



The Eastern Light

Coaches for Christ Eastern
Chapter of FMCA

Matthew 5: 14-16

December 2023

Coaches for Christ is an inter-denominational ministry made up of Christians from many religious and spiritual backgrounds. The chapters were organized to enable FMCA members to combine their love for travel with their spiritual walk with Jesus.

A top priority for all chapters is sponsoring the morning devotions at FMCA rallies & conventions. The Coaches for Christ Eastern Chapter of FMCA was chartered in October 2003 at the Great Eastern Area Rally (GEAR) in Asheville, NC.

2023-2024 CFCE Officers:

President: Leon Whitt

c: 410-935-2510 Leonwhitt323@aol.com

Vice President: Rich Taddeo

h: 703-620-9145 randktaddeo45@gmail.com

c: 703-887-4909

Secretary & National Director: Katie Taddeo

c: 703-887-4912 randktaddeo45@gmail.com

Treasurer: Sherry Whitt

c: 302-858-8137 sherrywhitt323@gmail.com



A Message from Leon:

Another year is drawing to a close, for many of us it has been one of many blessings along with some challenges which we have been able to survive. We are so privileged to live in this country in freedom, able to enjoy the bounties to which we have been accustomed while others around the globe can only dream of what we often take for granted. Thanks to our armed forces involvement in conflicts around the globe, we continue to enjoy peace and security here in our homeland, created as "One Nation Under God". I urge each of you as we navigate this years "Holiday Season" to remember those who are not as fortunate, the widows, orphans, and those who are suffering from various maladies. As God's word in the Bible instructs us, do what you can to help alleviate their struggles. Be careful when you talk to someone, ensure that you are using encouraging words for the power of life and death can be found in our tongue. For those of you like us, not migrating to warmer climes, be sure to winterize your rigs and start preparing for next years travels.

"If you want 1 year of prosperity, grow grain. If you want 10 years of prosperity, grow trees. If you want 100 years of prosperity, grow people."
Chinese Proverb



A Little Bit of History

The very first Coaches for Christ Chapter was chartered on March 23, 1997 at the FMCA Convention in Pomona, California with 25 members. Bill & Nancy Watts (F96) were the Chaplains.





Chapter Minutes Annual Business Meeting

Coaches for Christ Eastern President Leon Whitt called the meeting to order at 5:55 PM on Saturday October 7, 2023 during the Great Eastern Area Rally in Lewisburg, WV. Richard Taddeo opened with prayer. Pizza, fruit and several side dishes and desserts were enjoyed by all.

Present at the meeting were Joanne Becka, Eric & Phyllis Britz, Bob & Lynda Bucklew, Bob & Charlotte Franks, James & Jamie Hamby, Jim & Tracy Murphy, Larry Perdue, Rich & Katie Taddeo, Scott Wallace & Layla, Leon & Sherry Whitt.

We welcomed seven new members to our chapter.

Katie Taddeo stated that Nancy Watts (F96) a charter member of CFCE passed away on September 8, 2023 and her memorial service is today.. Her obituary made note of Nancy's love of traveling and that she had planned a 3-week motorhome trip in October; we speculate this was to GEAR. Nancy and her late husband Bill were charter members and chaplains of the Coaches for Christ International Chapter in 1997. Their daughter Leslie Goree (D96) had accompanied Nancy to GEAR July 2022 when Nancy had shared information of the history of Coaches for Christ chapters at our business meeting.

The reading of the minutes from GEAR July 2022 were accepted as printed in the Eastern Light Newsletter.

Sherry Whitt reported a balance of \$652.49 To celebrate our 20th year Anniversary as a chapter and to draw attention to our morning devotions, we placed a half-page ad in the GEAR program Autumn in the Mountains at a cost of \$75.00 and are expecting to be reimbursed from the FMCA Recruitment Fund. Each year we have available to us from FMCA up to \$100 to recruit new members. Any ideas about how we can use this in the future are welcome. The group voted to donate \$100 to the designated GEAR Greenbrier County charity "Communities in Schools" and \$100 to the "Fruits of Labor, Inc." the nationally certified culinary and

ag training center in West Virginia supporting adults recovering from addiction.

Looking ahead 2024 GEAR will be held in Fletcher, North Carolina near Asheville October 23-27, so please add that to your travel plans.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM.



What GEAR Means to Me...

It was 1996 and we both still had fulltime jobs, but we decided to attend our first Great Eastern Area Rally (GEAR) in Centre Hall, Pennsylvania. We had purchased our first RV, a 24 foot Argosy on Father's Day 1993 so we could vacation with our white German Shepherd/Great Pyrenees (120-160 pounds) furbabies. Less than a year later we were thinking that a larger motorhome might better suit our family, so we examined classified ads in the FMCA magazine and bought a 34 footer from a couple who told us how much fun they had had tending FMCA rallies. We were eager to experience the same fellowship and fun by rving. We used the motorhomes to visit family, explore campgrounds in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and the Eastern Shore of Delmarva, attending gospel concerts at a local campground and then using it as our accommodations at church building mission trips. That was it – building relationships with people and enjoying activities with our dogs. Then we registered for our first FMCA sponsored event...

I remember riding up to Centre Hall, PA on a beautiful fall afternoon with the sun highlighting the trees with vibrant colors and arriving Friday about 4 PM. When we crested a hill and saw all the rvs already in attendance, it blew my mind; I hadn't realized there were that many people who had rvs! We had already missed the First-Timers seminar and Chapter Fair due to our ignorance as to when the activities REALLY get started; we had to figure this out on our own.

Reluctantly we departed on Sunday afternoon and I remarked that if we weren't working we could have stayed longer. The seed of early retirement had been planted! For our second GEAR (1997) in Lewisburg, WV we arrived earlier and departed later. We did meet lots of people but not being in a chapter, we were still at a disadvantage. We met some interesting people who invited us to their chapter rallies and that made a big difference, being among new friends during GEAR the following year in Greenville, SC. We joined several FMCA chapters and made lifelong friends! We attended 20 GEAR rallies in PA, WV, SC, NC, TN, VA and also a Northeastern Area Rally in NY.

Our 21st GEAR was this past October. The Autumn in the Mountains Rally was attended by 240 RV units and the attendees were eager to get things going right away! In order to welcome the First-Timers and acquaint them with the upcoming rally activities, eighteen hosts volunteered to meet their assigned First-Timers for food and fellowship. This proved to be a successful idea and promises to lead to more of the same in the coming year. It is extremely important that we communicate with our First-Timers and help with questions they have from the get-go. We had 7 First-Timers from MD, VA and FL in our group and we saw them often throughout the week. As always it takes many volunteers to make the rally a success and the 123 volunteers were kept busy with their duties. Chapters who volunteer often are parked together, so a friend is always nearby.

The usual First-Timers seminar and Chapter Fair followed on Wednesday. The night entertainment consisted of music and singing by the Frustrated Maestros, announcing some new chapters to the Eastern Area and announcing chapters anniversaries

Leon accepted the 20th year Anniversary Certificate for Coaches for Christ Eastern Chapter.



Phyllis Britz (President Eastern Area MotorCoach Association), Leon Whitt (President Coaches for Christ Eastern) and Gary Milner (National President FMCA)

We then witnessed the Ms GEAR Beauty Pageant. The outfits and talent part of the competition were very unique and hilarious.

Morning devotions began Thursday morning with singing the Lord's praises. Leon's message from Revelation led to a wonderful discussion among the 13 attendees. Next came several seminars, craft classes, and country songwriter, guitar playing and singing Kenny Ray Horton for evening entertainment.

On Friday, Rich Taddeo, provided the message on I Peter 1 and again we had great discussions among the 11 attendees. More seminars and chapter gatherings preceded another country singer Ryan Jewell for the evening entertainment.

Saturday was a very busy day. Leon led the morning devotions and both he and Rich had EAMA meeting to attend. I attended an extremely interesting seminar about Katherine Johnson, a young mathematical genius from here in Greenbrier County who was instrumental in getting NASA astronauts to the moon and back. Many of our ladies attended the Ladies Luncheon and had a delicious meal prepared by Fruits of Labor. Tammy Jordan was our speaker again this year and told about her ministry to teach culinary and hospitality skills and employ adults in the Greenbrier area. A first time Craft Fair was held next and many GEAR attendees displayed their talents and handmade gifts for purchase.

The CFCE chapter then got together for our annual Pizza Party and business meeting. This was well attended (18) by most of our Morning Devotions attendees as well as guests. Entertainment that night was an excellent bluegrass group Carson Peters and the Iron Mountain Band. We were blessed to hear this awesome group of Christian

musicians and they earned an overwhelming standing ovation!

Our Sunday morning service was sparsely attended as many had departed for home or future destinations but we 11 enjoyed a message from Rich Taddeo on John 17. We said our farewells to both former and new friends until we meet again.



NEW MEMBERS

We are so very pleased to introduce new chapter members:

- Bob & Lynda Bucklew – Pennsylvania
- Carol Crossett – Pennsylvania
- Bob & Charlotte Franks – New Jersey
- James & Jamie Hamby – North Carolina
- Jim & Tracy Murphy – Pennsylvania
- Larry Perdue – Virginia
- Kathy Walentowicz – Maryland

A warm welcome to our chapter!

Our by-laws state that any dues paid after July 1 covers the following year. Therefore, those folks who joined at GEAR are paid thru 2024.



DUES

Thanks for being a member and supporting Coaches for Christ Eastern chapter of FMCA and the morning devotions at our Area Rally. Our annual dues are \$10.

Attached is a document named ROSTER and on it, please locate your name and other info and let me know if any changes need to be made. The column after your F number is the year through which your dues have been paid. So, if it is 2024 or later, you are good to go; if not, please renew your membership by sending a check made payable

to CFCE before December 31 to
Sherry Whitt
25536 Asbury Road
Seaford, DE 19973-8255

Our chapter does not need your \$10 dues as much as we need your membership in order to remain a valid active chapter.

PLEASE continue to support our mission to provide Morning Devotions during GEAR and donating to local ministries. Each and every membership is important.



GEAR 2024 October 23-27 Fletcher, NC



FMCA has three Chaplains:

- John Aukema
- Dane Bailey
- Jim Hollis

833-458-0778
chaplains@fmca.com



Let us consider how we may spur one another toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25

JOY to the world the Lord has come and is coming
AGAIN !

