



FMCA
Your RVing Family

EASTERN AREA OF FMCA

Fall 2023 Newsletter

It has been a busy couple of months. I'll try to capture what's been happening in my "world" of EAMA.

Always on my "to do" list: to plan and work on GEAR, from lining up speakers for seminars to, working with chairs and co-Chairs, checking on entertainment, and securing needed items, to name a few things.

August 3-6, 2023: The Northeast Area held its Area Rally at the Herkimer County Fairground in Frankfort, NY. The theme

was "Prism of Memories," and about 177 RVs came to the celebration. I took advantage of the opportunity to do a seminar on recruiting new members for FMCA and chapters. The weather was perfect, and a good time was had by all.

Eric and I left Herkimer and headed west. We traveled with Gary and Sue Cipa and Steve and Gil Raye. It took us about 10 days, but we made it to Gillette, WY, where FMCA's 107th International Convention & RV Expo was held at the Cam-Plex Multi-Event Facilities. **August**

23-26, 2023; "Celebrating Sixty," recognizing FMCA's 60th year, was the theme that flavored the rally. There was a parade, and an Eastern Area chapter (Cumberland Travelers) won grand prize as Mark Glover were transformed into Sonny and Mary Glover as Cher. The Chapter Fair went well, but, unfortunately only three Eastern Area chapters participated. The Fair was supported by our three hardworking team members from Chapter Services.



There was some serious work to be done as the Governing Board met to vote on Constitution and Bylaws changes, the budget, and to help FMCA take on the challenges ahead. The Governing Board also elected the National Officers for the next 2 years: Gary Milner, National President; Paul Mitchell, National Senior Vice President; Pamela

Richard, National Secretary; and Barbara Smith, National Treasurer. I am pleased to say that the Eastern Area had over 81%-chapter representation at the Board meeting with the help of 10 Temporary Delegates attending. Constitutional changes passed the Governing Board and will now need to be voted on by the membership. Items passed: FMCA may choose to operate under an assumed business name for the



At the Eastern Area Gathering we recognized and celebrated our newest Eastern Area chapter, The Cumberland Travelers!

purposes of public identity, promotion, and normal operations. The membership also will vote changes to the Mission and Purpose of FMCA. A Bylaws change was approved to add a new category of membership called Pathfinder for prospective RV owners.



September 10-17, 2023: Back in PA, at Hershey for the Hershey RV Show. The team who worked the FMCA Booth with Eric and me included Sue and Gary Cipa, Clarissa and Larry Sherrow, Gil and Steve Raye, Ed Reid, Jane and Tom Burke, and Jen Bowman. FMCA reported 130 new FMCA member joins made during the show. Attendance at the show was down for the second year in a row, with 45,535 in attendance.



October 3-8, 2023: Autumn in the Mountains! GEAR was held at the State Fair of West Virginia in, Lewisburg, WV. Nearly a year in the making, GEAR was a great celebration! 223 RVs were registered, with about half of them being first timers, and those in attendance had plenty to do during the rally. They say a picture is worth a thousand words, and the best way to share with you is through pictures.

First Timer get together Tuesday evening



The Frustrated Maestros held their annual “Band Camp” the week before GEAR. They held a concert Friday evening before GEAR and played each morning while coffee and donuts were served.



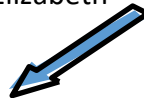
Goodie bag assembly line. Volunteers, under the direction of Garnetta Mallory, Western Region VP, filled about 275 bags for GEAR attendees. With so many helping hands, the bags were filled in no time at all.



Tuesday evening the Eastern Gourmands gathered to share a meal at Hill and Holler Pizza restaurant, in downtown Lewisburg.



It was exciting to introduce the Eastern Area’s newest chapter on Wednesday evening! WELCOME Elizabeth River Going Strong to our family!





EAMA Ms. GEAR Pageant winners!



Ryan Jewel and his Band

Great Entertainment!



Kenny Rae



Carson Peters and The Iron Mountain Band



Line dancing in the audience



Fun activities with the help of our volunteers! Pancake breakfast with enough pancakes to feed about 500 people!

The Ice Cream Social with the Dog Parade immediately following.



Dog Parade.



Clarissa, Larry, and Abbey



From Dog Parade to Bean Bag Baseball where 5 teams battled it out. Then to a Craft Fair where many of our talented members showed off their crafts to sell. Lots to see and do!



Bean Bag Baseball Champs!

Winner of the silent auction quilt, Marge Mazzone. The quilt was made and donated by Garnetta Mallory (Western Region VP). Two other wonderful donations were in the silent auction, a white afghan blanket made by Aleta Himes (Allegheny Mountains Chapter) and a tan and brown afghan blanket made by Susan Buelow (Dogwood Chapter)



Phyllis Britz, President, EAMA

SENIOR VP

FAREWELL

GEAR was great! All the FMCA national officers were there, President, Gary Milner; Senior VP Paul Mitchell; Secretary Pamela Richard; and Treasurer Barbara Smith. They rolled up their sleeves and did seminars, ran the games, helped with the ice cream social and put on roundtable discussions for chapter secretaries and treasurers.

We had the first-timers meeting where over 100 people were in attendance. Immediately following the meeting, the Chapter Fair was held. First timers who did not belong to a chapter were asked to judge the various chapter displays. They voted and there was a tie between the Dogwood chapter and the Elizabeth River Going Strong chapter!

We had the Ms. GEAR Pageant. Six men dressed up in dresses and wore wigs. There was a talent competition as well as judging on answering questions. I was one of those guys in the pageant. It was a bunch of fun, and I enjoyed every minute of the pageant.

We had plenty of seminars for people to attend and a lot of special events. If you were not at the rally, you missed a great time.

I did not run again for Senior VP because of some health problems. I wish the new Senior VP, David Fowler, the best and hope you will support David as you supported me.

The next GEAR rally is going to be in Fletcher, NC, at the Ag Center, October 23 to 27. I will see you in Fletcher, NC, at the GEAR Rally.

Dennis Ducharme

Outgoing Eastern Area Senior VP

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WELCOME NEW SENIOR VP

It gives me great pleasure to introduce EAMA's newest officers elected at our annual meeting at GEAR. First, a warm WELCOME to our new Senior Vice President, David Fowler.

Hi, all. Some of you may know me. I am David Fowler from Murrells Inlet, SC. I grew up in West Virginia, attended West Virginia University, and was drafted into the Army in 1968. I served as a combat medic in Vietnam with the 9th Inf. Division. When I was discharged from active duty, I remained in the U.S. Army Reserve.

I attended nursing school at Ohio Valley Hospital in Steubenville, Ohio, and nurse anesthesia school at Shadyside Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA, and I graduated from California State College in California, PA, in 1978. I accepted an anesthesia position for Professional Anesthesia Service in Akron, Ohio, where I worked for 30 years. I met my wife, Jan, in the operating room (she was a nurse, not a patient). We have been married 44 years.

Jan and I were heavily involved in boating for many years. We were sailors for many years and took a two-year sabbatical in 1985 and sailed from Lake Erie to Venezuela and back. Then we switched to power boating and cruised the Great Lakes.

I served on the board of our yacht club for 20 years.

We moved to Murrells Inlet, SC, in 2006, where I worked at Inlet Anesthesia Consultant for 7 years prior to my retirement.

We joined FMCA in 2015 and became members of the Carolina Pelicans Chapter, of which I am now the president. Jan and I enjoy traveling and have visited many of the states and eastern Canada.

I was elected as the senior VP of EAMA at the GEAR rally in Lewisburg in October. I look forward to serving EAMA and FMCA and helping Phyllis in any way I can.

I am new at this, so I ask for all the help I can get and, above all else, patience. It is my honor to serve as your EAMA Senior VP.

David Fowler

Incoming Eastern Area Senior VP

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WESTERN REGION VP

GEAR 2023 was a great rally. It was good to see everyone there. Lots of activities and entertainment. We will have GEAR at Asheville, NC, next year. I look forward to seeing you there! I want to come and visit the chapters in the Western Region. The area encompasses Kentucky and Tennessee, as well as the GMC Dixielanders. Please send me your rally schedules.

Garnetta Mallory
Western Region VP
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EAMA CENTRAL REGION VP

Fall greetings to all Central Region chapters of the Eastern Area Motorcoach Association (EAMA). Finally, it is COOL!! ...and the leaves are showing their colors. Fall is a time of Thanksgiving, a time to gather with family and friends and to enjoy the final chapter rallies of the year. By remaining active in your chapter, this ensures your chapter's health and contributes to the overall health of FMCA.

Lee and I returned to our Lake Kiwanee, Arkansas, home base on 31 August for our Labor Day gathering with family, having traveled 6000+ miles across 14 states during our summer trip. We visited 22 National Park Service sites...National Parks and Historic Sites, National Monuments, Lakeshores, Reserves, and Battlefields. We also attended the Midwest Area Rally in Chippeawa Falls, WI, and the FMCA International Convention in Gillette, WY, where national officers for 2023-2025 were elected. Shortly after returning, we headed out again in mid-September for the South-Central Area's Six State Rally in Shawnee, OK. Next up was GEAR...

The Great Eastern Area Rally was a wonderful rally, full of fun, food, excellent entertainment, great vendors, and many RV-related activities to keep the 240+ members who attended busy all day long. We had exciting and valuable daily and nightly entertainment door prizes, a 50/50 raffle, and a silent auction. We also had our annual EAMA Executive Board meeting and elected new EAMA officers for Senior VP and Central Region VP.

This will be my last writing in the EAMA newsletter. I have truly enjoyed representing the Central Region chapters and hope you will provide the same support to the incoming Central Region VP – Lynn Nelson. Being Arkansas residents now, Lee and I are moving over to the South-Central Area and joining the Six State Rally Association Cadre, but we do plan to keep coming to GEAR, just like we have had since 2008.

Take care, travel safely and we will see you all at GEAR 2024 in Asheville, NC.

Vr/Andy Deal, F359977
Outgoing Central Region VP
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WELCOME NEW CENTRAL REGION VP

Lynn Nelson was voted in as the new Central Area Regional VP. I WELCOME Lynn to our Executive Board team.



Lynn has been RVing all her life, and since the 1990's mostly for business. She retired in 2019 and is excited to become a part-time/full-time RVer, which has been a lifelong dream. Lynn was introduced to FMCA in 2019 and joined the Dogwood chapter in Virginia. Since then, she has been joined by her RV-loving partner, Wayne Dancause, who supports all things RVing! Lynn has been Rally Master for several FMCA chapter rallies as well as for another RV club. In addition, she has held officer positions for multiple organizations and acted as conference host for organizations. She is excited to bring that knowledge, her enthusiasm, and ideas to this group. Always eager to learn and share, she finds the

idea of being a liaison between national FMCA and local chapters to have great appeal. Lynn is anxious to work at making next year's GEAR the best it can be.

Lynn Nelson

Incoming Central Region VP

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SOUTHERN REGION VP

Now that GEAR is over and done with for another year, we are mostly all back home and digging in with new chapters, new officers, and a lot of new goals. Already committee meetings are taking place, chapter rallies are in progress and the Southern Region is alive and well.

GEAR was a great rally - lots of first-timers, great seminars, and some of the greatest volunteers I have been involved with for a lot of years. I want to think it had a lot to do with the first-timers' recognition that was hosted by several of us ASK ME volunteers. I want to say a big thank-you to all the volunteers and especially to the seminar monitor volunteers I worked closely with.

A thank-you goes out to Andy Deal and Dennis Ducharme. They are leaving the EAMA board for other duties in the FMCA. They will be missed, and we wish them the best of luck in their new duties. Along with that, we welcome our new Senior Vice President, Dave Fowler, and the Central Region Vice President, Lynn Nelson. We wish them the best in their new duties.

Phyllis and I will be attending the anniversary rally with the Carolina Heartlanders in Raleigh, NC, in November, and then I will be attending the rally with the Carolina Pelicans. We also will be welcoming a new chapter in December, the Carolina Drifters. We will visit with that group in Columbia, SC. It will be a very busy couple of months for Nancy and me.

With November and December, we will celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas. Please take time to attend your place of worship and visit with your families. We will have a new member in our family this year, a great granddaughter born in July. May peace and goodwill be with everyone. Thanks for a great year in the Southern Region.

Chris F Holtzman F388492

VP Southern Region EAMA

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GEAR 2024

Save the date: October 23-27, 2024.

Western North Carolina

Agricultural Center, Fletcher, NC

We Need a Theme!

Please send your Theme Idea to:

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Visit us at www.fmca-ea.com

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