

## *Don & Wilma Plummer – Hank Nathan Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients*

Don & Wilma Plummer, Lifetime member from Ohio and Florida were presented with the Hank Nathan Lifetime Achievement Award on July 6<sup>th</sup> at campvention this year.

Don and Wilma joined National Campers & Hikers Association in 1959 and have held a continuous membership since then. They have attended every National Campvention since their first in July 1961 at Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri. They attended the first National Retiree Rally in Harlingen Texas as host committee members from Ohio. They have attended every National Retiree Rally since their 1986 retirement from employment.

Don's and Wilma's activity in national programs began in the early 1960's and continues today. They were appointed to serve on the first committee formed to establish regulations for all National Campventions. For two years in the mid 1960s they were the National Safety Director and were responsible for inspecting all units at campvention for safety violations. In 1967 the Plummers were appointed as the Ohio State Director, a position they held until 1975. Under their leadership over 100 chapters were formed in the state of Ohio. They were also instrumental in the formation and incorporation of Save Earth's Resources Value Ecology (SERVE), an educational scholarship fund for Ohio member's children which still continues to award annual scholarships.

In 1975 Don was elected National Director and held this position until 1983. As National Director, Don was part of the National Board of Trustees. His responsibilities included assisting all state and provincial directors in forming new chapters and training field staff.

As Travelong Directors from 1983 to 1991 Don and Wilma created memorable tours which are still remembered fondly by those who enjoyed them. Their responsibilities included planning, marketing, and participating in the tours leading many members and prospective members on unforgettable experiences. During their eight years in this position they sold just under \$1,000,000 in tours.

Don and Wilma are currently part of the National Retiree Advisory Board. This position they have held since 1990. In this capacity they serve as an advisor to the National Retiree Director and Retiree Rally Coordinators. Don and Wilma have served as hosts of the First Timers at several of the National Retiree Rallies including this year in Arizona. They have served on various committees at the Retiree Rallies including leading devotions at many of the rallies. The retirees have given Don a special name, "Rubber Legs" for his unusual style of dancing.

Many National Campvention Committees have included the Plummers. They were Treasurers for the 2005 campvention in West Virginia. The 1983 campvention at Buck Creek State Park in Ohio they were on the steering committee. At the 1964



campvention in Tamsin Park Ohio they were campfire chairman. Many campvention devotions were led by the Plummers.

The Ohio State Association was formed in 1961. Don and Wilma were elected President of the association in 1963 and held this position until 1967. During this time they laid principle groundwork for many Ohio programs and projects still functioning today. Don and Wilma continue to serve Ohio as a field director for the Southwest District. Additionally they are responsible for the National Full-Timers Chapter.

Don & Wilma are charter members of the Day-Hi-O Trailseekers chapter in Dayton Ohio. They are active in six other chapters in Ohio, Florida and worldwide. This couple has been recognized several times. Many awards have been presented by local chapters and the Ohio State Association. They were inducted into the Ohio State Association Hall of Fame. They received several National Citations. In 1971 they received the organization's top award, the National Plaque. Additionally, they received the National Program Director of the Year Award in 1990 for their work as Travalong Director. They received the first National Award of Merit in 1995. In 2001 they received the National Fun & Fellowship Award. The mysterious Happy Camper at the 2002 campvention in Maine was revealed to be Wilma Plummer.

This couple was also active in their local community. In the Early they served on the Planning Commission in Montgomery County Ohio. They worked to develop multiple outdoor activity locations including proposing camping facility development in the local parks. They were also appointed by Governor James A. Rhodes to the State of Ohio Outdoor Recreational Advisory Committee.

Don and Wilma have also served their church community. They were Youth Directors at the Middle District Church of the Brethren. They were deacons for two different churches. Additionally they were a delegate and the National Conference for their church and served as finance director in two of their churches.

The Hank Nathan Lifetime Achievement Award is an honor reserved for those who have dedicated their camping life to the promotion, development and leadership of the National Campers and Hikers Association doing business as Family Campers and RVers. The nominees for this award should have continually supported and participated on the highest levels of this organization to be eligible for this most prestigious award. Donald and Wilma Plummer not only meet and exceed every criterion to receive this award, they convey their love and devotion to this organization with their continuous participation and leadership abilities.