

Campvention Evening Programs

By
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The stage was decorated in gold and black in honor of FCRV's 50th Campvention and the summer weather and longer daylight hours made the grandstand setting even better. Friday evening was informal with a welcome by MC, Chuck Kutz, the U.S. and Canadian Anthems and a word of prayer.

There was a slight delay in starting the entertainment due to a band member attending a funeral. However, Ernie Givens and the White Lies Band made up for it by doing a longer than usual show which was well received. They did contemporary and classic country as well as some gospel music. They performed their hit recording, 'Jukebox Jumpin' Saturday Night.' A number of people from the audience danced.

Saturday evening began with opening ceremonies at 6:15. Kip Cushing organized the impressive parade of state / provincial flags and posting of the U.S., Canadian, and FCRV flags. Miss FCRV 2009, Kara Cornwell led the singing of the "Star Spangled Banner" and Jack Smye led "Oh Canada" followed by Chaplain, Pat Conley's invocation.

The officials on stage looked impressive in black shirts with gold logos. The ribbon was cut by Don and Wilma Plummer who have attended all 50 Campventions. They were assisted by Miss FCRV, Kara Cornwell, and Retiree King and Queen, Pete and Samie-Jo Schaub. Plummers were presented with a miniature tree covered with \$2 bills. President, Jack Smye introduced the Trustees and their spouses. Marilyn Rausch gave the formal welcome greeting. Vickie Roop introduced the 2010 Steering Committee and Team Leaders and thanked the many volunteers from the Great Lakes Region. Berrien County Youth Fairgrounds Manager, Bruce Foster also welcomed FCRV and in turn was presented with an honorary FCRV charter. Pat Parsley introduced the 34 commercial vendors on grounds.

Pickin' Up Speed, a four piece bluegrass group from Milwaukee provided the evening's entertainment, however they had a problem also in that the bass player accidentally dropped his upright bass before the show and broke the instrument's neck. Fortunately a camper from Florida had the tools and the knowledge to put it back together. They too did some original songs and an extended show.

Sunday evening began with the FCRV Scholarship report by Herb and Marie Petersen. \$138,000 in scholarships have been awarded in the last 10 years. 8 students will share \$10,000 this year. On hand to say thanks were Josh Brayman, CT, Elizabeth Camp, WI, and Kara Cornwell, KS.

National Director, Shari Weber presented the Youth of the Year Award to Jennifer Snodgrass, OH, the Life Saving Award to Joseph Wittmeyer, NY, the Humanitarian Award to John and Joyce Williams, MI and the Chapter of the Year Award to the Explorers, NE.

Entertainment was by ShaeLaurel, a 6 member family (who travel in a motorhome). Their act has been described as 'musical acrobatics.' The younger members did back flips and leapt from the stage. They played all types of music including Chinese and Irish in which they incorporated a tin whistle, harp and bagpipe. The dad got some laughs with his "You might be an RVer" stories."You might be an RVer if your front window has a

wiper or you drive hundreds of miles just to get a state sticker to put on the map on your door.” Two volunteers were pulled from the audience for a dance contest. They were retired ministers Harry Sherry, PA and Walter Shealy, SC. The group got a standing ovation for “The Devil Went Down to Georgia” and another at the end of their show. ANPAC Insurance was a participating sponsor.

Monday evening featured the National Awards presented by Shari Weber and Jack Smye at intermission. They included Citations for Outstanding Service to Morton and Louise Amell, ONT, Dwight and Barb Bonifield, OH, Ralph and Linda Deline, ONT, Ian and Elizabeth Jamieson, ONT, Duane and Ruth Keegan, IL. Plaques, FCRV’s highest honor went to Rudy and Sharon Sandau, ONT and Chuck and Sue Carlsen, MI. The Hank Nathan Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Ray and Jewell Shields of Colorado. See separate articles on awards.

Things started ‘rockin’ when the Britins took the stage. Their Beatles tribute show took everyone back to the 1960’s complete with the Beatles’ look and original type instruments. The arrangements and vocals were also authentic to the audience’s delight. The group wore black suits for the first half of the show and did the music of the early years. For the second half they wore the colorful costumes from the Sergeant Pepper days and played the later music. The Britins received a standing ovation and obliged with an encore. They also stayed for pictures and to meet FCRVers.

Tuesday evening began with the FCRV band sounding better than ever under the direction of Craig Weber. Some new music was played and the “FCRV Song” was unveiled complete with a chorus singing the lyrics set to the melody of “Under the Sea.” Twenty-one members ages 11 to 70 plus took part. The audience donated \$506 to the band.

Al and Joanie Stone announced 7 wildlife grants totaling \$4,500. In the wildlife drawing, Judy Walker, KY won the carved bear and Ruth Monnie, PA won the chair. The highlight of Tuesday evening was the annual Miss FCRV Pageant which ran smoothly, chaired by Tammy Gregio. Crowned as Miss FCRV 2010 was 16 year old Taylor McClelland from Lansing, Michigan. She was also named Miss Talent. First Runner-up was Alysha Funk, 16 from Fostoria, Ohio. Second Runner-up was Caitlin Lewis, 18, of Bristol, Connecticut. Third Runner-up was Alyssa Robb, 16, from Louisville, Kentucky. Fourth Runner-up and Miss Congeniality was Brittany Roy, 16, from Woodstock, Ontario, Canada.

Wednesday was a busy evening with the presentation of gift cards to Miss FCRV 2010 and her court, reports, awards and the business meeting. Tab collection, Camping Is poster, and Site Decorating winners were announced (separate articles). Karen Snodgrass reported that several boxes of toys and \$333 was collected for Berrien County Toys For Tots. Mary Borton announced that the aluminum tab collection brought in \$907.34 for the area’s Ronald McDonald House. The local food bank will receive 193 lbs. of food and \$518 from Campvention. The Schwan’s man donated his profits for the week to FCRV. Marti Price and ANPAC Insurance gave away 3 three year FCRV memberships to Sandy and Ken Kendall, NE, Judy and Ronnie Walker, KY, and Carl & Sue Shuey.

FCRV President, Jack Smye led the annual meeting. He introduced the Trustees and their spouses as well as past presidents in attendance including Bob and Donna Herget

'62-'63, Juanita Woolworth (Don) '74-76, Richard (Pork) and Jan DeCabooter '82-'86, Jim and Barb Turner '96-2000, Larry and Vickie Roop 2000-'04, Eldon and Glenda Sellers 04-'08. Also on stage were Chaplain, Pat Conley and his wife, Kathy and Pete and Samie-Jo Schaub, 2010 International Retiree King and Queen.

Sandy Kendall read the minutes of last year's meeting and Jan Cushing gave the Comptroller's report indicating that FCRV is operating in the black and the reserves are stable. A detailed annual financial report will be published in November. Before the new Trustees for 2010-2012 were installed, Smye thanked Denny Scott (and wife Judy) for his service as both Second and First Vice President and Wilson Forbes (and wife Shirley) for his service as Corresponding Secretary.

Bob Herget swore in the Trustees: President, Jack Smye (Sonya), First Vice President, Bob Price (Marti), Second Vice President, Dave Ludwig (Debbie), Recording Officer, Sandy Kendall (Ken), Corresponding Secretary, Sue Carlsen (Chuck), Past President, Eldon) Sellers (Glenda). Shari Weber (Craig), National Director is up for re-election next year.

Jack Smye gave a speech titled, "It's a puzzle," asking why an organization like FCRV that has so much to offer isn't growing as it should be. He wondered why every rig didn't have an FCRV logo. He noted that the Cadet membership has brought in over 120 members with many more expected. His newly formed advisory committee will be recommending ideas to improve all aspects of FCRV.

The Trustees presented the Award of Merit for continued service to FCRV to Paul Parsley, SC, Commercial Director and to Dave Ludwig, Second Vice President. Vickie Roop presented an award to Marti Price, representing ANPAC for devotion and support of FCRV. Kip Cushing accepted the membership growth award for Wisconsin and Loana Schraeder accepted for Colorado.

Campvention Chairman, Vickie Roop brought the 2010 Steering Committee on stage for certificates of thanks for putting on the Campvention. They are: Co-Chairman, Marilyn Rausch IN, Secretary, Judith McKinley IN, Asst. Secretary, Thelma Standiford IN, Treasurer, Duane Keegan, IL, Registration, Dick and Marge Shearer IN, Reg.Co-Chair, Dennis and Cindy James IN, Parking / Grounds, Bill and Theresa Wiles MI, Co-Chair, Jerry and Pat Rozelle IN, Team I, Dave Hennie OH, Larry Roop IN, Team II, Mike Rausch IN, Sue Carlsen MI, Team III, Tom McKinley IN, Connie Black IL, Team IV, Chuck Carlsen MI, Donna Powell IL, Team V, Doug Black IL, Linda Hennie OH. Vickie Roop and Marilyn Rausch were given certificates of appreciation by the Trustees.

2011 Campvention Chairmen, Walter and Marilyn Shealy and their Co-chairmen, Jim and Barb Turner invited everyone to Ladson, South Carolina next July 8 – 15 for "Dixie-land Dreams." Parking will be hobo by state / province. Sites have electric and water but you may need extra cord and hose. The buildings are air conditioned. Member pre-registration is \$225.

Thursday, the final evening began with a little fun. Hugh Hicks, Ed and Jane Alft catapulted t-shirts into the stands using a large sling shot. The Campvention steering committee had their own noise parade through the grandstand. Vickie Roop gave some Campvention statistics – 465 units on grounds, 12 camp passes, and 8 non-registered. She received a round of applause for a good Campvention. Sandra Chamberlain and Susan Ridder gave the parade results and a special award to Juanita Woolworth of MI who has

walked in 49 NCHA/FCRV parades. Taylor McClelland pledged to do her best as Miss FCRV.

Prior to the entertainment, Jack Smye again thanked everyone who worked on the Campvention and everyone who attended, then he officially closed the rally.

The folk trio, Dangerous Folk provided some 'decompression' from a busy week by singing many classic folk songs. The audience sang along to most of them. A thunderstorm bypassed the fairgrounds allowing folks to visit just a little longer before leaving Friday. Each curtain on the stage contained a word deserving of some thought – Welcome...Family...Friends...Live...Laugh...Love.