

Report from the Governing Board Meeting of the FMCA from the July 20th, 2009 meeting in Bowling Green, Ohio. John M. Landry, National Director for the Granite Staters Chapter of the FMCA.

To the Members of the Granite Staters:

Lisa and I traveled out to Ohio via Interstate 90 through Buffalo, Cleveland and Toledo to the FMCA International Convention in Bowling Green, Ohio. The trip was part of our summer vacation. Our daughter, Kellie, son-in-law, J-D and their three young sons, Caleb, Benjamin and Joseph who was just 5 weeks old were with us. The motorhome was a bit crowded until Kellie setup a tent.

I had acted as the Alternate National Director in 2008 for the Cape Codders at Minneapolis in 2008 so I didn't need to attend the National Director Training, or Parliamentary Procedures meeting. I had learned from Peg McShea that year just how fast the meeting would move. The expectation was that we read and familiarize ourselves with a 135-page book of the Budgets, Articles, Amendments, and Proposals that we were to vote on.

The first speaker after the opening ceremonies was the National Treasurer, Doug Key. He set the stage by taking us through the gloom and doom in the RV industry. He stated that new coach sales in 2008 had hit 15,000 units. The 2009 sales figure was going to run around 4,300 units and many of the industries best manufacturers had sought bankruptcy protection. Also, the FMCA had lost 21% of its members since 2004 and we were not replacing members fast enough. Because of the carnage in the RV industry, Ad sales in the FMC magazine were down as well. Overall, these issues would roll up to a tough revenue year for FMCA. Revenue was projected to slip from \$13,200,000 in 08 to \$9,228,500 in 09. By cutting 7 full time employees, and 8 part time employees, imposing 10% pay cuts for the remaining employees and suspending 401K contributions, the budget was getting closer to balanced. The magazine sales reps were cut saving close to \$500k without losing a major client.

Fees for mail forwarding were raised from \$5 to \$10 per month; National was also going to raise the charge to the Area's for Rally Registration from \$1 to \$3 per coach.

Additionally, the following line items were cut:

Officers travel budget by \$26k

Mileage expense by \$72k

Committee travel by \$54k

Governing Board by \$57k

Staffs travel by \$35k

Member Education by \$30k

The Governing board voted down a proposal to lower the stipend from \$130 to \$65 for National Convention attendance. Many felt that the National Directors had already been cut when they were forced to pay for electricity at the conventions.

All of this brought the board to the perennial target, MEDEX. Medex started in 2001 and cost just \$1.25 per member. The cost has increased to \$4.75 per member for a total cost of \$518,000. This is the third highest budget item and attracts attention. Through the year, Don Eversham has repeatedly tried to get the provider to the bargaining table. He

wanted to understand what costs Medex had associated with the FMCA policy that caused a 380% increase over 8 years, this at a time with declining membership. All they would divulge are the number of incidences from FMCA members. This could include something as simple as a phone call to Medex, to air lifting patient home. No detail was supplied. In 2007, only 55 FMCA members used Medex. A big concern was that last year, FMCA signed a two-year contract with Medex. Much of the debate surrounded FMCA's legal liability if we pulled out of Medex. In the end, the governing board voted to fund Medex from the reserve fund and to look into alternative providers in future years. A major concern is that the FMCA reserve fund lost in excess of \$3,000,000 in 2008 with the stock market decline. This was offset by the fact that many members join just for the Medex policy. A private policy bought by an individual that is the equivalent of our Medex runs over \$100 per person per year.

There were 10 Bi-law amendments, 9 passed and one was sent back to committee. Most were just wording to existing rules that was recommended by the legal department. One controversial issue that came up was to allow 5-wheelers to be FMCA members. There was much discussion about how this would easily swell the membership and help fix some of the budget issues. In the end this proposal was soundly defeated. There was also a proposal to increase yearly dues by \$5-\$10 per year, and to end the 5/4, 5 years of membership if 4 years are paid in advance. A Life Member who pays no dues proposed this change. This will be sent out to the governing board because it would take a Bi-law change and this requires a 120-day advance notice.

Max Durbin was awarded a Life Membership Award posthumously for all the good work he has contributed since 1986.

Hinckley Update: The state of Maine is no longer funding the children that attend the school. As a result, Hinckley has closed all residence halls and hopes to continue as a day school.

Finally it was time for the National elections. This is a slow, plodding exercise that reminds me of water torture. I had consulted with a couple of Granite Staters and then sought out Roger Merrill for his input. In the end all of his choices except president were elected. The results were:

President: on the second ballot Charlie Schrenkel defeated George Schipper. Doug Key and Nelson Stubbs lost in the first round.

Vice President: Judy Czarsty defeated Hollis Dick

Secretary: Joanne Durbin ran un-opposed.

Treasurer: Wil Young defeated Bernard Dobrin

I had fun at the Bowling Green Convention and I'd like to thank the Granite Staters for allowing me to represent all of you.

Respectfully submitted

John M. Landry