



Northeast Area Newsletter

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Hi Everyone,

Diane and I hope that you and yours had a very Merry Christmas, and that the New Year is proving to be a good one for you.

It is the time of year where we reflect on the old year and look forward to the new. 2009 was in many ways a difficult year for your Executive Board and the Northeast Area. Upon taking office as Northeast Area President, I had to spend the last two weeks in July and part of the first week of August out of the Area working at the National Convention in Bowling Green and then in Cincinnati for training. Diane and I left Cincinnati on August 6th and headed for Essex Junction for our rally and arrived on Friday the 7th. We "hit the ground running," along with the rest of the Executive Board.

In October, 1st Vice President Lou Snow resigned. Ed Hoag, our 2nd Vice President, became ill and currently is still in New York State, awaiting the doctor's okay to travel to Florida following necessary tests which could not be scheduled until late January. Last week our Treasurer Eleanor Rizzi experienced some eye problems which now fortunately are on the mend. Our Secretary, Kathianne Taylor, lost her mom this fall. So, as you can imagine, we are all really glad to be putting 2009 behind us!

The New Year, both for the Area and for FMCA at the National level, looks very promising. We have a great Northeast Area Executive Board. Our Past President Sam Allen has been very helpful with his input and I have enjoyed working with him. We work very well together, and we are determined to produce a wonderful 2010 Rally for you. We are going to offer several new events, among them a Motorhome Rodeo. In addition, we have several new vendors committed, including Craft Vendors.

On the National scene, we have an outstanding executive Board that has come up with many new ideas to improve FMCA. Our "Dozen Does It" program is in full swing, and we are currently working on additional programs that will be announced during the coming months.

Since the resignation of Don Eversmann, our Executive Director, FMCA has been governed by a management team made up of members of the Executive Board. Things have gone very smoothly and the co-operation from the Cincinnati staff has been outstanding.

Our National President Charlie Schrenkel told the Executive Board at our first meeting to "get our track shoes on" because we would need them. He has been true to his word. We have telephone conference calls every other week, and the emails that are constantly being exchanged among the Executive Board Members are filled with new ideas and new approaches to problem solving. FMCA's financial picture is at last beginning to improve, and we are definitely on the "upswing."

It is going to be a great FMCA New Year and we want you to enjoy it with us!

Paul DuBois
Northeast Area President

WELCOME IN 2010!!!

No matter which holidays you and your family choose to celebrate, we certainly hope you all had a wonderful time. Although our travel plans to go south have temporarily "gone south", we have enjoyed the holidays with our New York family members. We want to thank all of our FMCA friends that have called, sent cards, and keep Praying for Ed's recovery during his recent illness. We hope the doctors will say he can travel after we go back on January 20th.



Not even feeling under the weather can keep us down. Every day we look forward to warmer weather and this year's Northeast Area Rally in Essex Junction, VT July 2-5th. Speaking of which, my wife, Lori and I are heading up the Volunteer Captains this year and need all our chapters to get involved. As you all know, without the great "Volunteer Teams" we are so fortunate to have in our area, the Northeast Area Rally would not be such a **HUGE** success. We are looking forward to seeing the Volunteer Captains at the "Captains Meeting" which is tentatively scheduled for May 21, 22, & 23 at The Champlain Valley Expo in Essex Junction, VT. We need your help, if your Chapter wishes to volunteer this year at the rally, please contact us as soon as possible so we can make sure that your chapter gets properly placed on the Volunteer Roster.

Some changes have been made and will be implemented this year to help all the Volunteer Chapters have the tools and support that is needed to perform their tasks with ease. We would appreciate it if Chapters wishing to Volunteer contact us as soon as possible so that the "Captain" from each Team can receive their invitation/registration for the Captains Meeting in a timely fashion. We would also ask that each Volunteer Captain have a list of who from their Chapter will be volunteering so we can assure enough volunteers on each team. We are **VERY** excited about all the special events planned this year and would encourage you to push your Chapter members and non-chapter friends to attend. More information will be sent out to the chapters after the NMA Officers are able to have a meeting in late January.

You may contact us in any of the following ways:

Email: Hoagsfarm@aol.com (please subject, Rally Volunteers)

Or

U.S. Mail: Ed & Lori Hoag
129 Hawkins Road
Maryland, NY 12116

Home Phone: (607) 638-9551
Lori's Cell #: (607) 621-8988
Ed's Cell #: (607) 621-8969

We wish you all a Happy, Healthy, and Safe 2010.....

Ed & Lori Hoag

Two
Nations . . .
One Family

FM

CA

July 2-5,
2010
Champlain
Valley
Exposition
Essex
Junction,
Vermont

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I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you that participated in the 2009 Northeast Area Rally with a special appreciation to all of you who volunteered. Volunteers are the mainstay of any rally and we really need your contributions.

For the 2010 Northeast Area Rally from July 02 to July 05, I have been given the responsibility for Seminars and for the Program Book. Your executive has already had several meetings to work on the rally and the pace will pick up after the year's end.

Why not get a head start and work on your chapter ads for the program. You can send them to me at fourwindsbob@gmail.com in PDF, PUBLISHER or WORD. Any commercial ads that you can pick up will also be more than welcome.

If you have people who want to give a seminar have them contact me as early as possible and I will do my best to accommodate them.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a most wonderful holiday season and good health for the New Year.

Bob & Lise

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Hello to everyone in Northeast Area chapters of FMCA. My name is Dick Higgins and I am one of two new VP's elected in to office at the last NEAR Rally in Essex Junction, VT For the last three years I've been involved in making and distributing the information/directions/roadway signs for the NEAR Rallies. This work has allowed me to be involved and get familiar with what goes on behind the scenes to put on a successful rally - - - there's A LOT! I've enjoyed being able to be a contributor, in a small way, to putting together this annual event. I now look forward to being able to contribute even more - - - my wife and I have been asked to be in charge of recruiting, retaining, taking care of the requirements, and seeing to all the needs of the "Vendors" for our summer rally next year. It's a big job, an important job, and one that potentially could make or break a rally. The inside and outside vendors that we had at this past rally, along with all the display coaches from eight different dealers, were all integral parts that led to the success of the whole event. We will try are very best to see that the NEAR Rally in 2010 will be at least as good as this years. Of course, our efforts will be to make it even better. We already have some ideas for some additions in the vendor line-up that will, hopefully, augment an already good variety of "services and suppliers" to tend to all your "needs and desires". There'll be plenty to do and Paul & Dianne DuBois will be "coaching" us along the way - - - they have the much needed experience in this job and we'll be relying on them A LOT!

Since I retired 13 years ago, my wife, Barbara, and I have enjoyed being involved in many aspects of putting together rallies on the Chapter, Area, and National levels. The Chapter we've been involved with the most is located in Florida (we're "charter" members and absolutely love the close bonds that have developed from that club). I just finished being president for 4 years. We've volunteered at SEA Rallies, INTO Rallies, and many National Conventions. Because New Hampshire is our home, we feel it's time that we contribute more in the Northeast, even though we still have a big commitment to "INTO" as well. Since being involved in the NEAR Rallies, we've developed some friendships that we feel just endears us to this Area. There's the common bond of being part of New England/Northeast that we just never really found anywhere else. This is home. We hope to be part of many successful rallies for years to come.

Dick Higgins

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Two Nations... One Family... FMCA

A message from your 2010 Rally Masters, Frank & Eleanor Rizzi

We hope that everyone had a joyous and festive holiday season and that 2010 is a happy and healthy year for all.

We have been selected by the Executive Board of the Northeast Area of FMCA to serve as Rally Masters for this year's rally, which will be held at the Champlain Valley Expo Center in Essex Junction, VT. The dates for the rally are July 2nd through 5th. The departure date is July 6th. The dates for this year's rally were selected to avoid conflict with other major rallies. If your chapter has a rally scheduled for the same weekend, try to combine it with ours. The theme for this year's rally is TWO NATIONS... ONE FAMILY... FMCA. The planning for the rally started immediately following the conclusion of the 2009 rally. The Expo center is well suited for a rally. Everyone will again have water and electric included in the rally fee of \$180.00. All of the buildings are air conditioned for everyone's comfort during the various events, from entertainment to vendor areas, seminars and special events.

Some of the special events planned include free hot dogs, the open house of coach visitation, and "Meet and Greet" (the Chapter Fair, again featuring prizes for the best table display for a chapter.) The Chapter Fair will again be combined with the Ice Cream Social -- and no one does this as well as the Northeast Area, with make-your-own sundaes. We will have the VT Canine Unit doing an afternoon display, and we will have the opportunity to donate blood at the annual Red Cross Blood Drive. Since this is Independence Day Weekend there will be fireworks in the area for anyone wishing to leave the grounds. Due to the interest expressed last year we are bringing back the Dinner Cruise on Lake Champlain with a choice of two menus: the "Downeaster," including lobster and prime rib, and the "Galley Master," with prime rib, turkey, and pasta shells. (Menu details will appear on the family registration form.) We are again asking every chapter to donate one door prize, indicative of your area, to be given out at the NEA booth.

Contracts with various entertainers, vendors and coach dealers have been completed, in order to help meet the needs and interests of all the rally attendees. We hope this will insure a successful rally.

Knowing the dates and cost should help in planning your 2010 rally schedule. We appreciate the opportunity to serve as rally masters for 2010. Our success is your success, as any rally is dependent upon the membership providing the necessary cooperation and volunteerism. We are available for comments and suggestions at any time.

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Northeast Motorhome Association Annual Meeting August 15, 2009

CALL TO ORDER- The meeting was called to order at 11:00am by President Paul Dubois. Paul asked that we take a minute to think about the members of our Chapters who have passed away this past year.

MINUTES OF PRECEEDING MEETING- Kathianne Taylor read the minutes of the last meeting. Kathianne asked if there were any changes to be made in the minutes. A motion was made to accept them as read and seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Report-Eleanor Rizzi stated as of June 30, 2009 we had \$57,627.00 in four separate accounts. We also have a loan out to the rally of \$11,000.00. This is the start up money needed for the rally. Eleanor asked if there were any questions. A motion was made to accept the treasurer report and seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence- Kathianne Taylor read a thank you letter from the Vermont Canine Association for our support.

COMMITTEE REPORTS- Paul stated that there has not been an audit of our books.

Paul stated that last year we had a By-Laws Committee working on changing the By-Laws to a two year term for the officers and a Senior Vice President. There has been a discussion among the Board and National about going to a Regional Vice President concept. The goal is to divide the area up and each Vice President is responsible for a certain area. This way the Vice Presidents will be able to find out about any problems within the chapters before they become serious. Also we may have a better chance of improving membership. Paul stated he would like to have a chance to appoint a committee to work with the Executive Board to study the Regional Vice President concept. Therefore the recommended bylaw changes will be put aside and recheck the current By-Laws.

Paul stated that copies of the proposed By-Laws were sent to each President by Lori on May 7th, 2009.

Paul also explained that National has to approve the changes and they haven't done so yet. So we can't vote on it yet. Paul explained it takes about two months before they can approve it.

Judy Czarsty explained that when you make a change to the By-Laws you have to send it into the Constitution and By-Laws Committee for review. They make sure that you followed the National set up in the policy and procedures, for areas and chapters. The committee then sends a letter out to the area. This process can take a minimum of two months.

A suggestion was made from the floor to take what changes were proposed this year and combine them with next year's changes, then vote on them only once. Our By-Laws need to be changed. There are also no Standing Rules.

Al Canary representing the By-Laws committee made a motion to table the changes to the by-laws until next year. 16 in favor, 8 opposed and the motion is carried.

Don Eversmann explained that we don't want to get below the 100,000 membership number. So anything you can do to help us we would appreciate it.

OLD BUSINESS-There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS-

Paul stated that our rally next year conflicts with several other groups, such as Good Sam, etc. We should change the dates or we won't get the vendors the members are looking for. The vendors had a great rally here this year and would like to come back. A motion was made to authorize the board to change the rally. Seconded and all were in favor.

Paul explained that all chapters need to review their description of their chapter to include the recruitment letters going out. If you need any ideas check the Eastern Area since they have updated their descriptions two years ago.

Paul stated that Chapter Officers are not keeping up to date on email changes. He stated that he mailed something out to all Officers and got at least 15 back for the wrong addresses.

Eleanor asked for volunteers for the audit committee. Ann Archambault, Margaret and Barbara Higgins volunteered.

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Paul asked for volunteers for a new nominating committee. A letter must be sent to every Chapter President and National Directors. Volunteered were Frank Rizzi, Barbara, David Taylor, Lori Hoag, and Janice Thomas. A motion was made to accept the volunteers and was seconded.

Paul stated that since our By-Laws state we can have three or more Vice President's so we would like to add one more Vice President for a total of four.

Frank Rizzi gave a report from the nominating committee. He stated he sent letters to all the chapter presidents and the National Director. Only two nominations were made for Vice President, Dick Higgins and Bob Mills.

Frank stated that he is going by Roberts Rules of Order this year. He will start with the current officers then cover the new officers. Frank asked if anyone objects to the way he is doing it. Are there any other nominations from the floor?

The current officers have agreed to remain in office. Since Paul moved up and a new Vice President is needed so we have two openings. Frank stated that for first Vice President we have Lou Snow, are there any other nominations? None were recommended. With no other nominations will the Secretary Cast one vote for Lou Snow. For second Vice President we have Ed Hoag. Are there any other nominations? None were recommended. Will the Secretary Cast one vote for second Vice President. For third and fourth Vice Presidents the Board will decide who is actually number three and number four. For Third Vice President are there any additional nominations from the floor? None were recommended. A Motion was made to accept Bob Mills as Vice President. Secretary will cast one vote for Bob Mills. For the fourth Vice President are there any additional nominations from the floor? None were recommended. A Motion was made to accept Dick Higgins as the fourth Vice President. Secretary will cast one vote for Dick Higgins. For Secretary are there any nominations? None were recommended. President casts one vote for Kathianne Taylor for Secretary. For Treasurer are there any nominations? None were recommended. Secretary will cast one vote for Eleanor Rizzi as Treasurer. There were no objections. Therefore Lou Snow, Ed Hoag, Dick Higgins, and Bob Mills are now the Vice Presidents. Kathianne Taylor, Secretary and Eleanor Rizzi, Treasurer. Frank moved that with all in favor of the offices filled the nominations are closed.

Eleanor announced that the Empire State won the Chapter Fair; they were presented with a basket of goodies for their Chapter. This year the vendors voted on the best table.

Paul announced that there will be a Captains Meeting at 2pm today.

If anyone needs volunteer ribbons Lou Snow has them.

A motion was made from the floor to close the meeting. All were in favor.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 12:30am.

Paul thanked everyone who helped in the rally; they made it a great rally.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathianne Taylor

Secretary