

# SMART TRAVELER

Published Bi-Monthly for SPECIAL MILITARY ACTIVE RECREATIONAL TRAVELERS CLUB

MAY 2025



***Come and Join us in  
The Biggest Little Town in TEXAS!  
Sept 10th thru the Sept 19th  
For the  
42nd National Muster  
of SMART TRAVEL CLUB***

***SIGN UP TODAY!***

***[www.SmartRVing.org](http://www.SmartRVing.org)***

We will be rolling in from all parts of  
the US, so find someone to travel with  
and come on out to TEXAS!

We are going have some Great Fun!  
and Eat a lot!

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***"Veterans RVing Together"***



SMART is a not-for-profit 501(c)19 Veterans Organization

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## *A Message from your SMART President*

We are currently on the Louisiana Food & Music Tour. Johnny & Linda Leggett have poured their heart and soul into this caravan and we have all been having a high old time. There have been all kinds of food delights and music entertainment. We have learned so much about Louisiana and the different parts of this intriguing state. Many people on the caravan have formed lasting friendships as we have traveled the bayous, the Mississippi River, and many places of delight and wonderment. It's been marvelous and I hate to see it come to an end. Gladly, however, the Planes, Trains, Automobiles & Ships caravan will begin in June. More great adventures to come and friendships to make. You gotta love this club!

Speaking of caravans, have you filled out the travel survey on the SMART website? In order to plan caravans that YOU want, you have to tell us where YOU want to go. Please. Take a moment and complete the travel survey. Both you and your significant other need to complete the survey, provided you are both members. There are over 800 people in this club and only 70 have filled out a survey so far. I know we can do much better than that. The travel program is here for you. Make it so it gives you what you want.

As we have traveled around Louisiana, we have taken the time to share the news about SMART with anyone who will listen. We've left flyers in laundry rooms and posted signs in community areas. Johnny has presented several campgrounds with certificates of appreciation which they will post on their walls. Members of the caravan have worn various items of military paraphernalia that advertise our status. When we wear our swingers around town, folks ask us what we are all about. There is so much interest in our group and what we are doing.

The National Muster will be here in a few short months. If you haven't registered for it yet, you better get to it. There's only so much room to fit everyone. In addition, those who register early will qualify for the early bird drawing. There are lots of interesting seminars and games planned for this year's activities. This year's national muster team has been working hard to be sure we all have a great time. You don't want to miss it.

***Melody Thomas, SMART National President***



## **A note from your 1st Vice President :**

As I write this article I am preparing for our upcoming Alaska Caravan and the 2026 Fall Colors Caravan.

In viewing the SMART Website and looking at all the new and exciting Caravans I can see why folks sign up early so they don't miss out on all the fun and excitement on Caravans.

I would encourage you to check out these Caravans, sign up and get ready to explore new adventures along with your fellow SMART members.

Additionally, the SMART National Muster this September in Mineola Texas is rapidly approaching and as you start making your summer travel plans, please consider joining us to enjoy all the fun, seminars, games and fellowship.

Finally, I ask that we all continue to recruit new members and retain our valuable and experienced present members. We need everyone on "The Team" This is the best Travel Club because of YOU!! Travel safe See you at National. ***David Weis 1st V P***



## From the desk of your 2nd Vice President—Joe Noonan

**The 2025 National Muster** is drawing nearer, and it will be upon us very soon. The time to sign up to attend is now and especially prior to **May 1<sup>st</sup>**. Early attendee registrations may result in your Muster fee being refunded in a drawing. The Board of Directors is looking forward to seeing everyone in Mineola, TX, on September 19, 2025.

Our Muster schedule is jam packed with items of interest for all to enjoy. Mineola has a large number of areas to visit, and we have three tours planned based on input from our members. The number of members signing up for the tours has been impressive. The first edition of the resurrected Mineola Messenger was published on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The Mineola Messenger is located on the SMART website with the Muster Schedule. We have received numerous compliments regarding the information in the Messenger. A special thank you to our SMART President for preparing the Mineola Messenger.

This past month was the first time our new member applications exceeded the number of lost members in an exceptionally long time. Thank you to everyone who has made a special effort to recruit. One of our main goals is to increase our membership every day. I am available via my Email, [joe.noonan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joe.noonan@sbcglobal.net), for any questions, comments, suggestions, or feed back to continue regarding recruiting for SMART. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

I want to invite all our SMART members to review both the Muster schedule and Mineola Messenger to answer any questions regarding our Muster in Mineola. Both the Muster Master, Richard Palmer, and I, Joe Noonan, as the Muster Chair, are available to answer questions or to receive your comments.

Thank you to all members for your hard work and continued support to SMART.

*Joe Noonan 2nd VP*

**Join the I-GOT-ONE campaign!** Anyone who recruits one new person to SMART membership will receive this special pin.

These are awarded during the ceremonies at **SMART National Musters**. Let's see a long line of awardees in Mineola, Texas!



**SMART is a Not-for-Profit 501(c)(19) Veterans' Organization**, and gifts are tax deductible. Consider a lifetime gift for a tax deduction. Donate the RMD from your annuity to SMART and you won't have to pay any tax on it. You can also consider an after-death gift to SMART in your will or trust, or name SMART as a beneficiary of part of your estate.



## **2025 CENTRAL REGIONAL MUSTER**

**MAY 2025**

Early arrival dates May 9th and 10th and 11th

**Muster opens May 12th, with closing on May 16th**

departing on May 17th .



For those of you that will be there on May 10th, we are looking at attending a small dinner theater in Carthage, Stone's Throw Dinner Theater (Dutch Treat). If you would like more information, please contact Nita Taylor.

**Sunday, May 11th is Mother's Day and we will be having a potluck to celebrate! We will be furnishing the meat and we are asking the guys to cook the sides.**

**Come join us for the fun!**

*Games and tournaments will be provided by Joe Padberg, Diane Pepperell and Paul Thomas of the Nomads Chapter, and will include Card Bingo, L-R-C, Hand and Foot, Bean Bag Baseball, and U.S. Trivia. Be sure to sign up for Hand and Foot and Bean Bag Baseball at registration.*

**Please see the Central Region Web page for more information and the online registration form.**

**Make camping Reservations with Coachlight RV Park, Carthage, MO.**

**Call: 417-358-7444.**

Nita Taylor, Region Director

SMART Central Regional

501-250-6585

[philnita.taylor@gmail.com](mailto:philnita.taylor@gmail.com)

# National Resume submitted for 2nd Vice for 2025-2026



**DATE:** 25 February 2025

**TO:** SMART Board of Directors

**FROM:** Joseph G Padberg #15164

**SUBJ:** Application for Position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

I do hereby apply for and accept the nomination for the office of 2nd Vice President. I agree to meet all required responsibilities if elected. By affixing my name below, I certify that I accept responsibility for the position if elected, that I possess the capability and willingness to serve in this position, and that I am aware of the provisions of section 6.11 of the Bylaws concerning compensation.

My military background includes 6 years of service in the Air National Guard. As a reservist, I built dual careers – one on the civilian side and another in the armed forces.

As a civilian, I held leadership positions in sales and Program management and Project management across several industries. Leading a variety of teams handling communications systems, wastewater management and the personnel elevator industries. Additionally, I was responsible for the reorganization of our department from a hierarchical structure to a smaller group/team structure.

As an airman, I was trained in the installation and repair of Ground Radio equipment. I utilized this training with my civilian skills to lead several teams in the relocation and setup of ground radio equipment, relocation of a reservist control tower and the installation of cable required to meet these moves.

I have a history of working with volunteer organizations. As a lay leader in my local church, I served on various committees including the development of an integrated outreach program. I assumed leadership in my model railroad club and directed the strong bond between our club and the local historical society that provided our home base.

My partner and I joined SMART in 2020. I have been the Secretary for the Nomads Chapter for two years and am currently serving as the chapter President. We actively search for local chapter musters as we travel across the country, joining several as we visit their musters. I am the Muster Master for both of my home state chapters, the Arizona Tumbleweeds and the Arizona Roadrunners. Along with my partner, we have completed 5 SMART caravans and are currently scheduled for two more this year. We continue to investigate opportunities to assist SMART, whether as volunteers at a National, Regional, or local muster or to assist with future caravans.

I believe I possess the capability and willingness to serve effectively. I have worked with volunteers and am a proven leader. I have done recruiting, managed budgets, written official documents, supervised personnel, engaged in planning, created training materials, and taught a variety of students in many business situations.

I believe strongly in SMART and wish to see it succeed. I will work hard with my fellow officers to build membership through active recruitment and educational activities. My goal as the 2nd VP would be to assist Regional Directors and Chapter Presidents in learning the requirements of their respective positions. I would like to host training sessions during the National Muster, with follow-up during the ensuing year.

**Respectfully submitted, Joseph G Padberg**



# **“Two Step to TEXAS”**



**Mineola, TEXAS Civic Center RV Park**

**September 15th—19th, 2025**

**(Early arrival 10th Sept)**

**Come and join in all the**

**FUN! FOOD! & EXCITING ENTERTAINMENT!**

**[SmartRVing.org](http://SmartRVing.org)**

## **SIGN UP TODAY!**

### **National Tour #1 TEXAS Freshwater Fisheries Center**

Thursday Sept 11, 8am-2pm

\$35 per person, Transportation Included

(lunch available at additional cost)

### **National Tour # 2 East Texas Oil Museum**

Friday Sept 12th, 9am-2pm

\$35 per person, Transportation Included,

(lunch available at additional cost)

### **National Tour # 3 Caldwell Zoo and Tyler TX Rose Garden & Museum**

Saturday Sept 13th 9am-4pm

\$60 per person, Lunch Included, Transportation Included.



## Greetings from the Cajuns!

The entire State of Louisiana rolled out the welcome mat for the Louisiana Food and Music Caravan! The people of Louisiana greeted the nineteen out of state rigs with plenty of food, music, and good times. The caravan benefited from local knowledge of the wagon master and others to provide experiences that would not be found unless on a SMART caravan.

Sure, you could use Google to go to a world heritage center or book a ride on the Natchez which is the **ONLY** steam powered paddle wheeler on the Mississippi, but you would not have known about where to go for breakfast with a live Zydeco band at 8 AM or a Mardi Gras mask making class in a sewing shop or a bunch of other things caravanners saw and did.

The Caravanners stayed busy with many things that were described with phrases such as the World's longest, Nation's tallest (grave and state capitol), Oldest in the Americas, etc., etc. They ate meat pies, tamales, BBQ, pizza, jambalaya, gumbo, sauce picante, etouffee, crawfish, alligator, oysters, and more. They heard



live music at every stop. Everyone agreed that Louisiana ain't like Mississippi or any place else.

If you missed this caravan, you could still find many exciting SMART things to do this summer. Sign up for a caravan! If it is full, get on the waiting list. Chances are good that you will be able to go.



And there's more! There are musters happening everywhere. Meet us at the National muster in Mineola and help us plan future caravans. I challenge anyone who is proud of their state to follow the example of the Louisiana Food and Music Caravan and provide a unique caravan of your home state. **Johnny Leggett**



## FAMCAMPS OUTSIDE MILITARY BASE SECURITY ZONES

Recently I had conversations with some Veteran RV owners who were not retired military but do hold VA ID cards. Those card holders were granted permission in 2023 to have access to Post Exchanges and Commissaries as well as MWR and Outdoor Recreation facilities. Depending on each military base security restrictions, some locations are not easily accessible with only VA cards and require advance approval. Because of fluctuating security rules, below is a current list of RV Fampcamps located outside security zones and accessible by any Veteran who makes a reservation. At check-in, the card holder must present their VA ID to either the host or staff. It's highly recommended that reservations and payment confirmation is provided on arrival.

1. **Pacific Beach, WA** – This Navy Recreation area is directly on the Pacific Ocean. It has RV sites with full hook ups and cabins for rent. Beautiful but windy area.
2. **Oxnard, CA** – US Coast Station Channel Island is a small 20 site RV Park with only water and electric but has a dump station. Mostly full with active duty but sites do open for short stays. Located in a residential area with waterfront across the street. Adjacent to Port Hueneme Navy Support Base which does have checkpoints.
3. **Coronado, CA** – Naval Air Station, also known as Fiddlers Cove Marina and RV Famcamp. Home to Top-Gun, expensive but great views and full hookups.
4. **Flagstaff, AZ** – Fort Tuthill at Luke AFB Recreation area. All rv sites with hookups. Tent areas and cabins are available too.
5. **El Paso, TX** – Fort Bliss Famcamp is adjacent to family housing areas and the BX Mini Mart gas station. Full hookups but sites near the road are noisy. Full commissary and post exchange on base.
6. **Great Falls, MT** – Malstrom AFB has 2 Famcamps, Gateway Campground is off base near the main gate with a laundry room and bathhouse. RV sites have water and power and a central dump station. The Annex Famcamp is on base with full hookups at all sites. Mostly AD staying there so sites fill up fast. Both are convenient to I-15.
7. **Louisville, KY** – Ft. Knox, 2 Famcamps with Camp Carlson off base. Full hookups and nice campsites and new cabins are available. On base rv park is new and across from the Post Exchange.
8. **Concord, MA** – Hanscom AFB Famcamp is near the runway off base and entered from a residential area. Full hookups. Some boondock areas too.
9. **Cartersville, GA** – Navy Recreation Lake Allatoona. Located off I-75 30mins north of Atlanta. All sites with water/electric and a central dump station.
10. **Hinesville, GA** – Ft Stewart also known as Holbroke Pond and Recreation Famcamp is in a remote area of the base with public access. Across the street from Base Equestrian Center. Full hookups.
11. **Wilmington (Kure Beach), NC** – Blakeslee AF Recreation Park is operated by Seymour Johnson AFB. Nice cabins and full hookup at all RV sites. Walking distance to the beach.
12. **Key West, FL** – The Naval Air Station Famcamp is one of the largest in the system with 525 sites. However, only 90 have hookups, others are for boondocking. Its divided into 3 sections, Sigsby Island is the location for the Famcamp Office, exchange, commissary, marina, storage lots, laundry room, bath house, gas station, and base housing. Its open to the public. Other areas are the Truman Annex and Trumbo Point with only boondocking. Both are in secure gated areas.

However, only 90 have hookups, others are for boondocking. Its divided into 3 sections, Sigsby Island is the location for the Famcamp Office, exchange, commissary, marina, storage lots, laundry room, bath house, gas station, and base housing. Its open to the public. Other areas are the Truman Annex and Trumbo Point with only boondocking. Both are in secure gated areas.

Access to these locations is subject to change based on security conditions at each facility. Always call ahead and have reservation information handy when you arrive. Hope to keep this updated in future issues. Also don't forget to fill out a review and vote for Famcamp of the Year.

Mike Caldwell #9178



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Contact Lisa Mannon: [lmannon@bwdc.com](mailto:lmannon@bwdc.com) or call (443) 664-3375 to reserve your spot today!

### From the Desk of the Chaplain:

The weather here in Florida is Spring and beautiful. I hope you are experiencing beautiful weather and you are out and about.

We have not been out in our camper. Le and I are experiencing health issues. It seems old age has set in; I have heard of a couple more like us. I hope we are all putting love and prayers on those having health issues. Now we have to find new members to fill those lost members places. When we get a new member we must work to make sure we are very friendly and include them quickly in all that we do.

We have different folks with different faiths but I feel we can all get together and have fun and enjoy the land we protect and love. Call or send a card to anyone you hear is having issues and volunteer, help other veterans, pass on your hope and happiness. Attend church and love one another.

**Shelene Armacost National Chaplain**



### SMART COOKBOOKS ON SALE

A collection of SMART members recipes for Camping. Appetizers, Beverages, Deserts, Hors d' oeuvres, Potlucks, and more....

On Sale \$5.00

# 2026 SMART CARAVANS

## 2026 Fall Colors

**Start:** October 05, 2026    **End:** October 26, 2026

Join us in beautiful Niagara Falls, New York on October 5th as we start our exciting and picturesque Fall Colors Caravan. We'll have our Welcome Dinner, Tour Niagara Falls on the American & Canadian side and experience a ride on the "Maid of Mist" sightseeing tour boat. We will then travel to Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Mass and Connecticut to see the beautiful fall colors.



**Wagon Master(s):** David & Jackie Weis    Email: [dweis74@hotmail.com](mailto:dweis74@hotmail.com)

**Tailgunners:** Melissa Wade & Phyllis Enfinger    [smart@smartrving.org](mailto:smart@smartrving.org)

**Costs - Single Cost:** TBD    **Couple Cost:** TBD    **Guest Cost:** TBD

**Payments:** \$300 upon application; 50% by April 05, 2026; and full payment by July 05, 2026.

**There are 6 openings.**

After Niagara Falls, we'll travel to Ticonderoga, New York where we'll visit Fort Ticonderoga, a premiere destination for learning about American Military history. The fort offers a variety of activities including tours, demonstrations, and reenactments. Fort Ticonderoga is special for its capture in 1775 being the first American victory of the Revolutionary War.

We'll visit Colchester, Vermont, Carroll, New Hampshire, Freedom, New Hampshire, Freeport, Maine, and Mystic, Connecticut. Along with beautiful scenery we'll enjoy a Gondola Ride, view covered bridges, ride the Conway Scenic Railway, ride the iconic Cog railway up Mt. Washington and visit the LL Bean Flagship store. We certainly won't visit Maine without a delicious lobster feast. Go on Whale Watching Tour! Tour Cape Cod, Mass. then on to Our final visit will be Mystic, Connecticut where we'll spend the day at the entertaining and interesting Mystic Seaport Museum and visit Groton Submarine Force Museum. Our final farewell dinner will be a seafood feast in Mystic Connecticut. These are just a few of the many activities being planned for the Fall Colors Caravan. We are limited to 18 RV's so now is the time to send in your Caravan application.

## 2026 Heart of it All Caravan

**Start:** July 15, 2026    **End:** August 14, 2026

You asked for something different so come join us and experience "The Heart of it All" throughout Ohio and Pennsylvania. We will begin with a dinner cruise on the Ohio River. There will be signs, signs, everywhere a sign - in a museum! (Did you sing that phrase?)

**Wagon Master(s):** Tony & Gina Mason    Email: [fresno63@hotmail.com](mailto:fresno63@hotmail.com)

**Tail Gunner(s):** Joe & Pam Faubion    Email: [painthrse@hotmail.com](mailto:painthrse@hotmail.com)

**Estimated Costs - Single Cost:** \$3,999    **Couple Cost:** \$4,999    **Guest Cost:** \$1,599

**Payments:** \$300 upon application; 50% by January 15, 2026; and full payment by April 15, 2026.

**There are openings still left!**

The history of aviation and the largest collection of Presidential Airplanes is in WPAFB. Central Ohio has ancient Indian mounds to explore. The National Museum of the Great Lakes is calling. You'll explore Kelly's Island, Inscription Rock and Put-In-Bay with Admiral Perry's Victory and Peace Memorial. The longest stretch of unguarded international border is here.

Our next city offers the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the house from "A Christmas Story", an international foodie tour in the market and the USS Cod Submarine Memorial. We'll tour Cuyahoga National Park via the scenic railroad. You'll visit one of the only First Ladies Libraries and the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Amish country offers fabulous food. Have you ever been to an Amish comedy show?

You'll be treated to elevated views of Pittsburgh aboard an aerial tram and tour the grounds of the famous Falling Waters home. Fort Ligonier is a world class museum from the French and Indian War that we will explore. We will end the caravan with a BOOM experiencing a reenactment of the D-Day invasion! The caravan will end a day's drive from the 2026 SMART National Muster.

## 2026 Yellowstone Plus

**Start:** June 22, 2026    **End:** August 06, 2026

Prepare to experience an epic trip to some of the most iconic destinations in North America! Beginning in Wyoming, the caravan will travel through Montana, North Dakota and end in South Dakota.

**Wagon Master(s):** Melody & Paul Thomas    Email: [thomas4smart@gmail.com](mailto:thomas4smart@gmail.com)

**Tail Gunner(s):** Joe Padberg & Diane Pepperell    Email: [Padberg4smart@gmail.com](mailto:Padberg4smart@gmail.com)

**COSTS - Single Cost:** \$5,800    **Couple Cost:** \$7,700    **Guest Cost:** \$2,000

**Payments:** \$300 upon application; 50% by December 22, 2025; and full payment by March 22, 2026.

**This caravan is full. You will be number 4 on the wait list.**

Over approximately 45-days, we will visit bucket list places like Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse, Little Bighorn, Grand Teton, Yellowstone, Badlands, Black Hills, Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Devil's Tower, Wall Drug, Custer State Park, and more.

Towns to be explored will include Jackson Hole, Medora, Sturgis, Deadwood, Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Helena, Butte, Billings, and Great Falls. We'll see a rodeo, experience a chuckwagon supper and show, visit the biggest open copper mine pit in the world, take a float trip down the Snake River, marvel at Prairie Dog Town, learn about Kevin Costner's Dances with Wolves film set and Tatanka Buffalo Museum, take an old time train ride, experience a pitchfork barbecue, tour a bear center, watch Old Faithful blow, and stand on the richest hill in the world. Get ready for the trip of a lifetime!

## 2026 Western Caribbean Cruise

**Start:** February 22, 2026    **End:** March 01, 2026

Join us in 2026 on our 2nd SMART Rally at Sea. We will sail aboard the Regal Princess. We will board in Galveston, TX. Cruise to Cozumel, Costa Maya, Roatan, and Honduras.

**Wagon Master(s):** Tony & Gina Mason    Email: [fresno63@hotmail.com](mailto:fresno63@hotmail.com)

Prices include several FREE Perks including: Free Wi-Fi, Beverages Packages. SMART members, your family and friends are welcome to join you on this great cruise!

SMART Rally Fee \$125 per cabin must be paid directly to SMART. More information and registration form may be found at <http://1b59a9-6042.icpage.net/smartrv2026galvestonecruise>

We have 12 cabins booked, we have 72 openings at this time.

Please go to our website to get a full description of each caravan

[www.SmartRVing.org](http://www.SmartRVing.org)

These caravans will fill up fast so go to our website and sign up Today!

Register, and pay your \$300 deposit to hold your spot.



**Welcome and Congratulations**  
**to the following New Members and their Recruiters**  
**(March & April 2025)**

		<b>Region</b>	<b>(Recruiter)</b>
15905	Marty Claytor (Betty)	Waverly, TN	
15906	Betty Claytor (Marty)	Waverly, TN	
15907	Bruce Partin	Crane Hill, AL	L McClure
15908	Rob Shelton (Melanie)	Polk City, FL	T Mason
15909	Melanie Shelton (Rob)	Polk City, FL	T Mason
15910	Giancarlo Cuciz (Barbara)	Brentwood, CA	J Adams
15911	Barbara Cuciz (Giancarlo)	Brentwood, CA	J Adams
15912	John Waugh (Kathleen Rodolph)	Litchfield, AZ	
15913	Kathleen Rodolph (John Waugh)	Litchfield, AZ	
15914	James Norman (Colleen)	Lady Lake, FL	J Steinbauer
15915	Colleen Norman (James)	Lady Lake, FL	J Steinbauer
15916	Juan Reyes (Margaret)	Castroville, TX	J Adams
15917	Margaret Reyes (Juan)	Castroville, TX	J Adams
15918	Lynn Steed (Dennis)	Mendenhall, MS	D Steed
15919	Douglas Cool (Gail Haldy)	Lititz, PA	Paul Moniz
15920	Ralph Ramirez (Mari)	Tucson, AZ	Erwin Greven
15921	Mari Ramirez (Ralph)	Tucson, TZ	Erwin Greven
15922	Ronnie Macaraeg (Digna)	Woodbridge, VA	Lou Finkle
15923	Linda Coates (Frank)	St. Amant, LA	F Coates
15924	Gail Haldy (Douglas Cool)	Lititz, PA	D Cool
15925	Livinia Espinosa (Larry)	Pueblo, CO	Larry Espinosa
15926	Mike Pezzula	Rome, NY	

**Welcome!**

## SMART Merchandise

Thermal Wine Mugs w/SMART logo \$12

SMART Decals

6" \$2,

3" \$1

Navy Blue SMART Men's Cap \$12

Car Tags \$5

**NEW** "ARE You a VETERAN" Stickers \$2

New Canvas Bags are back \$15.00

Order online at [SmartRVing.org](http://SmartRVing.org)



## CHAPTER AND REGION NEWS



**AT-LARGE REGION Jackie Weis Region Director**  
**NOMADS,**  
**SMART FMCA , STAR, WIMS**



Spring is here. And it's time to wake up the rigs. It's also time to show what the STAR chapter is about. We are Smart Tops At Recruiting. HQ has plenty of Travelers and recruiting pamphlets for you to just request a box of them. If you haven't already done so, it's time to get your registration in for the National. We have great tours planned and at this time they are filling up. Don't miss out.

Richard Palmer, IMT Past President, MWRD, STAR Chapter President, and 2025 SMART National Muster Master

*The STAR Chapter (SMART Tops at Recruiting) is looking for a few good recruiters. Bring in five new members to SMART and you will be invited to join the STAR chapter. Inductees to the STAR chapter receive one free year dues to SMART.*



## **WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE (WIMS) CHAPTER NEWS**

The WIMS Chapter is composed of women who served in the military. We usually gather once a year during the national muster where we share a potluck, hold a meeting, and enjoy each other's company. This year, we are looking to increase the number of times WIMS members can meet. The chapter will be meeting during the Central Region Muster in Carthage, MO from May 12-18. If you are interested in joining us, go online and register for the muster. Let's have some fun together!



## **EAST REGION: Lonnie Alley Region Director,**

### **Assistant RD: Bill Hastings**

**Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, DC, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida**



*I would like to extend a hearty welcome to all new members in the Eastern Region and a sad farewell to those who have left. I encourage all members who are not in a chapter to join. You will find the comradery and friendship rewarding.*

*I am pleased to announce the location for the 2026 Regional Muster, it will be Coastal Georgia RV Resort in Brunswick, GA, at I-95 exit 29. The dates are 20 to 25 April 2026. Tri-State Travelers Chapter is the host and their Vice President, Joe Kossan is the Muster Master. Watch the Eastern Region web page for updates and registration information.*

*With summer nearly here, travel will be picking up and many will be on the road for longer periods. Please travel safely and I hope to see you at a muster.*

*Lonnie Alley, Eastern Region Director*



Happy spring to all! Now that the weather is warm, it's time to get the rigs moving again. We started our year with the March Muster where we had a good turnout. We welcomed seeing friends we hadn't seen in several months and enjoyed great food, including a corned beef dinner to celebrate St Patrick's day. We also learned a new game called Nickles. Great fun. Next up is a trip to SC to New Green Acres in May (19-23). Come visit us.

The planning for the 2026 Regional Muster is in full swing. Tri-State Travelers chapter is hosting. It will be held at Coastal Georgia Resort and Campground in Brunswick GA in April. Information will be available as the year progresses.

We welcome any member of SMART to attend any of our musters, which are listed on the SMART website under Tri-State Travelers. Weather permitting, we have games and/or sight-seeing during the day and a firepit during cooler times, where we can sit around the fire and enjoy the camaraderie of being together again. We also play indoor games in the evening, dominoes, hand and foot cards, occasionally poker and card bingo. One night we have a pot-luck dinner with great recipes, with more food than we can handle. Please sign up on the SMART web to attend. We look forward to seeing new faces.

**Gail Alley, Secretary/Treasurer**



## **Sunshine Chapter**

The Florida Sunshine Chapter is composed of folks from southern Georgia and folks from Florida as far south as Dade City. Our musters are usually held in central Florida or Southern Georgia. We have a muster coming up in Perry, Florida April 23. Upon approval of the Sunshine members we are liable to have a muster anywhere in Florida or Georgia.

We are always interested in going different places if the RV Sites are reasonably priced. We love to have guests at our musters, so keep an eye on the National Website to see when our musters will be. We would enjoy having you. Who knows it may even be in an RV park near you! Our musters usually include great food, cards, games and local historical sites if close by. And of course Good fellowship and conversations always. Come join us! **Steve Colt—President**



**CENTRAL REGION: Nita Taylor Region Director,  
Assistant: Terry Johnson**

**Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana,  
Ohio, Missouri, Kentucky, Arkansas, Tennessee, Louisi-  
ana, Mississippi, Alabama, NW Florida Panhandle**



## **2025 Central Region Muster**

**Come celebrate Mother's Day with us!**

**Where: Coachlight RV Park, Carthage, MO.**

**Make your reservations with the campground at 417-358-7444.**

**Early arrivals will arrive on May 9, 2025 and we will celebrate Mother's Day on Sunday May 11th with a potluck dinner. The meat will be provided by the Region, and we are challenging the guys to fix the sides!**

**Come join the fun!**

**Opening ceremonies will be on Monday, May 12th with closing on Friday, May 16th. Departure will be Saturday, May 17th .**

**We are looking for volunteers to help us with the organization details, please contact Nita Taylor, Central Region Director, if you can donate your special talents.**

**Email is [philnita.taylor@gmail.com](mailto:philnita.taylor@gmail.com),**

**or cell number 501-250-6585.**

**Registration details are on the SMART web-  
site and watch for updates  
for all the happenings!!**

**[SmartRVing.org](http://SmartRVing.org)**







**The Mississippi Magnolias** just completed an April muster at River View RV Resort in Vidalia, Louisiana, just across the river from Natchez, MS. It's a beautiful setting and we were treated to views of the tugboat river traffic and the steamboat as it docked. As usual the muster was filled with great food, good conversation, interesting sights to see, craft making and a little shopping! It happened that our first couple of days of the muster overlapped with the SMART Louisiana Caravan led by Wagon Master Johnny Leggett, President of SMART Cajuns and a MS Magnolia chapter member. The caravan graciously invited us to share the bounty of two kinds of jambalaya from their cooking class and the price of admission was a dish to share. We had a great time meeting new SMART members and catching up with old friends.

The Mississippi Magnolias will meet monthly for lunch May through September at Sedra Restaurant in Slidell, LA on the first Tuesday each month at 11AM. We have at least nine rigs attending the Regional muster in Carthage, MO in May and six rigs are registered for the National Muster September in Mineola, TX. Our next chapter muster will be our Halloween muster in Breaux Bridge, LA October 19-24, 2025. Come join us for some fun and good food. Information can be found on the SMART website.



*The Magnolias enjoying a dinner at the Crawdaddy's Restaurant in Vidalia, LA.*



*The Magnolias sharing a jambalaya dinner with the Louisiana Food and Music Caravan*



**MIDWEST REGION: PP Richard Palmer Region Director,  
Montana, North Dakota, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska,  
Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas**



## **A SPECIAL INVITATION to You, The SMART Texans are celebrating their 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

May 15 – 18, at the American RV Park in Corsicana, TX. We would like to invite any SMART members traveling through our area to attend our celebration. You can register on the SMART website. Registration fee is \$50 per couple. Camping is \$40 per rig. Reservations at the RV Park can be made by calling 903-872-0233 and identifying yourself as a SMART member. Come celebrate with us. It's going to be a great big party!



### **SMART Texans**

The SMART Texans held their Spring Muster at Brazos Valley RV Park in Caldwell, TX on April 3rd through 6th. Muster activities started with our usual Attitude Adjustment, followed by a meal prepared by Jan Schnoor, Texans President, of meatloaf, mashed potatoes and sauteed green beans with almonds and several different desserts. 50/50 tickets were sold dur-



ing the evening and raffle tickets were also sold for a chance to win an Easter Wine Country Basket. A game of Left Right Center was played. Friday morning started out with fresh hot coffee and a breakfast of scrambled eggs, bacon and French toast. A hardy breakfast was required to start out on the activity of the day. The muster attendees carpooled to Washington on the Brazos State Park. The Visitors Center was under refurbishment but there was much to see and do

there. A group photo was taken standing in a field of beautiful blue bonnets. A gravel trail led to various historical and scenic areas overlooking the Brazos River. This location is very significant to Texas, as the meeting hall building where the Declaration of Independence for Texas was drafted and signed. We then carpooled to Brenham, TX to visit the Blue Bell Creamery and watch the production of their famous ice cream. Their slogan is very appropriate "An Adventure in Every Spoonful". Veterans got a free dip of ice cream and believe me, to pick one flavor was difficult. After having our dessert first, the muster attendees headed back to the RV park for a needed nap. In the evening the group gathered together for dinner at the Texas Seafood and Steak House restaurant in Caldwell. The food and comradery were exceptional. After dinner everyone gathered back at the rally hall for a game of Card





Saturday morning started off again with a breakfast of SOS on toast, quiche, fruit and juice prepared by Mike and Linda Mosley. A Muster Meeting was held directly after breakfast so events for the day could start early. The group gathered again to carpool to Bryan, TX to visit the famous Messina Hof Estate Winery for the wine tasting. What a beautiful estate that had a restaurant and lodging. Two large tables were reserved for



the 16 Texans attending for the tasting. For \$25, a tasting of 5 wines could be selected from their extensive wine list. There was also an optional food menu available with charcutier boards and different flat bread boards. After the tasting, if you selected 6 wines for purchase, the \$25 tasting fee was waived. There were a lot of 6 packs of wine variety's that left the winery to head back

to the rv park for another evening meal of BBQ brisket, baked beans and potato salad prepared by Texans VP, Rickey Hasley. After dinner the 50/50 drawing was held with three lucky winners receiving a prize of either \$30, \$20 or \$10. The other half of the proceeds will be donated to the Texans designated charity, The Watkins Logan Veterans Home in Tyler, TX. The drawing for the Easter Wine Country Basket was won by new Texans member Jim Correia. After a very busy and fun weekend, the evening wound down and attendees shared hugs and goodbyes as most would be heading home early on Sunday. **Jan Schoonor**



**WESTERN REGION : Mike Foley, Region Director,**  
**Assistant: Greg Vassallo**  
**Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho,**  
**California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona,**



Hello all - I hope everyone had a wonderful Easter. Spring is finally here after a long winter, so it's time to get your rigs checked out and dust off the cobwebs and get to RVing! Lots of good information on the SMART Web page to include chapter's musters, caravans and other useful information. We still need to recruit. We need new members. So, if you know of anyone or see an RV with military decals approach them and ask them if they are interested in joining a great group of veterans. We all speak the same lingo as we were all in the military at one time or another. Have a great month in May and be safe on the roads. **Mike Foley, WRD**



**Hello all - Spring has sprung** after a long cold and wet winter. Time to get those RV's on the road and start traveling. Golden Gate is having a muster Jun 8th to Jun 13th at the Gold Ranch Casino & RV park in Verdi, NV. If you happen to be in the area please stop by and say hello, better yet, RSVP and come and join us for a week of great fellowship and food. All information can be found on the SMART Web page including the point of contact. So dust off your RV and check everything out and get on the road and have fun. Safe

Travels to all.

**Mike Foley President Golden Gate Chapter**



# SMART

## Application for Membership



### Applicant Information

LAST name:	First:	Initial:	Spouse/Companion:
Mailing address:	City:	State:	Zip:
Home phone: ( ) —	Cell phone: ( ) —	Email address:	

SMART is a 501(c)(19) Not- for-profit Veterans Organization and required to have the following information on each member

Branch of service:	Year entered service:	Year service ended:
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### Name Badge Info

**Instructions:** On the first line, enter your preferred first & last name. The second line is optional and may contain what you want others to know about you, e.g., city, state or branch of service or chapter names you belong too.

**Note:** A member badge comes with the New Member Packet, and your co-member's badge may be purchased for \$8.50.

Member first & last:	Spouse/Companion first & last:
Member second line:	Spouse/Companion second line:

### Membership Fees

<b>Member</b>	Who referred you?	His/her name:	His/her SMART #:
Veteran: Active, retired, or honorably discharged from US Military Service, or as a commissioned officer of NOAA or USPHS; or military service of Canada, NATO/SEATO member nation.			
Circle all that apply to the member: Active Retired Reserve/Guard Honorably Discharged Veteran Recipient of Medal of Honor Canadian Veteran NOAA USPHS NATO/SEATO			
Annual dues: \$65 (plus one time \$15 new member packet)			<b>\$80.00</b>

### Spouse/Companion

With privileges of membership for spouse \$30: (Spouse/Companion)

If Spouse is also a Veteran, please fill in information about Spouse below:

(Must include required 501(c)(19) not-for-profit information below)

Branch of Service: Year entered service: Year service ended:

Your Spouse or Companion will want to join with you to have National voting rights, the ability to hold the position up to Regional director, and became eligible to win door prize drawings.

Spouse/Comp \$30	30.00
His/her badge \$8.50	8.50
Total Enclosed	118.50

**"I certify with honor that the information I have provided is true and correct."**

Applicant signature:	Date:
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----- Cut here: Retain for your records -----



<b>Fees Payable to: SMART</b> Phone: 800-354-7681		<b>Mail to: SMART, 114 Duxbury Ave, Molino, FL 32577</b> Email: smart@smartrving.org Web: www.smartrving.org	
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My SMART contact:	From:		
Contact phone #: ( ) —	Contact email:		
Approved: 4 APR 2016: Previous versions are obsolete and should be discarded			



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**\*\*\*\*\*Thank you for reading our TRAVELER, please pass it on to a Veteran you know.\*\*\*\*\***

**S.M.A.R.T. is a Military Veterans RVing Travel Club.**  
**We are a non-profit veteran RV Travel Club. We have chapters across the US. Active, Retired & Honorably Discharged Veterans & Spouses can join. We have Caravans to awesome places in the US, Mexico, Canada and even Cruises at great prices.**  
**So, Join today and join in on our FUN!**



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**SMART**

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