

NORTHWEST TREK FUN CLUB

Al Zimmerman
National Director

96th FMCA National Convention Indianapolis, Indiana

Indiana State Fairgrounds July 10-17, 2017

A number of coaches from the Northwest congregated at the S&H Campground in Greenfield, IN on Friday, July 7. This allowed some time for Indiana sightseeing and fellowship. Shared meals included the heavy hors d'oeuvres potluck one evening and grilled Costco dogs for another meal. On Monday, July 10, nine coaches caravanned to the Indiana State Fairgrounds.

A Northwest Area strategy session was held Monday afternoon. The purpose was to discuss the issues that would be presented during the Governing Board meeting. Kathie Balogh, National Vice President, represents FMCA NW on the Executive Board. The Northwest Area was well-represented for the meetings.

The unofficial count of family coaches in attendance was 1,410 family coaches.

Tuesday was an informal briefing and work session led by FMCA president Charlie Adcock. One of the key issues was creating a definition of recreational vehicles that would be considered by the Governing Board on Wednesday. The first suggested definition had specifications for travel trailers, fifth wheel trailers, etc. The definition agreed upon was succinct and simple:

A recreation vehicle is a self-contained, wheeled vehicle that includes permanently-installed cooking, sleeping, and sanitary facilities.

There were questions about tent trailers and pick-up campers. It was decided that if they were self-contained and otherwise fit the definition, then we should welcome them and accept their dues.

Membership in FMCA is up to approximately 73,000; which reflects a sizeable positive increase this year with one quarter to go.

Governing Board Meeting

The Governing Board is composed of a delegate from each FMCA chapter in attendance, plus those appointed as temporary delegates because no members from a chapter were able to attend. Delegates are grouped according to membership area. A quorum of delegates is needed for any action to occur. The meeting was held on Wednesday morning. The meeting lasts until the agenda items are covered. (There is a tradition among Northwest Area delegates of a pool based on when the meeting will end.)

Finances

The budget for 2018 was adopted. It was noted that the budget reflected very little surplus of income over expenses. With the dues increase approved last year, some expenses that were taken from investments were now reflected as operating expenses (example – \$660,000 related to the FMC Assist premiums, though this may not be the total premium cost).

Proposals considered

1. Members sharing an F number are not to serve concurrently on the Executive Board. In discussion it was discovered that there had not been an instance where this had occurred. In rare instances when it might occur, it was not seen to be a problem. **The proposal was defeated.**
2. Changing the non-discrimination clause in the bylaws. The proposal was to add language reflecting sexual orientation, gender identity, and political beliefs. Zimmerman spoke of the need to defeat the measure and maintain the existing non-discrimination language. The sentiment of the members was to keep such language simple. **The proposal was defeated overwhelmingly.**

Later in the meeting, two additional items were addressed:

- A proposal to require the new non-discrimination language in chapter bylaws was removed from consideration because the bylaw proposal was defeated.
 - Upon a motion by Zimmerman, the Executive Board action to include the new non-discrimination language in the suggested chapter bylaws was rescinded.
3. Including the ownership of recreational vehicles in place of motorhomes as a qualifier for membership in FMCA in the articles of incorporation, constitution, and bylaws.

As discussion began there was still a concern that members would be reluctant to approve the change to recreational vehicles without an understanding of what RVs were meant to be included at the time the proposal was to be considered. The definition was scheduled to be approved later under new business.

Upon a motion by Zimmerman a decision was made to suspend the rules and advance the adoption of the definition of recreation vehicle. This enabled concerns about the types of vehicles being considered to be addressed. The proposed definition was adopted.

The decision to replace motorhome with recreation vehicle in the FMCA documents was adopted with an 85% positive vote.

Because this change affects the legal documents of FMCA, a vote of the membership is required. A ballot will be included in the September, October, and November issues of the Family Motorcoaching magazine. (It has been suggested that ballot be copied, presented at a fall rally, signed individually by members, and the ballots sent together in an envelope. The number of ballots returned from the action last year was abysmal.) The decision will be announced sometime in December. New members who are owners of towables could be considered for membership as early as December, if this action is approved by the membership.

Each chapter will need to consider how the potential inclusion of recreational vehicles (in addition to motorhomes) will be considered by individual chapter bylaws.

4. Future convention sites.

- Decision as to where to hold the 2019 winter convention (Pomona, Chandler, or Tucson) was left to the Executive Board to decide.
- A suggestion was made to move the 2020 Redmond convention to Rock Springs, WY. Concerns were expressed about the facilities and the altitude affecting some people (6,388 ft.). **The decision to hold the 2020 national convention in Redmond, Oregon was re-affirmed.**

Elections

The following officers were elected to two-year terms:

- President – Jon Walker, Great Lakes Area
- Vice President – Rett Porter, Beaver Ambassador Club
- Treasurer – John Reynolds, Eastern Area
- Secretary – Gaye Young, Eastern Area

Additional activities at the FMCA National Convention:

- Nightly Entertainment: William Florian (singer-musician) on Thursday, Pamela G and Jackie B (country songs and bluegrass), and Cirque-A-Palooza (circus, comedy and music)
- Numerous seminars on motorhome maintenance, travel, consumer items.
- Vendor booths and new coach displays.
- Times of fellowship with friends and new friends.