

CAMPING TODAY

THE VOICE OF FAMILY CAMPERS & RVERS

FEBRUARY 2026 ISSUE

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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
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- Wildlife & Conservation
- Scholarship Programs
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Important Membership Dues Update



Important Membership Dues Update

After extensive discussion among the Executive Board and Advisory Council, FCRV has approved an increase in annual dues. For at least the past 15 years, reserve funds have been used to cover annual operating expenses. While this approach allowed us to avoid increasing dues, it is no longer sustainable.

Even with the adjustment, the new dues rate will not fully cover our operating costs. However, increasing dues at this time is essential to keep FCRV financially solvent and able to continue serving its members. **It has been approximately 15 years since the last dues increase**, and we will continue to regularly evaluate dues and expenses going forward.

In addition to this change, we will actively pursue non-dues revenue opportunities to support long-term financial stability. The trustees are working diligently to ensure the organization's future, and we ask for the same level of commitment from our members.

Effective March 1, 2026:

- Annual dues will be **\$52** (equivalent to **\$1.00 per week**).
- Multiple-year discounts will no longer be offered; however, members may renew for multiple years at the rate of **\$52 per year**.
- Dues payments will be accepted **online only**, as part of a cost-saving and streamlining initiative.
- The six-month free bonus for new members is being discontinued; however, this change does not preclude the development and implementation of new, more tailored incentives or promotional offerings in the future as part of a more strategic and targeted membership approach.

We continue to evaluate every expense carefully. We appreciate your ongoing support, trust your commitment to FCRV, and welcome your input as we move forward together.

Note: Current dues rates will remain available for renewal until **February 28, 2026**.



Dues Reminder/Proof of Membership Letter Changes (Update)

A long-term initiative to reduce operating costs by several thousand dollars annually has been underway throughout 2025. This effort focuses on eliminating expenses associated with postage, mailing supplies, paid software, postage machine licensing, and related labor, and represents a key step toward ensuring FCRV's long-term financial sustainability.

Earlier this year, FCRV began transitioning from three fully mailed renewal reminders to a combination of mailed and electronic notices as part of a testing phase for updated systems and processes. After extensive testing and monitoring, the National Office is confident that this process is ready to move fully to electronic delivery.



Beginning with the end-of-month paperwork for February, all three dues reminders, as well as Proof of Membership Letters, will be sent electronically. (Update)

As a result, it is more important than ever that your email address is accurate and up to date. If you are unsure whether your email information is current, or if you know it needs to be updated, please contact your local State, Provincial, or Regional Director to ensure your records are correct.

As we move toward a future with reduced reliance on a full-time paid National Office staff, the responsibilities of our Directors and leadership will expand to help bridge the communication gap created by this transition. This shift highlights the importance of timely, accurate information sharing at all levels of the organization. Please remember that communication is a two-way process, and we ask that members extend patience and kindness to the volunteers who generously give their time to keep FCRV moving forward.





From The President



FCRV International President

By Gerry Pfirsch

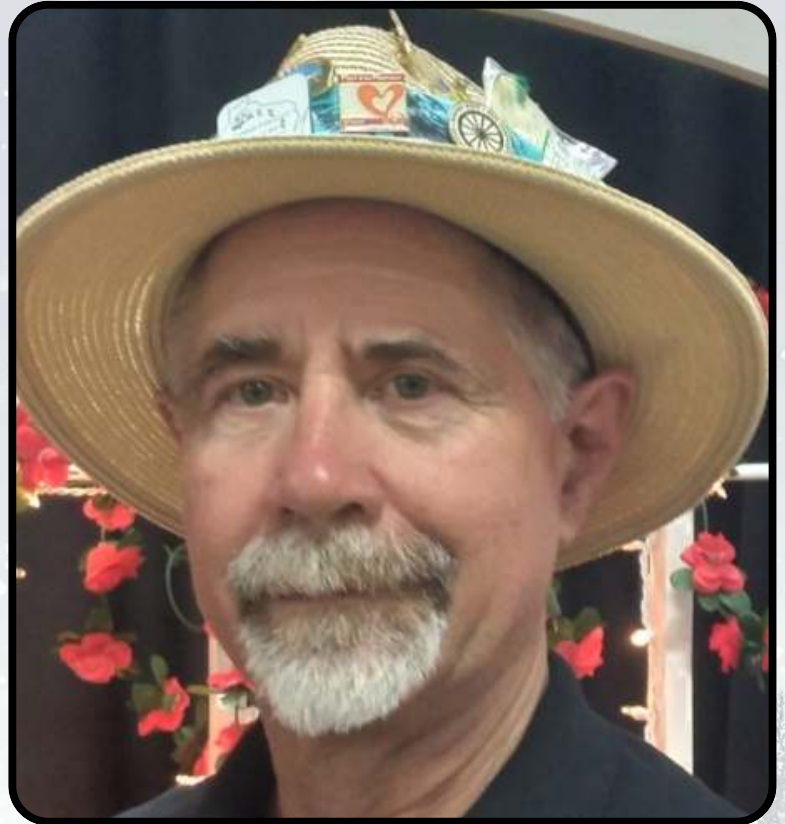
Happy February everyone! The 2026 camping year is just days away and Campvention is only 5 months away. I hope we will see you in Huron. Last month we updated that everyone will have full hookups at our campsites.

Colorado is having a Travel Along to Campvention 2026 departing Denver on June 30, 2026, with 3 planned stops; see article in the Campvention 2026 circular for more info. Yes, you can join us at any of the stops with pre-made reservations. Contact me for rates and camping reservations at gerry.pfirsch@gmail.com for more information. There will be many added volunteer opportunities at Campvention if you are so inclined.

Another service reminder: NOW is the time to ensure that you have your correct email address on file with the National Office. We have an election of officers coming up starting in March. Voting as you know is by email. When you vote, remember you will need your membership number to cast your ballot. E-voting is simple and easy and has worked well for FCRV.

I would like to thank all the lifetime members who have continued to give generously to the financial drive for the general operating fund. To each of you who have given generously, I thank you. This shows your strong dedication to FCRV and our future. I know there are still several of you who are in the process of giving, and I thank you in advance for that gift.

As we are moving ahead, if you have ideas that you think would help in the streamlining process of FCRV and help ensure the future of this organization, please share those ideas with us. If there are programs that you think are outdated or programs that we should look at adding. let us know. The goal is to make FCRV viable for today and into tomorrow with a goal of not forgetting the past and roots from where we came



FCRV National Election Bios/Platforms

The positions up for election are President, Vice President of Programs, and Corresponding Recording Officer. All positions are elected by the full FCRV membership.

Candidate bios and platforms are included in this issue of Camping Today.

Electronic Ballots will be distributed after March 15, 2026, to the email address on file with your membership. This is a great time to ensure your email information is current with the national office.

One vote is granted per FCRV membership. The deadline to vote is April 15, 2026. Election results will be published in the May 2026 issue of Camping Today.

Teresa Walorski

Recording/Corresponding Officer



Resume

Teresa and her husband, Rick, have been members of FCRV since 2003. They are in Colorado, members of the OOPS Chapter, and the current Field Directors. She continues to work at Mercy Housing where she has held several positions for over 20 years. Teresa has been the Recording / Corresponding Officer since 2024 where she has done a great job at keeping accurate meeting minutes for the organization.

Platform Statement

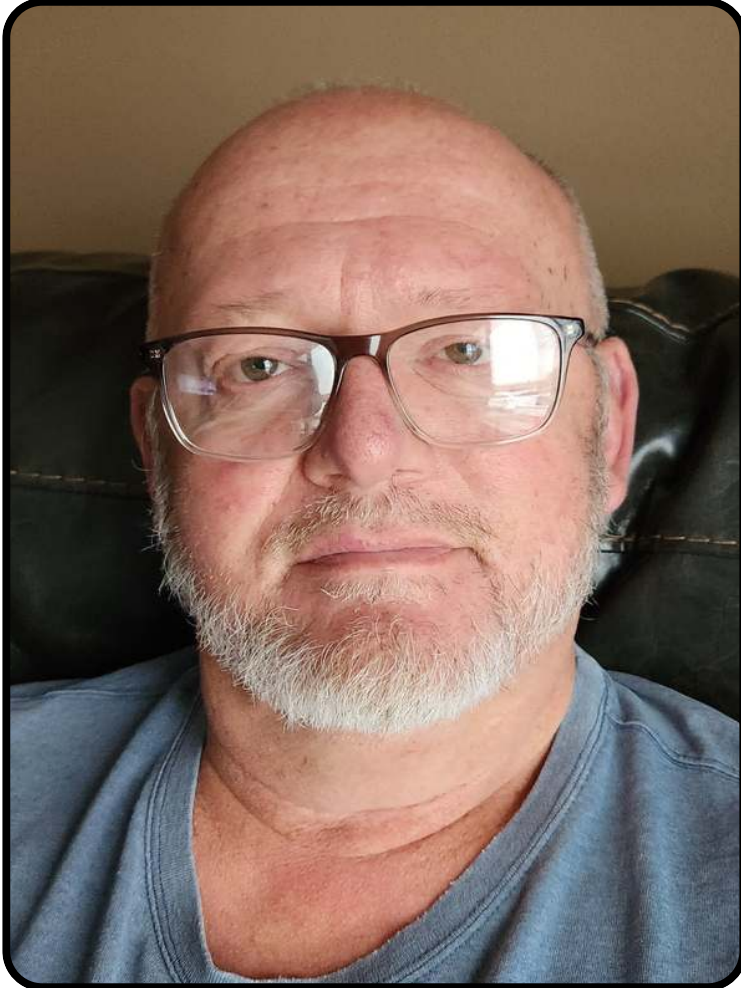
Hello again! I have enjoyed my time as the Recording/Corresponding Officer these last couple of years working directly with some of you and being involved with all the changes that are coming up for our organization. Key word being OUR. FCRV is our organization. We are all in the FCRV family. We all care about what is going on with FCRV and we all just want the best for FCRV. As Trustees, we can't make everyone happy, but we are all doing the best we can. I still see growth in our organization as a goal. More members mean more money coming in and larger numbers mean more vendors and opportunities. We also want you all to be happy with the organization. If you are happy with FCRV, you will renew and you will ask your friends to join. Rick and I joined back in 2003 so that we could have others to camp with. Those members became friends that we still camp with today. We have seen lots of changes, we have gained members and lost members, but we all still enjoy camping together. Isn't that why you all joined in the first place? To camp with others and have a social outlet. Having a social outlet is so important to all of us.

I sincerely hope that I am given the opportunity to continue to work with the organization in the capacity of Recording/Corresponding Officer. I feel that the work I do is important.

FCRV National Election Bios/Platforms

Ed Shaneyfelt

Vice President of Programs



Resume

Hello, my name is Ed Shaneyfelt. I am running for Vice President of Programs. I have been involved with NCHA/FCRV since my family joined in the fall of 1971. Through my years I participated in the youth and teen program and made a lot of friends along the way. Still today I am still making friends that become like family. In 1987 I married my lovely wife, Angie. We raised two wonderful children who participated in the programs also. Our daughter Paige was an Indiana state queen, and our son Fletcher was the first National Teen King. I have been involved or in charge of teen sports for the last 15 years. At the State level, I have been Northern rep, Vice President, President, Past President, and current President for Indiana over the last 25 years. Also, I have been serving as the National Campvention Director for the past 9 years.

Platform Statement

I am excited to embark on this new journey to make sure FCRV survives for future generations. To do this I believe the focus should be to update our existing programs, to ensure that they are best serving the needs of our existing members as well as benefitting new members as we continue to grow and expand. I am looking forward to working with the Program Directors to get this accomplished, whether it is the CAMP, Conservation, DASAT, Adult, Teen, Youth, or Veterans Programs. I will need to fill some open program director positions that are currently vacant. I understand that I would be responsible for those programs until I can find Directors. With the help of the directors and members, I believe we can create a prosperous future for our organization.

I'm here to represent the membership, please let me know your concerns if I'm elected so your voice will be heard. Your vote would be greatly appreciated.

FCRV National Election Bios/Platforms

Shari Weber

International President

Together, We Are FCRV.



Not Just Surviving –THRIVING!

SHARI WEBER FOR FCRV PRESIDENT

In her community, Shari chaired the Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee and later served as Vice President and President of the board. Before purchasing the campground, she was Vice President of Community Banking at American National Bank.

Shari and Craig have long supported the Illinois State Association, currently support the Florida State Association, and FCRV, launching programs that promote fellowship. Their service has earned multiple honors including Hank Nathan Lifetime Achievement Award.

Platform Statement

FCRV stands at a pivotal time in its 77-year history. Our constitution states we were formed “to encourage people of North America and elsewhere to participate in recreational activities which protect, conserve, and defend natural resources set aside by the Government,” and “to promote physical fitness, self-reliance, sound camping and hiking skills, an appreciation of nature, and ecological dependence.” These founding principles define our purpose, yet over time we have drifted from this focus.

Today’s campers are eager to learn sound camping skills while actively protecting and conserving natural resources. Industry surveys by RVIA and KOA reveal a shift in camping culture: campers are diverse in age, ethnicity, and interests. While all generations show interest in camping and RV ownership, Millennials represent the fastest-growing group. Raised with technology, they rely on smartphones for information and inspiration. Growth and relevance depend on FCRV meeting their expectations while continuing to serve existing members.

Younger generations value meaningful experiences but have limited time and busy schedules, requiring efficient, rewarding getaways. Adaptation is necessary for survival but also presents an opportunity to thrive. Our messaging, programs, and policies must evolve to reflect changing family dynamics, time constraints, the role of electronics, and shifting camping priorities.

The commitment and dedication of all FCRV members and my experience in volunteer roles, prepare us to implement the necessary changes. Making our programs relevant, our chapters welcoming, and streamlining organizational processes will bring the fun back to FCRV. Together, we will grow, endure, and ultimately thrive.

Resume

Shari is Senior Consultant with Campground Consulting Group, helping developers evaluate the viability of new campground projects. She and husband, Craig, previously owned Geneseo Campground for twenty-five years, gaining extensive hands-on experience in park operations. Shari holds Lifetime Park Operator Certification and graduated from the Oglebay School of RV Park and Campground Management. She has served as President and Treasurer of the Illinois Campground Association and was honored with the National ARVC Chairman’s Award for her industry contributions.

FCRV National Election Bios/Platforms

Linda Hennie

International President



Resume

Linda Hennie - joined NCHA in 1961 with parents; became a member with husband upon marriage in 1970, currently lifetime members
Family - husband David, 2 adult children, 7 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild,

Occupation -Legal secretary for 20 years; retired 1999.

NCHA/FCRV involvement - members of Day-Hi-O Trailseekers, Full-timers Retiree Chapter; Quackers
Ohio State Directors - 8 years; Great Lakes Regional Directors - 8 years; National Retiree Directors - 6 years; National Parliamentarian- 6 years

Chairman - 2017 National Campvention;

Team Leaders – 3 additional National Campventions

Chairman of 2013 and 2018 National Retiree Rally;

National Retiree Treasurer - 11 years

Linda and husband David have received several National Awards including Hank Nathan Lifetime Achievement Award in 2023

Additional Leadership Organizations -

Member - Fraternal Order of Police Auxiliary since 1972; many leadership positions on local, State and National levels, including 10 years as National President of the Fraternal Order of Police Auxiliary.

Platform Statement

Family camping has been a part of my life since 1961 when my parents joined NCHA and we began our yearly vacations to the National Campventions. I met my husband at the 1967 National Campvention and, when we married in 1970, we received a membership to this wonderful family organization. I have seen NCHA/FCRV flourish from it's heyday in the 1980's and 1990's and I have witnessed the decline of not only our organization but many other camping organizations.

My heart is in this organization and I feel I have the ability to lead us back to the family organization I know we could and should be. As you have heard me say many times, ours is a member owned organization and as such I believe the owners should have accessibility and transparency regarding information pertinent to the organization they own. I want us to get back to camping with family and friends. Do I realize we will not be the large expansive group of the 1970s, of course. But I do believe we can co-exist as owners and members that still believe in the outdoors, conservation and family.

With my experience as a legal secretary and the leadership skills I have developed, I am certain I have the qualifications, capabilities and ability to lead this organization into the future. I look forward to joining you in Huron South Dakota.



FCRV National Awards



FCRV National Awards

By Teresa Walorski

Do you know an individual or a Chapter that deserves recognition for outstanding service or for generously volunteering their time and knowledge?

April 15, 2026 is the deadline to submit nomination(s) to the Awards Committee. Our goal is to present these awards at the 2026 FCRV Campvention.

There are several award categories that nominees may qualify for. Nominations may be submitted in the following categories:

- Award of Merit
- Chapter of the Year
- Hank Nathan Lifetime Achievement
- Individual Nomination
- Lifesaving / Humanitarian

We are pleased to once again make the nomination process simple and convenient. Just click the link below, complete the form(s) as thoroughly as possible, and submit, no printing or mailing required!

<https://fcrv.org/awards-forms/>

Once submitted, nominations will be forwarded to a member of the nominating team. The Awards Committee will then review each submission using a points-based system, which is why providing as much detail as possible is extremely helpful.

We are also still in need of Awards Committee members. After the April 15 deadline, the committee will meet to review nominations and apply the points system. This volunteer role typically requires only one or two meetings.

If you are willing to volunteer your time to help recognize the individuals and Chapters who truly support FCRV, please email Teresa Walorski at fcrv.recording.officer@gmail.com to sign up. Your support is greatly appreciated!





Youth Program



Youth Program

By Barb McHale, National Youth Director

Our youth have many opportunities within FCRV to express their personalities, develop character, learn about conservation, and enjoy wildlife. We celebrate their involvement and accomplishments through two exciting national youth programs.

Youth of the Year Award

Outstanding young members may be recognized through the Youth of the Year Award, a national contest based on a child's participation in both FCRV and non-FCRV activities during the previous year (May 1 – April 30). Entries are judged on overall participation and involvement.

To be eligible, the nominated child's parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) must be FCRV members. Nomination forms can be found on the Youth Program page of the FCRV website at <https://fcrv.org/programs2/national-programs/youth/>.

Please consider submitting a nomination by May 1.

"Camping Is..." Youth Art Contest

FCRV youth are also invited to express what camping means to them through the annual "Camping Is..." art contest. The contest is divided into six age groups:

- 0–2 years
- 3–4 years
- 5–6 years
- 7–8 years
- 9–10 years
- 11–12 years

Children ages 0–2 and 3–4 will participate in a coloring contest using the official entry form for this year. The coloring page can be found in this month's *Camping Today* and on the FCRV website.

All other age groups will create posters. One entry per child should be submitted, and all entries should be forwarded to the national level.

Each poster entry must clearly reflect the theme "Camping Is..." and include the following information written legibly on the lower back left corner of the poster.:

- Child's first and last name
- City and State/Province
- Birthdate (mm/dd/yyyy)
- Age as of July 1 of the contest year
- Local chapter name (if applicable)
- Certification of FCRV membership
-

Encouraging Participation

At your spring campouts, please encourage participation by having poster board, markers, crayons, and copies of the coloring page available. Setting aside time during the campout—or adding poster-making to your program schedule—can greatly increase participation.

We would like all completed entries forwarded to the National Campvention. If your state or province does not host a contest, submissions may be sent directly to the National Campvention through any Field Director.

Looking Ahead to Campvention

Faye Tennyson is coordinating Youth Activities for the upcoming Campvention in South Dakota and has several great ideas in the works. If you or your child have project ideas or youth activities you'd like her to consider, please don't hesitate to reach out. My email is bmchale307@gmail.com.

Thank you for supporting and encouraging our youth to participate in these meaningful programs.



NCHA/FCRV Hank Nathan International Scholarship 2026 Is Now Open!

Greetings from your Hank Nathan Scholarship Team.

Requests for applications will be posted in the December-April issues of *Camping Today*. The portal submission closes on May 1.

How to Apply:

Applications will only be accepted online at the following address: <https://fcrv.org/hank-nathan-ncha-fcrv-scholarship/>. 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 of 11 credit hours or less. 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). Scholarship values are determined each year by the controller in collaboration with the Scholarship Board of Directors.

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 in Huron, South Dakota. 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 May 1st.



Remembering Juanita Woolworth



Remembering Michigan's Matriarch
By Sue Carlsen, Past Michigan State Director,
Past Trustee, and Friend

We honor the life and legacy of our beloved matriarch, Juanita Woolworth, whose vision, strength and dedication shaped the heart of our organization and the Michigan State Association. Juanita and her late husband, Don, were the founders of NCHA in Michigan having organized its first chapter, Tails-a-Wagon, in 1963. The Woolworths were appointed State Directors in 1966. The following year, they promoted NCHA at the first annual Detroit Camper Show. Under their leadership, Michigan gained over 7,000 members and chartered 274 new chapters. Don was elected to the Board of Trustees in 1972, eventually serving as National President for two terms. Juanita continued to serve Michigan as Assistant State Director for another twenty years.

The Woolworths were recognized at the national level with an NCHA plaque (1966) and Family of the Year (1968). In 2017, Juanita received the Hank Nathan Lifetime Achievement Award.

Her leadership built our camping family with every life she touched and every tradition she created. Juanita mentored four (of the five) state directors who succeeded her, and encouraged many members to accept field staff and program positions (as well as MSA officers). Her passion for community and service will continue to guide us, and her spirit will forever be remembered in our organization.

Juanita attended 58 Campventions. She and Don chaired the 1970 Campvention hosting over 7,000 families. Juanita co-hosted the 1988 Campvention,

attended by over 4,000 families. Juanita always set an example of gratitude toward the volunteers who served the organization. As VIP host at the 2004 and 2010 Campventions, she delivered daily tokens of appreciation to the Trustees and Campvention committee chairpersons. Past FCRV President Larry Roop fondly recalls Juanita as the ranking member of the Past Presidents group. She was always the one who made sure they went to lunch sometime during the week and kept the conversation focused on the organization and its operation. According to Larry, Juanita remained devoted to the members in Michigan. Thanks to her family, she may have set a record for the most Campventions attended. "I have many fond memories of Juanita during our times together, and, sadly, I have lost a dear friend."

Linda English, Vice President of Operations and former Michigan State Director, shared the following: "The last Campvention Juanita attended was very special for me. She was determined to walk in the parade, so she grabbed my arm, and we did the complete mile together, talking, laughing, and enjoying our time together. She was the heart and soul in Michigan especially, and we miss her terribly. God speed, Juanita."

Former Michigan State Director Sharon Westerhouse appreciated the guidance Juanita gave her and Tom. She once told them, "You have some good ideas, but don't be so quick on the draw – stop and think." Advice that continued to guide Sharon over the years. Sharon remembers Juanita as someone who walked softly and carried a big stick. Not much slipped by her. She was a great observer and listener. She always began with a compliment before offering advice on how an issue might have been handled differently -- but in a suggestive manner. Never did she come



Remembering Juanita Woolworth



across as critical or negative. She could read people and talk to them at their level. People not only liked Juanita, they respected her.

During the years as former Michigan State Director and National Recording Officer, I had the privilege of camping with Juanita. I knew her as being steadfast in her love and commitment to three priorities: family, church (faith), and NCHA/FCRV. She was also the glue that held her high school graduating class together, planning many reunions. She was the type of individual that volunteer organizations such as ours rely on to survive and grow. Juanita's legacy is the epitome of FCRV's mission of fun, friendship, and family. The continuity of the chapter she and Don founded in 1963 was Juanita's proudest achievement. All of her six grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren are members. Michigan will always consider Juanita our Matriarch, and remain grateful for her lifetime of dedication.

Juanita Woolworth – A Life Well Lived
July 28, 1929 – December 18, 2025

“There are some who bring a light so great to the world, that even after they're gone, the light remains.” *Anonymous*



1970 - Don and Nancy Edgar with Juanita and Don Woolworth at NCHA's founding site at the Beaverkill Campground in Beaverkill, New York.





Welcome New Members



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

Stimson, David	Stimson, Donna	BC	Referred by: Online: No other reference
Simko, David	Simko, Bunny	CT	Referred by: Lynn and Daniel Tinter
Dino, Linda		CO	Referred by: Terry Wallace
Sager, David	Sager, Charlene	TX	Referred by: Internet
O'Neal, Rodney	O'Neal, Helen	MO	Referred by: Parents
Hicks, Robert	Hicks, Catherine	MI	Referred by: Jessica Hicks
Fowler, Michael	Fowler, Linda	IN	Referred by: Ron Cohee
Walter, Gregory	Wood-Walter, Cheryl	PA	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](#).





[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”

The Heartland Region proudly invites you to the 66th Annual FCRV Campvention, to be held at the South Dakota State Fairgrounds in Huron from July 5–11, 2026, with Early Bird days on July 3–4.

Campvention is a time to reconnect with old friends, welcome new ones, and celebrate everything that makes FCRV special. In 2026, we are especially excited to announce a new partnership with the Maga Ta-Hohpi (Huron Wetlands) group, a collaboration that reflects our shared commitment to conservation, education, and stewardship of the natural world. Through this partnership, Campvention 2026 will feature special programs and activities highlighting local wildlife, wetlands preservation, and environmental awareness adding a meaningful and enriching dimension to the Campvention experience for all ages.

Huron and the surrounding area offer a rich blend of cultural heritage, Native American history, pioneer roots, and scenic beauty. The city’s story comes to life through its colorful outdoor murals, historic buildings, and museums. Families will find plenty to enjoy, including a water park, walking trails, fishing, paddle boating, swimming, and other recreational opportunities.

Located in east-central South Dakota, Huron also makes an ideal hub for extended travel. Consider arriving early or staying late to explore some of the region’s iconic destinations, including Mount Rushmore, the Crazy Horse Memorial, the stunning “Dignity of Earth and Sky” sculpture near Chamberlain, De Smet—home of Laura Ingalls Wilder—and the world-famous Corn Palace in Mitchell. South Dakota offers endless opportunities for discovery.

Heartland Region 3 FCRVers are hard at work planning the Campvention traditions you know and love, along with new adventures and special programming made possible through our local partnerships. We invite you to join us in Huron and experience everything Campvention 2026, South Dakota, and the spirit of FCRV 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 · February 2 at 5:00 AM · 🌐

The Colorado Eagles held a luncheon meeting at BJ's Restaurant, Aurora, Colorado. The food and fellowship were great! A meeting after lunch was held to discuss business... [See more](#)

Family Campers & RVers - FCRV
Published by Forrest Camperson · February 8 at 5:00 AM · 🌐

The CO Trailblazers monthly luncheon and meeting was held at the Golden Corral in Colo. Spgs. After lunch, Clark Gaddy, a retired Colo. Spgs. Paramedic, with 29 years o... [See more](#)





Winter on the Prairie



What It Means for the Prairie Pothole Ecosystem in Huron, South Dakota

Winter in Huron, South Dakota, may look quiet and frozen at first glance, but beneath the snow and ice the prairie pothole ecosystem is very much at work. Often called North America's "Duck Factory," the Prairie Pothole Region depends on this season of rest and reset.

When wetlands freeze, biological activity slows dramatically. This pause allows nutrients to settle and organic material to break down more slowly, preparing wetlands for a burst of productivity in spring. Snowpack plays a critical role as well. As it melts, it replenishes shallow basins and seasonal wetlands, providing the essential water levels that migrating waterfowl and shorebirds rely on.

Winter also shapes wildlife behavior. Many duck species migrate south, but resident birds, pheasants, deer, and other wildlife adapt by seeking shelter in cattails, shelterbelts, and native grasses. The structure of intact prairie habitat becomes especially important during harsh weather, offering protection from wind and predators.

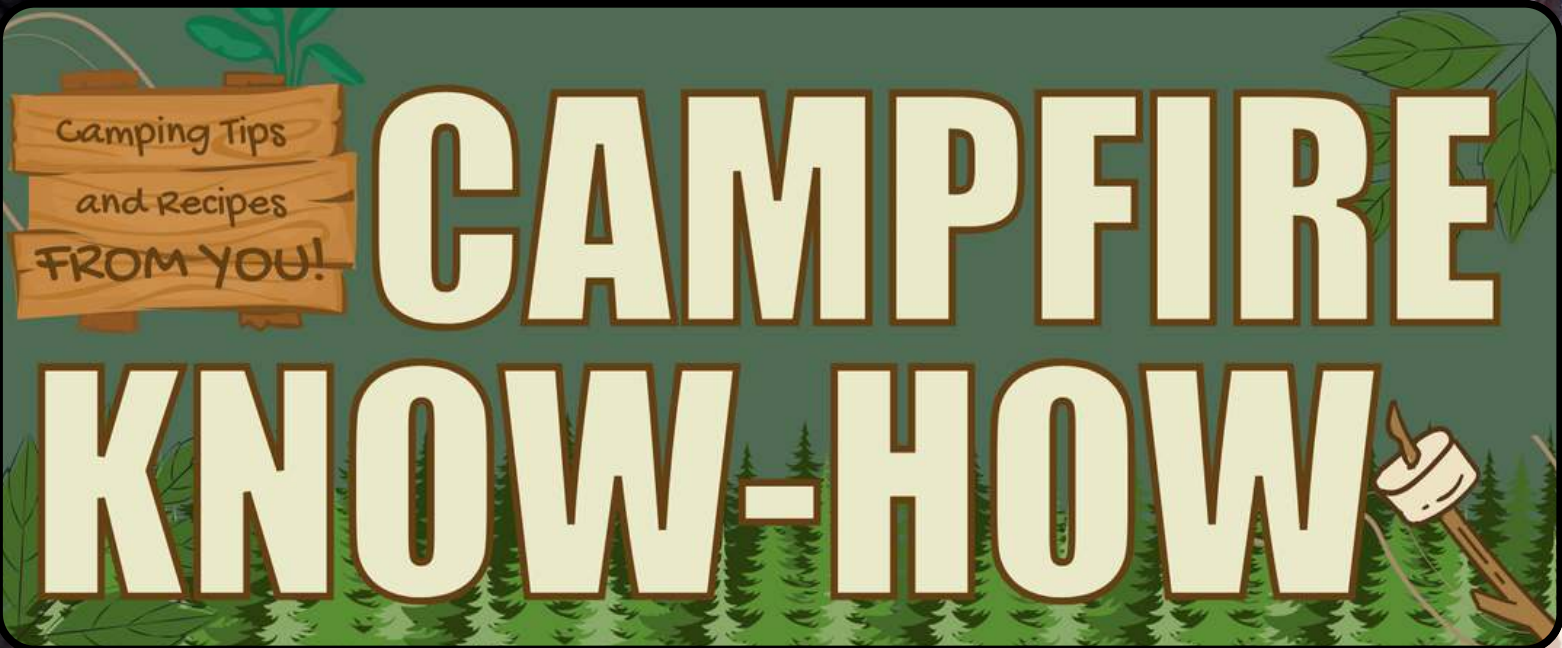
For conservationists, winter is a reminder of how interconnected our seasons are. Adequate snowfall, healthy grasslands, and protected wetlands all influence the strength of spring nesting success. A dry winter can mean fewer filled basins. A healthy one sets the stage for vibrant migration and breeding.

Here in the Huron area, winter is not a dormant chapter. It is a foundational one. The quiet months are building the conditions for the explosion of life we celebrate each spring. Protecting the prairie pothole ecosystem means recognizing that even in the stillness of winter, conservation work continues beneath the ice.



Photo By/Credit
Dave Fronczak/USFWS





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>

Pre-Warm Your Sleeping Bag (The Hot Water Bottle Trick)

Cold nights can make it hard to fall asleep, even with a good sleeping bag. A simple way to stay warm is to pre-heat your sleeping bag before you climb in.

How it works

1. Heat water until it's hot but not boiling.
2. Pour the water into a sturdy, leak-proof bottle (a Nalgene-style bottle works best).
3. Tightly secure the lid and check for leaks.
4. Place the bottle inside your sleeping bag 10–15 minutes before bedtime.
 - For full-body warmth, put it near your feet.
 - For core warmth, place it near your midsection.
5. Remove or reposition it once you get in, if needed.

Why it works

- Your body doesn't have to spend energy warming cold insulation.
- The heat radiates gently for hours.
- It's silent, reusable, and doesn't require electricity.

Pro tips

- Slip the bottle into a sock or small towel to prevent hot spots.
- This trick also helps dry out damp socks or gloves overnight.
- Works equally well for tent campers, RVers, and cabins.

Safety note

Never use boiling water, and never place a hot bottle directly against bare skin.

Matters of the Heart



Matters of the Heart

By Joe Boswell, National DASAT Director

February is a time of love and National Heart Month. Have you made arrangements to send flowers to that special loved one? How about getting them a large box of chocolates? Or, are you planning a special night out on the town. Or better yet, a quiet moment at home, soft music and a romantic candle light dinner followed by a simple romantic evening. Hold on for a moment as I take you in a different direction. Ready, here we go.

One of the leading causes of death is heart attack. In this modern world today, scientists and doctors alike are finding more ways to treat heart attack patients. They are finding ways to establish the warning signs early and provide personal care that works best for the patient. Doctors today are paying attention to gene studies, “heart images, and computer programs.” By making use of these various devices they can prescribe healthy habits to an individual and medications to protect and maintain a good working heart.

Through the use of science new medications are developed over time that help treat heart disease. They can “lower high cholesterol and may only need to be taken on a limited basis.” This makes the usage of said medication much easier.

Heart valve care has improved greatly over the past several years. Patients who have had the surgery have improved their lifestyle and have lived long and healthy lives. In some instances one can be treated without the harshness of heart surgery by the installation of a small tube placed through the blood vessels. This opens up the blockage, and your blood flow improves. Scientists are working continuously to find other ways to help your heart function properly.

The study of one’s genes and family history of heart disease helps doctors understand the individual function of the heart. Once they can detect the problem, they can come up with ways to fix or repair the problems. Looking ahead, one day it may be a simple visit to the doctor who will be able to diagnose the problem and

have a workable solution forth with. This way the problem may be treated before serious heart problems start.

As research continues to advance in this field of medicine, many challenges remain. Some individuals have difficulty accessing quality health care, while others refuse treatment or do not follow their doctor’s recommendations. Another major obstacle is misinformation, which often appears on social media and other non-accredited sources. Additional factors that contribute to heart disease include obesity and diabetes, both of which can negatively affect heart function. In any case, it is important to listen to your heart.

During the month of February, consider making an appointment with your local physician and get a heart check-up. This could be the most important preventive medical appointment you have ever made.

Let us explore this topic a bit further. “A heart attack is called a myocardial infarction, which occurs when a part of the heart muscle does not get enough blood.”² Once this occurs, and the longer you go without treatment, damage occurs to the heart muscle. “Coronary artery disease (CAD) is the main cause of heart attacks.”² Other causes include severe spasms, or a sudden contraction of an artery which can stop the proper flow of blood to the heart.

As described by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, here are the five major symptoms of a heart attack.

- “Chest pain or discomfort. Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center or left side of the chest that lasts for more than a few minutes or that goes away and comes back. This discomfort can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness, or pain. (As one person described it, like an elephant sitting on your chest.)*
- “Feeling weak, light-headed, or faint. You may also break out in a cold sweat.*
- “Pain or discomfort in the jaw, neck, or back.”*

Matters of the Heart



- “Pain or discomfort in one or both arms or shoulders.”
- “Shortness of breath. This often comes along with chest discomfort, but shortness of breath also can happen before chest discomfort.”
- Additional symptoms of a heart attack can include unusual or unexplained tiredness and nausea or vomiting. These symptoms are more likely to occur in women versus men.”²

If you have experienced any of the above listed symptoms, Call 911, and seek medical help immediately.

Using the letters in F.A.S.T. can help identify stroke symptoms and determine when to call 911. The “F” stands for Face Drooping, which occurs when one side of the face becomes numb or droops. Ask the person to smile—does the smile appear uneven or lopsided? The “A” stands for Arm Weakness. Is one arm weak or numb? Ask the person to raise both arms; if one arm drifts downward, seek medical attention immediately. The “S” stands for Speech. Is the person’s speech slurred, or are you unable to understand what they are saying? Ask them to repeat a simple sentence; if speech is unclear, this is a warning sign. Finally, the “T” stands for Time to call 911. The person to whom you are attending needs a complete medical evaluation, and fast.³

The heart muscle is one of the most valuable muscles in the body. It works continuously, even when you are not aware of it. To protect your heart, it is important to educate yourself on how it functions and recognize any possible deficiencies, allowing that “thumper” to keep working smoothly.

The information provided here is only a brief summary of the symptoms of both a heart attack and a stroke. If you experience any of the symptoms described, seek medical attention immediately and do not delay, as doing so could mean the difference between life and death.

As we celebrate National Heart Month, remember the symbol for February is the Heart, so with that said, Happy Valentine’s Day to everyone.

Sources:

1. Heart Attack and Stroke Symptoms/American Heart Association
<http://www.heart.org/en/about-us/heart-attach-and-stroke-smptoms>
1. Heart Attach / edc.gov
<http://www.edc.gov/heartdisease/heartattack.htm>
1. Stroke Symptoms/American Stroke Association
<https://www.stroke.org/en/about-stroke/stroke-symptoms>





Iceland Adventures - Ice



Iceland Adventure - Ice

By Beth Muschinski

Iceland has 13 glaciers, covering approximately 11% of its landmass. Iceland is home to one of the largest glaciers in all of Europe.

Icelandic glaciers are receding at a faster rate than many others due to the rising air temperatures. The melting of the glaciers causes new lakes to form, rivers to change course and erosion. Complications also arise in the fishing industry due to the rising water causing harbor conditions to change.

We visited the Katla Glacier and cave. The Katla ice cave is located on one of Iceland's active volcanoes. The Katla volcano erupted last in 1918. I actually have a piece of lava from that original eruption! Katla is one of the few ice caves that can be visited all year round, instead of only in the winter. Ice caves are naturally formed and occur in some but not all of the glaciers. The ice caves change every year. New volcanic eruptions, glacier melt, temperature fluctuations all contribute to the change in the formations.

It was a wild ride getting there but first, let me talk about the vehicle. The tires are 44" in diameter and have cables that attach to a compressor inside the vehicle. These cables allow the driver to change the air pressure in the tires to accommodate whatever terrain they are driving in. The cost of a new set of tires (replaced at least once/year but usually more often) is \$7000. The passenger capacity is 16 people. The cost of the vehicle alone was 35,000,000 krona which is approximately \$280,000.

The ice cave tour was the most expensive tour we took and after seeing and hearing about the vehicle, I knew why. We had to go off road

(see pic of vehicle) for about 30-45 minutes before reaching the glacier. We drove forever across the lava fields (no roads) until we came to a totally alien area. There were tall cliffs, a huge area of blue/green ice laced with black lines, snow and....an arctic fox! Yes, the tour guides had befriended a cute little white arctic fox, known as "Foxy" who loved hot dogs and sausage and would come close enough to eat out of their hands.

After arriving at the glacier, we strapped on steel spiked crampons and began the trek to the ice steps carved in the side of the glacier that would give us access to the cave. The tour crew has to cut new steps into the side of the glacier every year to reach the caves. Katla wasn't really a cave any longer, but more of a glacier tunnel. We could go in a couple hundred feet to the area that had caved in. It was beautiful. The ice is a green/blue color with black lines running through it. The black lines are from previous volcanic eruptions and some were visible from eruptions hundreds of years ago! While there was no actual cave, the experience was amazing. I was actually INSIDE a glacier!

After climbing down the ice steps, we had that long off road trip back, stopping in the town of Vik. Vik is Iceland's southernmost village. Vik is stunningly gorgeous, surrounded by mountains and the ocean. Vik is famous for several reasons. It has one of the most famous black sand beaches, Reynisfjara. I have no pictures of that because the wind was so fierce, I was almost blown off my feet on the path to the beach and the sand being blown around would have cleaned paint off bricks. I decided to forgo that little side excursion. There is a beautiful church in Vik, located in the hills behind the town.



Iceland Adventures - Ice



Because the weather was mild while I was in Iceland, I only have pictures of snow and ice from a distance. That was fine by me. I spent my first almost 50 years in WI and didn't need to experience snow, cold, or worse while on vacation.

Ironically, just after finishing this article, Mississippi had one of the worst ice storms in 50 years! People were without power for up to 10 days. We ran away to the Gulf Coast to escape the worst of the storm and returned 12 days later to a frozen hot water heater and no water in the house.

Jill wrote down the following quotation that was from the tour guide: "Mother Nature does not ask for permission to change under our feet."

Perlan Museum has a huge ice cave inside that is kept year-round. It was nice but I preferred the real thing. More info at: perlan.is





Rose Parade 2026

By: John Beck

This may read like a Fantasy RV Tours advertisement, but they didn't pay me to write this, nor did Shari Weber who asked me to write it. Despite the unrelenting rain, we had a fabulous time, and now I have new traumatic memories of the Rose Parade to replace my childhood traumatic memories of the Rose Parade.

We (3 FCRV couples) gathered at the rally point, Bonelli Bluffs RV park in San Dimas, CA, for a week of Fantasy RV Tours Rose Parade 2026 events. I will skip RV mishaps that happened while en route. Day 2 (rain) we attended Equestfest at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center. All the horses and horse riders and horse related performers in the parade were here to show off their stuff in an arena full of people. I doubt I would have known about this on my own or even bought the ticket. These performers are fabulous and it was wonderful to see them up close. The movements and precision riding were amazing to see.

But wait, there's more. The bus took us to the place where some of the floats were decorated. We filled individual vials with water. We trimmed rose stems and fit a single rose into each vial. 18 million roses says an internet search. We didn't do them all. They had pallets of 100 each for us to work with. Then we moved inside where the floats were being decorated and we worked on the South Dakota float with the image of Mount Rushmore and the "Dignity: Of Earth & Sky" beautiful sculpture out front. We put the base greenery on the lower left and rear quarter of the float, which was then covered in roses by other decorators. What an exciting experience. This is one I would have hunted down and bought a ticket, but it was all volunteer based except for the paid professionals in the room.

Day 3 (rain) was Bandfest, another event I doubt I would have known about or bought a ticket. It is spread





out over 2 days and 3 performances in order to enable all the bands in the parade to perform. We experienced one performance. It was like one football halftime show right after the other with several bands performing in sequence. I thought the best was the Directors Band, which is a band made up of Band Directors from across the country. They meet for the first time earlier in the week and play their hearts out. When we saw them in the actual parade we knew it was them from a few blocks away.

Day 4 (rain) was a visit to the Huntington Museum Library and Botanical gardens, another event I would not have known about or bought the ticket. Walking through these gardens reminded me of walking through the gardens in Hawaii on an earlier cruise trip (apparently Carl is tracking my cruise frequency). There were several different environments including desert, roses, Japanese bonsai, and tropical. I found the roses the most amazing, the varieties endless, and the naming of each variety was fun to read through.

Day 5 (rain) was New Year's morning and we were on the bus at 4:30 AM and in our bleacher seats along Colorado Boulevard by 7:00 AM, ponchos in full deployment – no umbrellas allowed so that no one's view is blocked. Watching the parade from a few feet away was eye opening. Each rose was individual. The smiles and expressions on the people's faces were up close and real. We had fun cheering on the street sweeper crews who cheerfully followed and cleaned up after the horses.

Day 6 (rain) was free time.

All in all, while it rained a lot, we had a wonderful time, met some new friends and look forward to our next RV adventure.



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Getting Ready for Camping Season



Getting Ready for Camping Season

By Ed Shaneyfelt, Vice President Programs

It is getting closer to getting the rigs out of hibernation and ready for the camping season. I am looking forward to seeing a lot of friends that we haven't seen for a while. As you are sitting at home make a plan to figure out what you need to haul and what you don't. This way you might end up with more storage or find out you have multiple items that you didn't know you had. Make a list of the maintenance that needs to be done or what you want to get done.

Look at a calendar and start writing down your campout schedule and when you have to make reservations for the different campouts. Check the website for other states or region schedules to see if you might be able to crash one of theirs. Angie and I have been known to unexpectedly do this in our fellow states and chapter campouts. It is a fun way to make new friends. If you would like for us to crash one of your outings let us know and we will see if we can make it.

Follow the Leprechaun to the end of the rainbow to find the pot of gold and if everything goes as planned you will be off and camping before you know it. Hopefully we will see you at a campout down the road.

Until next time



Why I Love FCRV And Why I Stay with FCRV



Why I Love FCRV And Why I Stay with FCRV

By: Teresa Walorski

Like most of you, I am looking forward to the warmer months and camping! Enjoying time spent with friends and just being outdoors. We don't have kids that go with us anymore as they are all grown and have families of their own, but we feel lucky when we can steal away our youngest grandson or great nephews. They really enjoy running around all day and playing games with us. Just being kids. They are exhausted at the end of the day, as are we.

Maybe I am just being sentimental today with so much going on in the world and within our little world, but those days of time spent are so special as we look back at our lives, those are the moments we are thankful for. We have made some wonderful friendships with the organization and really enjoy having no regrets about all we have been able to do.

One campout, our granddaughter went with us, and we all rode bikes around. There was only wi-fi near the office area, so she would ride over there and spend time catching up with friends on her phone. You guessed it, she was in her teens. LOL But, at least she was out riding back and forth, and we would go over and ride with her, then talk her into riding some more and playing a round of mini-golf or something else. So special. The other families that were camping with our group had kids and we would all be together, just hanging out. Walking, riding bikes, eating together and listening to music at night. Now that she is older, even she has mentioned those fun camping times.

Hoping you all can bring others with you camping and show them WHY we joined and WHY we stay with FCRV.

410-533-0038



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



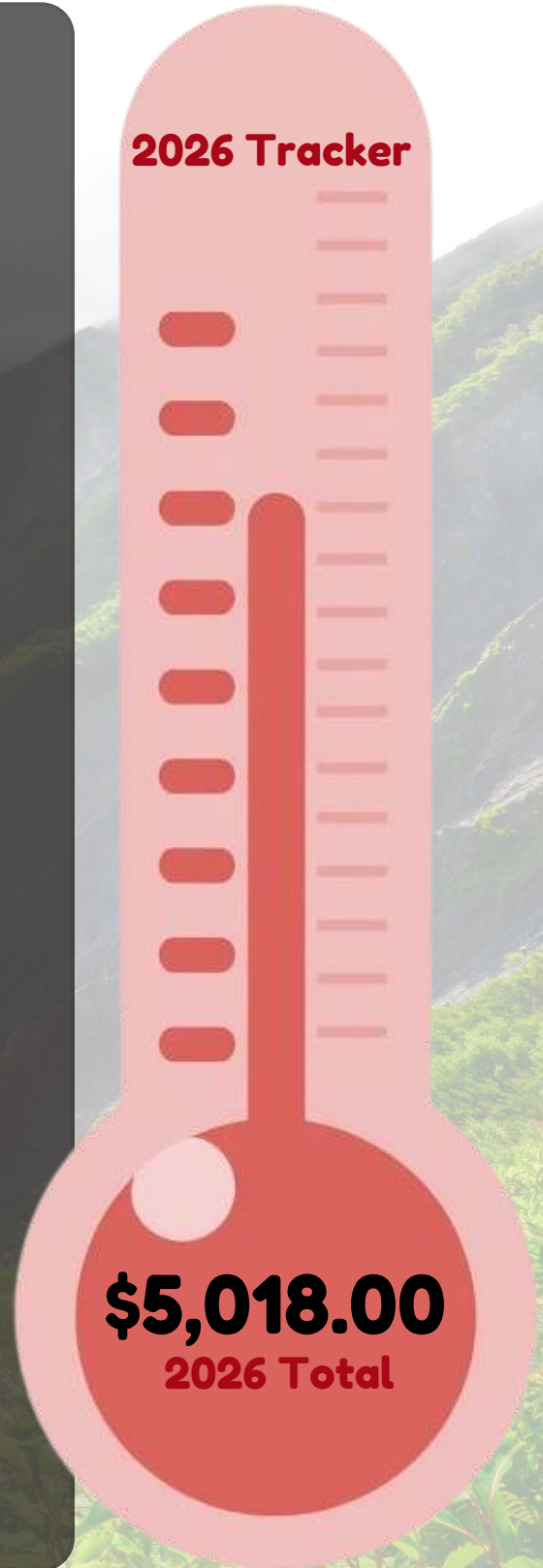
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2026 Tracker



Dear FCRV Member

As a Member of Family Campers & RVers, you're part of the history, heart, and heritage of an organization that has shaped family experiences for generations. When you think back on your years with us, certain moments probably rise to the surface: a campfire that kept everyone talking long after sunset, the kind of laughter that only happens among friends who've become family, the pride of watching our youth grow into capable leaders, and maybe even a few harmless pranks that turned into legendary stories. Above all, there's the steady comfort of knowing that wherever you traveled, you belonged to something special.

These moments define FCRV. They're the threads that tie together our chapters, our states, and our families. Your commitment over the years helped build a community rooted in fellowship, outdoor adventure, conservation, and youth development.

Today, we're at an important moment. Our programs, many of which you helped build, still make a meaningful impact. But like many long-standing volunteer organizations, we're facing rising operating costs, an aging membership, and fewer active supporters carrying the day-to-day load.

We are reaching out with respect for you and for the history you helped create. Our goal is straightforward: to protect FCRV's legacy and keep its programs active and available for as long as possible.

Our Wildlife and Scholarship Funds remain well-positioned to serve their missions. The challenge lies with our General Fund, which supports the everyday work that keeps FCRV running. This fund is now at a critically low level. It's not simply lean. It needs attention from those who understand the value of what FCRV provides.

The General Fund keeps the organization moving. It supports programs, events, communications, and the national structure that holds everything together. It's the quiet backbone of FCRV.

Right now, it needs our collective support.

A gift to FCRV isn't just a contribution. It's a statement that the community you helped build matters. It helps protect the experiences, friendships, and opportunities that shaped so many families, including your own. It ensures the next generation can discover the same sense of belonging and joy that brought all of us together in the first place.

If you're able, a donation of any amount will help strengthen FCRV's foundation and sustain the programs that define who we are. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, your contributions may be tax-deductible. [This link](#) as well as In the back of this 'Camping Today' issue, you'll find a simple donation form.

Thank you for your years of dedication, your membership, and your belief in the values that built this organization. With your support, FCRV can continue to bring families together, encourage conservation and wildlife education, and celebrate the camping lifestyle we all love.

If you prefer, you may also consider including FCRV in your life estate planning. Every form of support helps ensure the organization you helped shape continues to thrive.

Thank you again for all you've given to FCRV and for standing with us as we work to strengthen its future.

Family Campers and RVers Donation Form

Tax ID: 16-0872172
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Donor Information

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