

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

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**Greetings**



Another year draws to a close. While we reflect, we also look forward in anticipation of what may come. It is our hope that your reflections upon this year will bring you joy, even though you may have had bumps and discomfort along the way. Sunshine and lollipops are easy to smile at, but joy can also be found in having been able to pass through any difficulties. Hopefully, you learned, grew and were strengthened in body and spirit and can find comfort in having reached another year's end to reflect and resolve to be better as a result. Have yourself a wonderful holiday season with family and friends.

In our last (September) newsletter, we extended best wishes to the Gulf Coast region which had been experiencing tremendous flooding. Mother Nature then saw fit to give the southeast Atlantic coastline a whirl by sending hurricane Matthew. Tens of thousands were evacuated in northeast Florida, and in coastal Georgia, and in coastal South and North Carolina. High winds and tides wreaked havoc in these coastal areas. And, significant erosion and flooding occurred much further inland as a result of the storm winds pushing high tides up the rivers (particularly in North Carolina). Many southeastern area homeowners will be living in their driveways for some time to come in their newly acquired travel trailers, as they wait for repairs, restoration and reconstruction of their damaged and flooded houses. Several of our members were impacted by the storm and hopefully have found comfort in reflecting that they were fortunate to have their Tiffin coach as a refuge both during the storm and while they mend after the storm.

**Thanks**

Hurricane Matthew also crunched our plans to have a rally on Hilton Head Island during October. Thank you very much to Don and Debra Beck for putting together an event that would surely have been a joy to experience. We had more than twenty-five coaches reserved for the rally, which ultimately had to be cancelled due to extensive damage to the area. We are looking forward to the Becks giving it another go to host sometime in the near future.

**2017 Annual Dues Reminder**

All members in good standing as of the issuance of this newsletter are considered to be **PAID IN FULL for 2017**. In other words, if you got a December 2016 email from [tiffintravelers@gmail.com](mailto:tiffintravelers@gmail.com) advising you of the publishing of

this newsletter, you are a member in good standing and your 2017 dues are paid. If you remain unsure of your status, please send an email inquiry to [tiffintravelers@gmail.com](mailto:tiffintravelers@gmail.com).

A few members are paid in advance for 2018 and beyond, and will receive separate emails reminding them of their particular status. All others are reminded that January 1<sup>st</sup> of **2018** will be your next dues renewal payment date.

In September's newsletter, we extended the opportunity for members to vote on a proposal. The proposal was as follows: "For all chapter members in good standing as of 9/1/2016, we will 'forgive' dues payment for the 2017 year." Members had until October 1, 2016 to vote by email reply.

More than 50% of our member coaches responded. There were 88 coaches in favor, and 4 coaches were opposed. Thank you and congratulations to all who took the time to respond. Many other chapters are not fortunate to have the responsiveness and participation our chapter displays.

As a side note, since the vote, and as of the issuance of this newsletter, our chapter's membership has increased and now stands at 171 coaches. New members enrolled after September 1<sup>st</sup> are, by rule, automatically paid through the remainder of 2016 and all of 2017.

### **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! Most of our registrants have opted for arrival on the 19<sup>th</sup>, and a few are arriving even earlier.

Although the deadline to reserve a site is February 1<sup>st</sup>, we already have 37 coach sites reserved by our members! Our largest rally to date! Don't miss out by waiting any longer. We have surpassed our allotment of sites, and the resort is not obligated to make more sites available to us. 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](mailto:tomfonner@aol.com) to be included in headcount for all activities. Tell the hosts your arrival and departure dates.

Rally hosts are now communicating directly with the known 37 registered coaches. Registrants have already prepaid for a yacht luncheon cruise, but we have room for one more couple to enjoy this activity. Registrants have also already prepaid for a light-brunch-wine-tasting event at a local winery. There are several more spots available for the winery event if you prepay now.

The rally agenda will include the annual business meeting and election of officers; several on-site catered meals; and, on-site and off-site activities and meals. Members Marty Whitney and Marge Mazzone will be offering their craft classes (fees applicable). 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 because 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.

The rally hosts are still waiting for the caterer's confirmation of the catered meal costs (two dinners and one full breakfast). Registrants will be notified when this amount is known and payable.

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 GEAR in Lewisburg, WV**

Although membership in our chapter is not constrained by geographic boundaries, we were chartered in the FMCA Eastern Area. Therefore, we like to include occasional reports of what is happening in our charter area.

The Fonner first family did not attend the October Eastern Area Motorhome Association rally (GEAR), but we did receive feedback from our chapter members who were in attendance. We hear congratulations are in order for two of our member coaches who won \$500 gift awards from Adventure Caravans. Those lucky winners were Frank and Bette Decker; and, Mark and Paulette Kaler.

We also heard about our chapter's afternoon social attended by 25+ of our chapter's coach owners (50+ attendees). It was a great opportunity to acquaint and reacquaint through good fun and fellowship.

Our chapter's always generous National Director, Marge Mazzone, volunteered to sit in during the Eastern Area annual meeting. What follows is a synopsis of the notes she took.

- The membership was encouraged to vote on the proposed revision to the FMCA Articles of Incorporation.
- Next year Eastern Area will celebrate its 25th anniversary. It actually was this year but they couldn't get everything together in time. All chapters are encouraged to send any club pictures, pictures of the Chapter Banner, members just having fun at GEAR, etc., so they can be added to a slide presentation.
- Officer elections were held. The 2016 officer slate is:
  - Bill Mallory, President
  - Maxine Schremp, Senior VP
  - John Reynolds, Immediate Past President
  - Rosemary LeBarr (sp?), Secretary
  - Berkley Alexander, Treasurer
  - C B Edwards, Southern Region VP
  - Dennis Ducharme, Western Region VP
  - Jerry Cohen, Eastern Region VP
  - Tom Hoffmeier, Northern Region VP
- GEAR for 2018 and 2019 will be held in York, PA
- GEAR for 2017 will be in Lewisburg, WV Oct. 4th - 8<sup>th</sup>
- Bill Mallory announced that (our chapter's) John Reynolds will be seeking the office of FMCA National Treasurer during next year's FMCA national election cycle.

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.

### **FMCA Member Issue Vote**

There is currently a vote underway in FMCA to allow the FMCA Executive Board to amend the Articles of Incorporation of the Family Motor Coach Association. The voting deadline is December 31st. The ballot for the vote was placed in the FMCA magazine several months ago, but provided no explanation or Q&A to enlighten the FMCA members as to the purpose of the proposal. Suspicions were that the suggested amendment of the Articles could down the road very easily open the door to allow FMCA membership to towable recreational vehicles. Reminder: the voting deadline is December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Now, several months later, the Q&A has been made available. Suspicions were not far off the mark. The ballot and Q&A can be found online at [fmca.com](http://fmca.com). Once arriving at the home page of [fmca.com](http://fmca.com), you will need to log

in/sign in. Then click on the link to the "Home" page. Then click on the link in the middle of the page "Proposed Change to FMCA's Articles of Incorporation".

### **FMCA.com Site Redesign**

The home page of the fmca.com web site has been redesigned to attract reader's attention to the benefits of membership. If you scroll down that home page, you will easily find the Top 10 Reasons to Join FMCA Today, and a link to all benefits of membership. There are also two other links at the top of the page to take you to more FMCA categories of interest. Those two links are titled "Explore FMCA" and "Stay Connected".

Bravo FMCA! A much improved experience and visual appeal for the site's visitors.

### **Future Events**

- 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](mailto:tiffintravelers@gmail.com) or [tomfonner@aol.com](mailto:tomfonner@aol.com) for planning information and assistance. The RV show web site is <http://www.frvta.org/show/florida-rv-supershow/>
- Mark Feb. 2-5, 2017, on your calendar and attend the SEA (South Eastern Area) lands in Lakeland rally at the Lakeland Linder Regional Airport in Lakeland, Florida. Reservation information can be found on page 93 of your December FMC (Family Motor Coaching) Magazine; or, online at <https://www.fmca.com/chapters/area-rallies.html>

In addition to four nights of camping, the rally includes: Friday box lunch with entertainment; Saturday full breakfast; Coffee and doughnuts; Three nights of entertainment; Crafts; Ice Cream Social; Sunday Super Bowl party; Photo contest; Chapter Fair; Seminars; Motorhome displays; Commercial exhibits; and Tours

The Fonner first family will be in attendance, so stay tuned to the chapter Rallies and Gatherings web page for possible chapter socials.

- 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.

### **Election of Officers**

During the February rally at Lazydays, we will conduct the chapter's election of officers. Your nominating committee for this election has put together a slate for your consideration. In addition to their slate offering, nominations will be accepted from the floor.

Thank you to the committee (Bill Murton, Jayne Reynolds and Tom Gulya) for their efforts in presenting these candidates for your consideration: Frances Fonner, President; Tom Gulya, Vice President; Carol Mandik, Secretary; Tom Fonner, Treasurer; Marge Mazzone, National Director; and, Nick Paul, Alternate National Director.

### **Factory Recalls**

On the left side of our web site's home page is a link for Factory Recalls. This listing is in no way to be construed as complete or comprehensive. It is, however, a posting of official notices published by Tiffin Motorhomes in their magazines or published in other trade magazines. The publication of each source is noted.

### **Closing Remarks**

In closing, we extend our best wishes to our "Second Lady", Joan Malin, for a continued speedy and successful recovery. She had back surgery a few months ago and is looking forward to having more spring in her step.

As we look forward to the horizon of a new year, one of the wishes on my holiday list is that we have more members step forward to be involved in hosting events and leading the chapter.

Yours truly has hosted rallies in Georgia, Tennessee, and Alabama. The Lazydays rally will be our fifth hosting and our second in Florida. No doubt, we all are thankful to the others who have stepped forward over the years to host. But, now our calendar will be a blank slate waiting for YOU to take your turn at it. Who is responsible for your entertainment? You! Contact the chapter leadership for info and assistance hosting a rally in 2017 and/or beyond.

.....And, about that "chapter leadership" thing... If elected to serve another two-year term as your chapter president, this will be my last term. It is time to turn over the reins, knowledge and responsibility to someone else. The turn over process will most probably require several "someone elses". In addition to serving as your VP for two years, prior to serving as your president, I have also been the web site and newsletter publisher and editor for several years. Those duties will also be passed along. (Thank you very much to Barry Lindquist for his knowledge and support as I worked my way through learning the web site functionality.) Additionally, the Treasurer position has been held by the "First Man", Tom Fonner. If elected to serve another two-year term, it will be his last term. Opportunities abound for others to lead.....

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

Stay safe and well, and have a gloriously happy and healthy holiday season and New Year.

See you down the road!

Frances Fonner, President  
Tiffin Travelers