

May 15th, 2010 Business Meeting of the FMCA Granite Staters

President Gus Swanson called the 1st Granite Staters business meeting for 2010 to order at 9:36am on Saturday, May 15th, 2010 at the Sandwich Fairgrounds in Sandwich, NH.

Other officers present were the chapter's Vice President Peggy McShea; Secretary Bill McShea; National Director John Landry; and Alternate National Director Dick White. Committee Chairs present included Membership - Ed and Barbara Smith, and Newsletter Editor/Webmaster - Bob Burnham.

25 coaches attended this rally, and approximately 48 people were in attendance for the meeting.

At Gus's request, members stood for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for our troops, and the members we've recently lost, or those who have health issues or are otherwise incapacitated and unable to attend.

After thanking everyone who helped gather the minutes of the September 12th, 2009 Annual Meeting - and especially Lisa Landry - Bill McShea went on to read the minutes of that meeting. It was moved by Bobbie McCracken and seconded by Bill Elkins to accept the report as read. The body voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Speaking on behalf of Betty Robicheau, our Treasurer, Gus reported \$7502.33 in the treasury. A large portion of that amount is held in reserve for pre-paid memberships going forward the next several years, as well as monies for the AED and other purposes. Betty also related to Gus that several Granite Staters had conducted an audit of the books in Florida during the winter. Glenn McCracken moved, and Dave Selvis seconded the acceptance of the report. The body voted unanimously to approve the report provided.

Vice President Peggy McShea had no discussion items.

National Director John Landry related that he would be unable to attend the Governing Board Meeting on August 11th at the International Rally in Redmond, OR and asked anyone interested in serving as the chapter's alternate to make themselves known. Alternate Director Dick White is also unable to attend that meeting. Some discussion followed about the criteria for serving as the chapter's representative, and the role that person might play.

Speaking for the Membership Committee, Barbara Smith related the chapter now lists 117 members. Bill McShea related that he had received a letter from FMCA in April certifying the membership of the Granite Staters as 96 active F and L members - the discrepancy in count being a result of the timing of the membership audit which started last Fall. A discussion ensued about both chapter and FMCA free memberships. Gus related that FMCA will provide another 5 free FMCA memberships for the chapter in 2010, but that's tied to the FMCA "A Dozen Does It" membership enrollment promotion currently underway. These five free FMCA memberships are designed to help the chapter recruit 12 new FMCA members, and if it does, the chapter will receive a gift box of FMCA logo items that can be used for door prizes at our rallies.

Speaking as the acting Wagonmaster, Gus discussed the need to fill that position, and upcoming rallies which have been tentatively scheduled:

- a small group gathering at Circle 9 Ranch in Epsom in June;
- the Northeast Area Rally (NEAR) in Essex Junction over the 4th of July weekend;
- the Lake Forest rally in Wakefield in August;
- our 15th Birthday Bash back at Sandwich Fairground in September; and -

- our Fall rally at Riverbrook RV Resort in Rumney in October.

Some of these rallies still need help!

Newsletter Editor/Webmaster Bob Burnham spoke about the dual position he handles, and brought up the need for someone to take over the on-going can tab project (which benefits the Shriners Hospital in Springfield, MA) from Bob Parsons.

Old Business:

Gus again related that the chapter needs a Wagonmaster, as well as a full slate of officers for the next calendar period. Anyone interested in serving as the Wagonmaster should speak with Gus or any of the officers. The Nominating Committee includes Bill Elkins, Bucky Buck, and Fred Rhine, and anyone interested in becoming an officer should contact one of these people.

Bobbie McCracken spoke about the Chapter Table for the NEAR, and related that Bob Labonte has made an "Old Man" (of the Mountain) centerpiece for that project. Gus asked others to help Barbara Smith in her efforts, and to spend some time at the table during the event to talk with others who might be interested in the Granite Staters.

New Business:

The President discussed a request he received from the organizers of the NEAR for a chapter ad donation. Gus suggested a full page color ad at a cost of \$125. Fred Rhine and Bill Elkins moved and seconded a motion to take this action, and it passed by a unanimous vote. Glenn McCracken then suggested the ad include the website for the chapter.

President Gus then discussed that FMCA is now allowing chapters to hold a single business meeting a year, but that approach requires a chapter by-law change. After discussion, Fred Rhine and Bob Smith moved and seconded a motion to leave this alone, and it passed by unanimous vote.

Gus discussed the repeal of the NH 9% campsite tax which has already been signed by the governor, and became effective May 3rd. Participating members who have already paid for summer rallies may see a rebate.

President Gus returned to the subject of can tabs and the need for someone to continue to organize the effort and collect the tabs. After some discussion from the floor, it was decided that more information was needed about the process, and the Bob Parsons himself needed to be contacted.

Gus requested an update on arrangements for the NEAR and Carol Elkins took the floor. She related that organizers were aware that the event timing was an issue because of the 4th of July being such a family oriented weekend. Volunteers will go in on July 1st and an advance party will go in sooner. Granite Staters and other volunteers will probably do one shift, but Bill and Carol won't have more info until they attend a meeting next weekend. They expect to handle Day Gate and Commercial Vendor Security a couple of nights, and may need more help and enlist people from other chapters. Bill or Carol will call everyone who has already signed up with more info after the meeting. She said they would welcome additional help for the advance crew, but wasn't sure at this time if the advance crew would be parked with the chapter. 6 more people signed up for NEAR duty yesterday.

As an aside, there was discussion about who had the chapter banner and flag which would need to go to NEAR. Gus said he'd find out and make sure it got to someone who was going to attend.

On a separate topic, Carol and Bill will be doing the cancer walk next week and welcomed

donations in support of their effort.

Ed Smith discussed his role in organizing the inventory and placing the signs for the NEAR, and his need for some help. Dick Harrigan volunteered to give him a hand.

Gus discussed another request from the NEAR organizers to provide a Granite Staters giveaway gift at the rally at a cost of around \$25. Bill Elkins and Lisa Landry moved and seconded a motion to do this, and the vote was unanimous.

Peggy McShea spoke about someone to take on the photography. She discussed her work in this area, and developing prints through Walmart or Kodak, and reimbursements for expenses such as albums, photos, pages, etc. She also discussed the tradition of taking new member pictures for the chapter member album, and pictures of our events and activities.

President Swanson discussed a letter he had received from National President Charlie Schenkel that discussed new and improved benefits and a new medical evacuation program contractor to reduce some of the costs associated with a MEDEX like program.

Bobbie McCracken took the floor to discuss the problems associated with the lack of member volunteering. She said she felt that no one wanted to volunteer for any role, any more, and that something needed to be said in the newsletter to reach our members who don't participate in our monthly rallies on a regular basis. She felt that many members don't realize how close the chapter is to possibly having to dissolve itself.

In the ensuing discussion, Peggy McShea related how she had filled her role as photographer way too long, and having also served as an officer and rally host/co-host a few times over the years, needed a break.

Fred Rhine made a motion, seconded by Bob Smith, that the chapter develop a special information sheet in the next mailing to advise the membership of the impact the lack of volunteerism will have on the organization. The vote was unanimous, and more discussion followed, including making a special colored insert about the need for more volunteers for officers and other roles, and the need to put this issue on our website as well.

Gus also noted that in addition to a whole new slate of officers, hosts are also needed for the October rally, volunteers for the NEAR, can tab collecting, and a chapter Wagonmaster is needed too. He went on to note that people really step up to help out at our rallies, but it's the planning, organizing and hosting that we really need people to step up for.

Fred Greaves stood up and offered to take over photography after the Birthday Bash in September if no one else was interested.

Bob Burnham was recognized for his work as both newsletter editor and webmaster.

Fred Greaves and Peg White moved and seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting, and the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted -

**Bill McShea, Secretary
May 19th, 2010**