

CAMPING TODAY[®]

THE VOICE OF FAMILY CAMPERS & RVERS

March



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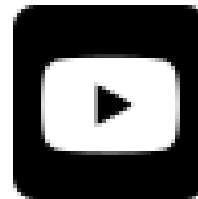
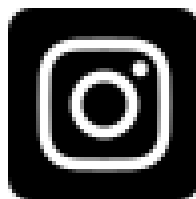
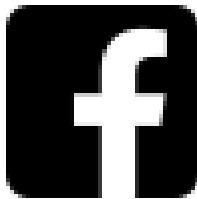
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From Vice President, Operations



As we move forward in our mission to expand and diversify our organization, it is important to reflect on the progress made and our steps ahead. The February Article in *Camping Today* highlighted the Membership Committee's commitment to supporting change and attracting a broader range of members, particularly younger generations. With the research findings we included, we believe we are focused on our commitment to grow, diversify, and support initiatives to make sure our organization thrives in the future.

We know we must find new partnerships among other organizations and businesses that align with similar goals of growth and diversity. This is a new area we can all explore.

We recently learned there is money available for non-profits that would support our organization. This is a new adventure that we look forward to exploring.

Are you or your chapter, region or state involved in any community service projects? Some suggestions could be volunteering at animal shelters, the food pantry, a local park or campground cleanup...the ideas are endless. Show your community what campers can do for them. Volunteering in your community and posting on social media is an excellent way to showcase FCRV!

The camping and outdoor landscape is growing and changing rapidly. Recent data shows a remarkable increase in younger and more diverse campers. This presents both challenges and opportunities for our organization. By welcoming new ideas and opportunities, we can ensure a vibrant future for FCRV.

Since the formation of the Membership Team in the fall of 2024, several strategic initiatives have been launched. These include:

Our "Your Chair Awaits" marketing campaign, designed to align with all FCRV Regions and demographics, will strengthen our brand and attract new members and sponsors.



While Facebook remains a key social media platform for members aged 50+, we are actively exploring other social media channels to connect with younger audiences.

Despite a 22% loss of paid members in 2024, efforts are being considered to reverse this trend by word-of-mouth recruitment and new strategies.

Future editions of *Camping Today* will feature updates on our committee's progress and introduce exciting new programs aimed at increasing our membership. Members are encouraged to support these initiatives and contribute to efforts that will reflect our values and desires.

Every member plays a crucial role in this journey. By actively participating in recruitment efforts and supporting the changes ahead, together we can ensure FCRV remains a thriving organization for years to come.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our shared goals. Together, we can achieve great things!

Vice President, Operations Linda English

Youth Program

Youth Program

By Barb McHale, National Youth Director

Our youth have many opportunities within our organization to show their personalities, develop character, learn about conservation, and enjoy wildlife. We can recognize our outstanding young active members through The Youth of the Year award. This is a national contest based upon a child's participation in both FCRV and non-FCRV related activities during the previous year (May 1 – April 30). The award is judged on the all-around participation of the entrant. The nominated child's parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) must be FCRV members. You can find the nomination form on the youth program page of the FCRV webpage (fcrv.org).

The youth of FCRV also have an opportunity to express themselves through art in defining what camping means to them in the "Camping Is" contest. The contest is divided into 6 age groups; 0-2 years, 3-4 years, 5-6 years, 7-8 years, 9-10 years, and 11-12 years. The 0-2 and 3-4 year olds will have a coloring contest with an official entry form unique for each year. This year's color page can be found in this month's Camping Today as well as on the FCRV webpage (fcrv.org). The other age groups will have a poster contest. Beginning this year, ALL entries created should be forwarded to the national level.

Each entry turned in should be identified as "Camping is..." so as to not be confused with Conservation Poster entries (which have different rules/ages). The child's identifying information is written correctly and legibly on the back left corner of the poster/coloring page. Be sure the following information is included: Name, First and Last, City and State/Province, Birthdate in mm/dd/yyyy format, Age as of July 1 in the contest year, Local chapter name if applicable, along with Field Director's or State/Provincial Director's certification of FCRV membership.

At your spring campouts please encourage participation in the contest by having poster board, markers, crayons and copies of the coloring page available at the campout. Perhaps set aside some time at the campout for the children to create their posters or complete the coloring page. If your state/province has a program or schedule, adding the poster making to the schedule can help increase participation. We would like all entries created to be forwarded to the National Campvention.

I hope you take the time to encourage your youth to participate in both the "Camping Is..." as well as the Conservation contest. While the "Camping Is..." is limited to 12 and younger, the Conservation Poster Contest is open to all ages. So while the youth are artistically expressing themselves, you should be too! Also, please consider completing a Youth of the Year nomination by May 1.

[Click Image to download.](#)





What is DASAT?



What is DASAT?

By Joe Boswell National DASAT Field Director

In the Family Campers and RVers organization one of our educational areas is DASAT. What is DASAT? It stands for Disaster and Safety Awareness Training. One should ask themselves, are you a part of this team? To find out more about DASAT one can go to the FCRV home page, (FCRV.org) across the top you will see the National Programs areas. Once you have placed the cursor on the tab go to DASAT. Now you can open the various resources for DASAT. Next, you see two tabs, one for the DASAT web site and the second is the FCRV Emergency guide. Everyone should read and review this guide as it is a handy reference during an emergency.

← Scrolling down the DASAT tab you see the various programs that are a part of this educational area. Next you will find that there are four subheadings. They are as follows: Disaster and Safety Categories, Preventing Disasters, Participating in Disaster Recovery and finally Health and Wellness. Under each section is listed the topics that apply to the heading. For example, under the Disaster and Safety Categories you will find, Preparing for a Disaster. This very important topic area covers, Emergency Preparedness for the RV and Home, Insurance-RV, home, Life and Disability. Weather Safety is next followed by Disaster Awareness and Resources, (This provides you with additional information from the American Red Cross, FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), and Homeland Security. Information on Self Sufficiency, and finally: Preparing for death, illness of a family member, (wills, living will, insurance, estate planning, funeral planning, and financial liability).

The next topic area: Preventing Disasters, includes the following sub topics of importance. Fire Safety (for the RV and home) Pet Safety (traveling and at home) Home Hazards (electrical safety) Poison Control which includes Carbon Monoxide, Security for the home and RV, Travel Safety (including Pet safety and children and your home), and finally Camping Safety (the yearly RV inspection, campfire safety, etc.)

The third sub topic is: Participating in Disaster Recovery. This includes: Emergency Communication Tools, Search and Rescue and finally basic survival. The last major topic area is Health and Wellness. Under this division you will find some resources for First Aid and CPR, Safe Cooking, Preventing the spread of disease such as colds, flu, etc., Drugs and Poison Control. And finally, under this listing Health and Lifestyles (preventing: heart disease, diabetes, cancer, stress, depression etc.) →

And this is just the beginning. As time passes, additional areas of consideration may be added to keep up with the ever-changing trends dealing with various types of emergencies as they occur throughout the world. Education is the key, the more we know the better we all deal with an emergency. The purpose for the various DASAT programs is to educate our members of FCRV on how to deal with all kinds of emergencies and or natural disasters. Remember the more you know about the various DASAT topic areas the better you are prepared for and can deal with the situation.

To help you remember, here is a listing of the various topic areas listed as part of the DASAT educational programs



What is DASAT?



- Accidental Spills
- Child Care
- Clear and Clean
- Communications
- Cooking and Feeding
- CPR
- Drugs
- Firefighting
- Disaster Types
- First Aid
- Medical
- Police
- Psychological
- Readiness
- RV Safety
- Search and Rescue
- Self Sufficiency
- Survival Weather

Now it is up to everyone to attend a DASAT program at your local, regional, state/provincial, retiree and national campouts. Education is the key-remember it can save your life and the lives of others. A word to the wise, National Campvention is coming up soon, are you going to attend a DASAT seminar/workshop? All are welcome, come and see how you can be better prepared for the next disaster.



Through the years various powerpoint presentations were compiled and are available on the various DASAT topic areas through the DASAT Field Director. As time passes, additional ones are made, and old ones are updated.

This is a brief overview of the entire DASAT program area. It is also important that you remember what DASAT stands for. Some chapter, state, provincial, regional and National Campvention workshops/seminars are given to help you become better prepared for any type of disaster or emergency. You should also remember that many within our organization have stepped up over the years and offered their valuable resources and knowledge to this very large educational area within FCRV. They helped educate others about the various areas of emergency preparedness.





FCRV National Election Bios



There are three positions up for election for the year beginning July 2025 to June 2027. Comptroller and Vice President Planning & Development are elected by the whole membership. The Vice President Operations is elected by the Executive Board and Advisory Council. The candidates' bios and platforms are included in the this issue of *Camping Today*. Ballots will be distributed after March 15, 2025, to the email on file for your membership. This is a great time to assure your email is correct with the national office. All memberships of FCRV are entitled to one vote. The deadline to vote is April 15, 2025. Results will be in the May issue of *Camping Today*.

Sandra Wingert

Comptroller



Resume

Sandi along with her husband, Joe Wingert joined FCRV in 1999. They have been or are currently in many FCRV chapters. These include the Rocky Explorers, the Rocky Raccoons, and the Trailblazers, chapters in Colorado. Also YARS (Young Active Retirees), a National chapter, and FCRV RGV Winter Texans in Texas for Snowbirds spending the winter in warmer weather. Sandi has held at one time or another, every position in the Colorado chapters including Field Directors. She helps her husband with parking rigs at the Retiree Rally. She currently is in charge of activities for the FCRV RGV Winter Texans in the winter months. In the past, she has held similar positions as Comptroller with different names, such as Comptroller, Business Manager, Office Manager, and Bookkeeper for auto dealerships.

Platform Statement

I have held the position of Comptroller for FCRV since 2023. I would like to continue that position for a second term. In my first term, I improved our investment opportunities to better grow our monies in reserve. I took over payroll, freeing up time for office personnel. I have been diligent to report and file all reports for Federal and State jurisdictions. I have done accurate accounting. The Profit and Loss statement is reported to the Trustees and the P&L is also posted in *Camping Today*. I have succeeded in scanning and downloading and organizing all information that is stored in the virtual office so there are no longer paper files.

I believe that the best interests and the future of FCRV would be cultivating new family members. I believe that we need to change the focus of this organization and get back to the basics that this organization was founded on and that is conservation and wildlife and camping together.



FCRV National Election Bios



Amy DeCamp

Vice President of Planning & Development



Resume

Amy is a lifetime camper. She and her wife Linda became camping club members in 2004, joining FCRV in 2022 when Amy became VPPD.

Amy holds a B.S. in Police Administration from Eastern Kentucky University and Juris Doctor from Capital University Law School. She served as a State Parole Officer and Legal Educator/Department Chair for 20 years before working in the RV industry for more than a decade. Currently, she is a Legal Research/Training Consultant for LexisNexis, collaborating with U.S. law firms to enhance efficiency/productivity.

Amy and Linda are prominent members in their church family, where Amy is a musician/vocalist, worship leader, and Personnel Committee Chair. She also participates in mission work, aiding rebuilding efforts nationally and internationally, and is president of her high school alumni association.

The ladies reside in Ohio with their two Chows Chows, Kennedy and Stetson.

Platform Statement

As the Vice President of Planning & Development for FCRV, I have dedicated my first term to revitalizing this beloved organization by embracing change and inclusivity. Our club, founded on enjoying the camping lifestyle and preserving wildlife, the environment and conservation, must evolve to remain relevant and vibrant for future generations.

During my tenure, I spearheaded initiatives to modernize our marketing strategy, launching the "Your Chair Awaits" campaign to attract younger members. Recognizing the diverse backgrounds of our community, we implemented a non-discrimination policy to ensure FCRV is welcoming to all. Additionally, we began forging partnerships with industry vendors to secure sponsorships and financial viability, making FCRV more modern, open, and consistent in its messaging, a requirement across media platforms today.

Change is challenging, especially when it touches on traditions. However, it is crucial to remember our roots and the inclusive vision of our founder. To move forward, we must honor our diverse membership and uphold the true spirit of FCRV, now!

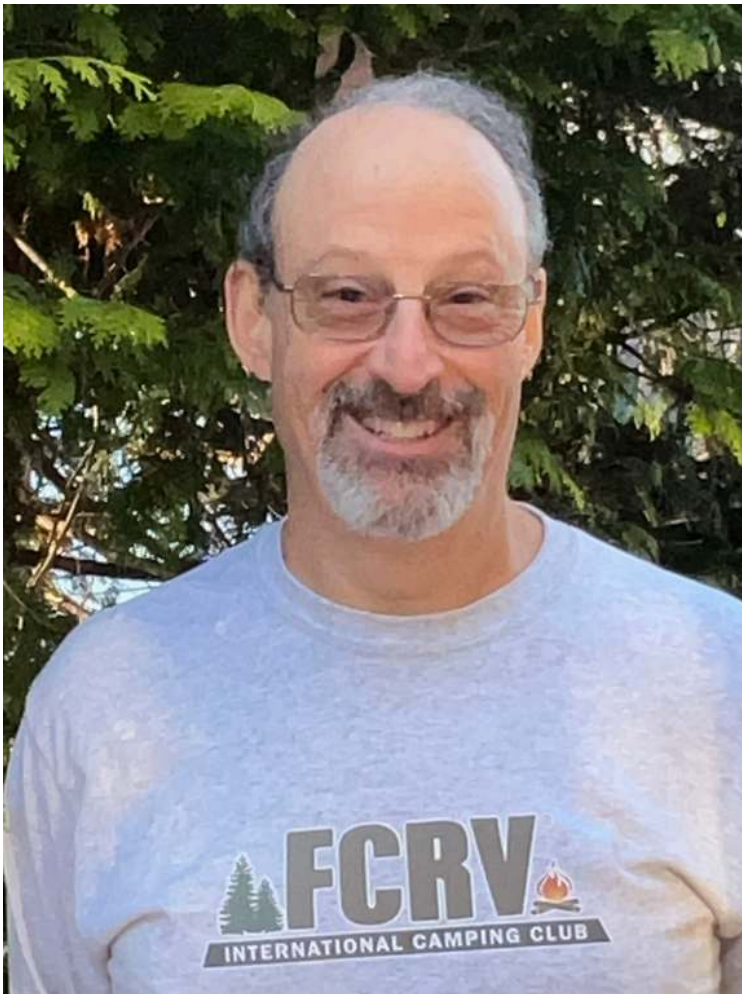
Looking ahead, I am committed to expanding our membership and sponsorship bases, enhancing member experiences, and fostering an environment where all feel welcome. Together, we can continue this path of progress, ensure that FCRV not only survives but thrives, and preserve our cherished camping lifestyle for generations to come.

I humbly ask for your support in the upcoming election to continue this important work. Let us embrace the future with open arms and a shared commitment to this club's enduring legacy. Together we grow!

FCRV National Election Bios

Daniel Tinter

Vice President of Planning & Development



Resume

Daniel's career includes statistical modeling, software development, managing and supporting accounting applications, leading developers, liaison between IT and all levels business management. Strong people and project management as well as problem solving skills were required to be successful.

Daniel has volunteered throughout his life from homeless shelters to the board of the local Audubon chapter. Currently, Daniel volunteers on the steering committee with Middlesex County VITA as the recruiting and schedule coordinator. VITA prepares taxes for low income people at no charge. He recruits volunteers to process returns and staffs three sites during the tax season. He also prepares client returns.

Daniel and his wife, Lynn, are past presidents, current treasurers of CT Happy Wanderers and are assistant state directors. They volunteer at all CT conservation events and chaired the staffing of the 2024 RV Show and brought in new members. He volunteers at Campventions including chair of the Septic Service.

Platform Statement

NCHA was incorporated in 1954.

The NCHA Constitution listed reasons for incorporation.

I have summarized a few:

- Encourage people to participate in recreational activities which protect, conserve, and defend the natural resources.
- Promote physical fitness, self-reliance, sound camping and hiking skills, an appreciation of nature and ecological dependence.
- Carry on educational and charitable purposes to exclusively promote conservation, wildlife management or related fields through scholarships and grants.

No other camping club fills this niche. We can do more to promote these ideals.

Lets understand our future members.

According to RVIA, 9.6 million households will buy RVs in next 5 yrs.

11.2 Million Current RV Owners

- First time buyers: 31%.
- Young Buyers (18-34): 22%. 65% intend to buy new.
- Family Campers (18-54): 33%. 64% with children.
- Casual Campers: 39%. 82% over age 55.

How can we use this data?

1. First time buyers: Let's guide them.
2. New buyers: Rebuild relationships with RV Dealers across the country.
3. Family Campers: Promote our ideals mentioned above.
4. Casual Campers have grandchildren. Focus bringing their grandchildren into the organization.

Our future should emphasize who and what we stand for: Conservation, Environmental protection, Wildlife management, Kid Friendly, Scholarships and Physical Fitness. Lets reassess what we print and how we use social media to attract these groups.

We also need to listen to our members. Let's work together. Share your ideas on how to move forward. My email address: dtinter@comcast.net.



FCRV National Election Bios



Linda English

Vice President Operations



Platform Statement

These past two years serving as your vice president of operations opened my eyes to the complexity of FCRV and the business of our organization. There has been so much to learn.

I have had the pleasure of chatting with so many members who have offered new ideas. I am the voice of our membership on the Board of Trustees and always welcome your input.

Communication is paramount and with the implementation of our Trustee Meeting Notes, it is my hope that every member is kept current on our operations. These notes are distributed through our national office to the executive and advisory board members to be shared with membership. Our regional and state director's trimester reports are now submitted through our website portal. This has streamlined the process for the directors and makes for timely reporting. We are committed to utilizing the technology set up in our Virtual Office.

The trustees meet regularly not only to discuss business matters but also schedule specific subject meetings to discuss ways to increase membership and market commercial opportunities...these are just two meeting examples.

Are we willing to explore new ideas to sustain and grow our organization? What can we do differently to spark interest in potential members? How can we expand our educational programs? How do you share FCRV in your local community? How can we promote change and operate more efficiently? What are current campers looking for in organized camping? Are we utilizing technology to its full potential? What other funding opportunities can we explore?

These are just some of the questions I believe need to be considered with your help. Our leadership team is committed to exploring new ideas and opportunities. Are you committed to taking this journey with us?

I look forward to continuing to serve in this position with your support.

I hope to see you at the 2025 Campvention in Lebanon, Tennessee!

Resume

Linda and John English have been members of FCRV since 1993. They have served as field directors, district directors, state directors and Linda has held several leadership positions in Michigan's State Association. This year will be their fourth time serving as team leaders for Campvention and they have also hosted many state and regional campouts.

They have been married 53 years, have 2 children, 8 grandchildren, and 10 great grandchildren. Linda has a bachelor's degree in business with a 42-year career in public education before retiring in 2014. The last 26 years of her career she was employed at the third largest intermediate school district in Michigan. As an administrative assistant in pupil services, she shared audit responsibilities and knowledge of educational law while assisting local public-school districts.

Her hobbies are camping, gardening, reading, quilting, enjoying Michigan's 4 seasons and spending time with family and friends.



Why I'm Running for VP Planning and Development

Why I'm Running for VP Planning and Development

By Daniel Tinter

I believe we are a unique camping club among all the clubs out there. When we say family, we mean Family! Not just a family of Campers and RVers but a family where we promote kid-friendly programs. Where strangers become friends and friends become family. Granting scholarships to teens who help their communities. While at the same time volunteering for conservation, wildlife preservation and other environmental projects. Who else does that!

If you haven't already, please read my platform statement in the February Issue of Camping Today.

Here I want to give further insight on how I want to help our club to move forward.

The VP Planning and Development officer is responsible for Strategy, Marketing, Commercial Relationships and Membership.

To be that officer, you must think about the long term survival of the organization and what it takes to ensure financial and operational survival.

Our financial state is in peril and we don't have a lot of time. The November 2023 Camping Today presented a \$28,000 operating loss and February 2025 issue showed a \$60,000 operating loss. Our operating funds are limited and it's only a matter of time before we can't function as a national organization. Based on membership dues alone we would have to increase our membership by 1,700 members just to cover the most recent operating loss!

We must think differently in order to move forward as an organization and we need to do it quickly. We must increase membership and the ability to increase membership is a numbers game. The more people who know who we are the more potential members we will have.

So the questions we must ask are: How do we get more people to know we exist? What should they know about us? How would our club benefit them?

The first question above can be answered by how we market ourselves. The next two are how we brand ourselves.

Let me address the branding first. Branding should quickly answer the "who we are" and "how it benefits them" and if it doesn't then replace it. An example:

The last couple of years I have co-chaired with my wife, Lynn, running a booth at the RV shows here in Connecticut promoting CT FCRV. We created a banner similar to the "Your Chair Awaits" image in





Why I'm Running for VP Planning and Development

Camping Today. We worked with national and modified it to promote our CT camping club. (Look for that image in this issue of Camping Today). That banner says who we are, what we do and how we help our members. However, once RV show attendees read "Your Chair Awaits", they kept on walking. We already lost them. They never read the rest of the banner. Only after we started talking to them did we have their attention.

I say this not to criticize, but to say if your branding doesn't catch one's attention then change it. My recommendation is to change the theme to "Camping With Friends". I believe those few words will encourage them to read further.

As far as marketing our club, how do we get people to know we exist? This year at the Hartford RV show with the approval of national and our state director, I promoted to every RV dealer, Campground and State Campground Owner Association a proposal that would benefit our organization and their businesses. For every family that joins our club, we would advertise the business for one month on our state website. Just about all of them were interested! If we can get buy-in from the attending State Associations then their campground owners will be on board. As stated in my platform in the February Issue of Camping Today, RVIA projects 9.6 million households will buy RV's in the next five years. Building this relationship with the Campgrounds and RV Dealers is our best way forward. I want to expand this concept nationally. Lynn and I plan to attend the Springfield (MA) RV Camping & Outdoor Show (New England's largest) and propose the same offer to those attending RV Dealers, Campgrounds and their Associations as well. We could expand this concept to any camping related business.

I also want to broaden the appeal of our Facebook groups. Let's broaden the topics we post to include all kinds of camping related activities whether it be FCRV related or not. From recipes to favorite camping spots – you name it! Lets open up our local camping events and post them nationally. We want people to see who we are and join us.

Another way we can promote our club is to post articles and events in local community news platforms. Patch.com is an example. When you join Patch.com, you state which town you want local news about. From that point, you get local articles of your town and surrounding towns. If we have members join across the country, then we have the ability to post FCRV campouts as local news. There is no charge to have only your town receive the news. Other FCRV members statewide can post the same campout in their communities resulting in widespread exposure of our campouts! Nationally we could work together and communicate the distribution of said articles and events spreading the word of our Campvention and Regional Rallies as well. Again the more people who know about us, the more potential members.

With my platform statement in the February Camping Today issue and above, I've laid out a few ideas of my strategy on how to move us forward. We must brand ourselves so we show potential members who we are, what we do and how they would benefit to be part of our organization. We must reconnect with RV dealers and Campgrounds and their Associations. We must change how we use social media and start leveraging online local community news platforms.

Send me your thoughts at dtinter@comcast.net.



Advancing Our Vision Together

By Amy DeCamp

As the current Vice President of Planning & Development, my commitment to fostering growth and innovation within our organization remains unwavering. Seeking reelection, my focus is on building upon the progress made and exploring new avenues for development. This journey has been marked by strategic planning, professional partnerships, and a dedication to enhancing our community's experience.

The office is complex and multi-faceted because this organization is, as well. The position is not one of singular authority. Instead, it functions within a collaborative framework, emphasizing partnership and joint decision-making with the entire Board of Trustees. This collective approach ensures that all actions and strategies are aligned with the best interests of FCRV and its members, fostering a unified vision for the organization's growth and success.

Under the current leadership, a collaborative approach has been embraced, working closely with members, professional marketers, and industry experts. This has been instrumental in developing a comprehensive strategic plan aimed at revitalizing membership and financial health. The Board of Trustees supports all viable promotional opportunities and partnerships with commercial vendors, campgrounds, industry promoters (e.g., RV dealers, shows, etc.), associations that align with our goals, and other "displaced" camping club chapters who have lost structural/financial support. These collaborations are essential for expanding our reach and improving the services offered to our community. I am currently working with numerous

vendors and a large "orphaned" chapter to solidify partnerships and offer the chapter a new home. ring of new prospects is just one avenue.

Marketing statistics on customer exposure suggest that it typically takes multiple touchpoints to convert a potential customer. The "Rule of 7" is a classic marketing principle indicating that a prospect needs to see or hear your marketing message at least seven times before action takes place. However, with digital marketing, this number may be greatly advanced. Continued interaction with potential new members, once engaged, is critical. The mentoring of new prospects is just one avenue.

While RV shows present one viable path for promoting FCRV, they often are limited in scope and geographic representation. By attending these shows, the unique features of FCRV may be showcased, attracting more members and benefiting the organization. They do offer valuable exposure and networking opportunities, locally, yet rely on the willingness of our members to enthusiastically participate.

Consistent representation and branding are paramount. Long overdue updates to FCRV policies and procedures to align with modern standards have been implemented by the Board and will continue, ensuring consistency in FCRV branding. This consistency is crucial for maintaining a national identity and fostering recognition across all chapters. Upholding the integrity of the national brand is vital for promoting and fostering commercial partnerships, enhancing visibility and appeal to potential partners across the U.S. and Canada.



Advancing Our Vision Together - Amy DeCamp



Members are encouraged to actively participate in the organization's growth by sharing enthusiasm and supporting strategic endeavors. Recognizing that FCRV is a mission-based non-profit, not just a social organization, reiterates that compliance with legal standards, policies, and procedures is of utmost importance. Members are the strongest asset of this beloved organization!

Local chapters are encouraged to participate in service projects that align with the organization's goals, such as community clean-up events, wildlife habitat restoration, and sustainable RVing workshops. These initiatives not only support environmental preservation but also strengthen community bonds within FCRV. In conclusion, my dedication to building on the established foundation, driving innovation, and fostering a vibrant community for all members is unwavering. With the continued support and trust of the members, the challenges ahead may be navigated, ensuring a prosperous future for Family Campers & RVers.

Thank you for your support and confidence. The measure we give will be the measure we receive in return...together we grow!

Sincerely,
Amy





Let's Save Some Trees! - From National Office



Let's Save Some Trees!

By: Pat Wittmeyer, Membership Liaison

Most of our FCRV members are aware that the National Office sends out hard copy letters reminding our members that their membership dues are up for renewal. A reminder letter goes out two months prior to the due date, a second letter goes out just prior to the due date, and finally one goes out after the due date, stating it's not too late to renew. This is a drain on financial resources and employee time. As a group with a strong conservation focus, we can reduce our use of paper.

The office is adopting a slight change in the process of letting our members know that it's time to pay their membership dues. The "first letter" will now go out electronically. (Yet another reason why the office needs to have current emails for all our members!) Two months prior to a membership due date an email from the FCRV National Office (fcrvoffice@gmail.com) will be sent telling them their due date, and the available rates of renewal for one-year, two-year and three-year options. The message will also include a hot link to our payment page, making it all the easier to just click, fill out your information, and pay your dues, all in one sitting.

Don't worry, if you don't have an email, your inbox is full, (now might be a good time to do a little purging here at the beginning of the year) or your email is on the fritz, we will still send the second reminder letter and the last letter out via mailed hard copy to our members who need to renew in Family Campers & RVers.

FCRV is working hard to keep the cost of operations down. Utilizing the features of current technology is a great way to do that. And it's an excellent way to have a positive impact on the natural world around us.



NCHA/FCRV Hank Nathan Scholarship 2025 Is Open



NCHA/FCRV Hank Nathan Academic Scholarship 2025

From Stan & Fran Vozar, NCHA/FCRV Hank Nathan Scholarship Directors

Applications can only be requested through this web portal:

<https://fcrv.org/hank-nathan-ncha-fcrv-scholarship/>

It is not too late to request an application. The completed applications must be submitted by May 1. This is a non-competitive Scholarship which means you could receive as much as \$4000 to apply to your tuition, room, board and books. Winners will be announced at this year's Campvention in Tennessee.



Welcome New Members



Family Campers & RVers would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members:

Williams, Rick	Williams, Holly	UT	Referred by: No reference
Levesque, Darrell	Levesque, Diane	MA	Referred by: Charlie & Kathy Yarbrough
Argenta, Edward	Argenta, Elaine	NC	Referred by: RV Show



Trustee Meeting Notes



These notes are now being stored in the Virtual Office by National and sent via email to the executive and advisory boards. These notes can and are encouraged to be shared throughout the organization. The archive and single page notes are set up as a shareable link that is viewable by any 3rd party.

A history of past minutes can be found [HERE](#).





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Retiree Rally 2025 - Dothan, Alabama



'Spring has Sprung' - Update

By Diane & Steve Hitchens, Rally Coordinators

'Spring has Sprung' is less than a month away now. Thank you all for registering! We have a good group coming!! If you still haven't registered, we have plenty of room for you! Still working on getting a couple more seminars scheduled, but other than that we think we're pretty ready to jump into the flower garden!!!! Can't wait to see you all soon!



Steve & Diane Hitchens
Rally Coordinators

[Click here for event info & registration](#)

[Join in on the discussion at the 2025 Retiree Rally Facebook group](#)

Click the link above or scan the code below.



'Retiree Rally 2025 Flea Market' - Update

By Richard & Frances Jackson, Flea Market Chairs

Join us for a blooming good time at the Retiree Rally Flea Market! There will be lots of fun shopping. The flea market booth sign-up table will be at registration. Booth space is free so bring items you wish to sell. Put a spring in your step and come shop the market!



Retiree Rally 2025 - Dothan, Alabama



'The FCRV International Retiree Rally Awaits You..... - New

By Barb Turner, Publicity Chair

Date: March 24-30, 2025; Early Bird Days: March 21-23, 2025

Location: National Peanut Festival Fairground, 5622 Hwy 231 S, Dothan, Alabama

Full Hook-Ups, (30/50 Amp)

Theme: 'Spring Has Sprung'

Book Exchange: Bring books and exchange for others

Choir: Join the FCRV Retiree Choir for the memorial service

Coordinators: Steve & Diane Hitchens, Kansas
Collections: Food Bank, lap robes, pull tabs, and plastic bread tags

Door Prizes: Bring a door prize; receive a door prize

Entertainment: Tuesday night - ONE MAN BAND;
Wednesday night - SOUTHERN CITY LIGHTS;
Friday night - GILLIRAN'S ISLAND BAND

Flea Market: Bring your crafts and 'fleas' to sell.
Free space includes table(s) & 2 chairs

Games: Indoor and outdoor games

Hard Hat Breakfast: Guys, start a day with a hearty breakfast.

'King/Queen: Meet the candidates. Enjoy the ice cream social and vote.

Meals: Enjoy two meals.

Memorial Service: Chaplain Bill Buggeln will conduct the service remembering our members who passed in the last year

Morning Devotions: with Chaplain Buggeln
Pet Parade: Pets travel with you? Think about putting them in the pet parade.

Red Hat Luncheon: Ladies, don your red hats and enjoy a luncheon

See you in Dothan! Safe travels!





Retiree Rally 2025 - Dothan, Alabama



Games in Dothan - Update

By Shari & Craig Weber & Carol & Ray Yates,
Games Co-Chairs

We are ready for Spring to be sprung in Dothan. Several table games will be played at the rally in addition to outdoor games. We try to make sure all games can be enjoyed in a reasonable amount of time. This is the last article before the rally.

Those table games you have come to enjoy will be played. You can look forward to enjoying 5 Crowns, Euchre (with enough players), Mexican Train Dominoes, and Card Bingo. As always tables are available for you to gather with friends to play games at any time. Previous issues have featured all of these games.

The outdoor games also draw eager players. Ladder Golf, Washer Toss, Corn Hole, and Bean Bag Baseball will be played. Rules for all these games are at <https://fcv.org/programs2/national-programs/adult-activities/>. Click on the link to be taken to that information. While the games will be modified to accommodate time constraints, the rules of the games will be followed.

This month we will feature the last two-yard games.

Washer toss is played with 3" washers and two boards with 3 holes. Washers are tossed from the pitching base which is 10' from the board. The scoring for the holes is closest 1 point, middle 2 points, and farthest 3 points. Players will toss sets of 3 washers 10 times and score will accumulate.

Bean Bag Baseball is played with bean bags thrown at boards laid out in baseball configuration. There is a home run, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd base, and 2 outs. Bags are tossed and scored based on the hole they go into. The player then walks to the base they achieved. Teams of 7 - 9 players will be set up and a tournament is played until a winning team is determined. We will need volunteer scorekeepers and umpires for this game.

If you have questions or comments, feel free to reach out to us at shari.fcv.pastpres@gmail.com.





Retiree Rally 2025 - Dothan, Alabama



'Variety Show - Update

By Kip Cushing, Variety Chair

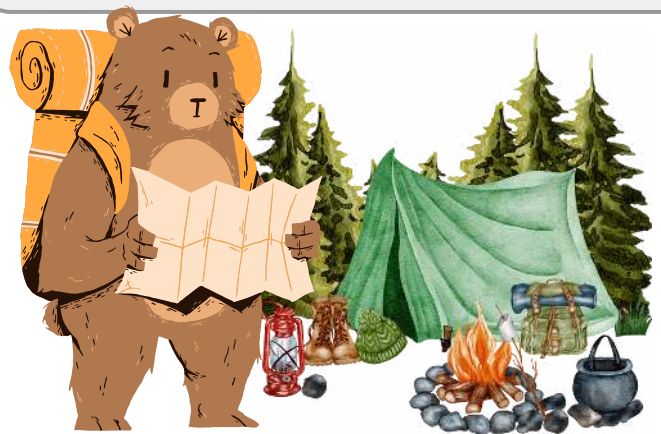
BREAKING NEWS: There will be a Variety Show at the Rally!!! It will be held on a new day at a new time. Wednesday at 3PM. I would like to meet with all the talent acts on Tuesday. Check the program for time to know what we have to offer. A signup sheet will be at registration. So, bring your talent with you to the Retiree Rally.



'Spring has Sprung' Pet Parade - Update

By Donna Powell, Pet Parade Chair

Are you coming to this year's Retiree Rally in Dothan, Alabama? We sure hope you are! If you have a pet(s), maybe think about having them in the Pet Parade. It is always fun and interesting watching all your pets being in the pet parade. If interested, we will have 5 categories as I have listed in a prior article. If you missed them; they are theme(Spring has Sprung) (spring outfits-bright and colorful), lookalike-pet and owner, best trick, best behaved, and best of show! All those participating will receive a participation award and a treat. The winners of each category will receive an award certificate and prize. If you don't have a pet, please come and watch all our fur babies! One never knows how they will perform! The date and time will be in our schedule when we arrive and go through registration! See ya' real soon, y'all hear!





Campvention 2025 - Lebanon, Tennessee



[More Info](#)

[Register](#)

[Forms](#)



[Click here for event info & registration](#)

[Join in on the discussion at the 2025 Campvention Facebook group](#)

Click the link above or scan the code below.



Announcement

The currency exchange between the United States dollar & the Canadian dollar is at 1.45 causing our Canadian family members to pay over \$500 for the Campvention 2025 fee of \$350. Due to this the trustees have offered a special price for the upcoming campvention for those Canadians who have not yet registered.

Your Board of Trustees

Golf Cart Rentals - **New** *By Rick Walorski*

Do you want to rent a golf cart for your Campvention Cruising Pleasure? - New

Please contact Dixie Hooper 615-624-8720 with Mikey's Motors to rent a four-passenger golf cart for Campvention 2025 week. Or click <https://www.mikeysmotors.com/rent-a-make--xrentals>

400.00 weekly rental for a four-passenger gas cart.

50.00 delivery/handling/pickup fee
43.88 Tax

\$493.88 Total Rental Fee (if paying with cash or check)

14.82 3% Credit Card Fee

\$508.70 Total if paying with a credit card

Your Campvention Team has selected Mikey's Motors in Murfreesboro to supply the golf carts for the Campvention Trams and Core Teams (parking, security, etc). They have extended the 4-seat cart price to our membership.



Campvention 2025 - Lebanon, Tennessee



Campvention Tour Opportunities - *New* By Shari Weber

There are four tour opportunities planned for Wednesday July 23, 2025 at Campvention in Lebanon. Below are links to each tour which include descriptions of the tour, the cost, and time of the tour. You will need to make individual reservations for the tours. For example, if you plan to go on the E-Bike tour and someone else is going with you, you will use the link twice to make the reservations as pricing is for individuals. There is no opportunity to select a quantity for the tour. Be sure to pay attention to requirements for the tour. The E-Bike tour minimum age is 13 and Jack Daniels the minimum age is 21 (there are tastings included) and you will need to have a government issued ID.

<https://fcrv.org/campvention-tours/>



Additional tour Opportunities - *New* By Shari Weber

There are two tours we were unable to set up this way although they are still available to plan on your own. They are as follows.

[**Nashville's Dark Secrets: Murder & True Crime Walking Ghost Tour \\$34.95 per adult.**](#)

Hear the scary past of Nashville through the experiences of a LOCAL! Our ADULTS ONLY TOUR is a must for anyone who loves ghosts, history, and especially true crime.

Prepare to be captivated by the dark history of Music City. Our knowledgeable guides will lead

you through the blood-stained pages of Nashville's past, recounting stories of murder, betrayal, and revenge that have left an indelible mark on the city's psyche. From infamous serial killers to unsolved mysteries, each stop on this tour will send shivers down your spine.

We'll take you to the locations where these heinous acts occurred, allowing you to stand on the very ground where the perpetrators and victims once walked. Along the way you'll hear about the investigations, the suspects, and the lingering questions that still baffle criminologists and historians to this day.

Outdoor Escape Room from \$75.00 per group (up to 6).

One part scavenger hunt, one-part escape room, and one-part urban crawl. Can you escape your city? Search for real-world clues, solve puzzles, and discover your city with an experience you will never forget!

Follow the storyline around town as you find clues and use them to crack codes. Then enter solutions on the app to find out where to go next. Clues can be anywhere - murals, statues, landmarks, and more!

Plan about two hours of playtime, depending on your experience level and how much time you spend exploring along the way. Difficulty level is adjustable - take as many or as few hints as you'd like!

Please Note: When planning your adventure, keep in mind that shipping can take up to 7 business days.

Follow the storyline around town as you find clues and use them to crack codes. Then enter solutions on the app to find out where to go next. Clues can be anywhere - murals, statues, landmarks, and more!

Plan about two hours of playtime, depending on your experience level and how much time you spend exploring along the way. Difficulty level is adjustable - take as many or as few hints as you'd like!

Please Note: When planning your adventure, keep in mind that shipping can take up to 7 business days.



Campvention 2025 - Lebanon, Tennessee



Entertainment Announced - **New**

By *Connie Black, Entertainment Chair*

Monday night entertainment - Jeffery Steele
Jeffrey Steele is an American country music singer and songwriter. Along with recording his own material, Steele has become a prolific Nashville songwriter, having co-written more than 60 hit songs for such artists as Montgomery Gentry, Tim McGraw, Faith Hill, LeAnn Rimes, Rascal Flatts, Billy Ray Cyrus, and others.

Between 1990 and 1996, Steele was the lead singer and bass guitarist in the country music band Boy Howdy, which recorded two albums and an EP on Curb Records, in addition to charting seven singles on the Billboard country music charts. After Boy Howdy disbanded, Steele embarked on a solo career, recording seven studio albums (one of which was not released). He also charted four singles as a solo artist, with the highest-peaking ("Somethin' in the Water") reaching No. 33 on the country charts in 2001.

Wednesday night entertainment - The Eldorado Band

The Eldorado Band is a rockin' country band with powerful vocals, blazing guitars, honky-tonk piano, and a tight rhythm section.

In January 2007, bassist César Sánchez and guitarist Nano Paramio formed the band Eldorado. The band drew inspiration from 1970s classic rock groups Bad Company, Deep Purple and Led Zeppelin. After distributing some demo songs, the group was picked up by producer Richard Chycki, who has worked with Aerosmith, Dream Theater, Gotthard, and Rush.

Friday night entertainment – Sweetn3

Sweetn3 is one of Middle Tennessee's top "go to" Classic Rock and Roll Cover Bands. Sweetn3 loves the music they cover and it shows on stage, which is why they are so popular among the rock and roll crowd.

Sweetn3 covers bands like The Allman Bros, David Bowie, Chili Peppers, Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin, Joan Jett, Janis Joplin, Van Halen, Sheryl Crow, Heart, The Who, Yes, ZZ Top and many more. Even though their main focus is classic rock, they occasionally drop other music genres in their sets like folk, jazz, soul and country, and they're not afraid of taking on requests either.





Campvention 2025 - Lebanon, Tennessee



Outreach Luncheon - **New**

By Ed Shaneyfelt, Campvention Chair

This year at Campvention Family Fun Day will be replaced by an Outreach. The teens will be selling tickets for a hamburger or hot dog meal with chips and water. All profits will be given to a local veterans' organization in Lebanon. There will be plenty of hamburgers and hot dogs available. Any extra meat (like in years past) will be sold to our members.

If you want to support the local veteran's organization, come and eat lunch with us. We are asking for \$5.00 for each meal; anything more will be appreciated.

Tickets can be purchased at central registration and cash will also be accepted the day of the event. The teen organization will be helping cook and serve this meal.



TP Raffle - **Update**

By Kathy Howell

Campvention will be here in a blink!! I have started making reservations for camping with my friends beginning in April. I can't wait for the season to begin. As I am making my plans, my daughter and I are busy putting together the TP raffle prizes. As I have read Camping Today issues, I did notice that a lot of us are asking for donations.

The TP Raffle isn't just a raffle to win a prize. The prize is the fun part. The funds raised by this raffle will help to cover costs for the teen activities for the following year. This allows the teen director to know how much has been raised to know how much to budget.

The TP Raffle allows the teen participants to learn how to interact with people that they may not know in a safe environment. It teaches our teens how to handle money and be responsible while having the safety net of their parents and our camping group.

The teens are the future of our camping club. Keeping them involved and engaged will strengthen their enjoyment of camping and being in a camping club as an adult. We thank you for your consideration of making a donation to the TP Raffle.

Campvention Youth Activities - **New**

By Deena Felver & Val Semper, Youth Chairs

This is Deena Felver, and between Val Semper and I we are excited to meet the youth. We are in the planning mode of fun activities and crafts for the youth. We will let you know what all our plans are after our work weekend in April. I hope to have more articles in the next few issues of Camping Today.

If you have anything you would like the youth to do you can let me know, my email is cdfelver@metalink.net. If you would like to volunteer to help at the youth center you can email me also.

Thanks again.





Campvention 2025 - Lebanon, Tennessee



Wildlife - New

By Tom Martinez, FCRV Wildlife Director

We protect wildlife because:

1. Wildlife is integral to the world's ecosystems, providing balance and stability to nature's processes.
2. Their abundance and diversity are critical for effective ecological benefits.
3. Wildlife conservation supports the functioning of the planet as a whole and can even mitigate the effects of climate change.
4. It ensures that future generations can enjoy our natural world and the incredible species that live within it.
5. Wild animals maintain balance in ecosystems, provide vital nutrients, assist in medical research, and have rich cultural significance.

After completing our first year as director I am ready for year two. The first year went well and I want to continue with the same activities. I am asking the states and provinces to donate a basket for auction at the Campvention in TN. We had several particularly good baskets and we're looking forward to seeing what this year will bring. I am also calling for bird feeders to be donated for auction. We will be accepting other donations for the silent auction to support our wildlife programs. Please bring your basket donations and bird feeders to Campvention. If you are not attending Campvention and would like to donate a basket or bird feeder, please send that with someone from your state or province. I will collect all the items at Campvention at the wildlife booth.

Calling on our photographers to submit a wildlife photo or two. We will have two categories, adults, 18 and over and youth 17 and younger. Ribbons will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Please submit 8 1/2 X 11 for judging.

Pat Wittmeyer, seminars chairman, has graciously offered to provide a presenter or someone from the raptor rehabilitation center to talk about rehabilitating animals injured in the wild in a seminar setting, after a noontime presentation to the Ambassador Club luncheon.

We will be auctioning a refrigerated cooler like the one at last year's Campvention. It is very handy for camping and picnics.

I am looking for an activity for fun pertaining to wildlife.

I have two submissions for the Wildlife Refuge Program and am looking for more submissions. The grants will be awarded on the last day during the general meeting.

I would like to pursue the Leave no Trace Principles more this year.

The 7 Principles of Leave No Trace are as follows:

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Others.

© Leave No Trace: www.LNT.org





Campvention 2025 - Lebanon, Tennessee



Teen Sports - **New**

By Ed & Angie Shaneyfelt, Teen Sports Chairs

Teens that are coming to Lebanon get ready to play some games! We will be having our annual teens vs adults softball game. Note to adults... bring your equipment (as we will need all the help we can get against the younger generation).

We will have the FCRV volleyball net set up for open play if any members want to get a game together. Teens may play if decided at Campvention.

On site we will choose a couple other games to participate in; it may be corn hole, bocce ball or anything...teens, just come and participate. Looking forward to playing sports with the teens this year.

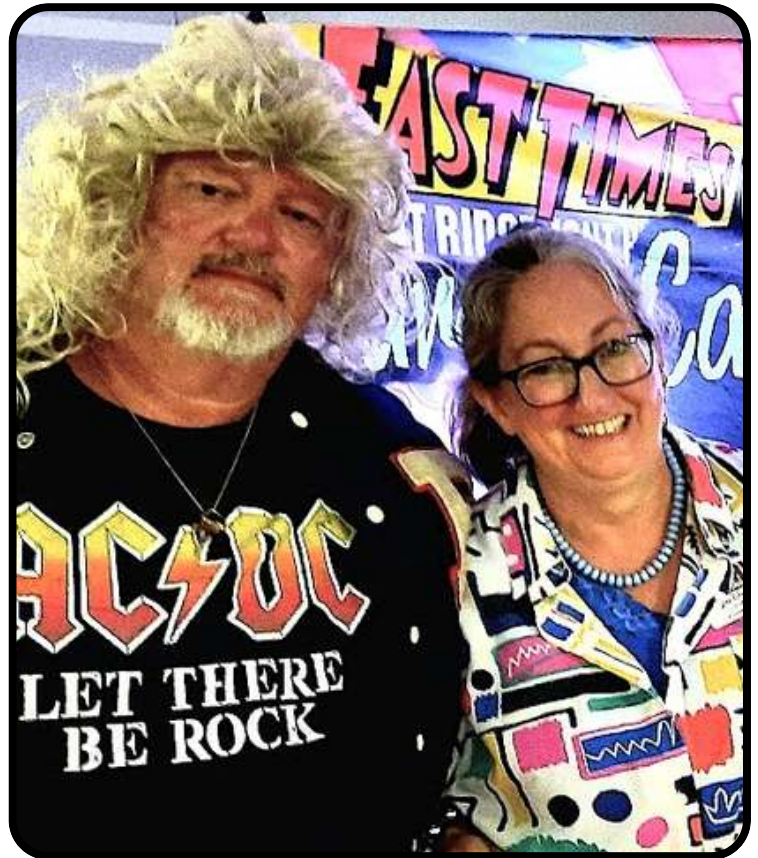


Let's Make a Deal! - **New**

By Angie Shaneyfelt, a team lead

Entertainment on Tuesday evening will be "Let's Make a Deal". Ed Shaneyfelt will be the host for these festivities. If you've seen the show, the audience usually dresses up in crazy costumes. Decide what you are going to wear to our game show and maybe you will be chosen from the audience.

Let's all have a fun game night and see how many people get the "Zonk"!



Marketplace - **New**

By Rhonda O'Neal, Marketplace Chair

Hello, everyone! I am back again this year for Marketplace! If you are interested in a space, please let me know. Marketplace is where a time is set aside for our members to sell items that they make. This year it will be on Tuesday July 22, 2025. Opens at 9am for handicap and 10am for general membership till 12:00 PM. The cost to rent a space is \$5, and this includes 1 table and 2 chairs. We had a great turnout last year. If you are interested, please email me at rhonda.oneal11@gmail.com. Hope to hear from you soon!





Campvention 2025 - Lebanon, Tennessee



Disaster and Safety Awareness Training Seminars - **New**

By Joe Boswell, FCRV D.A.S.A.T. Director

Seminars:

1. After the Dust Settles: What do I do Now?
2. Counting to Ten

Campvention 2025 DASAT Seminar Overview:

Note: Both of the following programs were originally written by Marilyn Rausch, the former DASAT Director. She has allowed them to be part of FCRV. We thank her for the use of this material. They will be presented by Joe Boswell, our current DASAT Field Director at National Campvention.

After the Dust Settles: What do I do Now?

The disaster has occurred, now what will you do? What to do next is very important. The list of things to get done may be lengthy and may take a lot of time to conclude accurately. How, and when will it be done is up to the way you handle the situation. The loss of your home, retain financial stability, emotional stress, and rebuilding and much more will be covered. In this seminar you will learn how to get some things accomplished and how important it is to be prepared for any type of disaster before it occurs.

Counting to Ten

What to do when it is up to you. Discussed will be some things to do to prepare for any type of disaster. How to be prepared and things to do and not to do going forward. This seminar will cover various thoughts and ideas as to what to do, and what should be done before and during the disaster period. How you will keep it all together is very important. One should be prepared for the unexpected as things will occur when you least expect it. How prepared will you be?



Gift Basket Raffle! - **Update**

By Betty Andrews

We are counting down the days until we see you at the FCRV Campvention in Lebanon, TN this July for another unforgettable adventure!

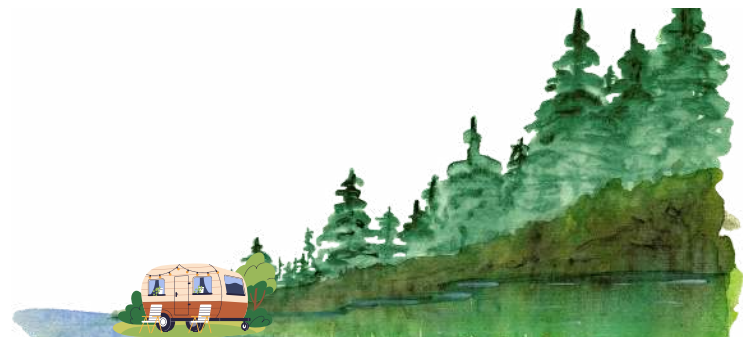
One of the highlights of the evening is the Gift Basket Raffle! Everyone loves the thrill of winning a basket, and the more donations, the more prizes we can share!

How Can You Help?

1. As you gear up for Spring camping, consider making it a group project!
2. Ask each member to bring an item to contribute to the basket.
3. This allows everyone to participate, even if they can't attend Campvention.
4. Consider themed baskets with items made in your state, camping gear, or handmade crafts!
5. Only include new, unopened items in your basket to ensure a great experience for the winner.
6. Include a 3x5 card with your name & address so the lucky winner can send a thank you!

Let's make this year's door prizes bigger & better than ever! Who's excited for Campvention 2025?!

For additional information or questions feel free to contact Betty at UBetUKen2@gmail.com.





Event Schedule & Recaps



[Click Here For Full Event Calendar]

Family Campers & RVers - FCRV
March 10 at 5:00 AM

The Colorado Eagles held a chapter meeting luncheon at the Olive Garden restaurant. It was a great turnout and as always a good time when we are together. Not to mention that the food was delicious!

Boost this post to get more reach for Family Campers & RVers - FCRV. [Boost post](#)

13

Family Campers & RVers - FCRV
March 2 at 5:00 AM

The Co Trailblazers traveled to Taos, NM. The group camped at the Taos Valley RV Resort. Hosts arranged for members to take the Historic Taos Trolley Tour and visit the historic Taos Pueblo. The group had a Make Your Own Nachos lunch, and a day to shop.

Boost this post to get more reach for Family Campers & RVers - FCRV. [Boost post](#)

6

Family Campers & RVers - FCRV
March 4 at 5:00 AM

Members from 2 Ontario chapters camped at the Attawandaron Scout Reserve to complete the cutting, splitting & stacking of oak and pine logs for the season. They worked, ate and laughed together for a week, enjoying the autumn beauty along the eastern shores of Lake Huron.

Boost this post to get more reach for Family Campers & RVers - FCRV. [Boost post](#)

Woodland Wookies and 20 others

2 comments 1 share



Event Schedule & Recaps



Family Campers & RVer's - FCRV
February 25 at 10:29 AM

The Silver Foxes of Colorado Springs CO installed their new officers for 2025 at the monthly meeting at the IHOP. Congratulations to the new officers!



Boost this post to get more reach for Family Campers & RVer's - FCRV. [Boost post](#)

6 likes 1 share

[Like](#) [Comment](#) [Send](#) [Share](#)

Ct Family Campers & RVer's
February 20 at 8:39 AM

CTFCRV came together for our annual bowling get-together at Apple Valley Bowl in Plantsville. From beginners bowlers to experienced and some who just observed, a great night was had by all. Many laughs and friends catching up warmed the cold night. Thank you Kathy for putting this together and ushering a smooth night.



15 likes 1 comment 1 share

[Like](#) [Comment](#) [Send](#) [Share](#)

Ct Family Campers & RVer's
March 3 at 9:57 AM

CTFCRV took advantage of the beautiful weather March 1st and joined The Shoreline Greenway in East Haven. The 4 mile trail extension along Coe Ave. to the picturesque, wooded trails off Elliot St., and into Farm River State Park. As always coming together as a group, brings us closer as friends, better health, and closer to the camping season.



13 likes 2 comments 3 shares

[Like](#) [Comment](#) [Send](#) [Share](#)





Do you have questions about your RV, accessories, best practices, etc? Submit them to Dear RV and our staff will attempt to answer them. The answers are based on years of camping experience, but we don't guarantee that the answers will apply to your specific unit or situation. If someone submits a question and you can add to our answer OR have a better answer, please submit below with information about the original question. Your submission will be reviewed for possible publication in a future Dear RV Q&A. So, send us your questions and we will send you an answer. Remember, all submissions are anonymous. Us here at Dear RV! Question(s) or comment(s) for Dear RV.

Submit here: <https://fcrv.org/dear-rv/>

Dear RV is a place you can ask a question about Camping or your RV without anyone judging your question. We all have questions that we are not willing to ask the people that we camp with on a regular basis. We are not willing to ask and be laughed at or made fun of for not knowing. This is the place you can ask, and you will not get laughed at. You might get a bit of sarcasm, jesting, but you will get an answer as we see it. Dear RV is not a place for sales nor local issues. A question about a camping issue is welcome. We look forward to sharing things that we have learned throughout our camping adventures and having fun with them. If we can help someone enjoy camping a little more, we will have succeeded. So send us your questions and let's have some fun that we can all enjoy. We look forward to seeing your questions in the days to come.

The Dear RV gurus.





Personalized garments; drinkware; clings; decals; kitchen & bath items. You can choose from our large graphic collection or use your photos or designs.

For FCRV branded items:

https://stores.inksoft.com/fc_rv/shop/home

For other items:

<https://stores.inksoft.com/marshallcreations16/shop/home>

Call or text: 410-533-0038

Marshallcreations16@gmail.com

