



# SMART FMCA

NOV 2024

# The Who's Who of your FMCA Chapter

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| President             | Tony Mason    |
| Vice President        | Jack Fritz    |
| Secretary/Treasurer   | Joe Faubion   |
| National Director     | Tony Mason    |
| Alt National Director | Jack Fritz    |
| Website Delegate      | Jeff Stephens |

## President's Note

Hello SMART FMCA Members! I hope all your travels are going well and your experiences have been fun and memorable. As you all know, the SMART FMCA Chapter is a collaboration between SMART and the Family Motorcoach Association (FMCA). Soon, FMCA will be rebranded as the Family RV Association (FRVA). At the next FMCA Convention in Perry Georgia, as SMART FMCA's National Director, I'll be attending their business meetings and collecting the change details. At this same event those of you attending can help SMART grow by participating in FMCA's Chapter Fair event. At the Chapter fair, SMART FMCA will have a designated table where we can talk to veterans, promote SMART and get a SMART Trifold into every Veterans hand. This will be our prime opportunity to recruit Veterans to our Club.

SMART FMCA is a vital part of FMCA International, as we draw our membership from veterans nationwide in both the USA and Canada. I would like to extend the warmest welcome to our new members and hope to see you at a SMART RV travel club event soon. I encourage you to engage with all veteran RVers you see in your travels. Tell them about SMART, hand them a Trifold, which can be found at:

[https://www.smartrving.org/leadership/ClubDocs/03\\_Trifold\\_Brochure.pdf?v=1732302503](https://www.smartrving.org/leadership/ClubDocs/03_Trifold_Brochure.pdf?v=1732302503).

Tell Veterans why you joined SMART, and that you would love to have them join a muster in your home state. Let them know they would be welcome to join any group muster as they travel by simply contacting the muster master. Invite veterans to join you as you attend rallies around the country. Lastly, get their contact info and follow-up with them to answer any questions they may have. If anyone plans on attending FMCA International in Perry, Georgia this March of 2025, please print/bring some trifolds or contact SMART HQ to get some **Traveler** magazines you can hand out. Fill your information in on the back page and hand one to veterans that you meet. There will most likely be a block party where our SMART FMCA members will host veterans stopping by with hors d'oeuvres and drinks. This is a great time to share what SMART is about. We need you! Thanks for all you do to get the word out about travel options for our veterans.

**S.M.A.R.T. FMCA CHAPTER**

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**2025 SMART FMCA Pre-Rally  
March 08- 11, 2025**

**Fair Harbour RV Park 515 Marshallville Rd., Perry, GA 31069**

We will travel from the pre-rally to the FMCA Rally on March 11th to be parked together. You are able to book this campground now!

**FMCA's 110<sup>th</sup> International Convention and RV Expo**



*Georgia National Fairgrounds & Agricenter*

**2025 National SMART Muster  
Oct 15 – 20, 2025**

**Mineola Civic Center 1150 N. Newsom, Mineola, TX 75773**

Hosted by the Midwest Region

Please visit our website, <https://www.smartrving.org/fmca/> for more information.

# S.M.A.R.T. FMCA CHAPTER

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## Keeping you in the Loop

Minutes from the SMART FMCA CHAPTER meeting  
SMART- FMCA CHAPTER - REDMOND OREGON CONVENTION



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August 16, 2024.

Bo and Karen deBlieux, Barry and Donna Wynot, Julio Nieves, and Marty and Susan McMahon were in attendance. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by presiding officer Bo deBlieux, Past President of SMART FMCA.

The following items were discussed.

FMCA'S 109 th International Convention and RV Expo was held in Redmond Oregon on March 12 to 15, 2024. Three members of the SMART FMCA chapter attended the Convention. Barry and Donna Wynot, Julio Nieves, Marty and Susan McMahon and Past President of SMART FMCA Bo and Karen deBlieux had a wonderful time at this event.

The biggest news coming out of this convention is as follows:

FMCA President Gary Milner has cancer and is stepping down as President for health reasons and First Vice President and SMART member Paul Mitchell is taking the helm as President earlier than expected. Paul will do a great job as he is well experienced in leading many factions of FMCA with the most recent being the leader of the International Chapters better known as the INTO division. We all pray for Gary's quick recovery from this disease.

FMCA is Changing its name to FAMILY RV ASSOCIATION, this is another step in the direction of allowing all self-contained RV's into the organization in order to increase memberships. FMCA is raising its yearly dues to \$100 per year. This doubles the current dues of \$50 per year. The major reason for this drastic increase is in order to keep Travel Assist (the benefit of returning RVs and sick members back to their home of record). The FMCA board reported that Chubb Insurance raised its rates from \$0.67 cents per member to \$1.90 per member. A new insurance company named ARCH came in with a bid of \$1.10 per member. This bid will be accepted by the board. The dues increase also allows FRVA (formerly FMCA) to keep holding two conventions per year.

The registrations for the 110 th International Convention in Perry GA on March 12 to 15, 2025 are now available online with the best rates being the Super Early Bird which will expire on September 18, 2024. I have asked the leadership of SMART FMCA to quickly get the word out to our members about this savings.

## Keeping you in the Loop (cont)

Minutes from the SMART FMCA CHAPTER meeting  
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Other news from the 109 th Convention is that the Chapter Fair was another huge success with many veterans coming by the booth and discussing how SMART can really change their RVing lifestyle. We hope that our efforts will pay off with new members joining our organization.

Seminars hosted by FMCA were great as usual. The ice cream social was a hit as always, and Bo and Donna Wynot came in Third Place in the Corn Hole tournament. Karen won the first game of Card Bingo. The entertainment was good this year and we hope that many more members will be joining us in Perry GA next year. The meeting was adjourned Safe Travels from SMART FMCA or should I say SMART FRVA Bo deBlieux, presiding officer for this convention.



## **Upcoming Caravans**

### **SMART Caribbean Cruise Caravan Feb 8<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> 2025**

Join your fellow SMART members and step on board the beautiful Celebrity Eclipse. Celebrity is known for it's fine dining, service, and spacious public areas. There are also nightly shows and entertainment throughout the ship.

### **Louisiana Food and Music Caravan March 25th - April 25th, 2025**

Laissez Le Bon Temps Rouler! (Let the Good Times Roll!) If you are looking for fun and unique things to do, then you should join us on the Louisiana Caravan. Louisiana is a melting pot of cultures including French, African, Canadian, and American peoples. The Pelican State is not short on amazing sites, awesome culture and epic fun.

### **Venice of America May 23 -30, 2025**

With over 3000 miles of canals and rivers, you will learn the history and see the modern wonders of this historic and famous city. Early arrival and departure may be available, contact Wagon Master John 210.386.9018 or email, if interested, ASAP since sites are limited.

## **Upcoming Caravans (cont)**

### **Planes Trains Automobiles and Ships**

**June 16 -July 31, 2025**

Come explore the impact of various transportation modes on American culture. We will see how the RV industry started, explore the early inventions of the automobile, marvel at incredible ships that ply the Great Lakes, tour railroad and glider plane museums, and thrill to an exciting airshow. The caravan starts in Indiana, moves through Michigan, and ends in Wisconsin.

### **Alaska Bound Caravan**

**July 01 -Sept 02, 2025**

This adventure is a once in a lifetime guided fully planned RV caravan tour to Alaska with fun filled, interesting, and entertaining activities. The caravan will begin in St. Mary, Montana and end in the state of Washington. You will be immersed in the scenery, wildlife, history and culture of Alaska, the Yukon, and British Columbia. You will remember this trip forever.

### **Touring Texas Together**

**Sept 20 - Oct 15, 2025**

This caravan will start right after the 2025 National Muster that will be held in Mineola, TX. So, since you will already be in Texas why not stay and tour part of this great state with your SMART friends.



## **Happy Birthday**

6-Nov Paul Thomas  
17-Nov Phil Taylor  
18-Nov Kenny Sallee  
21-Nov Joanne Peterson  
21-Nov Tim Burke  
28-Nov Lisa Mitchell  
30-Nov Kathy Pate

## **Happy Anniversary**

11-Nov Jeff and Nancy Stephens  
21-Nov Bill and Joanne Hastings  
27-Nov John and Di Ingianno

