

National RV Central States FMCA Chapter



August 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Friends:

When I composed my last message to you, Janice and I were attending the *Cat* rally in Illinois and were making plans for the FMCA National Convention in Bowling Green, OH and the Freightliner club meeting in Hillsdale, OH. They were good rallies which we enjoyed and even learned "something new". I want to take an opportunity to tell you about a few actions taken by the Governing Board in Bowling Green. You will recall that I mentioned some upcoming proposals for changes in the bylaws which affected chapters. There were also some actions taken regarding the budget that could affect you as members.

The board meeting on July 20 began with member check-in at 8:00 a.m. and open ceremonies at 9:00. After preliminary activities, introductions, and some minor business the first major business was adoption of the 2010 budget. Treasurer Doug Key began by describing the 5.7 million dollar decline in revenue projected for the coming year. That set the stage for the proposed spending budget for 2010. Among the changes proposed were an increase in the mail forwarding fee to \$10 per month, an increase in convention registration fee to \$15, a 10% reduction in staff and salary, reduced travel and mileage reimbursement for Executive Board, a 50% reduction in the governing board stipend and termination of MEDEX in 2010. This left a budget with a deficit of almost \$300,000 which would be taken from reserves. This was followed by a long discussion of the pros and cons of the MEDEX program. In the end it was voted to retain the MEDEX program for the coming year. That action increased the budget deficit to \$771,000 for the year: All of it to be taken from club reserves. Of the other issues: the raise in mail forwarding, raise in registration fee, reduction in staff and salary, and reduction in travel reimbursement were accepted and reduction in board stipend failed. All of the recommendations relating to changes in bylaws affecting chapters including the requirement for only one business meeting per year were accepted.

There were more items on the agenda but I won't try to discuss all of them with you at this time. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. If you have any questions, let me know. See you all at the September rallies.

Frank

PLEASE NOTE:

The arrival date for the pre-rally in Norman, OK has been changed. The majority voted for a three-day rally. Therefore, **the arrival date is now Saturday, September 19** rather than Friday, September 18. (The Oklahoma University vs. Tulsa football game scheduled to be played in Norman at 2:30 and should be over about 5:30, so you might want to schedule your arrival accordingly.) The agenda follows:

**PRE-RALLY, NORMAN, OKLAHOMA
Cleveland County Fairgrounds
September 19-22, 2009**

**Rally Fee: \$10.00 per coach
Camping Fee: \$20.00 per night, full hookups, 30 & 50 amp.
Pay when you arrive**

Saturday, Sept 19

1:00- 3:00 Registration at the Sorenson's site (Look for the flamingo.)
On your own until about 4:00 p.m.

(Things to do: Farmers Market at the fairgrounds Sat. morning from 8:-12:00 where you can purchase fresh fruits and veggies, farm fresh eggs, cheeses, jellies & preserves. Visit Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History; Little River Zoo; James Garner and Legacy Trail Walking Tour in downtown Norman or shopping in Norman's Downtown Historic District.)

4:00 p.m. Social gathering, bring chairs and own drinks

5:30 or 6:00 Cookout (weather permitting) – Bratwurst and trimmings, etc. provided by the club.
Bring chairs and own drinks; club provides table service.

Sunday, Sept 20

8:-9:00 Breakfast: coffee, donuts at the Sorenson's' site.
Sunday morning is left open for church or other exploring in Norman.

12:00 noon Group lunch at local restaurant, then carpool/caravan to Oklahoma City.

2:00 p.m. Tour Oklahoma City Memorial and Museum – Senior admission: \$6.00
(A National Park Service Ranger will give an orientation for about 30 minutes; followed by a self-guided tour.)

4:30 p.m. Happy Hour – Heavy Hors d'oeuvres – bring your favorite and your own drink.
No dinner planned.

Monday, Sept 21

8:-9:00 Breakfast: donuts, coffee at Sorenson's site.

9-12:00 Activity to be determined

1:00 p.m. Group tour of the National Weather Center

(Talk with meteorologists and walk through five live working offices—Severe Storms lab, Radar Operations, Storm Prediction Center, Forecast Office, Warning Decision Training, see the newest technology in action.)

4:-5:00 Happy Hour

5:00 p.m. Caravan/carpool to Riverwind Casino for group buffet dinner, and the gamblers can try their luck at the slots, or blackjack tables, etc.

Tuesday, Sept 22

9:00 a.m. Caravan leaves for Six-State Rally in Shawnee, OK
(Further information on this in Norman.)

Directions to Cleveland County Fairgrounds: Take I-35 to Norman. Take exit 110 (Robinson St.) go east on Robinson Street. Travel east three miles to Porter and Robinson intersection. Norman Regional Hospital will be on the right. Go through that intersection and the Cleveland County Fairgrounds are at the very next traffic signal on the left-hand side of the road at 615 E. Robinson.

If you would like to arrive on Friday, you can call the Cleveland County Fairgrounds at (405) 360-4721. Be sure to tell them you are with *National RV Central States* club and you are coming in for the rally a day early. For more information see: www.clevelandcountyfair.org.

Members that have so far indicated they will attend the Pre-Rally in Norman, OK:

Milt and Alice Beamer
Gene and Betty Dunn
Matt and Robbie Fricke
Bill and Audry Gent
Howard and Doris Harp
Frank and Janice Koch
Carmen and Dorothy Liscio
Bill and Pat Maher
Larry and Norma Sorenson

We would appreciate a couple to volunteer as our “right-hand man” to help us with breakfasts, the cookout, etc. You can give us a call or email (Larry & Norma): sorensonx@yahoo.com or 972-279-5234.



Update from Webmaster Bill Gent:

For the last 5 months we have been averaging 600 hits by 60+ visitors a day for a total of 5000+ pages of data a month. We are getting some spam mail but it is minimal since we hide our email address from "robots".

Recent additions to web content include the Spring issue of the Six State Newsletter and a slide show of pictures of our Treasure Lake RV Resort Rally (Branson MO) taken by Howard Harp.

We now have two items for sale and three items that are wanted listed on the club's web site. Also in the last month we added the July issue of the club's newsletter, a link to a California repair facility that purchased a substantial portion of NRV parts during the NRV liquidation and two links to the FMCA web site that includes (1) a comprehensive PDF listing of NRV suppliers and (2) information about the Six States Rally. For details see <http://www.nationalrv-centralstates.org/WhatsNew.html>.

From our Members:

Aug 14: Yesterday I had to get Life Line to rush Dorothy to the ER at the Hartland Hospital. After 9 hrs in the ER it was determined that her heart was not getting any blood on the left side. Monday AM She will have a cardiogram performed to find the problem. We are not canceling the pre- rally and we are not returning our credentials for Shawnee OK rally yet. Dorothy wants to go very badly and we are determined to get there if God be willing. ---*Carmen Liscio*

Aug 18: I just brought my wife Dorothy home from the Hospital; we are coming to the pre-rally in Norman but won't arrive until Saturday because she must go to the Doctor on the 17th. We would not be able to make it any sooner. I will be driving slower than usual. She had 3 stints put in yesterday but God was watching over us. She wants to go to The Pow-wow at Shawnee. So we will see you at Norman on Sat. ---*Carmen Liscio*

Carol and I won't be attending the rally as I will be having surgery on September 15. I will need 2 months for recovery. Then we will be going to the valley in South Texas around October 15 to November 1. Have fun at both rallies and be safe. -- *Mark Feld*

Let's keep these members in our prayers.

.....

Telephone Tips

This was on our local news recently.

When calling a cell phone and you reach a voice mailbox, you normally get a lengthy instructional message, such as: *At the tone, please record your message; after recording you may either hang up or press 2 for more options; to leave a callback number press five, blah, blah, blah.*

For each cell phone provider, there is a code that can be used to bypass that lengthy message:

AT&T = 0
Sprint = 1
Verion = *
T-Mobile = #

As soon as you hear the outgoing message of the person you are calling, press the code button applicable to that cell phone provider; you will then get a "beap" and can record your message. The catch is, you must know the "callee's" cell phone provider.

You can also record the outgoing message on your own phone to say: *Hello, this is John, press (*) to leave a message*, then the person calling you, by pressing * (or 0, 1, # depending who your provider is), bypasses that lengthy message. If your cell phone provider isn't listed above, you will need to call and ask them which button to press to bypass the standard message.

“Do not call” registry for cell phones

Telemarketers and solicitors can now call cell phone numbers. If you want to have your cell phone number removed from their call lists, you must call toll-free **888-382-1222** from the cell phone whose number you want removed.



Five-minute chocolate cake for One (or Two)

Sometimes you just want a piece of cake, but don't want to bake a whole cake because then you have to eat the whole thing. A friend of mine sent this recipe and she says it's perfect to make in an RV and serves one or two people. I haven't tried it yet. We're still working on the two pecan pies Larry made last Sunday, but maybe someone else might like to be the guinea pig. Here is the recipe.

4 Tbsp. Flour
4 Tbsp sugar
2 Tbsp cocoa
1 egg
3 Tbsp milk
3 Tbsp oil
3 Tbsp chocolate chips (optional)
Small splash of vanilla extract
1 **large** coffee mug (microwave safe)

Add dry ingredients to mug and mix well. Add the egg and mix thoroughly. Pour in the milk and oil and mix well. Add chocolate chips (if using) and vanilla and mix again. Put the mug in the microwave and cook for 3 minutes at 1000 watts. The cake will rise over the top of the mug, but don't be alarmed! Allow to cool a little and tip out onto a plate. EAT and ENJOY! (This can serve two if you want to feel slightly more virtuous.)

Now you are only five minutes away from chocolate cake at any time of the day or night.

You could also mix up several batches of the dry ingredients and store them in baggies to mix up later with the rest of the ingredients.

*That's all Folks
See you in Norman and Shawnee.*