

Ohio Valley Post National Update

5 October 2023

Hi All,

Just wanted to provide everyone an update after we got back home and caught up on chores. The National went very well with no major issues. Ohio Valley was extremely well represented with ten rigs attending. Two more were scheduled to attend but had problems that prevented them from coming. Thanks to all who attended as it made for a fun group. We gained some new members as well with Donald and Marsha Wiesehan joining at the National. I also pulled in Frank and Susan Staley, and Jerry and Marge Melton off the "not in a chapter list" because they live in Tennessee. First year dues are free so it will give them a chance to check us out.

One of the biggest changes that came out of the Board of Directors Meeting was the elimination of the north regions. So Ohio Valley and the Minnesota Voyageurs are now part of the new Central Region. Nita Taylor from Arkansas Hogs is the Regional Director. That means there are again just 5 regions in SMART: East; Central; Midwest; West; and At-Large.

David Wise is again 2nd Vice President for SMART. He is a past president but when no one was interested in running for the office, David agreed to do it again. If you have done many caravans you have probably met David as he and his wife Jackie love to lead caravans. They also successfully ran this year's National.

All appears to be on track to have next year's National run by the East Region in Ladson, SC (near Charleston) from 16-21 September 2024. The 2025 National will be run by the Midwest Region and is currently planned in Mineola, Texas during Sept 2025. The Central Region should be next in the rotation so will be on the hook to host the 2026 National.

Check out the new October E-News on the SMART Home page. It has lots of pictures from this year's National. Also, information on the Caravans that are planned for the next couple years.

The Central region will have their 2024 Regional Muster in North Lake Pontchartrain Park over Veterans Day. Details should be out soon. It will be hosted by the SMART Cajuns so should be a lot of fun with great food. Nita says she will be pushing to have the 2025 Regional more in the center of the region and back to its normal time of May 2025. Any ideas are welcome.

At our chapter meeting we discussed several topics. One was next years musters and ideas. I plan to run a muster in Indiana in May working with Larry Lantzer and Kevin Myers. I'd also like to see us put together a muster in Tennessee that would lead into a trip on to the National next year in Ladsen, SC. More will follow on muster but if anyone has any desires on where to go or good dates, please let me know.

A discussion about reforming a chapter in Tennessee led to positive comments and it may happen. Reese Burke and Stephanie Corrington are going to look into the paperwork required. It is hoped that even if the chapter reforms that most members will remain in Ohio Valley as being members of multiple chapters is not only legal it is encouraged. In the past Rocky Top SMARTs co-hosted musters

with Ohio Valley increasing the number who attend and giving both chapters credit for holding musters. When the Rocky Tops folded, their treasury went to Ohio Valley. While much of that money has been spent, we will certainly entertain motions to give part of our treasury back to the new chapter for some seed money. Our dues have been low and needs from HQ high so we are certainly not a rich chapter.

I will remain as president and treasurer of Ohio Valley unless anyone else is willing to take the office. I have probably been president far too long (since 2004) and some fresh ideas would be good. But I won't let the chapter close while I am in SMART so will continue as needed. SMART has lost too many chapters only because no one was willing to hold an office. Reese is currently our Vice President but if he becomes president of the Tennessee chapter, we will be looking for a new VP next year. Linda Ballard's health has forced both her and her husband Wayne to drop out of SMART leaving the secretary position open. Thanks to Terri Bowes for taking notes during our meeting. Let me know if you are interested in the job and I can tell you more about it.

That's about it for now. I will be in touch near the holidays with specifics on who will owe dues for 2024. The new members are exempt, so the list is short. Travel safe and keep in touch.

Ed