

# *Eastern Area Motorhome Association*



## January 2020 News

As hard as it is to believe, we are winding down another year. My time as your AVP is growing to a close. In August, a new AVP of the Eastern Area membership's choosing will be installed at the summer FMCA convention. It has been a fantastic ride. I would be less than honest if I didn't say there were some pretty big bumps in the road. But, these were expected. Without the support of my lovely bride of 51-plus years, I would never have started the journey. I have had a wonderful board to work with. Their everlasting support has been recognized and greatly appreciated. The Eastern Area is by far one of the best areas in FMCA. All of us should be proud.

### 2020 GEAR

It is a little awkward for the outgoing AVP and the incoming AVP as it relates to GEAR. The retiring AVP turns over the gavel to the incoming AVP in the summer. GEAR is the following fall. Even with a close working relationship with the AVP and the Senior AVP, most decisions for GEAR fall on the shoulders of the outgoing AVP. The 2020 GEAR is no exception. But, Maxine and I realized this and made an agreement that I would take the lead for 2020. The fact that the 2019 GEAR was cancelled made the job somewhat easier. This did not mean the Mallorys had an easy 2019. As I promised at the board meeting being held in York, we have worked diligently searching for future sites for GEAR. Unfortunately, we still do not have anywhere other than Lewisburg that we can comfortably recommend. Asheville, NC, Agriculture Expo Center is the closest to Lewisburg in cost, desirable location, great facility and great people to work with. I call every year and speak with the CEO. He wants us back badly. We just cannot work out a date. It will happen; we just don't know when.

Garnetta and I spent several days in November at Lewisburg, WV. We spent a good amount of time with Kelly Collins, CEO of West Virginia Fairgrounds, and her new event coordinator Michael Patrick. Kelly knows all the important people by first name, which makes our job very easy. Garnetta and I actually

### **Eastern Area Motorhome Association Officers**

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**Bill Mallory, F256138**



#### **Senior Vice President**

**Maxine Schremp, F46727**

#### **Western Regional Vice President**

**Dennis Ducharme, F402669**

#### **Central Regional Vice President**

**Rob Hill, F416828**

#### **Northern Regional Vice President**

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#### **Southern Regional Vice President**

**Chris Holtzman, F388492**

#### **Secretary**

**Elaine Mills, F104146**

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**Berkley Alexander, F290051**

#### **Immediate Past President**

**John Reynolds, F171042**

spent time enjoying many of the amenities offered by the location. Downtown is well vested in very fine dining, shops of all descriptions and price ranges, and wonderful people to talk with. When I let them know we would be back next September, everyone expressed a very positive and welcome opinion. Kelly, Garnetta and I are working on a special night where the merchants will keep their doors open after hours to accommodate our GEAR participants. When we have the GEAR committee planning meeting in April, we plan to have the Chamber of Commerce director join us, along with other service organizations, to discuss how we can reach out to the community.

Another promise I made at the York EAMA Board meeting was fill the campground hillside with RVs. At the present time, I am negotiating with Home Town RVs to bring thirty-plus RVs to GEAR. They came to me upon a recommendation from Kelly. We visited with Nathan Dollinger, owner of Home Town RVs, while in Lewisburg. He is no stranger to the fairgrounds and was most appreciative to have this opportunity. In addition to the RVs, he will have three different factory reps on site during GEAR.

Rob and Donna Hill, vendor chairs, started recruiting vendors before we left the York fairgrounds in 2018. Just a few weeks ago, over 100 vendor invitations were sent to very prospective vendors. Their efforts will continue at the Tampa Show and anywhere else prospective vendors may be found. The WV fairgrounds has added a new building on site that will be perfect to house our vendors.

Two nights of entertainment have been booked. Kelly Collins, survivor of Flight 1549, Sully's flight that landed in the Hudson, will be sharing her 2 ½ minute experience on Thursday night. We are dedicating this evening to first responders. I will be asking GEAR participants to bring a NEW stuffed toy that will be presented to the local first responders to comfort children on some of their runs. The Bluegrass Heritage Band will be returning. They were a great hit in 2017.

We are in the process of finalizing the budget. Registration will be available in March. Cost will be close to the same. Anyone wanting 50-amp, full hookups will have that opportunity.

Please share this information with our membership. We are planning an exceptional rally. You will not want to miss this one.

### Summer International Convention

The 2020 Summer FMCA Convention location has been changed. We will be going to the Lancaster Event Center in Lincoln, Nebraska. Dates of the event will be August 26-29, 2020. Registration begin February 26, 2020, and the registration form appears in the February issue of *Family RVing* magazine.

Apologies to those who were planning on going to Syracuse. Since I was on the Convention Committee when Syracuse was offered a contract, I feel an explanation as to why this decision was made is in order. FMCA negotiated and agreed on a contract two years ago. As of July 1, 2019, FMCA had not received a contract. This was after many emails and phone calls made by Chris Smith, CEO of FMCA. The board encouraged Chris to begin looking for another location. It was discussed again at the annual board meeting in Minot. More efforts were made to get the contract from the Syracuse facility. Not until mid-October was a decision made to begin a serious search for a new facility. Via a teleconference of the FMCA Executive Board, it was voted that we would not be going to Syracuse. The Convention Committee was directed to locate a new facility ASAP.

### Christmas Past

Many of us have memories of less than the traditional Christmas; sitting around the fireplace, opening gifts under the tree, relative visits (welcome or not), and eating entirely too much fruit cake. We were recently fueling up at Perry, Georgia, traveling with Garnetta's brother. Garnetta and I shared our nontraditional Christmas night of 2007.

As many of you know, Garnetta and I cared for my mother eleven years after my Dad's death. The first Christmas, after losing a loved one, is always difficult. We were not looking forward to Christmas day after losing Dad. Christmas was his thing. Cutting the cedar tree from the farm, decorating, making homemade candy, playing with my toys after I went to bed on Christmas Eve, attending midnight services. He loved it all. We loved watching him love it.

We were traveling back to Florida in our motorhome on the first Christmas Day after losing Dad. (If you haven't tried it, a great day to travel.) We had spent other nights in the Perry, Georgia, Walmart parking lot. So, late in the afternoon we pulled into the parking lot. Garnetta made potato soup. Then under the small tree in our motorhome there appeared Christmas gifts. Mom, Garnetta and I took our time opening them. Each of us was thinking of Dad and Christmas past. There were no tears, just great memories as we traveled down the road of life.

### Tribute to Winter

Charlie Schrenkel, past FMCA national president, wrote a poem appearing in the President's Message a number of years ago. Current FMCA national president, Jon Walker, shared the first and last verse of the poem in the December 2019 FMCA magazine. It is most appropriate for this time of year;

*"Snowflakes flutter in breathless air,  
And settle down without a care  
Upon the brown and tarnished leaves,  
Which form a carpet 'neath the trees.*

*And all across this fairy land,  
The fields, the hills, where pine trees stand.  
The quiet of this winter's night,  
Brings peace on earth by morning light."*

Until next time, safe travels.



William W. Mallory  
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**MAXINE SCHREMP, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT**

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EAMA Senior Vice President  
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**DENNIS DUCHARME, WESTERN REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT**

**CHAPTERS IN THE WESTERN REGION:**

**CARDINALS, HAPPY TENNESSEE TRAVELERS, KENTUCKIANA TRAVELERS, KY HORSE SHU KRU,  
TENNESSEE TRAVELERS, AND TENNESSEE RIDGE RUNNERS**

I hope everyone has had a fun year with new and interesting rally locations so you could explore new places and make new friends along the way. It is that time of year when we winterize our RVs and want to be close to our families for the holidays. I hope all of you had HAPPY HOLIDAYS.

I want to welcome a new chapter to our area—the Smokey Mountain Bounders. I have the pleasure of attending their organizational rally in Crossville, Tennessee, at Deer Crossing RV Park. This is a great group of RVers that I enjoyed being with. We had a tour of a winery one day, went to a state park for a late lunch, and enjoyed a campfire as well as a potluck supper.

Please remember as you plan your rallies for 2020 to make sure to send them to FMCA so they can be listed in the *Family RVing* magazine. Please email me at [DDuch21603@aol.com](mailto:DDuch21603@aol.com) so I can make plans to visit your chapter and one of your rallies.

Dennis Ducharme  
Western Regional Vice President  
[DDuch21603@aol.com](mailto:DDuch21603@aol.com)  
859-338-3548

## **ROB HILL, CENTRAL REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT**

Happy New Year to you all! Wow, a new decade ahead...hoping you all have exciting adventures planned. For all Central Region Chapters (Presidents or Secretaries), please provide a copy of your rally schedule so Donna and I can hopefully attend at least one (DandR.Hill@gmail.com).

Safe travels to you!

Rob Hill  
Central Regional Vice President  
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[DandR.Hill@gmail.com](mailto:DandR.Hill@gmail.com)

## **THOMAS HOFFMEIER, NORTHERN REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT**

September had us attending the Penn Coachmen's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the Roxbury Holiness Camp in Orrstown, PA. It was very well attended and they even had some of the past members in attendance. Great entertainment and a fun gathering.

During October we were at the Capital Chapter's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to present the Chapter President, Roger Mills, with their certificate and check for achieving this mile marker. They had 20 coaches plus some day visitors. Lots of pictures and games. A great time for all.

As the year winds down it is time to either winterize or head to a warmer climate zone. Also time to make a list of any maintenance that needs to be done before the drive south or to do before Spring arrives. We did have to replace tires on our motorhome and managed to save approximately \$100.00 per tire through FMCA's Michelin Tire Program.

May you all have a safe and healthy winter. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Safe travels,

Tom Hoffmeier  
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## CHRIS HOLTZMAN, SOUTHERN REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

In past weeks, we celebrated Thanksgiving and Christmas. Then comes the end of another year. Overall, I think it has been a good year. I have visited with a number of my chapters and all had a good attendance. Most have been very active chapters with several being very active in GEAR volunteer work.

We are looking forward to the New Year when we all will be working toward GEAR in Lewisburg, WV. A lot of work is being put forward to make this a great rally. All sites will have 50-amp full hookups. There will be lots of show coaches this year, and more excitement in the vendor section than I've seen in a while.

We all know the 2020 international summer convention in Syracuse was canceled, so we are looking forward to the new location, Lincoln, Nebraska, August 26 through 29, 2020. We are also anticipating some new programs and services coming down from FMCA this year.

We wish everyone a blessed holiday season and a very successful New Year. Be safe, enjoy Florida, and remember, it is "still all about having fun."

Chris Holtzman  
Southern Regional Vice President  
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## EVALUATION OF FMCA AREAS

In accordance with the National Bylaws, every five years, FMCA's Review Council is required to evaluate the demographics of FMCA's areas and submit any recommendations to the Governing Board. Recommendations approved by the Governing Board shall become effective January 1 of the following year.

If you have a request for the Council to consider as to how your area or other areas could best serve the interests of FMCA and the membership, please submit your recommendation in writing by February 28, 2020, to:

**FMCA, Attn: Chapter Services, 8291 Clough Pike, Cincinnati, OH 45244**  
**[chapters@fmca.com](mailto:chapters@fmca.com)**

All suggestions will be considered. To learn more about FMCA's Areas of Representation, visit FMCA's website at <https://www.fmca.com/fmca-structure> or call Chapter Services at 513-474-3622.