

## Jack's Update July 2010



Campvention is now over. Since then, Sonya and I have attended the YARS campout in Elkhart In. camped overnight at HQ in Buffalo (dropping off Campvention stuff) and are now parked in our son's driveway just outside Wakefield Quebec (near Ottawa) enroute to Newfoundland and then Region 7 Regional in Windsor Nova Scotia. We will not be home until Labor Day night. Our new motor home, which has now been officially teeped, will certainly receive a good workout. We do have our lap top with us and our Canadian cell phone number (for emergencies) is 905 464 1085. There is much information to impart in this update.

### **Campvention 2010**

On behalf of all of us I would like to extend our thanks to Vickie Roop, 2010 Host Chairman, and Marilyn and Mike Rausch, 2010 Host Co-Chairman, and all their Great Lakes Region committee chairs and volunteers who have worked tirelessly on our behalf to provide us with an excellent, well run, enjoyable Campvention experience. Those of you that have been involved with working a Campvention know how tiring an exercise it can be. Their reward –and all the reward they're looking for- is to see a smiling face, to hear the odd thank you and to know in their hearts that they did their best and they pulled it off.

Vickie reported that counting day passes and second families in the same unit we had a total attendance of approximately 480 families.

I would like to make some acknowledgments. How wonderful it was for the Trustees to be able to name Jewell and Ray Shields as the fourth recipients of the Hank Nathan Life Time Achievement Award just one month after our founder Hank Nathan celebrated his 91st birthday. It was also great to acknowledge the presence and active participation of Don Plummer who has attended all 50 of our Campventions and wife Wilma who has attended 48- or 49 (the ones missed were due to ill health) It was also great to have Richard (Pork) DeCabooter, Past National President 1982-1986, and wife Jan with us for the first time in several years. Also returning after an absence of a few years was Bob Herget, Past National President 1962 -1963, and wife Donna. Congratulations to all the various National FCRV Award winners –it is your peers that nominate and decide that you are worthy of an award. Their names will be published in the forthcoming issue of Camping Today. It is humbling and yet gratifying to know how much our members can and do accomplish.

Congratulations to Taylor Mc Clelland, Miss Michigan, for being crowned Miss FCRV 2010, and to her worthy court 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up Alysha Funk, Miss Ohio, 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner Up, Caitlin Lewis, Miss Connecticut, 3<sup>rd</sup> Runner Up, Alyssa Robb, Miss Kentucky, 4<sup>th</sup> Runner Up, Brittany Roy, Miss Ontario and to the other 9 candidates that represented their states and provinces so well and provided Campvention with a wonderful day of insight, beauty, grace and entertainment.

### **Executive Board Updates:**

1: It was the privilege of the newly elected National Trustees, to be installed into our Trustee offices for the next two years by Bob Herget our 2<sup>nd</sup> National President.

2: At the Executive Board meeting Shari Weber presented a plaque to our retiring board member Jewell Shields for her 44 years of service to the board. The current practice, introduced last year, is to recognize retiring Executive Board members with a pin and certificate. In view of Jewell's long service to the board, the Trustees realized that long service to the board should be recognized with more than a pin and certificate. Going forward, retiring board members with 25 years service on the board will receive a recognition plaque similar to what Jewel (this year) and Kay Shaftmaster (last year) have received.

2: We were all saddened and shocked by the sudden death of Barb Jurek, last month. It was gratifying to see the good representation of FCRV members at Barb's memorial service held in Buffalo. If anybody is so inclined, Al has requested that donations in Barb's memory be made to the National Scholarship fund. Al was not quite ready to attend Campvention and I would like to thank Dick and Kathy Buresh, next year's Retiree Rally Chairman, who represented Al at retiree functions at Campvention.

3: We have also just been notified of the passing of Dorothy Grant, wife of our 1<sup>st</sup> National President, John Grant. Dorothy was 92.

4: Barb Bonifield, wife of newly appointed National Communications Director Dwight had some very serious health issues while at Berrien Springs that ended up hospitalizing her for about one week. At last report Barb is now recovering, slowly. Please keep Barb and Dwight in your thoughts and prayers.

5: We regretfully accept the resignation of Kenn & Paula Green as Texas State Director and thank them for their many years of service to the Executive Board. No replacement has yet been selected.

6: Last month I announced the appointment of John and Debra Duffy as Michigan, State Director. At their request, we have deferred that appointment until 2011. In the interim period, Chuck Carlsen will carry on as Michigan State Director.

7: Congratulations to Dave Ludwig and Paul Parsley both of whom received an Award of Merit. This award can only be earned by Executive Board members and nominations can only be received from the Trustees, Regional Directors and State/Provincial Directors. It is recognition of outstanding work and dedication from amongst one's peers.

### **Address Changes:**

**Shirley Mackenzie** advises that her and Don's only phone number (both mobile and home) is 540-967-9654. Their old cell phone number 434-960-3582 is void.

**Dwight Bonifield** advises the cell and e-mail address provided last month is incorrect. Please use the following:

Cell 740-607-3323 and e-mail FCRV2004@aol.com

### **Nominating Committee for next year's National Director Election:**

The nominating committee for next year's election of our National Director has been formed. They are:

**Loana Schraeder**, Regional Director Region 1, Chairman, **Phil & Fran Turcotte**, Massachusetts/Rhode Island State Director, and **Karen and Rob Snodgrass**, National Youth Director.. Their task is to select two candidates, if possible, willing to let their

names stand for election for the office of National Director. The committee is expected to file their nominating report by the end of 2010. The election by the Executive Board will be by ballot distributed at the 2011 Winter Board meeting. Arrangements for a mailed ballot will be made for Executive Board Members not attending the Winter Board meeting. If you are aware of a possible candidate for National Director, please submit his /her name to any of the nominating committee. **The committee members will do all the necessary communicating with potential candidates.**

### **Disclosure Statements (Criminal Background Checks)**

Based upon the feedback many of you did provide and further information I provided to our lawyer, he is recommending that for our organizational protection and the protection of our children, that criminal background checks be required for members working with youth-teens at the national, state/provincial level. Marilyn Shealy in concert with Shari Weber and our lawyer will be finalizing the new policy for inclusion in the field manual. We expect to have something in place this fall and we will provide all the details once finalized and approved by the Trustees.

### **Cadet Program**

5: Cadet mentoring program. To date we have identified approx. 120 new families that have received the “free” Cadet Mentoring membership. That’s a good start but within 6 months it would be great to report that we have several hundred or a thousand(s). It’s up to all of us to make it work! Please note, the Cadet membership is not intended to be given to existing members nor members whose membership is about to expire.

### **President’s Advisory Panel**

**THERE’S NOTHING SO CONSTANT AS CHANGE** some pundit said. Given that the saying sounds modern it was probably Aristotle. All of the candidates in our recent election mentioned the need for change within our organization. In my recent address that I gave at our Annual General Meeting I mentioned that our non growth is “a Puzzle”. So many great things happened and are experienced at Campvention that one can come away on a high note and then in the very next month be brought back to reality when the membership report shows another drop (see below). We certainly know that attrition affects our membership numbers. The bigger question (or puzzle) is why we cannot attract new members in great numbers nor retain new members that have been signed up via Dealer Chapter programs.

One of the special privileges that the National President can exercise is the authority to form special time bounded committees or panels that report directly to the President. With the full knowledge and approval of the Trustees, I have formed a President’s Advisory Panel to explore the need for and make recommendations on “things” – programs, structure, advertising, marketing, target membership group, etc. - that should be made to make FCRV a more viable organization in the future. This panel under the chairman ship of Past President Larry Roop will report back to me by the end of January 2011. The Trustees will then have the responsibility over the ensuing 18 months to act upon their recommendations –if feasible-. With the permission of the panel members I am listing the members and their contact information. All of us have a part to play in the success of this panel, **IF YOU HAVE AN IDEA OR A THOUGHT AS TO WHY**

**FCRV IS NOT GROWING OR A THOUGHT OR IDEA YOU BELIEVE WOULD MAKE FCRV BETTER** (stronger more viable), please contact any one of the panel members. All ideas will be shared amongst the entire panel.

**The panel members are:**

**Larry Roop**, Chairman, Past National President 2000 -2004 Indiana 260-413-6405  
FCRVIND@aol.com

**Eldon Sellers**, Past National President 2004-2008 –Iowa 515-961-3282 EDSeller@aol.com

**Jim Turner**, Past National President 1996-2000 Florida and Ohio turnerfcrv@gmail.com

**Joe Vasut**, Past National President 1990-1992 Tennessee Thevasuts@aol.com

**Bob Herget**, Past National President, 1962-1963 New York 585-492-0474  
DHerget@att.net

**June Johnston** –member at large Pennsylvania – 724-283-7401 D\_Johnston01@msn.com

**Tammy Gregio** –member at large Ohio TGregio@sbcglobal.net

**Wilson Forbes** –member at large Iowa – 712-322-7008 goldenwgf@aol.com

**Gary O’Neal** –member at large Oklahoma gonefeb@gmail.com

**Fred Ticknor** –member at large –Ontario fjticknor@gmail.com

**Membership**

As of June 30, 2010 our membership is 5405 (a drop of 10 % from a year ago).

Until next time,  
Jack