

Campvention Evening Programs

By DeWayne Johnston

FCRV's 51st Annual Campvention's first evening program on Friday, July 8 in Ladson, South Carolina began with a welcome from Co-chairman, Barb Turner and a greeting from Marti Price who is collecting donations for Convoy of Hope in Springfield, Missouri, a charity that is aiding tornado victims in Joplin, MO. Entertainment was by a genuine country five piece band named Gypsy Chicken from Georgia. They performed a mix of old and newer country for an hour and a half. They did a fine job of last minute substituting for Jamie Pelfry who had a family emergency.

Opening ceremonies took place on Saturday evening with the presentation of state / provincial flags in attendance. Miss FCRV, Taylor McClelland led the singing of the "Star Spangled Banner" and Jack Smye led the singing of "Oh, Canada." Chaplain, Pat Conley gave the invocation. The ribbon was cut by Dick Likins, Florida State Director, Taylor McClelland, and Ronald and Jo Hersom, 2011 International Retiree King and Queen. Rally Chairman, Walter Shealy welcomed everyone, recognized the committees, and thanked Jim and Barb Turner for co-chairing. Exchange Park official, Denise Massey also welcomed everyone and said that campfires in a container, off the ground would be allowed. Vickie Roop, filling in for Shari Weber, National Director, presented her with a certificate making the Exchange Park an honorary chapter. Entertainment was by a versatile band from North Carolina, called Right Turn Clyde. They played a mixture of soul, Motown, classic rock, and beach music. The parents of the band's keyboard player, Stan McGrady Jr. are members of FCRV. They are Stanley and Betty McGrady of Taylor, NC. An ice cream social hosted by Region 6 followed entertainment.

Sunday evening's program began with the annual NCHA/FCRV Scholarship meeting. Four of the awardees were in attendance - Kara Cornwell, KS, Kellie Cornwell, KS, Nicole and Paula Valderr'abano, NE. Eight students will share \$10,000. Youth Director, Karen Snodgrass announced that Youth of the Year is Mercedes Tennyson of Kansas. There were no nominations for the Humanitarian and Life Saving Awards. Entertainment was by gospel recording artist, Quinton Mills from North Carolina. He interspersed humor and personal stories with well known and original songs. His songs, "I Don't Want to Break the Family Circle" and "I found the Lilly in the Valley" stayed on the gospel charts for many months. His beautiful rendition of "Beuhla Land" had the audience emotionally involved. He stayed for autographs and talked with FCRV'ers. The Trustees hosted a hospitality after the program.

Monday evening began with awards for outstanding service to FCRV. Vickie Roop and President, Jack Smye presented citations to Dave, Connie, Jack and Ashley Skillings from Ingersoll, Ontario, Dave and Marilyn Webster from Kitchener, Ontario, and Darlene Wiltsie from Guelph, Ontario. The highest service award, a plaque, was presented to Ralph and Betty Brunner from Toledo, Ohio. The Chapter of the Year award went to the Pitch 'n' Pull Chapter from Independence, Missouri. The Hank Nathan Lifetime Achievement award went to Larry and Vickie Roop of Fort Wayne, Indiana. Awards are detailed in a separate article. Al and Joanie Stone presented wildlife grants totaling \$4,600 to 7 organizations (separate article). Entertainment was by a four piece blue grass group from Atlanta, GA known as Drive Train.

Some in the audience danced to “Tennessee Waltz” and all clapped along with “Dueling Banjos” and “Orange Blossom Special.” “A Man of Constant Sorrow” was also well received.

Tuesday evening began with a concert by the FCRV band with George Walters of Florida standing in for director, Craig Weber and doing double duty on the trumpet. The band played several numbers including the ever popular Disney Medley. Camping World of Charlotte who had several new RVs on display had a drawing for a 32” HD tv. The winner was George Visser of Louisville, KY. Prior to the Miss FCRV Pageant, Kara Cornwell sang the U.S. National Anthem and Lyn and Tim Rosenberger sang the Canadian Anthem. The rest of the evening was devoted to the pageant. Crowned as Miss FCRV 2011 was Faith Rasmussen of Salina, Kansas, who was also named Miss Talent. The First Runner-up was Nicole Valderra’bano from Nebraska who was also named Miss Congeniality. The Second Runner-up was Abigail Moats from Iowa. Third Runner-up was Jenn Greggio from Ohio, and Fourth Runner-up was Britney Huryn from Michigan. Details are in a separate article.

Several awards were presented on stage Tuesday afternoon including \$25 from Sky Med won by Melvin Coy. The pet parade, chapter scrap book, adult games, campers actively moving (hiking, biking), conservation, DASAT, and newsletter awards are listed separately. The DASAT Director’s award went to Jill Serbousek of St. Louis, Missouri.

Wednesday evening began with the national anthems led by Kip Cushing and Faith Rasmussen. The new Miss FCRV and her court were introduced and presented with gift certificates from the Trustees. Past Presidents were introduced including Juanita Wooworth, Jim and Barb turner, Larry and Vickie Roop, and Eldon and Glenda Sellers. Also introduced were International Retiree King and Queen, Ronald and Jo Hersom of Iowa, 2011 Campvention Chairmen, Walter and Mrylin Shealy and Co-chairmen Barb and Jim Turner. Vickie Roop recognized the Campvention Steering Committee members and Team Leaders from the Southeast Region #6 with certificates. Hugh Hicks invited everyone to Blyth, Ontario next July 13 -20. Jim Stobbart tossed some frizbees into the audience which entitled the catcher to a chance to win free registration for next year’s Campvention. Those who registered at this year’s Campvention and those who register by January first will also have a chance for a free registration. Jack Smye presented awards for membership growth to Wisconsin and Colorado. Barbara Bond from the Charleston Ronald McDonald house was on hand to receive a check for \$440, the proceeds from the aluminum tab collection. Pennsylvania contributed the most tabs with 753 lbs. and the Bucktailers Chapter collected 438 lbs. Paul Parsley set the individual record with 136 lbs. Ontario held its own collection earlier and had 2,069 lbs. with proceeds going to Cancer House in Ontario. FCRV’s donated food and \$481 to the food bank which goes to Helping Hands of Georgetown. The annual FCRV membership meeting was held. President, Jack Smye introduced his wife, Sonya and the other trustees and spouses – First V.P., Bob Price and Marti, 2nd. V.P., Dave Ludwig and Debbie, Comptroller, Jan Cushing and Kip, Recording Officer, Sandy Kendall and Ken, Corresponding Secretary, Sue Carlsen and Chuck, Past President, Eldon Sellers and Glenda. National Director, Shari Weber was absent due to Craig’s surgery. She will be installed for another two year term at the winter board meeting. Jan Cushing reported that FCRV’s income was \$25,642 over expenses from July 2010 through May 2011. Jack Smye announced that the Cadet program has been extended for another year. He thanked his advisory committee for their work which resulted in some structural changes at the Trustee level. He also thanked everyone for their past support as he enters his final year in office. The Ohio State Association was recognized for its 50th anniversary. Prior to the entertainment, the final door prizes were drawn including a GPS system for RVers from Rand McNally. It was

won by Bill Ramlow of Florida. Entertainment for the evening was provided by FCRV members, Guy Dean, Eldon Sellers, Dale Wagner. The Kip, Jack, Rick, and Tim Quartet, Jack Smye, and Gary Austin.

Thursday evening began with the final announcements including the site decorating contest, parade awards with the Gad About Grandparents of Colorado winning the President's award. George Walters noted that the band received donations of \$321 which will go to new music and supplies. 450 baseball caps were donated to cancer patients. Bob and Marti Price held the drawing for the Convoy of Hope quilt. It raised \$500 which will buy \$5,000 worth of help for the Joplin, MO tornado victims. Winners of the free registration for Campvention 2012 in Blyth, ONT were Bob and Carol Luke of IN. The \$500 certificate toward an Adventure Caravan tour was won by Dale and Mickey Wagner of PA. Entertainment was by Haywire, an energetic country and southern rock group from Georgia. A farewell hospitality was held by Campvention hosts, Southeast Region Six.