

May 16th, 2009 Business Meeting of the FMCA Granite Staters v.3

President Gus Swanson called to order the 1st business meeting of 2009 at 10:00am on Saturday, May 16th, 2009 at the Sandwich Fairgrounds in Center Sandwich, NH.

Other officers and committee chairs present were the chapter's Vice President – Peggy McShea; Treasurer – Betty Robicheau; Secretary – Bill McShea; National Director – John Landry; Alternate National Director – Dick White; Membership Chairs – Glenn & Bobbie McCracken; Wagonmaster – Linda Porazzo; and Newsletter Editor/Webmaster – Bob Burnham.

21 coaches attended this rally and approximately 42 people were present and rose for the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence for our recently lost members and the President asked that we remember the others that couldn't be with us who are experiencing health or other issues.

Betty Robicheau provided a Treasurer's report and noted that the chapter started the year with \$6,144.71 and currently had a balance of \$6,506.91. Of that, approximately \$2,642 is held in reserve for multi-year dues and other committed expenses, leaving approximately \$3,842 in working funds. Motion was made and seconded, and unanimously approved by the members, to accept the report as presented. Betty also noted that our federal tax statement had been completed.

The Secretary's minutes of the Annual Business Meeting and Election of Officers held September 13, 2008 was read by Bill McShea, and after a motion was made and seconded, the body voted unanimously to approve those minutes.

New National Director John Landry spoke about the International Rally coming up at Bowling Green University in Ohio, and the potential issues of losing additional chapter support from FMCA as they struggle to cut costs. He also mentioned that programs like MEDEX might be at risk, because that possibility was discussed at the last Governing Board meeting in St. Paul.

Membership Chair Glenn McCracken reported that 63 of our current roster of 140 members had yet to renew. May is renewal month. There was a brief discussion and questions about renewals and the renewal form. Glenn again advised the members that someone else will need to volunteer for the Membership Chair role as he will be done in September.

Wagonmaster Linda Porazzo related that she thought providing a list of a rally's attendees (as the Swansons did) was a great idea. Other members agreed. Linda went on to discuss issues that have come up with regard to the June Rally in Richmond, NH, but the members agreed to move ahead with reduced activity there. She also mention the upcoming Family Weekend in Fryeburg, ME; the national at Bowling Green; the Lake Forest rally in Wakefield, NH; the Northeast Area Rally in August at Essex Jct., VT; Goose Hollow later in August; the Birthday Bash at Sandwich again in September; and Riverbrook in Rumney in October. (Later in the meeting, Linda noted that the B-bash in September would include the possibility of a chicken barbeque one evening and a box lunch auction.)

A discussion ensued again about the costs of running rallies, and ways to contain those. Fred Greaves suggested running more 'dry camping' rallies as a way to help reduce costs, and volunteered to find a suitable location and serve as a co-host.

Linda reminded us that next year is the 15th anniversary of the Granite Staters, and that we needed to be thinking about how to celebrate at that B-bash. Anyone interested in volunteering to become the Wagonmaster should make themselves knows to the President, because Linda is stepping down from her role in September too. She will help the new Wagonmaster get settled in their new role.

Bob Burnham - Newsletter Editor - advised the members that the deadline for the next newsletter will be July 1st. After some questions and comments, Bob discussed being able to access the newsletter through the Granite Staters web site, and Glenn McCracken related that approximately 25 members still receive their copies of the newsletter through the US Postal Service.

President Swanson recognized all the work that Bev Wasson has been doing as the chair of the Sunshine Committee, especially during the extended period she has had to deal with her own family issues. Members present applauded Bev's work.

Peggy McShea requested that anyone who had brought tabs to this rally bring or leave them at her coach, and she would see that Bob Parsons got them. The Vice President also noted that the chapter would need volunteers to organize and man the chapter table at the Northeast Area Rally in August, and that both Peg and Bobbie McCracken would provide the information about what they had put together in 2008.

Old Business:

- **Bill Elkins spoke about the NEAR event next August, and our participation as volunteers, parking together, and the work we'd be doing there. He has 18 signed up now, and will be traveling to Essex Jct. for a planning/organizing meeting over the May 29th weekend.**
- **A question was raised about the location of all the chapter equipment, and it was decided to place an article in the newsletter asking anyone who still has equipment to let the officers know. Most of our equipment is currently stored with Glenn & Bobbie McCracken in Freedom, and some is with Bill & Peggy McShea in Nashua. Some things are unaccounted for.**
- **Betty Robicheau mentioned that there are some bolos available to new members. She still had some small Tee shirts and suggested that they be given as prizes to the children participating in events at Family Weekend. That became the basis for a motion that was moved, seconded, and approved by unanimous vote.**

New Business:

- **Jackie Bisson provided an update on Ginny Reid who has experienced some health issues through the Winter, but who is now in good spirits and doing well.**
- **Bill Elkins discussed a Concord Hospital Cancer Center Walk-a-thon that Carol and he are participating in and asked for support from the members of the Granite Staters.**
- **Gus Swanson discussed plans for pre- and post-rallies in relation to the Bowling Green international rally.**
- **Gus also requested that the chapter provide funding for a full page color ad for the NEAR in August. The chapter has supported this donation in the past. The \$125.00 was moved, seconded and unanimously approved by the members present.**
- **For anyone interested in conducting a seminar at the NEAR, there is a seminar form that needs to be filled out.**
- **Gus also discussed an FMCA initiative to encourage new memberships, and the chapter now has 5 free memberships to be given to people with motor homes who may be interested in the organization. There is also a new membership "tool kit" designed to help local chapters recruit new FMCA members.**

- **The President also described the efforts being made by FMCA to reduce costs, including budget and staff reductions.**
- **The Escapee's RV Club had distributed an alert about a legislative effort in Maine to prohibit overnight RV parking in any public area – including parking lots of retail establishments. That bill was defeated last week.**
- **President Swanson reminded the body that volunteers would be needed to fill the Membership and Wagonmaster roles.**
- **Bob Burnham raised the question about the need to reserve funds set aside for yearly memberships. He also asked about the Granite Staters developing a letter of appreciation or other tribute in recognition of the years of service to FMCA by Max Durbin. This discussion was followed by a motion that was moved, seconded, and approved by the members for the officers to ask FMCA about any actions being taken in this regard.**
- **Bob discussed holding the pre-rally for the Southeast Area Rally (SEAR) at the airport at Brooksville in February next year (2010). The cost would be \$10 per night for three nights, parking on the runway without hookups, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. This rally is being planned with the help of Bob, Bucky and Larry Adams. General parking for Monday and Tuesday is covered in the SEA rally costs.**
- **Bob went on to say that the Clerbrook rally usually held in March has also been moved to Brooksville and the Hernando County Airport. The cost for the March Granite Gators Winter Rally is \$15 per day, or \$60 total for the 4 day event. This rally includes water and electric hookups. He explained the trouble that Dave Munroe had experienced with Clerbrook management this past year after traveling there, and trying to plan the event with less than helpful staff. (Betty believes that Dave Munroe will continue to plan this rally.)**

At 11:32am a motion was made and seconded to adjourn this business meeting, and it was unanimously approved by members present.

Respectfully submitted -

**William McShea
May 27, 2009**