,000.00 to the Membership Corporation of America's recommendation to join Rvillage.com. Members voiced their disapproval of spending this amount of money without a Governing Board vote.

The Governing Board voted to continue the FMC Assist Medical Emergency and Travel Assistance Program for 2016 – 2017.

The Governing Board approved the following sites for future conventions, pending successful negotiations:

Winter 2019 convention in Chandler or Tucson, Arizona

Summer 2019 convention in St. Paul, Minnesota

Winter 2020 convention in Perry, Georgia

The Governing Board approved a new motion to allow the Executive Board to amend the Articles of Incorporation of the Family Motor Coach Association. A special vote by the entire FMCA membership is needed to proceed with this motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Marge Mazzone

National Director, Tiffin Travelers Chapter

Member Roster Distributed

Yes. Finally. Later than promised, and late for no reason other than procrastination by yours truly, the member roster has been emailed separately to all member email addresses on file.

Please take a minute to look at your info on the document. If corrections are needed, please send those corrections by email to tiffintravelers@gmail.com

February 2017 Lazydays in Seffner, FL Tiffin Travelers Rally

Registrations are now being accepted for the Tiffin Travelers Winter Rally and Annual Business Meeting to be held February 2017 at Lazydays RV Resort in Seffner, Florida. Rally activities will begin the afternoon of February 20, 2017. To attend all rally activities, you must reserve five nights beginning February 20th, 2017.

To extend the fun and fellowship, our event group has rally-rate sites available for a total of seven nights beginning February 19th and departing February 26th. AND, if space is available, you can further extend your stay by adding up to two more nights at the rally rate!

Although the deadline to reserve a site is February 1st, our allotment of sites could be full long before then. Don't miss out by waiting. The rally will be during "snowbird" season and many of our members migrate to Florida for the winter. **Reserve your site now by calling (800) 350-6731.** Be sure to mention "Tiffin Travelers Rally" to get the rally rate applicable to your size unit. Site rates range from \$46 to \$51 per night and are determined by length needed. If you short yourself, you will have no room to park your toad!!

After making your reservation, **send an email to the rally hosts**, Frances and Tom Fonner, at tomfonner@aol.com to be included in headcount for all activities. Tell the hosts your arrival and departure dates.

The rally agenda will include the annual business meeting and election of officer; several on-site catered meals; and, on-site and off-site activities and meals. Chapter members will receive \$10 per coach credit (assuming 2 members in a coach) toward the TBD rally fee. And, chapter members will benefit from the club's contribution to a catered meal if we have 25 or more coaches booked. Periodically check the rally web page for developments. If we update the information, the page will reflect the date updated.

For those of you who have not experienced Lazydays RV Resort, the many amenities are listed on the rally's page on our web site.

Post-Event Comments about Brunswick, Tiffin Travelers Rally

The week of April 11th, 2016 marked our largest rally to date. Because our membership is widespread geographically, drawing a crowd is a matter of timing and location. We used the potential of end-of-winter migration to catch 25 member coaches in southeast Georgia at Coastal Georgia RV Resort. Hospice of the Golden Isles was chosen to receive a \$100 charitable contribution from the chapter.

Attendees appeared to satisfy their appetites for food and local flair. The first rally meal on-site was a new experience for some – Stuff Your Baked Potato. Stuffing options were more than plenty for a few skeptics. The second on-site meal was an over-abundant BBQ dinner subsidized by the chapter's contribution of \$300. To-go plates were definitely in order to clear the counter of the leftovers.

For off-site entertainment, many had breakfast at the Jekyll Island Club Hotel's Grand Dining Room, which was immediately followed by touring the Jekyll Island Museum and then experiencing the "Passport to the Century" tram tour. The next day, a large contingent had breakfast at Cracker Barrel before traveling to a tour of the Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation. A visit to Fort Frederica was the next stop on that day's historic discovery itinerary, before heading to the dining and shopping waterfront district of St. Simon's Island.

Thank you to chapter member Mary Halbleib for conducting a beginner Mahjong class on our "free day". The game concept and rules seemed daunting to some at the onset, but the valiant participants began to grasp the idea and enjoyed the short time we had together. (I think it took yours truly longer to get the drift than it did the other players.)

Thank you to chapter member Marty Whitney for leading us through a care-free painting session she calls "Attitude Adjustment. It's not fine art, it's fun art." And fun it was for each of us to paint our tropical fish on a canvas tote bag. Look for Marty's classes at FMCA area and national rallies.

The rally ended Friday morning. The rally hosts, yours truly and spouse, boarded a cruise ship on Sunday to begin a journey of 25 nights on a cruise ship from Florida to Europe and the Baltics, followed by 3 nights on land in Denmark. Where there is a will, there is a way.

Post Event Comments About GLAMARama

And, 12 nights after flying home from Europe, yours truly and spouse left Florida in their coach to attend their summer schedule of RV events. The first event was the FMCA Great Lakes Area Rally – GLAMARama – in Goshen, Indiana.

The week began with cool but sunny weather. Long sleeves and jackets were needed to start the week, but we gradually peeled off the layers as the week progressed.

As is usually the case, our chapter was well represented. We had more than a dozen of our coaches on site, and most of us put in the hours to serve as volunteers. Our members were seen on duty serving as security personnel, activity cart drivers, FMCA store assistants, registration and information reps, and Frustrated Maestro performers.

We had a well-attended coach side social one afternoon. Attending the social were Michigan residents and identical twin brothers who became new members of our chapter. Oh boy! I'm glad we have a rule about wearing

name tags. Dale (wife Joyce) and Donn (wife Rhoda) Westfall have already made their reservations to attend the October Hilton Head rally on their way to their Florida winter destination. And, before the GLAMA week ended, son/nephew David Westfall (wife Susan) was also added as member of our chapter. Now that is recruiting!

Post Event Comments About Ashland, VA Tiffin Travelers Rally

After Goshen, the first family wandered indirectly toward Americamps RV Resort in Ashland, VA for the June 22nd chapter rally hosted by Carol and Lou Mandik. The resort, previously unknown to the first family, has several unique features which warranted our return there twice during our summer travel. There were 15 member coaches in attendance at the rally. Hanover Safe Place was chosen to receive a \$100 charitable contribution from the chapter.

Attendees participated in two days of guided touring: Historic Hanover and its Tavern (where we also had lunch); Richmond State Capital Building and Gardens; and, a guided tour of St. Paul's Cathedral, followed by lunch at a British pub. Fascinating tidbit – If you simply looked at the splendid Virginia State Capital Building sitting on its grand hill overlooking the city, you wouldn't know that under its front lawn is a modern expansion of the complex. A huge hole was dug out of the hill to build the expansion, and then the expansion was covered over with dirt and lawn. There is no hint of the massive structure lying beneath the lawn.

In addition to a yummy dinner out at the nearby Islamorada Fish Company restaurant, members had an on-site dinner of "walking tacos". The walking tacos dinner was another first for most of the group. And, our sworn-to-be-finicky eater, Nick Paul, actually was a big fan, going back for seconds.

About the resort's unique features.... a free breakfast of waffles, fruit, coffee and juice is available 6 mornings each week to those staying at the RV park. And, one night weekly there is a free dinner, such as spaghetti. And, right across the street is the Center of the Universe Brewery. They have entertainment and food trucks available several nights weekly. The Brewery was remodeling its fairly new complex during our rally, and seating was limited. But, on our return trips to the RV park, with renovations complete, the establishment was very popular with the locals.

Post-Event Comments about West Springfield, MA FMCA 94th Family Reunion

With West Springfield, Massachusetts targeted as our last event of the summer, the first family had time to kill after the chapter rally in Virginia. After spending the July 4th Holiday on the southeast coast of North Carolina, we then wandered north, visiting the Yuengling Brewery in Pottsville, PA and a few nice wineries in the Kutztown, PA area. We then attended a small Military Veterans/Elks International Chapters pre-rally being held in New York. We stayed at Brook N Wood RV Resort in Elizaville, NY (on the east side of the Hudson, between Rhinebeck and Hudson, NY). While there, we enjoyed the local history and also a scenic boat ride on the Hudson. But, we still had time to kill, so we visited the Mystic, Connecticut area and took the Essex Steam Train excursion combined with a riverboat tour. Of course we had a traditional lobsta' supper while on the coast. Then, finally, we headed to the FMCA Family Reunion and International Convention.

The attendance at this event was lower than other National rallies we've attended. There were less than 1500 FMCA member coaches. The week was bright and sunny, with warm days and cool nights. As always, our chapter was well represented and our members were again serving as volunteers in many roles. We signed a few new members during the week.

We hosted an afternoon coach side social attended by 13 of our member coaches. Also attending our afternoon social was Tiffin's National Sales Director, Andy Baer; and, Trent Tiffin, Bob's grandson, was their representing the next generation of Tiffin. We did not host an "All Tiffin Owners Social" as we have done before in Perry, GA. But we stayed plenty busy without it. There were many new coaches on display to tour and there were interesting and informative seminars to attend. Although I do not have the official results, Campers Inn had somewhere between 16 and 20 new Tiffins on display and I know they sold a few.

Although there were three nights of entertainment, the Texas Tenors received our vote as "outstanding!". They became famous on the TV show America's Got Talent. Don't miss them if you have a chance to catch their act.

FMCA Member Issue Vote Forthcoming in October

Mentioned in the Governing Board report from Marge Mazzone is the topic of a forthcoming vote to allow the FMCA Executive Board to amend the Articles of Incorporation of the Family Motor Coach Association.

I have been told, in informal discussions with a few FMCA Governing Board members and other FMCA members, that there will be a member vote insert in the October 2016 FMC Magazine. Although I do not have conclusive detail and specifics, I have been told it will be posed to FMCA members as a vote to modify the Articles of Incorporation. Again, I do not know the wording or specifics of how this will be presented. However, I've been told this modification of the Articles could down the road very easily open the door to allow FMCA membership to towable recreational vehicles. Supposedly, this move is for financial reasons. And, supposedly, under the FMCA umbrella a "separate" entity for towables would be created. I can't begin to imagine how towables would fit into the availability of sites at FMCA events.

There supposedly will be a return card for FMCA members to mail in their vote for this issue. The determination of pass or fail will be made based upon a simple majority of the vote cards returned.

I've included several uses of "supposedly" on this topic. I wish I had more information and specifics for you. Official information has not yet been disseminated to the chapters. Hopefully, there will be some substance provided when the topic is presented to the full FMCA membership. Look for the topic in your October 2016 FMC Magazine. Consider the implications and submit your vote accordingly.

Future Events

- October 5 through 9, 2016, the Great Eastern Area Rally (GEAR) will hold its 25th annual event at the West Virginia State Fairgrounds in Lewisburg, WV. The theme is "Silver Mountain Magic". Many of our chapter members will be in attendance at this event, so look for them on the grounds. Our National Director, Marge Mazzone, has once again stepped up to coordinate volunteers for seminar monitoring. Monitoring a seminar is an easy task, gets you out and about, and gives you the opportunity to learn about the topic being presented. **Contact Marge by email at marge.mazzone@verizon.net** for more information about these volunteering opportunities.

A limited number of 30-amp or 50-amp full-hookup sites are available. In addition to seminars and vendor exhibits, activities include: golf cart rodeo, chapter fair, golf tournament, ladies' luncheon, evening entertainment, coffee and doughnuts, ice cream social, door prizes, bean bag baseball and ladder golf contests. The entertainment lineup is: William Florian, former lead singer of the '60s band The New Christy Minstrels; and, Ryan Cain and the Ables, West Virginia's premier rockabilly band; and, Rich Wilson, member of the New York State Country Music Hall of Fame who is also a certified stage hypnotist.

Reservation information can be found in your July and August issues of FMC (Family Motor Coaching) Magazine; or, online at <http://www.fmca.com/chapters/area-rallies.html>

- October 12, 2016 Tiffin Travelers Chapter Rally at Hilton Head Motorcoach Resort in SC. There will be four rally nights. See above information and further detail at our web site.
- January 18, 2017 Florida RV Supershow at the Florida State Fairgrounds in Tampa, FL. Anyone interested in coordinating a gathering of our members can contact Frances Fonner by email at tiffintravelers@gmail.com or tomfonner@aol.com for planning information and assistance. The RV show web site is <http://www.frvta.org/show/florida-rv-supershow/>
- February 2017 Tiffin Travelers Chapter Rally at Lazydays Resort in Seffner, FL. This will be our annual business meeting and election of officers. See above information and further detail at our web site.

Closing Remarks

That does it for news from the not-so-oval office. Again thank you so much to those who have and will assist with events and rallies.

As always, remember to periodically visit our www.tiffintravelers.info web site for possible updates regarding upcoming "Rallies and Gatherings". In red font at the top of each event page is a notation of the date the page was last updated. 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 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. We have plenty of experienced helping hands and minds available to assist you.

See you down the road!

Frances Fonner, President
Tiffin Travelers