

CAMPING TODAY

THE VOICE OF FAMILY CAMPERS & RVERS

NOVEMBER 2025 ISSUE

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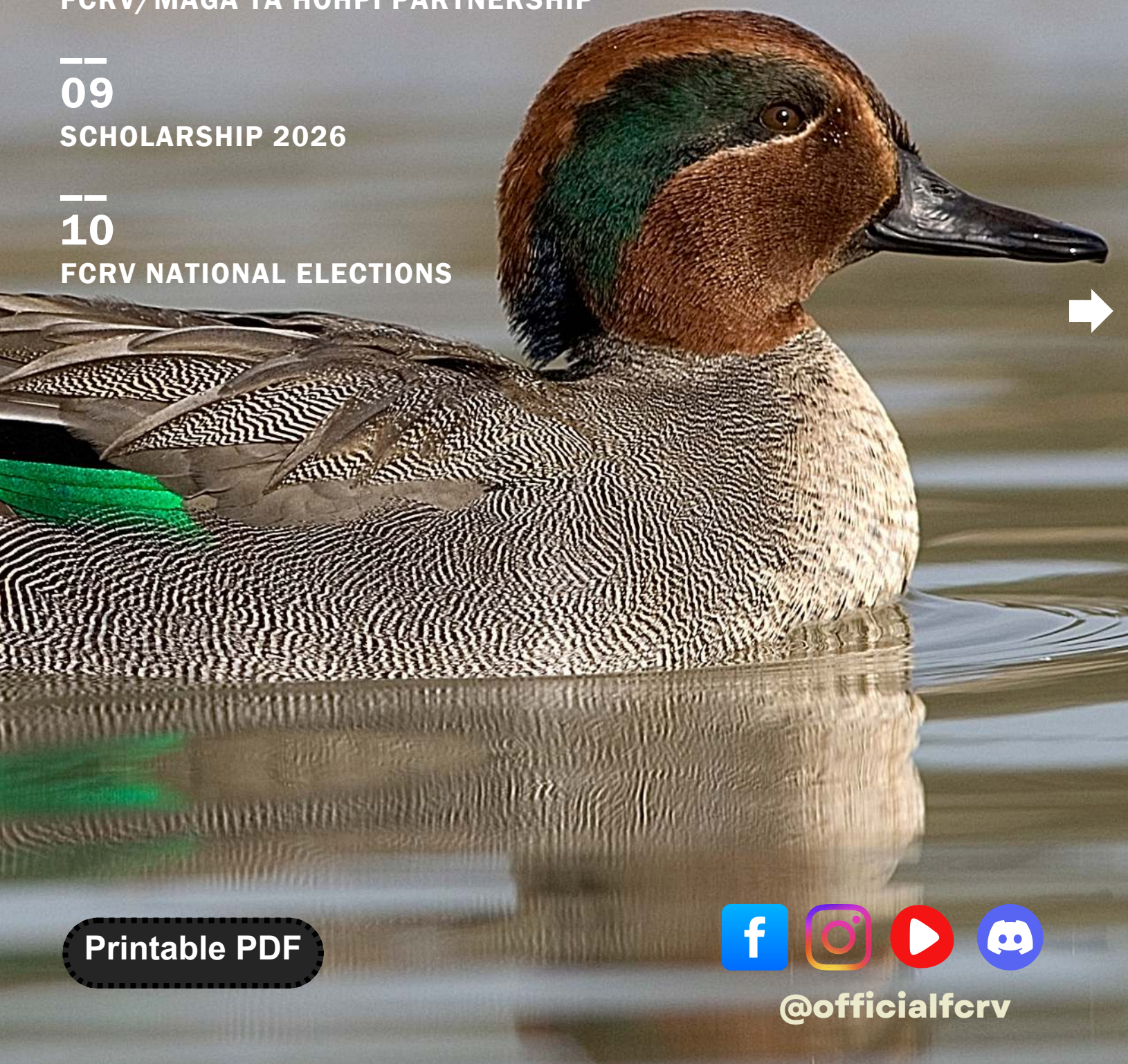
FCRV/MAGA TA HOHPI PARTNERSHIP

09

SCHOLARSHIP 2026

10

FCRV NATIONAL ELECTIONS



Printable PDF



@officialfcrv

Table of Contents

Important Updates/Messages

- [FCRV / Maga Ta Hohpi Partnership](#)
- [National Office Update](#)
- [Update: FCRV National Comptroller](#)
- [FCRV Stayover](#)
- [Spread the Word](#)
- [National Elections](#)
- [Holiday Greetings](#)
- [Welcome New Members](#)
- [Trustee Minute Notes](#)

Upcoming National Events

- [Campvention 2026 - Huron, South Dakota](#)
- [Retiree Rally 2026 - Mineola, Texas](#)

Event Schedule & Recaps

- [Event Calendar & Recaps](#)

Camping Information & Tips

- [Campfire Know-How](#)
- [Go RVing Launches RV-2-50](#)
- [Breaking the Thanksgiving Traditions](#)

Wildlife / Conservation

- [Black Pines Animal Sanctuary](#)
- [Wildlife and Ecosystems](#)

Your Stories

- [Iceland Adventure-Planning](#)
- [Winter Sowing](#)
- [Participating in World Senior Games](#)

Past Camping Todays

- [2022-2024 Online Archive](#)
- [1989-2021 DeWayne Johnston Historical Archives \(pdfs\)](#)

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<https://fcrv.org/camping-today-submission-forms/>

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Camping Today' Submission Forms

['Camping Today' is currently scheduled for release on the 15th of each month.]

[All content must be submitted by the 1st.]

Contact FCRVOFFICE@gmail.com if you have any questions or problems submitting material.

[Click on the hyperlink below for the type of 'Camping Today' submission you'd liked to send.](#)

[Articles](#) - [Event Recap](#) - [Birthday Shoutout](#) - [Milestone](#) - [Farewell](#) - [Event Submit](#)



YOUR CHAIR AWAITS



- International Camping Club
- Non-Profit Member Owned
- National & Local Events
- Wildlife & Conservation
- Scholarship Programs
- Youth, Teen, Adult and Retiree Programs

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FCRV / Maga Ta-Hohpi Partnership



**Announcing FCRV's
New Partnership with
Friends Group of Maga Ta-Hohpi**
*A Year of Conservation, Education, and
Connection Ahead*
By Lloyd Alley

Family Campers & RVers is proud to announce an exciting new partnership with Friends of Maga Ta-Hohpi, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting environmental education, wildlife habitat restoration, and public engagement within the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Huron Wetland Management District in South Dakota.

This partnership will unfold over the coming year, offering FCRV members a wide range of opportunities to learn, explore, and take part in conservation-minded experiences. Together, we will connect the spirit of camping and outdoor recreation with the mission of habitat preservation and environmental stewardship.

Throughout the year, members can look forward to:

- **Collaborative Awareness Campaigns:** FCRV and Friends of Maga Ta-Hohpi will be working together on a series of co-branded social media and digital initiatives designed to highlight both organizations' missions. These posts and stories will feature real projects, behind-the-scenes conservation efforts, and ways FCRV families can support wildlife protection and outdoor education.
- **Member Spotlights and Shared Stories:** Throughout the partnership year, we'll showcase the people and places behind this collaboration, introducing FCRV families who embody our values of responsible camping and community service, as well as the volunteers and educators working with Friends of Maga Ta-Hohpi to restore and protect wetland habitats.
- **Family-Friendly Challenges and Events:** From youth programming to family scavenger hunts and nature-themed workshops, the partnership will include creative ways for every age group to engage with conservation throughout the year.



**USFWS Demonstrating Duck Banding to visitors
of the Huron Wetland Mangement District**

Who are the Friends of Maga Ta-Hohpi?

Friends of Maga Ta-Hohpi is a nonprofit partner of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Huron Wetland Management District in South Dakota. Its name, meaning "Duck Nest" in Yankton Sioux, honors the wetlands that provide vital nesting and migration habitat for countless bird species. The group supports conservation, education, and community engagement projects that connect people to the land and promote understanding of how healthy wetlands benefit both wildlife and people.



FCRV / Maga Ta-Hohpi Partnership



The highlight of this partnership will come at Campvention, where our collaboration will culminate in a celebration of everything we've accomplished together. At Campvention, Friends of Maga Ta-Hohpi will join us for a series of special programs including seminars, exhibits, and outdoor activities that showcase the beauty and importance of America's wetland ecosystems. Members will have the chance to meet representatives from Friends of Maga Ta-Hohpi, take part in guided tours, and learn how their ongoing work ties directly to the values that make FCRV special: family, nature, and community.

This partnership reflects FCRV's ongoing commitment to meaningful outdoor experiences that go beyond the campsite. By working hand in hand with Friends of Maga Ta-Hohpi, we are helping to ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy and learn from the natural world that brings us all together.

More details and schedules for upcoming activities will be shared in future newsletters and on the FCRV website. We encourage all members to get involved, learn more about the Friends of Maga Ta-Hohpi mission, and help make this partnership year one to remember.

Why Maga Ta-Hohpi?

FCRV chose to partner with Friends of Maga Ta-Hohpi because their mission aligns closely with our own values of family, community, and respect for the outdoors. Their work in habitat restoration and environmental education mirrors FCRV's long-standing commitment to responsible camping and conservation. By joining forces, we can help amplify their message, inspire our members to take part in meaningful outdoor stewardship, and highlight the connection between recreation and protecting the natural spaces we all enjoy.



A Message from FCRV Leadership

This partnership with Friends of Maga Ta-Hohpi represents more than a shared project; it reflects who we are as an organization. FCRV has always believed that camping brings people closer not just to each other, but to the natural world we all depend on. By joining forces with Friends of Maga Ta-Hohpi, we are putting that belief into practice through a year of collaboration, awareness, and education that will inspire our members and strengthen our collective commitment to conservation. As this partnership unfolds and culminates at Campvention, we look forward to seeing our members engage, learn, and celebrate what can be achieved when community and conservation come together.

Gerry Pfirsch
FCRV International President





National Office Update



A long-term initiative to reduce operating costs by several thousand dollars annually through the elimination of postage, mailing supplies, paid software, postage machine licensing, and associated labor has been underway throughout 2025. This transition represents a key step toward ensuring FCRV's financial sustainability.

Earlier this year, FCRV began shifting from three physical renewal reminders to a blend of mailed and electronic notices as part of our testing phase for updated systems and processes. One reminder has already been converted to email, and a second will move to electronic delivery in January. We plan to continue this gradual, phased transition until all three reminders are fully electronic. This approach gives members time to adjust while allowing us to collect and update email addresses as needed. It is important to ensure that your email address is up to date with National. If you are unsure, you can always reach out to your State, Provincial, or Regional Directors to verify and update it.

Beginning with the November end-of-month cycle, members will also start receiving their Proof of Membership letters electronically. During this testing phase, hard-copy letters will continue to be mailed; however, once we are confident that the electronic process is functioning reliably, we anticipate discontinuing the physical mailings and moving to a fully digital method of providing Proof of Membership letters.

While this transition represents a critical advancement toward greater efficiency and sustainability it is important to recognize the trade-off involved. The personal, human element that has long characterized our membership interactions is inevitably diminishing. I encourage leadership at all levels to remain mindful of this shift and to take a more active role in engaging directly with members, ensuring that the organization continues to provide the warmth and personal connection that define the FCRV community.





Update: FCRV National Comptroller



Update: FCRV National Comptroller

By Sandi Wingert

My name is Sandi Wingert. I am the Comptroller for FCRV. I am in charge of keeping the financial records on a monthly basis. Additionally, a few other people and I are responsible for overseeing our reserves.

With so little income, we the Trustees, have cut almost all our expenses to the bare minimum and eliminated unnecessary expenses. Keeping the books up to date and accurate has been simplified.

I formed an advisory investment committee along with Gerry Pfirsch, and we meet about every two months and review our investments and make changes as necessary. There are 3 accounts at Fidelity which are funds for Scholarship, funds for Wildlife, and funds for our corporate account. These three accounts are separate accounts and can not be mixed together. All the funds in the three accounts are in Mutual funds and with no single stock investment. There is a lot of research done to pick the mutual funds we are currently in. We are working together to make the funds work for us. To date, we are making money on our investments. I, unfortunately, have to pull money out of the corporate account to keep paying our expenses that our income does not cover.

Even if we had a magic wand, we would run out of the reserves. This is the main reason we must raise our annual dues. In addition we need to recruit new members, seek other sources of revenue, and promote Family Campers' programs through the new Project Keystone.



FCRV Stayover



FCRV Stayover - A Possible New Benefit for FCRV Members

By Daniel Tinter – VP Planning and Development

Imagine traveling cross country in your recreational vehicle and needing a place to stay for the night at no cost. It so happens there is a fellow FCRV member who has a spot on their property you can stay at for the night. Think boondocking.

We can add this new benefit if FCRV has enough members out there who will allow fellow members to camp for the night on their property. We also need agreement that involved parties will not hold FCRV liable for any reason.

If there is enough interest, we can then think about moving forward.

I will compile a list of those interested. Send your name, location, largest RV type you can accommodate, and time of the year you will allow folks to camp to Daniel Tinter

fcrv.planning.development@gmail.com.

This benefit will be for FCRV members only.



Spread the Word



Spread the Word

By Daniel Tinter - VP Planning and Development

The 'Spread the Word' initiative aims to increase membership by informing more people about our club. All of us have met people who have not heard about FCRV, once they learned about us they joined. Not everyone we talk to wants to join but there are those who do.

So, the question before us is: how do we reach the most folks possible who may want to join FCRV?

The Recreational Vehicle Industry Association published all kinds of data this year about RV owners. We can use targeted ads to promote our club. Review RVIA's data here: [2025 RV Owner Profile](#)

How You Can Help

Online Daily Newspapers

- Patch.com is a digital daily news platform with local news and events in over 30,000 U.S. communities.
- We can post articles on National, Regional, State rallies and volunteer efforts nationally and reach tens of thousands of people at no cost.
- Help me by posting FCRV national, regional, state and volunteer events in your local community.
- Contact me to help you understand how it works and how you can help.

Google Ads

- Targeted ads can attract future members by providing them with FCRV sponsored information. for: First-timers, Empty-nesters, Camping related Checklists, Why join our camping club, etc.

- I need help creating the various camping guides.
- Our national website will need to accommodate these documents.
- At least one state will be implementing this next year.
- I need board approval for this nationally.

Campgrounds and RV Dealers

- We camp all over this country. For every member who joins because of them, we will advertise them on our digital platforms-website, newsletter, social media.
- I am working on a brochure on how both FCRV and their businesses can benefit.
- I will need your help to distribute.
- At least one state will be implementing this next year.
- I need board approval for this nationally.

New Facebook Group 'Camping with Friends and Family'

- We have a few members who use non-FCRV camping Facebook groups to attract new members when they learn about our camping activity. We can use the same concept targeting camping related businesses. This is an additional incentive for those businesses to promote us.
- Join this group and promote those Campgrounds/RV Dealers you do business with.

Contact Daniel Tinter at:

FCRV.Planning.Development@gmail.com

For a more detailed version of this article, please read: [November 2025 Article - Spread the Word](#)



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

How to Apply: Applications for scholarships opens on December 15th and is posted in our Camping Today Issue. @ <https://fcrv.org/hank-nathan-ncha-fcrv-scholarship/>. Applications will only be accepted online at the above address. The application MUST include the FCRV member holder's name, membership number, postal mailing address, and most importantly, an email address at which the applicant can be contacted. Pay special attention to the entire website and follow the directions closely.

Section 1, Must be filled out by all applicants.

Section 2, Is only for applicants graduating from high school this year and applying for a scholarship for the first time.

Section 3, Is only for applicants currently enrolled and continuing their college education.

Section 4, Applies to those returning to school for continuing or advanced education.

Eligibility Requirements: Parents, guardians, or applicants must be members of FCRV for 18 full calendar months or longer. Applicants must be enrolled, or accepted, into an accredited undergraduate, graduate, or trade school course of study. Part-time and trade school students must carry an equivalent to a minimum of six credit hours. You will be evaluated accordingly. Applicants should have a minimum 2.3 GPA (grade point average) on a 4.0 point scale. All applicants are given equal consideration. A current, complete official transcript of grades must display student name, school name, grades, credit hours for each course, and terms in which the courses were taken.

Recommendations: Two online recommendations are required and must be from a non-relative. Both may come from any FCRV member including trustees, regional director, state director, or non-elected member. Your second recommendation may come from a school official, coach, band director, club

supervisor or an immediate supervisor if you are working. Your application will be complete when all required materials are submitted electronically on or before May 1. Scholarships are for one year. Recipients may reapply each year they meet the eligibility requirements.

**If you've already submitted four letters of recommendation from 2 previous scholarship applications, those are still on file, and you do not need to submit any additional ones unless you want to include an update to your file.*

Scholarships

Annual Scholarships are non-competitive. That means there is no competition between applicants.

Each applicant's score is individually tallied. A scholarship will be awarded to every applicant who meets the standards determined in advance by our rating scale. Scholarship values will range from **\$1,000 to \$4,000+ (American)**.

Consideration is taken for GPA (Grade Point Average), maturity, leadership, related activities, and goals of the candidate as based on the objectives of FCRV.

Special consideration is given to applicants who major, minor or explore elective classes in fields related to forestry, conservation, wildlife, ecology, or outdoor education training.

The Board of Directors will announce the recipients at or after the Annual General Meeting held at Campvention. All scholarship recipients will be posted in Camping Today so that the members who donate to the scholarship fund can see who is getting an FCRV Scholarship.

Applicants will be notified in writing as to the amount they will receive along with further instructions after the May 1, deadline.



FCRV NATIONAL ELECTIONS



Call for Nominations 2026 - 2028

*By Jack Smye Chairman,
FCRV Nominating Committee*

Nominations are being accepted for one half of Trustees (nationally elected officers) who will govern the operations of the Family Campers & RVers (FCRV) during the 2026/2028 term of office.

International President, Gerry Pfirsch has established a nominating committee of which I am the chair to find and vet suitable candidates for the election. The deadline for nominations is December 15, 2025.

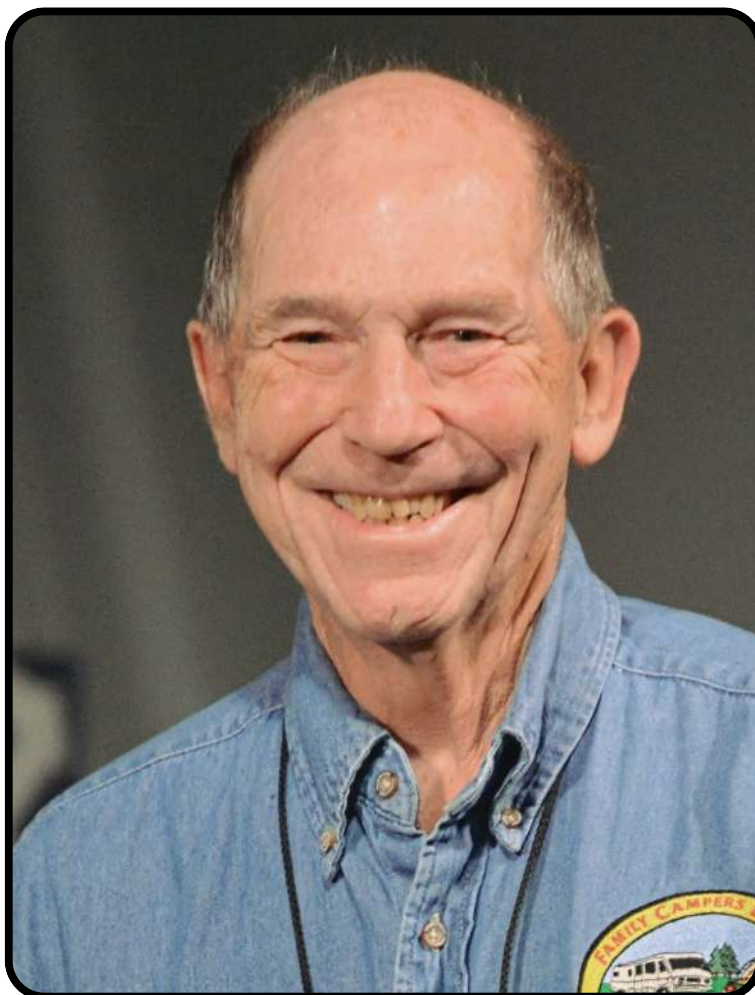
The positions to be elected are International President, VP Programs and Recording /Correspondence officer all of whom are elected by the membership.

Any FCRV member in good standing is eligible for nomination consideration. Please immediately contact your respective State/Provincial Director, Regional Director, any member of the nominating committee, or me if you are interested in any of these offices (or can suggest a person whom we should seek).

Once a nomination slate has been selected by the nominating committee, each candidate will complete a resume and platform which will be published in the February 2026 issue of "Camping Today". Ballots for a contested election will be distributed at the beginning of March 2026 with the deadline for voting being April 15, 2026.

Please make sure your correct email address is on file with the national database. Your State/Provincial Director or Regional Director can help check your email address.

If you cannot participate in electronic balloting and will not be at your membership residence on file with the office, absentee ballots must be requested by January 15, 2026 indicating the alternate address. Make your request for an absentee ballot to Carl (716) 668-6242 at the national office or by email fcrvoffice@gmail.com.



**Jack Smye can be contacted at:
sjsmye@sympatico.ca**

Holiday Greetings

Holiday Greetings

By the 'Camping Today' Team

We know it's early, but we wanted to share exciting news!

Would you like to send a holiday message to all your friends in FCRV? We have designed over 60 graphic greetings for you to choose from to celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. These will be published in the December issue of Camping Today, our national newsletter. For a fee of only \$5.99, that's right – only \$5.99 - While the designs are already created, members can personalize their greeting. Visit <https://fcrv.org/holiday-greetings> to see the various options for your holiday greeting. Payment can only be made online via the Paypal portal with a credit card. You do NOT have to have a Paypal account in order to purchase your greeting. It's a great way to share your holiday spirit with the members of FCRV who have "become family". The last opportunity to select a greeting and pay for it will be December 10, 2025 for inclusion in the December 2025 issue. Proceeds will help with publishing & producing "Camping Today."





Welcome New Members



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

Waters, Russ	Waters, Carolyn	NC	Referred by: Chapter: Raleigh Roadrunners
Austin, Jason		TX	Referred by: Referred by: No Reference
Burwell, Malcolm	Burwell, Malcolm	MA	Referred by: Lynn and Daniel Tinter
Vonfeldt, Carol		CO	Referred by: Dan & Judy Kimzey
Gagneaux, Lew	Gagneaux, Connie	LA	Referred by: Anne Zaczek

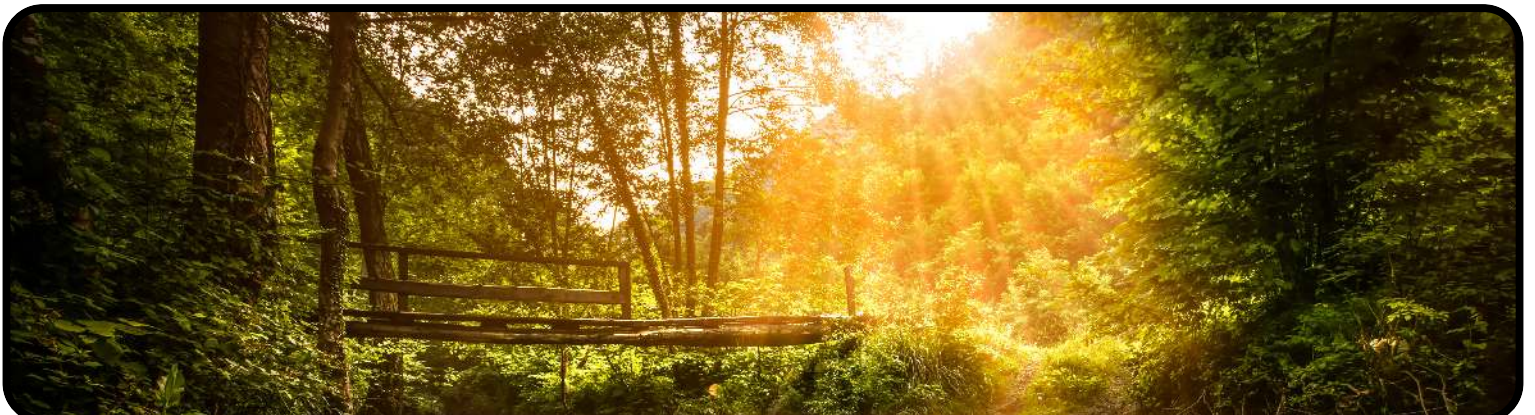


Trustee Meeting Notes



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](#).





Campvention 2026 - Huron, South Dakota



[More Info](#)

[Register](#)

[Forms](#)



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

[Join in on the discussion at the 2026 Campvention Facebook group](#)

Click the link above or scan the code below.



CAMPVENTION 2026 “Where The Flock Gathers”

Heartland Region invites you to the 66th annual FCRV Campvention, to be held at the South Dakota State Fairgrounds at Huron July 5th to the 11th, 2026. Early bird days are July 3rd and 4th.

In addition to renewing old friendships and making new friends, you'll discover the rich cultural heritage, Native American and pioneer history, and the beautiful scenery of the Huron area. Huron's history is on display through its colorful outdoor murals as well as several historic museums and buildings. The city offers family entertainment (including a water park), numerous recreational opportunities, water activities (such as fishing, paddle boats, swimming), and walking trails.

Huron is located in the east central part of the state, but you are encouraged to come to Campvention early or stay late, to see the iconic Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse Memorial tribute to the Native American tribal leader, both in southwest South Dakota; the 50-foot sculpture, “Dignity of Earth and Sky,” along the Missouri River near Chamberlain; DeSmet, home of Laura Ingalls Wilder, about 35 miles from Huron; and the world's only Corn Palace (with exterior murals covered in corn, grains and grasses), in Mitchell, about 55 miles from Huron. And South Dakota has so much more to offer travelers!

Heartland Region 3 FCRVers are planning many familiar Campvention activities and adventures, along with special programs and activities focusing on local conservation and wildlife. They invite you to come and discover all that Campvention 2026, Huron and South Dakota have to offer!



Retiree Rally 2026 - Mineola, Texas



[More Info](#)

[Register](#)



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

[Join in on the discussion at the 2026 Retiree Rally Facebook group](#)

Click the link above or scan the code below.



Retiree Rally 2026 "Circle The Wagons"

Are you ready to join us to CIRCLE THE WAGONS next March? This rally is open to all members of FCRV, not just to retirees! There is so much fun awaiting you, so invite your camping friends and introduce them to our FCRV family. There is so much to see and do while you are there, and the amenities are 1st class! We will be updating you each month. The RV sites are very special as they are in front of the Center where we meet and form a double round ring that allows for SHORT WALKS. The sites have FULL HOOKUPS with BOTH 30 AND 50AMP, as we will CIRCLE THE WAGONS!

The 54th FCRV INTERNATIONAL RETIREE RALLY will be held at the Mineola Civic Center, 1150 N Newsom Street, Mineola, TX 75773.

Rally Dates: March 23 – March 29, 2026

Early Days: March 20th - March 22nd

Come early, as this is a fun place to explore!

We are excited to have Harlan Nigh and Lori Springer co-hosting with us. We are working on the details, and we have a good group of people who have offered to chair the committees. We need more volunteers to help make this a success. Please feel free to contact us with any help or suggestions.

Ken: ken.andrews1348@gmail.com

Betty: UBetUKen2@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you in Mineola, in March of 2026



Event Schedule & Recaps



[\[Click Here For Full Event Calendar\]](#)

Family Campers & RVers - FCRV
Published by Forrest Camperson · November 4 at 5:00 AM ·

The campout at We RV Champions, LaVeta, CO was enjoyed by 18 members. Daily walks, games, socializing, exploring, fish fry potluck, MRE lunch & TC Diner, Hotdog Roast &... [See more](#)



Family Campers & RVers - FCRV
Published by Forrest Camperson · November 6 at 9:37 PM ·

Ct Family Campers & RVers is at Mineral Springs Family Campgrounds Inc.
November 4 at 9:12 AM · Stafford Springs, CT ·

The turkey campout was a chilly yet heartwarming experience filled with warmth and camaraderie. Fires burned bright as games were played and stories were shared. Over 5... [See more](#)

Family Campers & RVers - FCRV
Published by Forrest Camperson · October 30 at 5:00 AM ·

NE FCRVers hosted the 2025 Region 3 Campvention at York, NE. Highlights included a presentation on crane migration through NE, exercise using bands, 2 crafts, a live au... [See more](#)



Event Schedule & Recaps





CAMPFIRE KNOW-HOW



Harvest Cobbler

By Beth Muschinski

INGREDIENTS

3# granny Smith apples, peeled, if desired and cut into thin slices

2 bags fresh cranberries, rinsed and drained

1-2 c raisins

½ c instant tapioca

White or butter pecan cake mix

Cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, cloves – use small amounts of any or all

Brown sugar

1 stick butter, cut into 8-10 squares

Cast iron Dutch Oven (DO) – 12"

Charcoal

Tripod for hanging pot

DIRECTIONS

Place 24-30 briquets into a chimney and light.

Line the DO with heavy duty foil. Mix apples, cranberries and raisins together in the DO and then gently add the tapioca into the fruit. Dust fruit with your choice of spices. Pour DRY cake mix over the top, covering the fruit completely. Additional spices can be added on top of the cake mix, if desired. Sprinkle brown sugar over the top of the cake mix – not too much! Place butter squares strategically on top of brown sugar.

Cover.

Suspend the DO over a grate or fire pit. Place 6-8 hot coals beneath the oven and spread 12-18 evenly over the top. Cook for 1 hour, turning the lid ¼ turn every 15 minutes to prevent burning from hot spots. Replace the coals on top and bottom as needed.

Serve with ice cream, whipped cream/topping, drizzle with caramel sauce, etc, etc. This recipe won 1st place and the grand prize in a campfire cooking contest put on by the Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel back in 2004 (?)

It was enjoyed every Thanksgiving at the dinners we served for our campers at Frog Hollow Campground.



Camping Tips
and Recipes
FROM YOU!

CAMPFIRE KNOW-HOW



Campfire Know-How is looking for your best camping contributions! Share your favorite recipes, handy tips, activity ideas, or tried-and-true advice for life around the campfire. Got a funny camping story or meme you've created? We'd love to see those too! Submissions are welcome in any form; photos, artwork, videos, or written pieces. Let's hear from you and keep the spirit of camping alive!

Submit here: <https://fcrv.org/campfire-know-how>

CAMPFIRE TREATS

INGREDIENTS

- Marshmallows
- Chocolate
- Graham Crackers
- Skewers



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Roast marshmallows over the campfire
2. Sandwich with chocolate and graham crackers
3. Enjoy!

CAMPING TIP



**Never leave a
campfire unattended**

**Keep a water and a shovel
nearby to extinguish it
properly.**



Go RVing Launches RV-2-50



This article is being shared as information to share opportunities for our RV lifestyle in celebration of our nation's 250th anniversary. GoRVing is the marketing branch of RVIA and is part of our past. From the past, we had decals that we put on our units to promote GoRVing.

Members are encouraged to get off the beaten path and visit some of the suggested sites and others, particularly when planning itineraries for the Retiree Rally and Campvention. This article is reproduced from Go RVing Marketing Minute and is shared with permission.

Go RVing Launches RV-2-50



The big picture: Go RVing recently launched its year-long road trip campaign, RV-2-50, leading up to America's 250th birthday on July 4, 2026. This campaign blends Go RVing's owned media channels and media pitching for a robust PR push.

Tell me more: RV-2-50 offers monthly expertly-curated road trip itineraries designed to help travelers experience the freedom and adventure of RVing while exploring destinations that helped shape the nation.

- Each itinerary highlights America's past and diverse present that travelers can complete in a long weekend, a few weeks, or over several months features historic landmarks, regional celebrations, cultural attractions, and RV-friendly campgrounds.

👉 **A driving force:** "RV travel has become the quintessential American travel experience because it offers the comfort and flexibility to explore everything just beyond your door," said Monika Geraci, spokesperson for Go RVing. "RV-2-50 is more than a series of road trips — it's a celebration of what makes this country so special. Whether you're uncovering hidden gems, visiting iconic landmarks, or simply gathering around the campfire with loved ones, RVing gives you the freedom to experience America on your own terms."

👉 **Go deeper:** [See the first three itineraries on Go RVing...](#)





Breaking the Thanksgiving Traditions



Breaking the Thanksgiving Traditions

By Joe Boswell, DASAT Dir.

Thanksgiving can be a lonely time for many. This does not have to become a fun seeker. Thanksgiving should be a time of fun, fellowship, a peaceful adventure, empowering and even a joyful experience. With some careful thoughtfulness and a little experimentation it can be a fun time for all. It could even be one of those special times of the year that you remember the most.

One of the ways to make this special day memorable is to fix a meal you truly enjoy and invite others to join you. It does not have to be a fancy feast-sometimes the simplest things are the one best remembered. Yes, one can have the turkey and all the trimmings-this is a lot of work for the hostess. Try making this a bit easier for all-participate in a potluck sharing activity meal. Set the table, using up creative decorations, be different. Be festive, use paper plates instead of the fancy china to make things easier. Clean up time will be shorter too. Fix what you enjoy-give it a little twist. When creating the table decorations use candles, and enjoy the company you have invited. If you live alone invite someone over, or if they invite you out go for it. Enjoy. In this day of technology you can even share a meal-virtually-with family and friends. This is a time of sharing and remembering the good times everyone has had together.

Here is another idea. Jot down the things you are thankful for and put them in a jar. You can reflect on these things throughout the year. This is a very basic way to boost your morale when you are down in the dumps. One day when you are in a foul mood, take this jar of ideas and start by pulling each idea out of the jar. Read it carefully before long you will be in much better spirits. If you are looking to connect with others, volunteer your time at a Thanksgiving Meal location in your community. Many community centers and churches prepare Thanksgiving meals for the community. It can be a rewarding experience especially if you live alone.

For a change of pace do something different a bit out of the ordinary. Just relax on this day-do very little. Watch one of your favorite movies or a marathon on the TV. Yes, some spend all day watching various sports games. Sit on the couch and relax wrapped up in a warm blanket. This is your perfect holiday escape day. A do nothing day-relax for a change of pace, gather up some friends and take a hike, get outside and enjoy the fresh air. Get away from the hustle and bustle of the normal daily activities.

Do something new. This can be baking something and giving it to someone special in your life. Write a letter to yourself, or do your favorite ritual. If you know someone else is spending the day alone-the both of you can get together. Nothing special-just good company, fun and fellowship-you will be rewarded with gladness when you do something like this with someone else. Play games together, have a cook off with your favorite dish, or just have a friendly chat. All of this will brighten up your day.

Above all, keep in mind there is no "right" way to spend Thanksgiving Day. Keeping it simple or becoming extra festive is all up to you. Use this day to celebrate in any form you so desire. You may visit with friends. Help at a Community Center, attend a Thanksgiving Church Service. Visit with family. No matter what you decide to do, do something that makes you feel good inside. Keep in mind that solitude sometimes is as meaningful as having a house packed full of guests. Keep yourself fit-create a change-develop something simple that is meaningful yet appealing to your soul and mind. Thanksgiving is a time of giving thanks, and it should be shared by all. Just your presence among friends is a wonderful joy within itself. So this Thanksgiving go for it, do something different. Enjoy the holiday.

Source: The Scoop, Charles County Senior Citizens News, November 2025

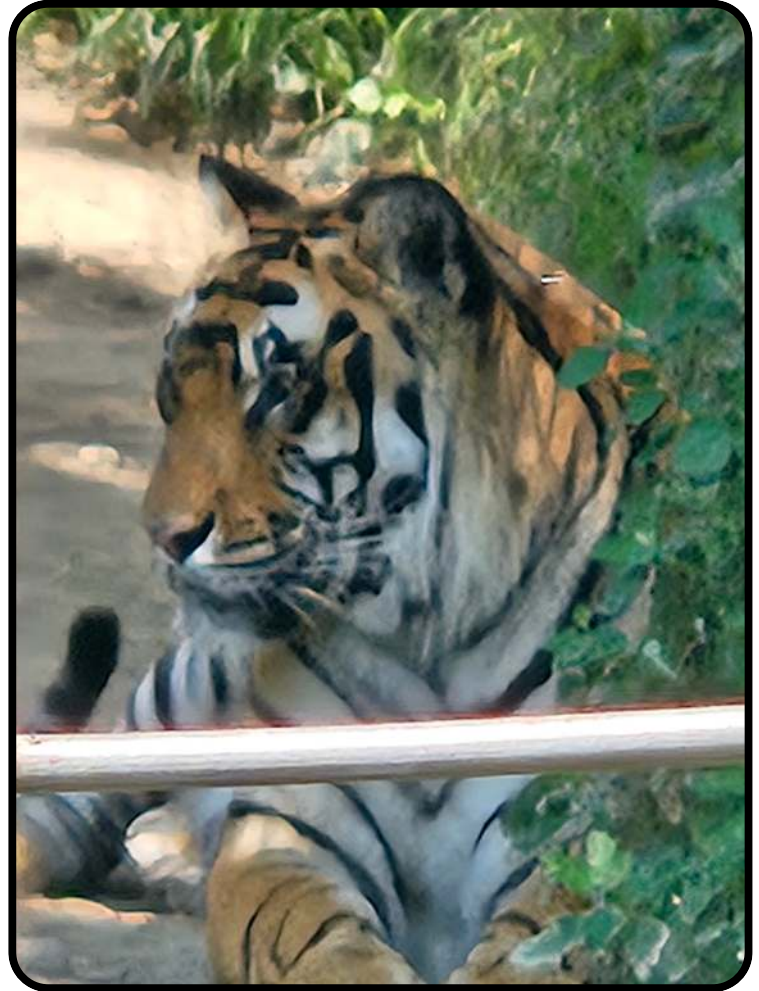


Black Pines Animal Sanctuary



Black Pines Animal Sanctuary 2025 Wildlife Grant *By Angie Shaneyfelt*

Ed and I traveled to Black Pines Animal Sanctuary in Albion, Indiana on August 3rd to present the \$1,000 wildlife grant check to their facility. They were very excited to accept our generous check. Black Pines is a sanctuary that provides refuge to captive-raised exotic animals while educating, advocating, and building awareness about animal welfare. They give the animals refuge for the REST of their lives. Please take a few minutes to go to their website www.bpsanctuary.org. There you can read these animals' stories. For example, many of the tiger pictures that I've attached came from the Joe Exotic Animal Park. It is sad that some humans think they can "keep" these kinds of animals when they are really mistreating them. Many small monkeys are defanged and other animals de-clawed just because humans think they can keep them in their own care. I want to thank the FCRV Wildlife committee for allowing me to present this check to the Black Pines Animal Sanctuary.





Wildlife and Ecosystems



Wildlife and Ecosystems

By Tom Martinez, National Wildlife Director

Wildlife depends on and affects ecosystems in various ways. What is wildlife? All undomesticated animals, plants and organisms. What is an ecosystem? A community of interacting organisms and their environment.

Many believe we have to maintain and recover land for wildlife, and we do. However, wildlife's role is to maintain the ecosystem in which it lives. Animals like bees, bats, birds and other pollinators aid in plant reproduction and biodiversity. Seed disbursement is done by birds, mammals and insects. These eat the fruit and excrete the seeds elsewhere for regeneration. Predators like birds of prey, snakes, and ladybugs help control rodents and insects. Wildlife helps keep predator-prey stable. Some animals create or modify habitats. Wildlife supports human survival in clean water, oxygen, medicine, food and climate regulation.

Types of habitats

- Forest
- Grassland
- Desert
- Aquatic (fresh and marine)
- Polar
- Mountain

If your region, state or chapter is involved with wildlife or conservation activities please report them in Camping Today. Submit your activity in the same manner as a campout report.

Thanks for the help.





Iceland Adventure-Planning

By Beth Muschinski

Who among you was able to see the Northern Lights in 2024? They were active enough that they could be seen in MS! I had already seen them, many years ago as a teenager, while camping in WI. It was a sight never to be forgotten and I was reminded in 2024 that I needed more of the Aurora. The idea was planted in my head. My youngest daughter had visited Iceland in 2023 and loved it. She suggested that the two of us make that a destination for November 2024. Cool! Sounds good, but.....I had a much better idea! I had a milestone birthday in February 2025 so let's go to Iceland then! Yup, in the heat of a Mississippi summer, February in Iceland sounds like a great idea! Haha.

Plans were made, airline tickets bought, hotel reserved, excursions planned. I made our itinerary. We would be in Iceland for 7 full days, so I planned 8 different excursions, including 3 8-11 hour full day tours!

What is the 1st thing that comes to mind when you hear "Iceland?" Northern Lights? Volcanoes? Geo-thermal pools? Cold, snow, wind, etc? There is all that and more!

Iceland is the safest county in the ENTIRE world! Yes, there is some crime, but very little and mostly targeted at tourists and perpetrated by gangs from outside the country.

So, I would like to tell you about my trip to Iceland. It will take me several articles, each highlighting a different subject, the first of which will be the weather.

The week before we were to leave, flights were canceled, and the airport closed due to high winds and snow. The evening we were to fly out of Chicago, a winter storm was on its way in (it arrived several hours after we left). We left O'Hare at 6:30pm and arrived in Keflavik at 6am, midnight back home.

In February, the sun rises about 9:30am and sets about 5:30pm. The airport is an hour's drive (bus) from the city of Reykjavik. Early check in at the hotel went smoothly

and while my daughter opted for a nap, I opted to explore. Oh my word! Two blocks from the hotel was Flaxafloi Bay with a view of Mt. Esja. Overwhelming!

I will leave you with that visual in your mind until the next article.





Winter Sowing



Winter Sowing

By Linda English

FCRV Vice President of Planning & Development

I am excited to share a conservation article this month. Last spring our county conservation office offered a class on "Winter Sowing". I did some research prior to attending the class and was excited to learn this method of starting seeds that did not require a lot of space and equipment. This has turned out to be very successful for starting seeds planted at the beginning of the Winter Solstice. For reference, I live in Zone 6a.

After class, which was at the end of March, I planted more than 30 individual greenhouses using one-gallon clear plastic milk/water jugs, potting mix, and seeds that I typically purchase from the Baker Seed Company. I had almost 100% success with everything I started, both vegetables and flowers for our pollinators and honeybees.

I shared this method during our state fall campout in September. I created the handout linked below which provides detailed information of this process. Try it during a campout next year! It was fun and very well received!

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IYiPmtgU7fU2I4W7PZj77sJfEceXxLEW/edit?usp=sharing&oid=109547728557088591556&rt=pof=true&sd=true>





Participating in World Senior Games is an Incredible Experience

By Pat Wittmeyer

Reading about Bill Stirewalt's experience at the Senior Games has inspired me to write about my own experiences at something called the World Senior Games, held each year in St. George, Utah. Started by Daisy and Jon H. Morgan in 1987, the Games received primary sponsorship by the Huntsman Corporation in 1989, and became an invitation to the world's senior, or Master Level as we sometimes like to call ourselves, athletes to convene and compete in an environment of strong competition, and expansive friendships. Teams come from all over the world, and I have competed against teams from Mexico, Brazil and Germany, as well as a variety of US teams. For anyone who has attended these games over the span of time, friendships are formed, strengthened and shared so much that it is truly impossible to walk the length of the convention center where 15 courts were set up, without being stopped six or seven times by friends and acquaintances you have met in past years. This year was a little different, but still a very enriching and enjoyable experience.

Since my own volleyball team from New York was initially uncertain about participating in this year's event, I put my name on the Team Selector Board, where those teams looking to add to their roster could contact and talk with potential members. Selected to participate on a women's 65+ volleyball team from California, I agreed to not only join the team, but to share a temporary rental home with them as well. What a marvelous experience! I not only reduced my own housing expenses for the week, but there is an innate factor in rising every morning and sharing a cup of

tea or coffee, sharing plans for lunch on the run, and cooking dinner together each night which builds that sense of team which is essential to successful competitions.

Our captain not only successfully put together a variety of players from vastly different backgrounds, she was also a professional chef! We were treated to pot roast in a slow cooker; a true Mexican dinner of beef, chicken, real Mexican sauces from scratch, veggies, tortillas and burritos; steak and eggs for breakfast; and on the final night, a slow roasted filet mignon with all the trimmings. In a naïve attempt to help, I walked into the kitchen on the first night and was promptly scooted out with instructions to "Set the table or something, I'm taking care of the food". And every bite was an experience. Thank you, Chef Patsy!

Our volleyball began with eight games on the first of four days of competition, intermingled with "working" where we provided line judges, a second referee (me!) to assist the paid official, and people to track the scoring on official forms in case there was a question regarding any of the protocols as the game moved along. The second day was much the same, where we competed in a pool with eight other teams, facing off against each other to determine our rankings. On the third day, our longest by far, we played well into the evening, having moved from pool play into "bracket play" where we were now fighting for playoff contention. Interestingly enough, we came up against my own New York team, where there was surprise and ribbing about my loyalties. California defeated New York on Monday, only to be defeated by them on Tuesday. That longest day of competition resulted in sore knees, tender hips and a lot of ice bags going around the house that night, but an



Participating in World Senior Games



outstanding group of ladies forged strong friendships in the heat of competition. Our team experience ended with us winning a Bronze medal in the World Senior Games.

All in all, participating in these Senior Games as a volleyball player has taken me to a variety of cities from Cortland, NY to Albuquerque, NM, and St. George, UT. I look forward to participating in future senior Olympics and reuniting with my many friends in the volleyball world.



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



FAMILY CAMPERS & RVers 2026 CAMPVENTION

"Where The Flock Gathers"

July 5 - 11, 2026

South Dakota State Fairgrounds

1060 3rd Street SW, Huron, SD 57350



REGISTRATION:

Welcome to Campvention 2026. Everyone must complete a registration form, including second families and camp day passes. Submit payment with the completed form. All funds shall be in US currency, including checks and money orders. There will be room for you if you decide to come at the last minute. Simply bring this registration form with you.

****Refund policy:** If you are unable to attend, all except \$30 will be refunded AFTER the conclusion of 2026 Campvention.

Registration deadline May 15th - Pay before December 31, 2025, to receive a \$25 discount (\$340.00).

	<u>Registration</u>	<u>At Gate</u>
One Family in the Unit	\$365.00	\$400.00
Extra Family in the Unit (separate pay)	\$185.00	\$205.00
Week Drive-in Day Pass (July 5 - 11)	\$200.00	\$215.00
Drive-in Day Pass (per day)	\$35.00	\$40.00

Early Bird Days: July 3 and 4 @ \$35/night (pay upon arrival – cash/check) The gates will be open Friday at 12 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Is this your first Campvention?: _____ Are you an FCRV Member?: _____ Member #: _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Spouse/Guest: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN YOUR UNIT:

Adults: _____ Teens: _____ Youth: 9 – 12 _____ Youth: 5 – 8 _____ Total number of people in Unit: _____

****Please list the names and ages of all youth and teens on the back of this form.**

CAMPVENTION PARKING: (There will be no special needs sites available at the gate.)

Check if you are requesting a special needs site: _____ (Valid Handicap parking proof must be presented upon arrival.)

Please note the LENGTH of camping rig behind type:

Motorhome _____ 5th Wheel _____ Travel Trailer _____ Pop-Up _____ Number of slide outs _____

Electricity: 30 amp _____ 50 amp _____ (50 amp is limited. Handicap first. Then first come, first served.)

****Bring extension cords. Water available. Bring hoses and Y connectors.**

CAMPVENTION HELP: Would you like to help with event(s)? Staff will follow up with a contact if yes: Yes _____ No _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: FCRV Campvention 2026

Mail checks and completed forms to:

FCRV Campvention 2026

137 Crandon Blvd.

Cheektowaga, NY 14225

For inquiries please call 316-830-2115
or 701-400-1322.

Confirmations will be sent via Email.
Please allow a month for processing.



54th FCRV INTERNATIONAL RETIREE RALLY
Mineola Civic Center
Circle the Wagons in Mineola
1150 N Newsom Street, Mineola, TX 75773
Rally Dates: March 23 – March 29, 2026
Early Days: March 20th - March 22nd

Please complete the following: (Please Print)

Last Name _____ First _____ Spouse/Other _____

Address _____ City _____ St/Pr _____ Code _____

Mailing Address of Other: _____ # of People In Unit _____

Cell Phone #1 _____ Cell Phone #2 _____

Email Address _____

Confirmation Send By: Pdf _____ Word _____ Mailed: _____

Mailing Address If Different From Above: _____

Registering For Camping: On Grounds _____ Off Grounds _____ Camp Pass _____

Is this your first retiree rally? **Yes** _____ **No** _____ Are you a veteran? **Yes** _____ **No** _____

Special Needs: Must have on file with the registrar: License registration including handicap Plate, or handicap placard. This area is reserved for wheelchairs, walkers, or those with limited mobility.

REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE MARCH 1, 2026 DEADLINE.

Registrations received after March 1st or registering at the gate will incur an additional \$35 fee.

Early Days: Early days fee of \$45 per night per unit will be collected by the treasurer at the registration desk.

Included In The Fee: Full Hook-Ups, (30/50 Amp), Ice Cream Social, 2 Dinners, Entertainment, and a lot of fun.

	Early Registration	At gate
2 People In Unit	\$350	\$385
1 Person In Unit	\$320	\$355

Camp Pass Staying In Unit On Grounds as 2nd Family In Unit or Staying off grounds:

2 People	\$110
1 Person	\$ 80

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: FCRV/NCHA RETIREE RALLY

Mail to: Mildred Pauwels, P.O. Box 193, Dana, N.C. 28724

NO CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Refunds: All but \$35 will be refunded if cancellation notice is received two weeks prior to the rally. After the rally deadline of March 1, 2026, only the camping fee will be refunded. A refund requested after the rally starts will be made after the rally has ended.

I Would Like To Volunteer For:

FOR REGISTRAR ONLY
REG# _____
CK# _____
CASH _____
AMT _____