



TIDBITS FROM PENNY

July 2017

Volume 8, No. 4

Edited by Louise Birett—lbirett@comcast.net



GREETINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Five Penn Coachmen coaches traveled to FMCAs 96th International Convention at Indianapolis, IN.

John Breisch, Penn Coachmen's National Director, reports that at the Convention, the FMCA Governing Board voted to proceed (84% vote) with the next step of the proposed structural change to FMCA, i.e., admitting towable owners into the association. Look for the upcoming membership vote. Ballots will be published in the September, October, and November issues of *Family Motor Coaching*, with a voting deadline of November 30, 2017. Note: one vote per F #.

John also stated that John Reynolds was elected as FMCA Treasurer winning by a very slim margin.

We received word that the Lebanon Rally was a great success! Thanks to Lou & Carol Mandik and their hosts for making "Christmas in July" a special and fun time for all who attended.

Other Information to share:

1. Eastern Area Rally (Will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary)
Oct. 4 to 8, 2017
State Fairgrounds of West Virginia
Lewisburg, W.Va.

- Volunteers are always needed and there are opportunities to volunteer -
- FMCA Store, Security, Trams, & Facilities. If volunteering, please designate you are volunteering when you register. This information is listed on your credentials and impacts your arrival date. If you know what you are volunteering for, notify the chair or co-chair as follows:

Facilities: Deardorffs (Chairs) and Lees (Co-Chairs)
FMCA Store: Amos (Chair's) and Dilliplaines (Co-Chairs)
Security: John Breisch (Chair)

- FMCA Energized (previously the under 60 group open to all) is arranging a "Community Build" project at Lewisburg the week before and the week after GEAR. Arrangements have been made with the fairground to have full hook-ups for \$15/night if you are participating. Volunteers with any kind of skill needed.
- The Eastern Area Rally is looking for donations for the "Welcome Bags"
- 400 bags to be filled.

Executive Board:

Phyllis Britz, President

Sue Cipa, Exec. VP

Wayne Dilliplaine, Treasurer

Barbara Arcati, Secretary

Bob Birett, Area VP

Linda Deardorff, Area VP

Jim Lexa, Area VP

Larry Troutman, Area VP

2017 Rallies:

4/21-4/23—Pine Grove, PA

5/26-5/29—Centre Hall, PA

6/16-6/18—Gilbert, PA

7/14-7/16—Lebanon, PA

8/18-8/20—Bloomsburg, PA

9/13 - 7/17 Pennsylvania RV Show

Rolling Rally to GEAR—9/24-10-4—Orrstown, PA

10/4-10/8—GEAR—Lewisburg, WV

11/3-11/5—Bethel, PA



- Door Prizes are being sought. These can be inexpensive.
 - Ads are being sold for the program. The committee is reaching out to the local merchants, but Chapters are welcome to purchase an ad.
 - Expect great entertainment: a magician, a blue grass band, and a John Denver tribute.
 - GEAR 2018 will take place October. 3-7 at the York County Fairground.
2. Planning for the Rolling Rally (September 25 – October 3) to GEAR continues.: There will be a meeting at the Bloomsburg Rally for those interested and an update on the Penn Coachmen website is coming soon.
 3. The 2018 Rally season is coming together. Be sure to check the rally sign-up sheets at every rally and join in the fun by signing up to be a Rally Master or Host!
 - 4, Penn Coachmen will be having its 50th Anniversary in 2019. The sign-up sheet was at Gilbert and volunteers have started to sign-up. Please consider joining in so we have a great celebration.
 5. Keep in mind the importance of recruiting new members for FMCA and Penn Coachmen. Interesting facts that were shared at the Eastern Area Meeting at Indy: Eastern Area has 8,435 members but only 16% (1,512) belong to a chapter. Any Penn Coachmen interested in recruiting can obtain copies of *Family Motor Coaching Magazines* and other materials from John & Nancy Breisch, Sue & Gary Cipa or Eric & Phyllis Britz.
 6. The Bloomsburg Rally is just around the corner, SEE YOU THERE!



**Submitted
by:**

**Phyllis
Britz**

**NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT – GOVERNING BOARD MEETING ON JULY 12, 2017
BY JOHN BREISCH, NATIONAL DIRECTOR PENN COACHMEN AND NANCY
BRIEISCH, NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF ROLLING RED HATTERS.**

Of the 380 chapters eligible, 281 were represented in the morning session for a total of 73% and 272 or 71.5% were present for the afternoon session.

Assets total \$9,698,281. with liabilities of \$5,586,289. resulting in a net worth to FMCA of \$4,111,992.

Revenue for the year was under budget by \$229,226 while expenses were over budget by \$20,004.

Proposal #1 to limit the number of family members who can serve on the Executive Board of FMCA simultaneously was defeated.

Proposal #2 to change the definition of those eligible for membership was also defeated.

Proposal #3 to broaden the scope of membership to include recreational vehicles was passed with overwhelming support. A “recreational vehicle” is to be defined as a “self-contained wheeled vehicle that includes permanently installed cooking, refrigeration, sleeping and sanitary facilities.” The change will be presented to the membership for a vote with ballots included in the September, October & November issues of FMC magazine with a voting deadline of November 30th. There will be one vote per F#.

Results of the election of National Officers were as follows: Jon Walker, President; Rett Porter, Senior Vice President; Gaye Young, Secretary, and John Reynolds, Treasurer.

Action items included:

- The awarding of the Kenneth T. Scott Pipe Dreamer's Award to Genny Jennings, L36.
- The Executive Board was empowered to determine the location of the Winter 2019 convention.
- The 2020 summer convention will be in Redmond, Oregon.
- The proposed 2018 budget was passed with little discussion.
- A motion was made and passed to have the Constitution & By-Laws and the Policy & Procedure Committees review and develop a model format for Chapter By-laws.

Informational items included :

- The hiring of Chris Smith as the FMCA Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer effective immediately.
- Discontinuance of FMCA charitable giving programs.
- Approval of the 2017-2018 commercial insurance package.
- Bestowing of the Robert L Richter Award to Kimberlea Weeks, F144937, of the GMC Motor-home International Chapter.
- Elimination of the paper survey at conventions and continuing with the electronic survey.

REPORT ON LEBANON RALLY—JULY 2017

The Penn Coachmen Rally at the Lebanon Expo Center and Fairgrounds was attended by a bunch of happy campers who congregated under the large “gathering” tree for most of the weekend where there is always a breeze no matter how hot the weather. That tree must have some magic powers because it brought the entire group together for three days (and for some as many as five days) rather than groups of people splitting off into smaller segments.

Relative “newbie's” Lou and Carol Mandik stepped up to the plate and ran the rally like pros. Carol’s experience as a former school teacher shone through as she skillfully handled the rally and provided a great time for all attendees.

The list of hosts included Larry and Dorothea Troutman, Wayne and Peggy Dilliplaine, Leonard and Ruby Weller, Ron Buckley and Joanne Freeman, Barbara Arcati and Jim Lexa, Emily and Glenn Momme, Ed and Joan Park, Hal and Mary Amos, and Bob and Louise Birett.

Friday was a fair weather day allowing for much fellowship between attendees.

The mini-meal consisted of “walking” tacos with all imaginable toppings,, and cookies provided by the hosts.

The evening was topped off by a Christmas movie to get us all in the spirit as if the decorations of shiny green, red, and gold Christmas trees on each table weren’t enough.

A pot luck breakfast began the day on Saturday. As usual, no one went away hungry! Mmmm, mmmm, good!

Linda Deardorff was kind enough to teach the ladies a craft in the afternoon. Large over-sized clothes pins were taken apart, painted and decorated with various shapes and jewels, then put back together again to be used as a recipe card holder or for any other purpose.

Christmas carols filled the air in the hall before our Saturday evening turkey dinner complete with all of the trimmings and an assortment of pies for dessert. When the caterer walked in, he did a double-take as he observed us listening to Christmas music. I guess he never heard of “Christmas in July.”

Card bingo was the next item on the agenda. Every four people were given a deck of cards. Each person was dealt a hand of cards. As the number or face cards were individually called, those holding the corresponding cards discarded them into a pile in the middle of the table.. When someone was able to discard all of his cards, bingo was called and prizes were chosen.

Sunday morning was spent in fellowship enjoying our usual continental breakfast followed by a Christmas-themed church service led by yours truly. I believe everyone enjoyed singing Christmas carols on a hot summer day!!!!

As usual, saying goodbye was difficult. The rally weekends speed by much too quickly. Hope you all had fun!

Looking forward to the Bloomsburg Rally in August.

Submitted by Louise Birett

HARBORFEST - WOW WHAT A RALLY!

Are you ready for something different than another weekend at Gilbert, Lebanon or Bloomsburg? Well, on July 27, 2017, eleven members of the Penn Coachmen traveled to upstate NY for a different experience.

The City of Oswego was celebrating the 30th Anniversary of its annual Harbor fest this year, and we decided to check out the event.

Imagine a citywide block party that started on Thursday evening and did not end until Sunday afternoon!

Oswego has a river running right through the middle of the town into Lake Ontario. What I found quite unique is there is a canal (like a bicycle lane on the highway) protecting each shore and providing calm water for small watercraft. The wider center lane was still open to the full effect of Lake Ontario. We found out about the power of the lake on Friday when the chartered deep see fishing trip had to be cancelled because of four foot waves every three seconds. Because of the trough we were to fish, we would have been subjected to the waves coming at us from the side. It was windy enough on the dock that I had to move my feet to keep my balance. While we were disappointed, we realized that the captain was giving up a \$1,000 fee to stay in port and that made us respect his decision.

- Naturally, this made the East and West River walks two very popular attractions. I added to my T-Shirt collection and found a turquoise and silver ring made by “genuine Native Americans (or maybe not) that fits perfectly as a pinky ring.
- Like the 2 River walks, there were four other parks throughout the city loaded with arts and crafts and sundry food offerings. I finally discovered what “fried dough” actually looks like. Kind of like a pizza shell without sauce or goodies. Decided to stay with the much more appealing funnel cake.
- Music is a large part of this event, and the more well known talent was listed in the program. Apparently musicians came from far and wide to show their talent.
- For the more adventuresome, there was even a short helicopter ride taking passengers out to the lake, It was only \$20.00, so there was always a helicopter in the air and people waiting for the ride.
- For 2017, the Oswego Speedway created a campground on one of their two parking lots. 130 spots offering 50, 30 and 15 amp electric with water and sewer for \$50.00 for the weekend. The best part was that the town included this campground on its ‘Trolley’ route. And although there was only one comfortably updated (upholstered seats) old fashioned “trolley car, the other mini-buses ran on a 20 minute schedule so there was no need to take your car into town..
- Saturday night was a world-class firework display which we enjoyed from. the mini parking area just up the hill from our coaches.

So how did we get here, you wonder? Back to the beginning of this article. I realized that if we wanted to find new locations, we could try to discover them on our own or we could connect with neighboring chapters. I reached out to the PEN-NY Mixers and connected with Sherry Miller. Her husband, Jim, has the official title of President, but like most well run organizations it takes two to make it happen. They only have about twenty active coaches and are quite informal. No sign-up charts and no pleading for rally captains at every meeting. If a member has something they want to do, they take charge and it becomes the event. While we have eight monthly events, they average about four.

Not sure how they discovered Harbor fest, but the first time they went out they had over 30 coaches. Obviously, the word got to others. Two years later, there were over ninety coaches dry camping at the Oswego Speedway. Somebody got the message, and the full service campground was created for 2017. This year the total coaches were over 90 again (180+ campers), The addition of the six coaches from the Penn Coachmen offset the members from four other New York chapters that they had lost due to illness and other events. The Penn Coachmen was the fifth FMCA chapter to come to the party. And a party it was!

- Wednesday evening a free Fish Fry Dinner in addition to fried chicken and London broil together with beverages provided by the PEN-NY chapter.
- Thursday, Friday and Sunday, there were coffee and “delectable's” served for breakfast.
- Friday evening, everyone gathered for cocktails and beer. Hard appetizers were requested of all attendees.
- Saturday morning’s breakfast offerings were pancakes, French toast, sausages, bacon and eggs provided by the hosts.
- Saturday evening, a pizza and ice cream sundae party capped the day.

Did I forget to tell you that Jim Miller is a chef and he pulls a large enclosed trailer that has a refrigerator and a freezer which gets stocked throughout the year by the fish he catches on his own boat and the “special purchases” he finds throughout the year.

Volunteers eagerly jumped up when Jim asked for people to fry fish or man the grill. However, it was only temporary help as most of the work soon fell back to a small group of loyal friends. It is obvious they enjoy having almost 200 people attend, but it’s also reality that he only does Harbor fest every other year because of the amount of work required .

There is no formal network for communicating with the other four New York chapters. It is obviously an avenue we could utilize, but I would think we need to get an understanding of how many people are interested in going a little further and stretching our needs for creature comforts. Remember, the two prior Harbor fests were dry camping at the Speedway for 6 days. Our coaches can handle it. Can you?

If you are interested in other locations that could be a little farther away, please let me know.

If you want to stay with the current locations, let me know as well.

P.S. This report is my personal opinion.

The Penn Coachmen who attended were:

Joan and Ed Park

Caroline and Jack Vliet

Mary Ellen Seifert

*Elaine and Bob Knoll

*Elsy & Gary Fetteroff (former Penn Coachmen now residing in Florida)

Louise and Bob Birett

*Knolls and Fetteroffs were last heard from in Maine heading toward New Brunswick.

Submitted by Bob Birett

REQUEST FROM THE EDITOR:

In order to make forthcoming newsletters interesting, I would like to request your help by sending me any of the following throughout the year at lbirett@comcast.net:

Vacation tidbits or advice

Seeking items to purchase or items for sale

Family news such as births, deaths, illnesses, prayer concerns, accomplishments, etc.

Favorite recipes

Motor home repair/upkeep advice

Interesting stories or vignettes

Out of the way places you have found to be of interest

Hobbies or craft how-tos

Poems, stories, vignettes

New camping gear/equipment you have learned about and where to purchase them

Special camping experiences

Funny pet stories

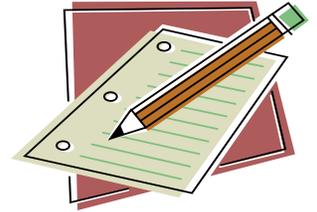
Funny grandchildren stories or sayings

Life on the road

Interesting people you have met along the way

Nature encounters

Photos taken at rallies



THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS



NOTE TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:
Please provide the editor with names of those needing prayers and your birthday(s) - lbirett@comcast.net. Thank you.

- Betty Moyer - Chronic neck pain.
- Bob Moyer - Recovering from multiple stents in heart.
- Bill Freed - Cancer treatments and vertigo.
- Bill Pascoe - Cancer treatments.
- Stan Seyfried - Cancer treatments.
- Roz Newman - Cancer treatments.
- Sally Thomas - Cancer treatments.
- Jim Lexa - Inoperable hip pain.
- Former President Bill Katz - Cancer treatments.
- Martha Lloyd - Recovering from heart attack.

**THOSE KNOWN TO BE CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY BETWEEN
AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER, 2017**

- August 2 Joan Park
- August 2 Terry Iasiello
- August 10 Glenn Kline
- August 12 Dan Zydorczyk
- August 13 Judy Iasiello
- August 25 Joe Venezeale
- September 6 Barbara Thum
- September 15 John Schon

- September 15 John Breisch
- September 18 Bob Moyer
- September 18 Helen Young
- September 28 Joanne Freeman
- September 21 Gwen Brown
- September 27 Glenn Fink
- September 27 Norma Moss

