

## **April 2018 Tiffin Travelers Member Newsletter**

This issue contains information on the following topics:

1. Greetings
2. Thanks
3. Membership & Dues Renewal Period
4. May 2018 Tiffin Travelers rally(s) in Williamsburg, VA and Kill Devil Hills, NC
5. December 2018 Tiffin Travelers rally in St. Augustine, Florida
6. Post-Event Comments about the April 2018 Tiffin Travelers rally in Webster, Florida
7. April 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Business Meeting
8. Links to FMCA Area Newsletters
9. Future Events
10. Closing Remarks

### **Greetings**

We are off and running in 2018.

The oval office occupants were out of the country during the 60 days leading up to the April 1 chapter rally and annual business meeting at Florida Grande in Webster, FL. But where there is a will, there is a way. We communicated with the rally hosts and chapter members briefly, and as needed, by email during our cruise circumnavigating South America. This prolonged away period was also the last months of the chapter dues renewal period. It was a very stressful four days between the cruise and the rally as we got squared away at home (unpacking luggage, doing too much laundry, packing the coach, etc.). We also had to get caught up with chapter new member applications and dues renewals. And, we prepared and printed reports and documents for the chapter rally and annual business meeting. The stress was made more profound by our subjecting ourselves to removing all treats from our intake as we began the challenge of losing the too many pounds we gained on the cruise. We are three weeks into it and have lost two-thirds of what it took us eight weeks to gain. The losing is nowhere near the fun of the gaining!

Please keep an eye on our web site ([tiffintravelers.info](http://tiffintravelers.info)), particularly the "Rallies and Gatherings" link. We have three (3) chapter rallies remaining on the calendar and now accepting reservations. We have room for another rally if someone would like to offer hosting. A good opportunity would be a late September or mid-October event as a pre or post rally staged around the FMCA Eastern Area event in York, PA. (The York dates are shown below.)

On with the nuts and bolts.....

### **Thanks**

Repeated thanks are always in order, so.....

Thank you to the chapter members who hosted the April rally at Florida Grande Motorcoach Resort. Here I will risk missing someone, because I never saw the full list: Dave and Linda Spindle, Frances and Clay Croom, Bob and Marty Whitney, Jon and Jane Unger, Ronnie and Marianne DiGiglia, Mable and Cedric Knowlton, Linda and Dick Hildebrand, and Chris Bootle. There was beautiful weather, fantastic facilities, great food and full agenda of activities inside and out.

Thank you to the Allegro Club of Tiffin Motorhomes, Inc., and their co-presidents Sally and Kelly Moore for the \$500 contribution toward the March "All Tiffin Owners" social at FMCA International in Perry, GA. Thank you to Ann and Nick Paul for the last minute pull together of the "All Tiffin Owners" social in Perry, with an assist from Pat and Bill Murton.

Thank you to our three volunteer/elected members of the nominating committee: Lou Mandik, Ron Mazzone, and Bill Murton.

And, thank you to those who have already volunteered to host our other chapter rallies in 2018. Ann and Nick Paul are hosting a two-part rovin' rally beginning May 20<sup>th</sup> in Williamsburg, Virginia and moving to the outer banks of North Carolina on May 25<sup>th</sup>. And, Yours Truly and sidekick Tom are hosting a St. Augustine, Florida rally after Thanksgiving and pre-Christmas.

### **Membership and Dues Renewal Period**

The 2018 dues renewal period officially ended April 15, 2018. Email notices were sent November 27, 2017 to all owing members (143 coaches). Second notices were emailed January 4<sup>th</sup> to 72 unpaid coaches. Third and final notice was emailed March 26<sup>th</sup> to 42 unpaid coaches. 32 unpaid coaches were deleted from the roster April 15, 2018.

As of April 15, 2018, we have 169 member coaches.

Just one benefit of our chapter membership is the opportunity for each coach to recoup up to \$10 of a chapter rally fee. That bonus carries no limit on the number of chapter rallies attended. Based upon a 4-rallies-per-year schedule, a member coach could receive up to \$40 credit toward chapter rally fees. No matter how the math is applied, that knocks a more-than-big hole in a once-a-year \$12 dues assessment.

Another benefit of membership occurs at our chapter rallies attended by 25 or more of our member coaches. The cost of a catered meal is offset at rallies meeting these qualifications.

### **May 2018 Tiffin Travelers rally(s) in Williamsburg, VA and Kill Devil Hills, NC**

Registrations are now being accepted for the Tiffin Travelers Rovin' Rally to begin May 20<sup>th</sup> at American Heritage RV Park in Williamsburg, Virginia. [www.americanheritagervpark.com](http://www.americanheritagervpark.com) On May 25<sup>th</sup>, the rally moves to OBX Campground in Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina. [www.obxcampground.com](http://www.obxcampground.com) Ann and Nick Paul will be your hosts for this two-part event.

Each stay will be 5 nights. You can register for one or both stays. These dates are at the beginning of prime tourist season for these areas. We are very fortunate to have these opportunities which approach and overlap the Memorial Day holiday period. Site availability is limited to the first 15 coaches reserving, and the allocation may have already sold out. **It may already be too late, so call NOW!** Reservation information can be found at the link on our "Rallies and Gatherings" web page <http://www.tiffintravelers.info/newsletters-2/rallies/coastal-historic-rovin-rally-may-21-2018> of our web site [www.tiffintravelers.info](http://www.tiffintravelers.info).

After you have reserved your site, remember to email the hosts you are coming to ensure you are in the activities headcounts and any emails they might send about the rallies.

### **December 2018 Tiffin Travelers rally in St. Augustine, Florida**

Reservations are now being accepted for the four night December 5, 2018 Tiffin Travelers chapter rally at Compass RV Park in St. Augustine, FL. [www.compassrvpark.com](http://www.compassrvpark.com). **This rally is for our chapter members only.** This time of year in the south will begin again the influx of snowbirds and is also high-season for holiday tourism in St. Augustine. Your hosts for this event are Frances and Tom Fonner. Reservation information can be found at the link on our "Rallies and Gatherings" web page <http://www.tiffintravelers.info/newsletters-2/rallies/holiday-lights-in-st-augustine> of our web site [www.tiffintravelers.info](http://www.tiffintravelers.info)

After you have reserved your site, remember to email the hosts you are coming to ensure you are in the activities headcounts and any emails they might send about the rally.

### **Post-Event Comments about the April rally in Webster, FL**

Florida Grande Motorcoach Resort in Webster, FL was the setting for our April 1<sup>st</sup> chapter rally hosted by our member residents of the resort. Their names are mentioned earlier in "Thanks". There were 35 member coaches and 1 non-member coach attending, making this the second largest chapter rally to date. The resort's social/hospitality club assisted the member rally hosts by providing an arrival day social.

Meals included three mornings of continental breakfast and also a morning of pancake and sausage, each accompanied by coffee and juice. Food trucks were a big hit poolside on Monday night. Tuesday night was “bring a heavy hors d’oeuvre”. Wednesday night featured Red Beans and Rice prepared by member Ronnie DiGiglia.

In addition to the Sunday evening welcome party and afternoon socials, attendees were kept busy with activities. Monday morning was the opportunity to visit the renowned Webster Flea and Farmers Market, followed by member Clay Croom offering a computer class on passwords and security in the RV Park’s Grande Room. Tuesday was filled with the morning chapter annual business meeting, immediately followed by a presentation by America’s Choice RV. America’s Choice also provided pizza lunch. Keeping us on a roll, literally, lunch was followed by tournaments of Cornhole and Street Bowling. The evening was capped off by a Trivia contest session with cash prizes to the tables achieving 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Wednesday, the ladies had two presentations with light lunch provided – an Instant Pot class offered by Frances Croom; and, a Chalk Couture demonstration offered by Marty Whitney. The Wednesday dinner in the Grande Room was capped off with door prize drawings and dancing to live music provided by Cajun Dave. The weather was beautiful, and maybe even a bit warm for the outside tournaments. But we were so happy to be able to enjoy each other’s company in outdoor activities!

In keeping with the chapter’s standing rule to donate \$100 to a charity in the area of a rally, Webster United Methodist Church “Webster Cares” program was selected. Additionally, excess revenues from the rally were donated by the hosts to the Webster Schools Blanket Drive coordinated by FL Grande residents.

### **April 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Business Meeting**

The bylaws-required chapter annual business meeting was held April 3<sup>rd</sup> during the chapter rally at Florida Grande Motorcoach Resort. The minutes of the meeting were posted to the [www.tiffintravelers.info](http://www.tiffintravelers.info) web site on 4/11/18. They can be found at this link <http://www.tiffintravelers.info/home/meeting-minutes> and are labeled as “Minutes V019 2018 0403.docx”.

Three previously approved recurring expenditures were modified and approved to be posted as Standing Rules. They are shown in the meeting minutes and can also be found as numbers 3, 4 and 5 at the Standing Rules link on the web site.

A nominating committee was elected (named above). They are charged with presenting a slate of officer candidates for consideration at the 2019 officer elections. The election date is TBD and usually is during the chapter’s annual business meeting targeted for some time in the spring. Officers elected will serve a two-year term.

### **Links to FMCA Area Newsletters**

Although our chapter membership has no geographic boundaries, we were chartered in FMCA’s Eastern Area. Many of our members are also member of the Southeast Area and the INTO (International) Area. Links are provided here to the April newsletters of Eastern and INTO. Southeast’s last posting was January, and therefore not provided here. For our members in the Great Lakes Area, their newsletter is also omitted due to age of posting.

Eastern Area, April 2018,  
<http://www.easternarea.net/files/2018.1EANews.pdf>

INTO (International) Area, April, 2018  
[http://intlareaorg.homestead.com/2018\\_INTO\\_April\\_2018\\_Newsletter.pdf](http://intlareaorg.homestead.com/2018_INTO_April_2018_Newsletter.pdf)

### **Future Events (East of the Mississippi)**

- May 14<sup>th</sup> is the first official night of the Allegro Club’s national rally in Goshen, IN. If you were fortunate to reserve a spot, send an email to [tiffintravelers@gmail.com](mailto:tiffintravelers@gmail.com). Our chapter will have several of our officers and numerous members in attendance. We want to keep you in the loop if we put together a **gathering** social.

- May 20, 2018 is the first official night of our **chapter's two-part rally** to begin at American Heritage RV Park in Williamsburg, VA. Information is on our web site as the "Coastal Historic Rovin'" rally.  
<http://www.tiffintravelers.info/newsletters-2/rallies/coastal-historic-rovin-rally-may-21-2018>  
(May 20 is the date. Disregard the link's reference to May 21)
- May 25, 2018 is the beginning of part two of the aforementioned **chapter rally**. Members will convene at OBX Campground in Kill Devil Hills, SC. Information is on our web site as the "Coastal Historic Rovin'" rally.  
<http://www.tiffintravelers.info/newsletters-2/rallies/coastal-historic-rovin-rally-may-21-2018>  
(May 25 is the date. Disregard the link's reference to May 21)
- June 6 is the first official night of FMCA Great Lakes Area Rally (GLAMA) to be held in Allegan, MI.  
<https://site.fmca.com/member-event-signup?ConvenKey=GLA18>  
This mention is for informational purposes only. No chapter activities are planned for this event.
- October 3, 2018 is the first official night of FMCA GEAR to be held in York, PA.  
<https://site.fmca.com/member-event-signup?ConvenKey=GEAR18>  
After you have registered, please send an email to these two addresses: [marge.mazzone@verizon.net](mailto:marge.mazzone@verizon.net), and [tiffintravelers@gmail.com](mailto:tiffintravelers@gmail.com). There will be an "All Tiffin Owners" social at this event and we want you to be in the loop for a **gathering**.
- December 5, 2018 is the first official night of our **chapter-member-only end-of-year holiday rally** to be held in St. Augustine, FL. Compass RV Park is now accepting reservations.  
<http://www.tiffintravelers.info/newsletters-2/rallies/holiday-lights-in-st-augustine>

### **Closing Remarks**

I am often asked questions about the geography of our membership. My response usually includes the disclaimer/mantra that "...although we were founded in the Eastern Area of FMCA, we are not bounded by geography..." Technically, our bylaws state our members come from "North America" (which includes Canada).

Looking at the last known mailing addresses on our roster, I find that 1/3 of our members use a Florida mailing address. The other states represented by 10 or more of our member coaches are, in descending order: Virginia (with 19), South Carolina, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina. The remainder of our membership uses mailing addresses in 22 other states, as far west as Washington. The numbers are interesting. I assumed a higher number of members coming from SC, PA and NC, as a considerable portion of our new member enrollments historically have come from FMCA Eastern Area rallies in North Carolina and West Virginia; and also from FMCA National Conventions in Georgia and other further-away-from-Florida states. 'Must be a full-timer-Florida-Snowbird-postal-mailbox sorta thing.

A member roster will be emailed to all in the next few months. When you receive it, please check your contact information for accuracy.

I'm also often asked by existing members, "Do you have rallies in....?", or some phrasing posed as if the "you" is someone other than the full membership of the chapter inclusive of the member asking the question. And, we have members drop from our roster stating their reason as because "...you don't have rallies in my area". Again, that "you" thing.

My point is this. We are a group consisting 100% of volunteer members. If anything gets done, including rallies, newsletters, meeting minutes, socials, etc., it is done by volunteers. The "you" is a big ole 169-coach "we". Our rallies are hosted for our members and their guests by volunteers who are (almost always) our members. We

have had and will have rallies wherever our members have interest to have a rally, **IF** members step forward to be the “you” to host the rally.

Thank you to the precious too-few who have stepped forward to host rallies and perform the other volunteer duties required to keep our chapter vital. And we are vital and having fun at every opportunity. I look forward to hearing from and working closely with others of you as you too step up to host a rally in a location that is of interest to you.

As always, remember to periodically visit our [tiffintravelers.info](http://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. For those less motivated to surf the site's pages, we are updating the lower center of the Home page with the same "last updated" information for each subpage of the web site.

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 many of you in May.

See you down the road!  
Frances Fonner, President  
Tiffin Travelers