



# 2010 FCRV RETIREE RALLY LEAVES SMILING FACES



"Still smiling faces and beautiful places" was the theme of FCRV's 39th annual Retiree Rally, held March 23 - 28 at Exchange Park Fairgrounds in Ladson, South Carolina. There were 271 units on grounds and 6 camp passes for a total of 527 people. The largest attendance was from South Carolina members, many of whom worked on committees. Chairmen for the event were Paul and Pat Parsley.

Monday was a day for getting registered for various activities.

The opening ceremony was Tuesday evening with the posting of the flags and Canadian and U.S. anthems sung by Jack Smye and Eldon Sellers. Retiree Chaplain, Walter Shealy gave an invocation. Also on stage for the ribbon cutting were Parsleys and 2009 International Retiree King and Queen, David and Connie Long from Kansas, and Al and Barb Jurek, National Retiree Directors. A Pleasant surprise was free tickets to the Cole Brothers Circus set up adjoining the camping area.

Tuesday night's entertainment was High Cotton Singers, an 8 man group from Orangeburg, SC who did some well known gospel songs and also some pop songs with the lyrics changed to gospel. The audience particularly enjoyed talented 10 year old William Mills who played several instruments. His dad was the group's lead singer. The audience joined in on their final number, "Amazing Grace."

Daily activities included Bible study, exercise class, SPC hikes, seminars, and crafts. Hospitalities were held throughout the week hosted by Kansas, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina.

Wednesday evening this year's vendors were recognized including Lions Club food stand, Glass Magic, Lazy Days, V.I.P. Enterprises, Miche Handbags, Sunrise Bedding, and ANPAC Insurance. Marti Price, ANPAC's representative gave away three one year FCRV memberships to Richard and Shirley Godt, Denise Courier, and Robert Holliman. Walter Shealy gave an update on former National Retiree Director, Jim Bob Ealey who is currently in rehab and making progress from a stroke.

John and Delores Derrick introduced the candidates for 2010 International Retiree King and Queen, Harold and Carolyn Braley of Lynchburg, Ohio and Pete and Samie-Jo Schaub of Traverse City, Michigan. Not competing were A.J. and Verna Cunningham of Louisiana. Past Kings and Queens on hand were Addie (Costello) Boone and Russ Boone '85, Peter and Jane Brown '97, Ralph and Betty Brunner '03, John and Delores Derrick '04, Wilson and Shirley Forbes '05 and Jim and Cookie Powell '07.

Paul and Pat Parsley introduced their committees for the rally. Entertainment was by the Blue Plantation Band, a 4 piece bluegrass group from Charleston. They played some Civil War songs as well as Bill Monroe, western swing, and "Dueling Banjos". They ended their show with a beautiful version of "America the Beautiful." The 'jammers' got together for a session each night after the program.

Thursday featured the Red Hat Ladies luncheon. Jo Hersom of Iowa won the drawing for 'Queen for a Day'. Most original hat was won by Shirley Schaeding, MI, Marie Abbot, LA had the best handmade hat, Rita Newell, CO had best red and purple outfit, and Thelma Bishop, NV

had the fanciest hat.

Various meetings were held throughout the week including national chapters such as Full Timers, Singles, Ham Radio, YARS and Red Hatters. The first timers met earlier with 117 in attendance.

Thursday evening was the annual memorial service for deceased members. The FCRV Choir, led by John Derrick sang "Hymn of Promise" and led "I'll Fly Away." Chaplain Walter Shealy gave a brief message and Marilyn Shealy read the names.

To lighten up the evening, the FCRV Talent Show, hosted by Jack Smye came next. There were 15 acts including skits by the SC Raisins - "Heard it through the Grapevine", Ohio Players "The Restaurant", and YARS - "Trailer Park Pirates". Also performing were Wilma Schroeder & Walter Shealy, Bill Summers, Don Plummer, Joe Miller, Bob Cavers, Dale Wagner, Pete & Samie-Jo Schaub, Guy Dean, Bill Stirewalt, Sam Cole, Eldon Sellers, and Jack Smye.

Friday afternoon was the well attended Ice Cream Social where members deposited their ballots for Retiree King and Queen. The ice cream was provided by Edys who donated most of it.

Friday evening, MC, Lloyd Humphrey introduced FCRV President, Jack Smye who introduced the Trustees in attendance including 1st V.P., Denny Scott, 2nd V.P., Dave Ludwig, Corresponding Secretary, Wilson Forbes and Immediate Past President, Eldon Sellers. 35 of the 70 Executive Board members were in attendance. Smye also recognized Gene Dawson of Ohio who has been a member since 1953. Vickie Roop invited everyone to FCRV's 50<sup>th</sup> Campvention, July 9-16 at Berrien Springs, Michigan. the theme is "Golden Reunion of Family Campers"

Pat Parsley explained the work of Helping Hands of Georgetown which is more than just a food bank. It also helps those with emergency needs such as paying electricity bills. A challenge was issued earlier in the week by the Singles chapter to match their contribution of \$145. YARS also made a donation of \$200. Other chapters and individuals dug deep and the total announced by Ashley Taylor at the end of the week was \$1,861. A substantial amount of food was collected also. The annual lap blanket collection brought in 164 blankets which were donated to the Walterboro Veterans Victory House.

Entertainment was by Elvis impersonator, Randy Rowe. During the songs "Teddy Bear" and "Hound Dog" he threw stuffed animals to the audience. He also handed out some scarves and flower leis to ladies who came forward. Two even got on stage and danced. He also threw in some funny stories.

Saturday morning the members craft and flea market was held. Saturday evening opened with Al and Barb Jurek giving a plaque of appreciation to Paul and Pat Parsley. Jureks also thanked all those who volunteered. Al Jurek introduced Dick and Kathleen Buresh who are chairing the 2011 FCRV Retiree Rally in Canton, Texas March 22- 27. Volunteers are welcome at 651-491-8763. The 2012 Retiree Rally will be in Tallahassee, Florida, hosted by Dick and Pam Lykens.

Prior to the crowning of the 2010 International Retiree King and Queen, Guy and Jeanne Dean presented the sports and games awards. Over 300 people (some duplication) participated in frog races, card bingo, chicken foot, washer toss, euchre, skip-bo, hillbilly golf, bocce ball, 3/13 cards, rolling pin toss, bean bag toss, and bean bag baseball. Co-chairmen, Don and Shirl Prater announced that in addition to the regular games, potty races and iron skillet toss will be added next year. Jim and Barb Turner presented the golf awards. 29 players participated. Game winners are listed in a separate article.

SPC had 22 walkers who logged 85 miles in 4 days.

A drawing was held for those who pre-registered for the Canton rally. Ron and Thelma Standiford, IN, won the free rally fee. The Exchange Fairgrounds also drew for a refund of camping fees for this rally. It was won by Bobby and Phyllis Smith, KS.

In their final remarks, 2009 International Retiree King and Queen, David and Connie Long of Kansas summed up their year which was interrupted by Connie's health problems. They logged over 5,000 miles and thanked their FCRV extended family for their hospitality at the rallies they attended. They also thanked Bobby and Phyllis Smith who travelled with them. Their advice to everyone was, "Enjoy the country."

John Derrick announced the vote and Pete and Samie-Jo Schaub were crowned FCRV International Retiree King and Queen for 2010. Harold and Carolyn Braley were the First Runner-up.(See separate article). A reception was hosted by the Red Hat Ladies headed by Gerry Dantin. D.J. Doug provided music for the ball.

Sunday morning was non-denominational church with Chaplain, Walter Shealy, the FCRV Choir directed by John Derrick, and Shirley Smith, pianist.

Seating for the International Parade was drawn after church and a thank you luncheon was held for the rally workers. At 3 p.m. the host state, South Carolina held a farewell hospitality.

The rally was capped off Sunday evening with the International Parade of states, provinces, And National chapters. Several stayed on for a tour of Charleston and another group left their rigs at the fairgrounds to go on the FCRV Full Timers sponsored cruise.

In what has become a tradition, Walter Shealy closed with a prayer followed by the whole group singing, "God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again."