

2009 CAMPVENTION EVENING PROGRAMS

A full week of evening programs in the air conditioned exhibition center kicked off Thursday night with singer, August Ponte. She did a high energy country show.

Opening ceremonies took place Friday evening with Luella Sprague as MC. Chaplain, Pat Conley asked the invocation. Eldon Sellers led the U.S. National Anthem and Jack Smye led the Canadian National Anthem. The ribbon was cut by FCRV's International Retiree King & Queen, David and Connie Long and Miss FCRV 2008, Bradleigh Sherry. The Ends were held by Charla Yost and Luella Sprague. FCRV President, Jack Smye declared FCRV's 49th annual Campvention open. Fairgrounds Manager, Mike Riley was presented with an honorary chapter certificate by FCRV. Entertainment was by the Blue and Gray Pickers who involved the audience in their humor and bluegrass and gospel music..

Saturday evening's entertainment was provided by the talents musician / singer, Sarah Michelle Getto from Oklahoma. Blind from birth, she graduated from Oklahoma State University with a music degree. She started self teaching piano at age 3 and also plays the violin, guitar, bass, and autoharp. She performed several of her own songs for FCRV.

Albert Brumley Jr. and Robin did double duty on Sunday performing in the afternoon and again in the evening with a different show. Albert performed his famous father's gospel music as well as songs of his own. This Branson duo delighted the Sunday night audience.

Before the entertainment on Monday night, Youth of the Year, Wildlife Grants, History Scrap Book awards, FCRV Citations and Plaques, Scholarships, and Don and Wilma Plummer received the Hank Nathan Lifetime Achievement Award (separate articles.)

Ventriloquist, Patty Davis had the audience in stitches with her repartee with her several dummies including an ostrich named Lulu. Called on stage for some fun exchanges were DeWayne Johnston, Jack Smye, Larry Buckland, and Dave Hennie.

Tuesday evening began with a concert by the FCRV band with members from 11 to 76. Director Crag Weber quipped that anyone who donated \$50 got to select what music to buy for next year.

This was followed by the Miss FCRV Pageant which ended at 10:30. Fifteen state / provincial teen queens competed and the 2009 Miss FCRV is Kara Cornwell from Kansas (see separate article).

Wednesday night started with the annual meeting. The annual year end financial report will be in a later issue of Camping Today. The 2009 Teen Queen court was introduced. Anew chapter was chartered – Amateur Radio International. Membership

Growth award went to Nova Scotia. Sandy Kendall received the Award of Merit. Shari weber was installed for another term as National Director. The Campvention Steering Committee was introduced – Bobbie & Charla Yost, Luella Sprague, Ken & Paula Green, Earl & Iva Lee Vanderhoff, Gary & Janell O’Neal, Bob & Carolyn Owensby, and Lawrence & Pamela Phillips. They received a standing ovation.

Jack Smye introduced the Trustees and Past Presidents and presented a Past President Flag to Eldon Sellers.

Vickie Roop invited everyone to the 2010 Campvention in Berrian Springs, Michigan. The theme is “Golden Reunion of Family Campers. Site decorating will be ‘Favorite Campvention Memories’ and some old traditions such as swap items will be renewed.

A special video showing various FCRV people enjoying the Campvention was shown. It was shot by Mike Getto, father of Sarah Michelle Getto whose music was used for the video sound track. Copies were made available to FCRV members.

Entertainment was provide by the Duke Mason band. The 46 inch tall performer was not short on talent and personality. He took requests from the audience and was called for two encores. Weldon Segars was in charge of entertainment for Campvention and the venerable Jim Bob Ealey served as MC.

First on the agenda for Thursday night was Teen Sports awards. Teams were made up of members from various states and provinces and individual players received certificates in softball, volleyball, and relay. Adult game winners were also announced (separate article.)

Mary Borton presented the aluminum tab collection results. \$1,505.66 was turned over to the Ronald McDonald House in Columbia, MO. The food bank collected 63 lbs. and \$100 for Sedalia. The brown bag auction raised \$976 to be used for membership building in the South Central West Region. Shopping receipts were collected to show how much FCRVers spent in Sedalia. The drawing winner was Mary Lynhart. Kara Cornwell and Jennifer Gregio restated their pledge to recruit 50 new members for FCRV by next Campvention and challenged each state and province to do the same. Donelle Wilkes presented the parade awards (separate article.)

Weldon Segars gave a report on the collection for military personnel serving in Iraq who do not have access to a px to get personal items. Twenty-one boxes containing 337 lbs. of items were sent out and another 12 were being readied . Monetary donations were also accepted for shipping and item purchase. \$691.85 was collected. The Penthouse Chapter of Texas is doing the ongoing project .Contact Dave & Rita Blair at Ritadave2369@aol.com.

The final night of entertainment was provided by Branson couple, Gordy Wensel and his wife, Debbie Kay. They presented a smooth blend of country, contemporary, and gospel with some comedy characters as well.

Prior to the entertainment, Charla Yost and Luella Sprague thanked their team leaders and volunteers for their hard work and dedication. They also thanked everyone who attended FCRV's 49th Campvention for making it a great one.

Editor's note: Special thanks to Barb Turner, Ron Standiford, and Vickie Roop for their help in covering this Campvention.