

THE NAARVA



VOICE

VOLUME 19 ISSUE 3

RALLY/FALL 2017

Introducing Our 2017-2019 President — CAROLYN BUFORD



Who is Carolyn?

Prior to becoming the President of NAARVA, I served as the Director of the Central Region for eight years. Prior to that, I served two terms as Assistant Director of Central Region. In that capacity I helped coordinate the 2008 National Rally and several regional rallies. As Regional Director, I coordinated three National Rallies and eight Regional Rallies. I was also instrumental in increasing the Central Region membership base and its financial status.

I am married to Luther who is my life-long partner and best friend. We have been members of NAARVA since 1997 and have attended thirteen National Rallies and ten Regional Rallies. We thoroughly enjoy the RV lifestyle and for the last forty years have been very active RVers. In addition to being NAARVA members, we hold membership in the Family Motor Coach Association and are lifetime members of the Good Sam Club.

I am resident of Kansas City, Mis-

souri with roots in both the states of Missouri and Kansas having been born in Kansas. My husband and I are long term members of the *MO/KAN Road-runners*. In my spare time, I love to fish, travel, take pictures and interact with people.

As your President, my personal goal is continue to be fully committed and supportive of NAARVA. I have shared a proposed theme with the rest of the Executive Board which I am hoping they will adopt. That theme being **“One Team, One Voice, One NAARVA.”** It is hoped that this theme will guide us in the decisions that we make on behalf of the organization in our quest to establish a firm foundation for NAARVA to begin the next twenty-five plus years.

As your President, listed here are some of the goals that I, along with the rest of the Executive Board, will adopt. We do ask that each of you remember that many, if not all, of these goals cannot be accomplished without your support and assistance.

- Analyze what is needed to improve

NAARVA's membership base and take appropriate steps to improve membership.

- Maintain good communication within the organization and implement improvements where needed.

- Ensure that the membership receives timely and accurate financial reports.

- Establish and/or maintain positive relationships with RV manufacturers and businesses with goal of acquiring corporate sponsorships.

- Support NAARVA in meeting its business and financial objectives.

- Maintain and promote family values while encouraging members to have fun and fellowship at NAARVA gatherings.

- Review and revamp the procedure for changing the organization's tax status to a 501(c)3.

Hopefully these goals accurately reflect input that we have received from many of you. However, if there are some key goals that I and the Executive Board should adopt, please let us know.



Newly installed Executive Board Members.

NAARVA EXECUTIVE BOARD - 2017-2019



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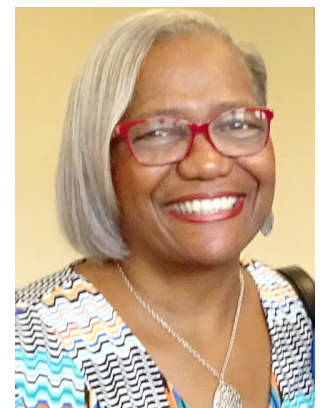
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LOUISE GROGAN
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A Word From the Editor



GWYNNE TONEY

Editor

NAARVA National Camp Rally in Hutchinson, Kansas

Twenty-five years ago 52 RV'ing families hatched the idea of an organization made up of African American families who owned recreational vehicles. From that foundational gathering, The National African American RVer's Association was born.

NAARVA celebrated its 25th Silver Anniversary in grand style this year in Hutchinson, Kansas, July 16-23, 2017, at the Kansas State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson, Kansas, with the theme: ***"Follow the Yellow Brick Road to Kansas."*** The annual event, which attracted 600 Rver's and 253 motor coaches, was facilitated and hosted by the Central Region, under the leadership of their Regional Director, Carolyn Buford.

Hutchinson, located on the Arkansas River, is the largest city and county seat in Reno County. Nicknamed "Salt City", it has been home to salt mines since 1887, but locals call it "Hutch". In addition to the attractions offered by NAARVA, attendees enjoyed the variety and accessibility of Downtown Hutchinson.

The NAARVA National Camp Rally is NAARVA's premier event, attracting seasoned RVer's and novices alike. The festivities bring together hundreds of RV enthusiasts from all over the country to immerse themselves in the RV lifestyle, meet fellow enthusiasts, listen to industry experts, enjoy fun activities, great food, prizes and quality time with family and friends. The rally provides unique meeting places for those seeking, to connect with RVer's from various parts of the country.

An added bonus is that members have the opportunity to discover part of the country that they might not otherwise put on their travel itinerary.

The Rally Round-up - ***"At the End of the Yellow Brick Road"*** - is beautifully presented on page 12 by the 2017 Rally Regional Director, President Carolyn Buford. It is also represented in pictorial format for your enjoyment.

Don't miss out next year, join us for the 26th National Camp Rally in Sarasota, Florida, July 15 - 22, 2018 at the Sun 'N Fun Resort, hosted by the Southern Region. Please visit our website at www.naarva.com for a listing of more upcoming National and Regional Rallies.

Live., Love, Travel...

Gwynne

RV Cooking with Bev Ann

Strawberry Gelatin Poke Cake



Ingredients

- 1 box White Cake Mix
- 1/2 cup Oil
- 3 Egg Whites (for a white cake batter)
- 1 cup Water
- 3 oz box Gelatin (strawberry)
- 1 tub Cool Whip (original)

Directions

- Prepare cake batter and bake as directed on package for 13x9 inch pan
- Cool cake in pan 15 minutes



- Pierce cake with large fork at 1/2 inch intervals
- Add 1 cup of boiling water to gelatin mix in small bowl
- Stir 2 minutes until completely dissolved
- Stir in 1 cup of cold water
- Pour mixture over cake
- Refrigerate for 3 hours
- Frost cake with COOLWHIP (thawed)
- Refrigerate for 1 hour



Substitutions

Use COOL WHIP LITE Whipped Topping

Use any flavor JELL-O or Jello-O Simply Good Gelatin

Use Egg Beaters or Better 'n Eggs White Substitute

Use your choice of oil: Vegetable, Corn or Canola Oil

Garnish with colored sprinkles just before serving

Serve with Fresh Fruit(s): Strawberry, Blackberry or Raspberry



NAARVA APPOINTED POSITIONS 2017-2019

MYRTLE MAYFIELD, National Rally Chairperson, pqmayjr@aol.com

REV. TOMAS HANES, National Chaplain/Necrologist, talberthanes@yahoo.com

RONALD STANDIFER, National Historian, restandco@verizon.net

ELAINE STANDIFER, National Public Relations, Elainsta89108ndifer@hotmail.com

DR. PRESTON BRYANT, National Scholarship Committee, scbryant512@yahoo.com

DR. ANNE STEELE, National Ecology Committee, ast180978@aol.com

BRUCE TONEY, National NAARVA Facebook Administrator, brucetoney@me.com

GWYNNE TONEY, National NAARVA Voice Editor, naarvavoiced@gmail.com

GLORIA SHELTON, National Benevolence Chair, shelt57@aol.com

OPEN POSITIONS: National Nominating & Election Chair

National Grievance Chair

NAARVA Chaplain's Corner... REVEREND THOMAS HANES



As the Chaplain I am required to post the list of deceased NAARVA members since the 2016 National Rally. According to the Constitution and By-Laws Article IV, Section 5, they have been memorialized at the National Rally in Hutchinson, KS on July 23, 2017.

I have been notified of twenty NAARVA members passing away from July 15, 2016 to 2017 time period as of this report. I have sent cards out to the families on behalf of NAARVA expressing our condolences. Those twenty are as follows by region:

2016-2017 NAARVA Deceased Members

Henry James	Eastern Region
Cynthia Lee Colter	Eastern Region
Rachel Swann Crosby	Eastern Region
Kenneth Banks	Eastern Region
Ezell Belton	Eastern Region
Bob Rose	Eastern Region
Patricia Hall	Eastern Region
Billy Shanklin	Eastern Region
Ethel Williams	Central Region
Will Veasley	Central Region
Frank Goodrich	Central Region
Melvin Shelton	Central Region
Jesse Boggess	Central Region
Estel Kirk	Central Region
Ron McKinsick	Central Region
Sandra Austin	Southern Region
William Whiffs, Jr.	Southern Region
Harry Cluff	Southern Region
George Bell	Southern Region
Altha Marie Sanders	Western Region



Rev. Thomas A. Hanes
National Chaplain
serving "YOU."

talberthanes@yahoo.com

LIFE IS A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

*Life is a spiritual journey from the first day of our birth,
Life is a spiritual journey on this beautiful planet called earth.*

*Life is a spiritual journey - we're here to learn all we can,
Life is a spiritual journey - a special gift from God to man.*

By Faye Kilday

If I have missed anyone
please email me:

talberthanes@yahoo.com

Education Station



Dr. Preston Bryant
National
Scholarship
Chairman

scbryant512@yahoo.com

At the 25th National Rally in Hutchinson, Kansas, NAARVA awarded three \$1,000.00 Academic Scholarships to three deserving high school graduates who are now attending college. The National Scholarship awardees are: Chelese Washington, Mikayla B. Lewis and Daniel Alfred Baughman.

Become a friend of NAARVA.



NAARVA Proudly Salutes Our High School Graduates

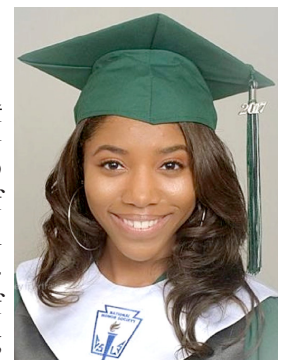


Chelese Washington is a dedicated student athlete who recently graduated from Seminole High School. She is attending Florida State University and plans to major in either Computer Science or Computer Engineering.

As a student athlete, Chelese played line one doubles and line one and two singles on the varsity tennis team for all four years in high school. This coupled with her participation

in various clubs such as Beta Chi, Key Club, Art Club, and the Asian Student Association have kept her engaged with students on campus. She also excelled in the International Baccalaureate program at her high school which is exemplified through her 4.2 GPA.

My name is **Mikayla Lewis**, and I am honored to be a recipient of the NAARVA scholarship. After years of overcoming



(Continued on page 5)

Education Station

(Continued from page 4)



medical adversity, I was able to persevere and graduate in the top of my class.

I was a member of the National Honor Society at Kingwood Park High school; captain of the varsity cheerleading squad; and a leader in my community, church and school. My dream is to pursue a pre-medical degree from Lamar University to achieve my ultimate passion as a Pediatric Gastroenterologist which is a specialist doctor.

At the age of nine, I was diagnosed with Crohn's disease; therefore, I want to help younger children with my same or similar conditions. Growing up, I felt like an outcast and I do not want other kids with gastrointestinal concerns to feel the same way I did. My goal is to teach children that their condition is not

a death sentence, and that they can live long, happy, healthy and prosperous lives.

For years, I have worked in my community and church, because I know where God has brought me from. I have dedicated countless volunteer hours with youth at the Kingwood Cheerleading Squad (ages 6-12) for the Kingwood Football League; also Upward Cheerleading Squad at Woodridge Baptist Church of Kingwood (ages 6-11); Day of Service with Kingwood Park High School at the Houston Food Bank; and several elementary school festivals in Kingwood, Texas. In addition, I have volunteered at St. Peter Claver Catholic church and Burrell Chapel Baptist Church, Breast Cancer Awareness events; the Houston Chevron Marathon; several homeless and battered women shelters; and lastly the Black Professional Cowgirl and Cowboy Association Rodeo.

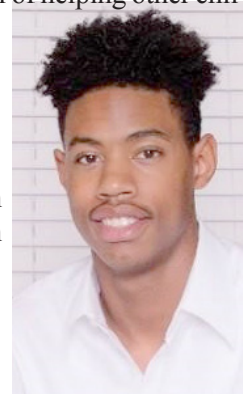
In summation, futhering my educa-

tion allows me to continue to help others in my community and assist to overcome his or her obstacles in life. I did not let my diagnosis determine my outcome. My future is bright and I WILL become a pediatric gastroenterologist, so I can assist children with their issues. Education is important to me because of everything that I went through. I am stronger and better than I have ever been. Thank you for allowing me to become a recipient of such a prestigious scholarship. I am very dedicated and focused on achieving my life's goal of helping other children.

* * * * *

Daniel Alfred Baughman

(See bio in Southern Region column below)



Southern Region Scholarship of Excellent Recipients

The winners of the 2017 Academic Excellence Scholarships were Autumn Brown, Niya Frazier, and Daniel Baughman.

Autumn Brown

is the daughter of Ozette and Melissa Brown, and the granddaughter of Bennie and Dianna Jackson from



Broward County Kampers Klub. Her family has always emphasized the importance of getting a college education. She plans to become a defense attorney. She has obtained college credits for criminal justice classes and worked with an Alachua County Juvenile Court Defense Attorney. She also created a "clothes closet" which enables the juveniles to have access to appropriate attire for court. She enjoys camping with her grandparents and all the other RV "adopted grandparents". She especially enjoys the Florida Classic, and looks forward to having the opportunity to travel as

Bennie and Dianna Jackson do.

Autumn's freshman year at Savannah State University is "amazing" so far! She is on the track team there, and has to awaken at 6:00 a.m. for practice, and though she is adjusting to her schedule and course work, she says she is beyond thankful that she is able to attend school and have the HBCU experience. Her track team is like a family, and she feels blessed to have met her "new track family" and to be able to participate on the collegiate level in the sport that she enjoys so much. She loves and appreciates her parents and extended family along with the NAARVA family for supporting her in all she does, including overcoming tribulations.

Autumn, we wish you the best, and know you are well on the way to a great future!

Niya Frazier is the daughter of Courtney Pittman Frazier and the late



Terrence Frazier. She is the granddaughter of Henry and Bernice Frazier in the *Merrimac Sams Club*. She was the president of her senior class at Grady High in Atlanta. She is a natural leader, and has surprised her mom as she took control of situations and then other students follow her. She is active in church and sings in the choir. She camped with her grandparents from an early age, and enjoyed fishing and making smores.

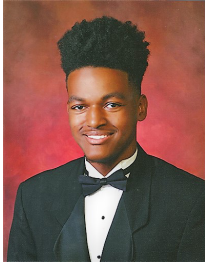
Niya is in her freshman year at Spelman in Atlanta, GA. She too is having an "awesome experience thus far". She is looking forward to the remaining four years at Spelman. She also will have the HBCU experience which should make a lasting difference in her life as she goes forward.

Daniel Baughman (Photo above) is the son of Bob and Danielle Baughman and grandson of Alfred and Patricia Swann in the *Merrimac Sams Club*. Daniel feels truly blessed to be

(Continued on page 6)

Western Region 2017 Scholarship Recipient

In his scholarship essay, **Daijon Bereola-Carson** defines core values as the guiding principles that dictate how life is to be lived. He practices wholeheartedly the core values that have been modeled and instilled within him, those of excellence, leadership, truth and service.



This conscientious student, excelled in his Advanced Placement classes at Piedmont Hills High School in San Jose, California, while organizing and planning campus events as President of the Black Student's Union. Daijon has been acknowledged by the State of California Senate Community Recognition & California Legislative Assembly for his

Southern Region Scholarship---

(Continued from page 5)

alive because he was three months premature, had a brain hemorrhage at birth, and had heart surgery at five days old. By age one, he started to live a life without monitors and medications, and his grandparents, Al and Patricia Swann, exposed him and his brothers to travel and education, RV style, in the larger family that is NAARVA.

Daniel got a head start at the University of Central Oklahoma by attending summer school. He took three courses over the summer, and did well with a 3.37 GPA. He says classes are challenging, but he is enjoying college life while studying hard to maintain good grades. He expressed sincere thanks to the scholarship committee for selecting him as a recipient. The funds will truly be a blessing as he has an older brother who is a college sophomore and a younger brother finishing high school.

2017 Scholarship Chair: Andretta Cravens. Committee members: Irene Gains, Chandra Matthews, Janes White and Ezeil Wilson

participation within the San Jose Community and Bay Area with City Team Ministries, the Peninsula Rebuilding Together and the Oriki Theatre Rites of Passage Program.

On January 19, 2017 Daijon was selected from applicants throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, and awarded a scholarship from the popular KBLX radio station. During the KBLX Dream Team morning show, they announced Daijon as their first ever scholarship winner, invited him to the studio and surprised him live on the air.

Daijon has proven his dedication to excellence many times while humbly attributing his drive, not just to hard work and a supportive family, but also to the Rites of Passage organization. This group was founded by African-American men whose goal is to help black teens transition into manhood and to groom them into future leaders.

Daijon concludes his essay with this statement: "Armed with my affirmations, core values, faith in God, supportive encouragement from my family, caring individuals and organizations, I hope to make a tremendous impact in all of my endeavors, as a University student and in life."

Daijon was offered admittance into nine Universities but chose to attend Howard University in Washington D.C., where he is majoring in Computer Science.

Throughout his high school years, he has demonstrated a clear commitment to being among the best in his class, while upholding high standards for leadership and community service. For working assiduously and brilliantly towards a bright future for himself, NAARVA Western Region awards Daijon Bereola-Carson a \$1,000 scholarship. Daijon is the first grandchild of Bruce and Gwynne Toney, members of *The Original Las Vegas Rolling Wheels*.

Scholarship Committee: Chair -

Gwynne Toney, Alice Harris, DM and Luria Walker.

* * * * *

Dear NAARVA Western Region Scholarship Committee,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your generosity in awarding me the Western Region Scholarship! I appreciate your recognition of my efforts and your support of higher education. I will use this \$1,000 scholarship towards my fees and books.

I have begun my undergraduate studies as a freshman at Howard University and can report that my academics are off to a good start. I am currently enrolled in five classes for my Computer Science major and I am on track to earning a 4.0 G.P.A.

I have been networking with other computer science students and professors at Howard, which offers one of the finest programs in the country! Aside from my education at Howard, this summer, I was selected to participate in the Hampton Google Pre-College Program at Hampton University in Virginia. I earned six college credits and A's in both classes.

As I continue to thrive at Howard University, your contribution will assist in reducing my financial burden, which will enable me to focus more on my studies. Again, thank you for this generous scholarship and for investing in my future!

Sincerely,
Daijon Bereola-Carson

Easy Way to Pay NAARVA Dues!

Eventbrite, a form of Paypal, provides an easy way to pay your dues and Charter renewals.

Check it out at naarva.com

EASTERN REGION

Lakewood RV Resort and Campground

BELINDA MOORE
Director, Eastern
Region

queenbee2300@aol.com



Greetings all, from the ER **CaRniVal Rally of 2017**. This year's rally had a special twist. It was held at Lakewood RV Resort in Myrtle Beach, SC.

I know you're thinking "you held it there before," but the twist was the Southern Region also held their regional rally there a week before the ER, so some members got a chance to double their pleasure and double their fun; all without having to leave the resort.

Now, again like the first rally held there, the Lord decided to send us some rain and wind, which I think was more than the ducks could handle because I didn't see them around much. Unlike the previous rallies all activities took place in a tent.

We had repeat vendor attendees as well as first time attendees and our usual members' flea market.

New to the activities was picture frame making. We enjoyed creating our own Mardi Gras themed frames which could have been used as a greeting card also.

Everyone knows that the ER is known for food and we had plenty,

thanks once again to Claude and his team. Myrtle Beach, as you know has lots of activities and entertainment up and down the strand. This year we chose two new excursions; the Medieval Times Dinner Theatre and a guided Gullah tour in Charleston which included a delicious soul food buffet lunch. The Charleston trip included a trip to a plantation. Everyone who participated enjoyed both trips.

Rally entertainment was DJ Mike Winns and

Nu Sound Band, who played at our 20th Anniversary Rally in Marion, NC in 2012.

Due to weather conditions we didn't have an official Club vs Club Bean Bag Baseball game, we just played for the fun of it. Of course card bingo was played and this time Don had a surprise for the players during the last game, you had to be there, so if you want to know what the surprise ending come chill out with us in the beautiful, peaceful Outer Banks of North Carolina at Camp Hatteras RV Resort, April 29-May 6, 2018.

*Submitted by Linda Tailleir,
Royal Campers; ER Photography*

*Members create
their own Mardi
Gras themed
picture frames.*



SOUTHERN REGION

**DR. MONICA
FORD-DAVIS**
Director, Southern
Region
srdirector2016
@yahoo.com



What a success! The 2017 Southern Region Rally was held at Lakewood Camping Resort in Myrtle Beach, SC and was hosted by the *Funseekers RV Club* of Augusta, GA. There were 224 RVs, 462 adults and five children in attendance. Excursions included a Black History Gullah City Island tour to Charleston, wine tasting at Duplin Winery, an evening casino cruise on the Big M Casino boat, and a “Day on the Greens” at Litchfield Country Club.

The ladies attended the first “Southern Belle Social” where the theme was “History Makers”. The ladies were honored to have as their keynote speaker, the first African American Mayor in the history of Conway, SC, Mayor Barbara Blain-Bellamy. While the ladies were enjoying their social, the men were attending the “Gentlemen’s Forum” where they do what gentleman do best, they entertained each other with tips on how to keep their RVs on the road.

Vendors included Best Badges Plus, Sky Med, Kitchen Craft, Real Time Pain Relief, Fun Fashions by K&L, RCiXL, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Safety Plus and Freightliner. Brenda Dorsett



Southern Belle Social

provided line dancing daily and Raymond Goodwill fed the attendees during ‘A Little Cajun Cookin’. Other seminars included Tire Safety, Sky Med overview, Safety Plus overview, Estate Planning, “Ask a Tech” conducted by Camping Connection, “Freightliner Fireside Chat”, Everyday Healthy Lifestyle, Computer Terminology and Apps for Travelers.

The “Night at the Cinema” held in the Information Center featured movies “Hidden Figures” and “Cadillac Records”. A fishing tournament was held at Lakewood’s Lake Perry.

Bible Study was conducted by Sam Martin, President of CARVA. The Saturday worship service was presided over by Reverend Thomas Hanes, NAARVA National Chaplain, Rosemary Range, Southern Region Chaplain, and Deacon Joseph Wallace and Deaconess Linda Wallace of the *Funseekers RV Club*.

With the theme being “Moving Forward While Giving Back”, charitable giving was at the heart of this rally. The rally attendees generously gave school supplies to the Boys and Girls Club of the Grand Strand of Myrtle Beach and nonperishable food items to the Community Kitchen of Myrtle Beach. During the worship service, an additional offering for charitable donations was collected and Todd Hammonds, President of the *Funseekers*, presented a check for \$700 to the Aiken South Carolina Housing Authority for the summer Feed a Kid Program.



Friday “White Night Party”.

The Regional Directors Reception was sponsored by Freightliner and catered by Firehouse Subs. Lakewood Camping Resort and



Camping Connection sponsored the Opening Ceremony Reception. Lakewood also provided a bag full of ‘goodies’ to each rally attendee. Additional catering was provided by The Anchor Seafood and Country Cooking, Pet Ice Cream, and Big Mike’s Soul Food.

The Friday “White Party Night” with the help of Mistress of Ceremony Pamela Clayton, President of *The Georgia Easy Riders*, and James Hammonds III, DJ, was filled with laughter, singing and dancing. The Closing Ceremony Banquet was held on Saturday evening with the attendees beautifully adorned in African attire.



WESTERN REGION



LOUISE GROGAN
Director,
Western Region
nanagrogan@verizon.net

Theme: "Team Spirit"
Date: April 25-30, 2017
Location: Flying Flags RV Resort
& Campground
180 Avenue of Flags, Buellton, CA

We had a wonderful time in
Buellton, CA with 31 motor
homes and 67 guests.

Tours:

Ascendant Spirits Distillery, Buellton, CA
Farmer's Market, Solvang, CA

Seminars:

Medication Disposal Presidents
Santa Barbara County Public Works Department
Resource Recovery & Waste Management Div.
Innovative Environmental Solution

RV Safety:

Coastal Division CHP
Commercial Industry Education Program

Estate Planning Services Presentation

World Financial Group
WFG/Legacy Shield



Western Region 2017
Spring Rally Posting of
Club Flags



Vandenberg Air Force Base, CA -
Honor Guard Presentation of Flags at
2017 Western Region Spring Rally

TEAM SPIRIT

NAARVA has team spirit
The Western Region Way.
We caravan, we camp, we work
And together we love to play.
From Washington to California
We travel the highways with glee
Arizona, Nevada and Oregon
Are states we love to see.
Our rallies are a highlight
For us throughout the year.

With games, prizes and dinners
Our teams we love to cheer
We have "Team Spirit", yes we do
We love "Team Spirit" how about
you?

So we want you to join us
Get in on all the fun
And you will get "Team Spirit"
For Western Region is #1

Liz Hemingway
2017 Wagonmaster

Save the Date! Western Region 2018 Spring Rally May 1 - May 5, 2018

Pahrump, NV - Nevada Treasure RV Resort
Western Region Theme: "The Wild, Wild West"
Visit our website for more information,
www.naarvawesternregion.com



Western Region displaying "Team Spirit".

WESTERN REGION

Tribute To

Mrs. Consuelo "Conne" Cannon

Feb. 4, 1944 - Sept. 6, 2017



Whereas: we must submit to the will of our Heavenly Father in the passing of our dear friend Consuelo "Conne" Cannon on Wednesday, September 6, 2017.

Whereas: we, the members of the National African American RVer's Association (NAARVA)-Western Region

express our condolences to her husband and our friend, John Cannon and the family of Conne.

Whereas: Conne Cannon was a faithful member of the *Funseekers/Rain City Travelers RV Club* and actively represented her club on many journeys throughout the United States; we acknowledge that her journey home has been completed.

Whereas: Conne was known for her warm greetings and a joyful smile that could fill the room or space she occupied, with a little giggle!

Whereas: Conne demonstrated that Christ was her strength as she faced health difficulties always trusting the will of God and living each day to its fullest. If you got an e-mail message from Conne, you got a scripture that was a source of encouragement.

Whereas: the passing of Consuelo Cannon has revealed that God's word is true and everlasting as it is written in Ecclesiastes 3:1-5. *"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven; a time to be born, and a time to die, a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time*

to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance."

Whereas: we are encouraged not to be discouraged as God has prepared a place for our dear Sister and gives its assurance for comfort; as written in John 16:7, *"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you."*

Whereas: it is our power that the Holy Spirit will comfort our friend John Cannon and family in their time of sorrow and loss;

Therefore, Be It Resolved: That even as we mourn the loss of our beloved Sister we rejoice to know that this is the all-wise heavenly Father's will. We express our gratitude to God for having left this beautiful life among us for a time to blossom; that we express to the family of Conne Cannon; who grieve today, our heartfelt sympathy in their loss. A copy of this resolution will be placed in the NAARVA Western Region records, a copy forwarded to National Headquarters, and a copy to the family.

June 18, 2017: This was her message after she received cards from a friend:

"I have received the many cards you have sent and I not only love them I am keeping them and sharing with others. Not the writing, but the front of the cards. To me, cards have such a short span that we appreciate and to me, some cards need to be shared and the message passed along, like 'paying it forward,' the cards' front is 'blessing it forward.'"



Conne and John Cannon

Rules for Submitting Articles to The Voice

If you want to share news from your Club, or have something to say about RV'ing, E-mail your information to your Regional Director. **The deadline for the Winter issue is January 5, 2018. RD's and contributing writers, please E-mail your articles to the Editor soon after the events.**

NAARVA members will receive *The Voice* by E-mail. You may access it through the NAARVA website: www.naarva.com.

If you do not have an E-mail account or access to a computer, **call 704-333-3070**, and a hard copy will be mailed to you. *The Voice* is published three times yearly by NAARVA. Voice Editor: Gwynne Toney, naarvavoice@gmail.com.

Bereavement Information

A NAARVA member's death announcement should be given to your Chapter President, who will pass it along to your Regional Director. The Regional Director will submit the list of names to **Gloria Shelton, NAARVA's National Benevolence Chair**, at: shelt57@aol.com

Tournament and Contest Winners



The five S's of sports are Stamina, Speed, Strength, Skill and Spirit. The greatest of these is Spirit, which these competitors have in abundance.

Mary M. Thompson Memorial Golf Tournament

Women's

Closest to the pin: Doris Pugh

Longest Drive: Diane Summers

Men's

Closest to the pin: Robert McClain

Longest drive: Louis Summers

4-Man Scramble Team

1st place: J.R. Norman, Tippy Auzenne, Robert McClain

2nd place: Lorenzo Pugh, Doris Pugh, Ralph O'Neal, Mary O'Neal

3rd place: Louis Summers, Diane Summers, Robert Farmer, Bobby Harden

4th place: Joe Washington, Larry Mitchell, Trenton Fields, Gary Allen

Bowling

1st Place: Charline Johnson and Walter Scott

2nd Place: Betty Berry and Robert Raye

High Score Men: Darrel Morrow

High Score Women: Betty Berry

Fishing

1st Place: Ransome Sanfield

2nd Place: Jerry Williams

3rd: Toni Revis, Charlene Williams, Donna Slaughter, Maxine Wilson

Bean Bag Baseball: Central Region

Family Feud: Western Region and Southern Region.

Winners of \$100 for Early Registration

John Alexander, King Brown, Frank Cannon, Phillip Hafler and Kevin Kneeland.

Information on the other winners, unavailable, but congratulations to all!

Expanding Our Membership...

Sylvia Allen
Twin City Campers Club
NAARVA Liaison



Hello NAARVA Members:

As we continue our efforts to expand membership in our camping clubs and NAARVA, I would like to share a few ideas.

1. Invite fellow church members, neighbors and friends to a monthly campout.

2. Create "camping cards" with your club's contact information. Give each member of your club several cards to carry with them at all times. Give a card to anyone you believe may be interested in RVing. You will be surprised of the interest "camping cards" generate.

3. Community events. This is an excellent venue to generate interest in RVing. Enter your RV's with your camping club logo displayed in local parades. Or have a table with your clubs information and include pictures, camp-out schedule, etc.

4. Ask to give a 10 minute overview of your club and NAARVA to your local Urban League, NAACP, VFW, ELKS and other civic organizations.

Take time to discuss and share the great time we have RVing with younger potential members and suggest options for purchasing a first Travel Trailer, Fifth Wheel, Coach or self-contained Popup.

- Self-contained popups can be affordable.
- Used travel trailers can also be affordable and a great way to start RVing.
- There is a considerable price drop on new and used RV's in September, October and late fall.



ARTICLES

Submissions chosen for publication may be corrected for length and clarity. Any submission to The Voice may be published in any issue, henceforth.



2017 Rally Committee

At the End of the Yellow Brick Road...

Most of you are back home and hopefully remembering your experience in Hutchinson, Kansas at NAARVA's 25th Anniversary Rally. Your first impression of Hutchinson, should have been of a clean city with many attractions and excellent restaurants that belie the actual size of the city.

Upon arriving at the fairgrounds, you observed a nice RV park with full hookup campsites and spacious and some shaded campsites without sewer hookups. It didn't matter the location of your campsite, each site was level and conveniently located to the various buildings used by the rally.

If you arrived on Sunday, you had an opportunity to participate in "Jammin' in the Park" which was definitely a one of a kind atmosphere sitting around Lake Talbot. This event allowed everyone the opportunity to get together with all the NAARVA members that you probably hadn't seen or spoken with since the last rally.

Everyone gathered around with their chairs and their drink of choice to enjoy a wonderful evening listening to great music which allowed many of us to dust off our dancing shoes. Music

was provided by Ricky Lee, a local DJ out of Wichita, Kansas.

On Sunday, as well as on Monday and Tuesday, there was no need to fuss with trying to cook in 100 degree weather because we had our various food trucks do all the cooking for us. Anything you wanted; BBQ, Chicken, Sandwiches, Fish and all the sides, including Fried Pies for dessert were available. Nothing but yummy goodness.

On Monday, the chartered bus took many of you to the Kansas Star Casino located in Mulvane, Kansas to try your luck at one of their 1,770 slots or 50 table games. In talking to people that went, the "Casino's Gods" were very kind. Along way to the casino allowed you an opportunity to see some of the interesting terrain of South Central part of Kansas.

When you returned to the fairgrounds, you prepared yourself again to dance the night way at Lake Talbott. Several of you decided to try your hand at Card Bingo to see if the luck you experienced earlier in the day still remained. And for the second night in a row, the mobile food vendors were there to offer a myriad of menu items.



Jammin' in the park.

On Tuesday, those of you who chose to go on the Strataca Salt Mine tour, you found yourself traveling 650 feet beneath the earth's surface. It was a unique destination attraction for exploring an environs carved from salt deposits formed 275



Experiencing the Salt Mines.

million years ago. Salt was discovered in 1887 by a land developer who was drilling for oil. Each person who went of the tour received a sample of salt as part of the tour.

For those that didn't go on the tour had an opportunity to attend one of several seminars. Those seminars ranged from explaining the service offerings of Coach Care, a subsidiary of Cummins, to a seminar presented by AARP about being a caregiver to someone. There was one special workshop offered on Tuesday with that being the Aluminum Foil cooking class. It was a well-attended workshop for the outrageous cost of \$3. All seemed

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End of the Yellow Brick Road...

(Continued from page 12)

happy with the outcome which consisted of sausage, vegetables of various colors, shrimp, chicken and scallops. How could this not be a success it was comprised of food, fun, and members of the NAARVA family?

Many of you ended Tuesday night, by participating in Central Region's version of the Family Feud game. Special celebrity guests were flown in from around the world just to participate in Family Feud. There was Ike and Tina Turner, Al Green, Shaft, Beyoncé, Foxy Brown, Peaches & Herb and special Kansas guests, Dorothy and the Cowardly Lion. Congratulations to the Western and Southern Region winners.

As the sun set, the bikers assembled to participate in the first Moonlight Bike Ride, which turned out to be both fascinating and cool, and we do mean cool....the sun was gone and the wind was blowing through people's hair as we rode through the entire fairgrounds. They saw parts of the fairgrounds that others had not ventured into. They rode by the livestock area, saw the huge race track stadium, and all the colorful state fair food buildings. The bikes and riders were all lit up with colorful bright lights. As they rode through the RV sites more people joined us and made the bike ride a fun and enjoyable activity for all ages. The ride ended at Lake Talbott with music and food trucks and cheers from everyone!

Many of you started your Wednesday by attending one of the seminars that was scheduled for that day. One special seminar was NAARVA's ser-

vice project where the theme was dresses here, dresses there, dresses everywhere! The pillowcase dresses were cut, pinned, sewn, and made with exceptional teamwork by over 60 NAARVA women. These ladies had a great time making the dresses and fellowshiping together. Some ladies made dresses before they came because they wanted to donate more than one dress. The team worked together making a total of 157 dresses for the little girls in Africa. NAARVA took this project and made it into a humbling and giving experience enjoyed by many. Thanks to all the women and men that participated in this worthwhile event!



Also on Wednesday we were off to the Cosmosphere to see the space center. It was well attended and enjoyed by all who went. Another event of the rally was the bowling tournament which took place at the "ALLEY". Good fellowship was had by all that attended and prizes were given to the winners. Charline Johnson and Walter Scott were our 1st place winners. Betty



Cosmosphere Space Center

Berry and Robert Raye were our 2nd place winners with Darrel Morrow having the high score for the men, and Betty Berry having the high score for the women

Some of you made a special effort to decorate your vehicles prior to the Opening Ceremony. Good job!

We were fortunate again to have "Dorothy" and the "Tin Man" visit the rally.



Mayor Jon Daveline of Hutchinson was the keynote speaker for the Opening Ceremony. Amy Thompson represented the Kansas State Fairgrounds and extended a warm welcome and



Moonlight bike ride.



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End of the Yellow Brick Road...

(Continued from page 13)

appreciation to all in attendance. After the Opening Ceremony, those of you who attended the reception where the complimentary beverages along with Central Region's version of "steak in the round" was enjoyed by all.

As the saying goes - "rise and shine" and we did just that to catch the hot and flying pancakes being cooked and served by Chris Cakes of Wichita.



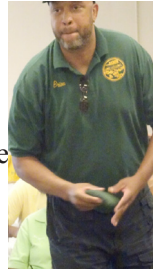
What an excellent way to start the day on Thursday. After breakfast, eight guys started the day taking a motor-cycle ride that was originally planned for three hours but was expanded to about 4.5 hour. These eight bikers ranged in age and riding experience. They left Hutchinson with several fuel breaks and to regroup. Lunch was purchased and enjoyed at The Hickory Hut in Salina.

Others rally attendees elected to participate in the 2017 Fishing Tournament where people received prizes for the biggest fish and the most fish caught. Ransom Stanfield won the 1st prize, with 2nd place being won by Jerry William. Toni Revis, Charlene Williams, Donna Slaughter and Maxine Wilson all tied for 3rd place.

Delegates from the various chapters attended the Governing Assembly meeting during midmorning where the business of the organization was

discussed. Regional meetings took place during Thursday afternoon.

Thursday evening was the time for the National Beanbag Baseball Tournament. The Central Region was able to win the tournament this year after the Eastern Region has held the reign for two years. People who attended the tournament also had the opportunity to partake of a hot dog and some liquid refreshments that took place during this tournament along with other small snacks that were offered until depleted.



You screamed, I screamed, we all screamed for ice cream - and we got it. Ice cream was served to all and it was a cool welcomed summer treat.

On Friday, rally attendees had the option of attending the Men's Event or the Red Hat Tea. What a turnout for the men's event. They were offered regular brats, cheese brats and even had



chicken brats, along with all the fixings; baked beans, potato salad, and cold beer. Our NAARVA men enjoyed the food, music and opportunity to socialize and to sit out by Lake Talbot.

Tea anyone? Oh, yes we had tea for everyone! The Red Hat Tea served hot tea in a special teacup with a



memorable toast for the ladies of NAARVA. The luncheon was an afternoon to be remembered. The food was delectable, the fashion show was bling-bling, spectacular, and exciting. The guest speaker was Judge Birzer and she was funny and knowledgeable about what and how women should do to be happy every day of their lives. With all that excitement we still were amazed at the presentation of the desserts. The dessert table was beautiful and colorful and filled with red, purple and silver cupcakes, sheet cake, and a big elegant red purple silver Hat Cake! It was an unbelievable sight to see! At the end of our time together we laughed and made our commitment to next year's event together. Thanks to everyone that made the Red Hat Tea an event to remember.

The Rally would not be complete without the Robert Reese Cakewalk.



It was well attended as usual. Some of the walkers got an extra treat after winning a cake, they were also given ice cream. Two for the price of one.

Then, it was time to put a pep in your step and dance the night away at the Friday night's entertainment event. So, the Domestic Arts Building was the hot spot to relax as everyone gathered to listen to the live bands of Lady D "Me And The Boyz" and "Somethin' Xtra," both out of Wichita, Kansas. The great music stimulated our NAARVA members and invited guests to dance, sing along and enjoy the popular songs of favorite artists.



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End of the Yellow Brick Road...

(Continued from page 14)

Both bands played a wide range of music and kept the energy high all night. Let us not forget the entertainment during intermission provided once again by the DJ Ricky Lee. What more can I say? Both bands were truly awesome and gave that personal touch which made our celebration exactly as we desired it to be Friday night! We couldn't have asked for more.



We begin Saturday with our worship services coordinated by Reverend Thomas Hanes. Local ministers and



choirs joined us to make our services something special and memorable.

Afterwards, everyone attended the National Camp Rally meeting where the business of the organization was briefly discussed and ended with the

swearing in of the new National Officers.

During the afternoon, the usual NAARVA Marketplace was scheduled where many brought gently used or new merchandise to sell. Many stayed after this event to participate in the annual NAARVA auction.

On Saturday evening we had a dinner menu featuring several delectable items. It was a great way to end a fun-filled week in Hutchinson, Kansas. Our caterer was local, minority owned and had been in business for over 50 years. We enjoyed a tasty and satisfying meal in the Domestic Arts Building, which was beautifully decorated with lots of



sparkle and bling to commemorate our 25th anniversary.

After dinners, five of the founding members of NAARVA were recognized and honored. Those founding members being: James and Katherine Marsh, William and Martha McClain and Gloria Shelton. The past Presidents in attendance at the rally were also recognized, since they can take credit for helping to bring the organization this far.



Another factor, that contributed to the success of the rally was the abundance of booth vendors. There were eighteen in attendance which was the most we've had for awhile. They offered a variety of products, from RV products to fashions for men and women, jewelry, health products, hats, emergency medical service, hair care, coffee and AARP.

Many of these vendors also presented informative seminars with AARP offering some unique seminars on Caregivers, Fraud Watch, and

Aging. Participation from our rally attendees was great. Some of the vendors were first timers, but still assured us they would be back to support NAARVA.

What an exciting week, that we feel was enjoyed by all who attended this NAARVA's 25th Anniversary Rally.

By Carolyn J. Buford



Shining the Spotlight on Carolyn J. Buford



By Gwynne Toney

If one takes a closer look at the alchemy of the achieving person, six distinct virtues emerge. These are: perseverance, hard work, integrity, vision, willingness and a pioneering spirit. Our President-elect embodies these qualities and besides that, she is just a lovely and personable person. The *NAARVA Voice* is proud to shine the spotlight on our 7th National President Carolyn J. Buford.

➤ ***As the second female President of NAARVA, are there any specific qualities you bring to this position?***

I am not sure I have any noteworthy specific or particular qualities that I bring to the office. However, what I feel I do bring to the position is a dedication to NAARVA and the members of NAARVA. Given this dedication, my focus as President of NAARVA, and not necessarily as the second female President of NAARVA, is to establish a firm base for NAARVA to remain a successful and viable organization for another twenty-five years. However, many of my friends and associates have stated that my most noticeable qualities is being organized and determined. Given that their assessment is correct then I will use these qualities to support NAARVA in any way that I can.

➤ ***What excites you about this job?***

Whoa, that is a difficult question to answer at this time. I think it would be best to describe my emotion as being eager to discover what the job actually entails and doing the best job that I can. Many people tend to state what they would do or what others should do as President of NAARVA. What isn't often taken into consideration is what the challenges of the position are and what various options might be for addressing these challenges. So, after a few weeks of assuming the position of President, I have become more aware of the challenges of the position. So, I remain eager to continue to learn more about the position and to address those challenges that could potentially impact the future of NAARVA.

➤ ***Who is your role model?***

It is difficult to list just one role model. That is because I may have different role models based on the situation. For instance, I will gravitate to the examples that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. set for us in dealing with difficult interpersonal is-

sues. During other times, I remember the wisdom shared with us by Maya Angelou. Lastly, I try to remember the person who influenced me the most from childhood to an adult. That individual being my Mother. One bit of advice that she gave me that I hope will serve me well as President of NAARVA is to remember that "it is very difficult to listen if your mouth is open."

➤ ***Name three of your favorite things?***

If your question pertains to inanimate items, then I would have to say that my recreational vehicle is one of my favorite things. That item has been and will continue to represent my freedom to travel this wonderful county of ours. Secondly, I value my photography equipment because they provide the ability to chronicle our travels and to relive the experience. My third favorite thing would be owning the most comfortable shoes that I can find.

Now, if your question is really what are my favorite things to do, then I would have to answer in one word....TRAVEL. Every year we have owned an RV, we have gained a greater appreciation of the freedom that having an RV brings to one's life. The ability to travel when and where we want has allowed us to partake in one of our favorite pastime....FISHING.

➤ ***How do you spend your leisure time?***

My leisure time is spent exploring the many areas of our country and meeting new people during our travels. My husband and I have been fortunate to have acquired so many relationships based on our travels.

➤ ***What's your favorite vacation destination?***

My favorite vacation destination is anywhere where there is a body of water. Both my husband and I find that being on or near water is a very soothing and peaceful experience.

➤ ***What's on your bucket list?***

My bucket list is very short. However, the two most prominent items on this list would be travel to and experience the wonders of the Northwest and Alaska.

➤ ***What was the last book you read?***

The last book I read is titled "Jason: Ward of the Court" written by Mary Peterson. Mary is the widow of my oldest paternal uncle and a retired teacher from Chicago School system. During her career as a teacher she taught a young man who was the ward of the court. This experience and with the urging of her friends, she decided to write a book about their experiences and relationship. Mary and Jason continue to have a relationship and she still has significant involvement in his life. Even though this book fo-

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“AROUND THE CAMPFIRE” Question

Interviewed by Gwynne Toney

Now that we've entered our 25th year as an organization, what are your wishes for the future of NAARVA?

Kenneth & Shawn Gollsby, Southern Region

The things we'd wish for NAARVA is to see more young people involved, and ways that we could get out there and reach the younger generation. Whatever city we're in, we could find out what organizations are involved with young people and just get them to come out and see the rigs and stuff like that.



We're not all rich people, but we could show them that they could have a nice life and get out and do some things too. We were out yesterday getting ice cream and saw some young couples who recognized that we were with the RV club. They said that they passed through the campground and were really impressed with how many of “us” there were. So, I think it would be good to let some of the community know that we are here so they could be involved and see what we do and see the good that we do. Like we give out scholarships. It's good for the community to know what's going on and what our organization is all about.

George A. Smith Jr., Southern Region



One of the things that we look at when we get together, we talk about the changes to what is being done. We should go to every other year, when we bring all four regions together at our National. And if you have 500-600 rigs, you're gonna have plenty of vendors trying to sell to us. Because when we used to come to town, we were the ‘black group.’ And now when we come to town, we're the ‘green group.’

Carolyn Buford... (Continued from pg. 16)

cuses on Jason, it has enabled me to discover another dimension of Mary Peterson.

➤ **What is your most significant accomplishment?**

My most significant accomplishment related to NAARVA would be the merger of the Northern Region into the Central Region. For such a potentially political and sensitive situation, the members of both regions help make this effort a positive experience. Even though my part in this merger was small in nature compared to others contributions to this effort, I remain proud to have been involved.

➤ **What motivates you?**

I am often motivated by challenges that present themselves in either my personal or professional life. Through these challenges I tend to find inner strength that gives me both the physical and emotional energy to address and most often overcome these challenges.

➤ **What's your best quote or saying?**

The one I used most often in the last year is: If it walks like a duck, swims like a duck and quacks like a duck, I'll call that bird a duck. Now, why is that currently my most frequently used saying? It is because recently I have observed so many different scenarios where people have tried to convince me and others that we are not seeing a “duck”, but my (our) observations seem to prove otherwise.

➤ **Do you have any children or grandchildren?**

My husband, Luther and I, do not have any children of our own. However, with Luther being from a family of fourteen we have had and still have so many nurturing opportunities that has not left us with any void in our lives.



Alphonso (Club President) & Jeannie Mitchell, Central Region

AM: What I would like to see is NAARVA having more vendors at the National Rally. I found out in the past that going to the rallies, the vendors that are there have a much better price than retail outlets and I don't mind spending money while getting good bargains.

JM: What I would like to see is maybe moving the NAARVA rally to different months, because it's so hot in some of the states we go to in July. Maybe in April or just cooler months.

Rev. Melvin & Luria Walker Western Region



MW: What I'd like to see NAARVA do in the future and talk about for the future of NAARVA, is to get younger people into the NAARVA family. Because if we're going to maintain and you look at our population, we're not in the longevity style. So, we need to look at trying to get younger people who can afford RV's to visit with us, maybe invite them out so they can enjoy a few amenities of the RV living. Also, I think we need to look at the kind of RV's or campers that we allow to come to NAARVA, because a lot of them cannot afford it, and I'm assuming this now, what the standard of our RV association requires. And that's from 5th wheels probably to the busses that we have today. There

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AROUND THE CAMPFIRE---

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needs to be an entry level program because without that, younger individuals and families will not have a chance to experience true RV living.

LW: With the training classes, I would like to see them offer a morning class with that same class offered in the afternoon. For those of us who like to sleep in, it would give us an opportunity to take those classes. Secondly, I would like to do something a little more creative when it comes to relationship building. I think that we should be seated with a region that's different from the region we come from. Therefore, we would get to know them because we would do that repeatedly. These would be the improvements for the National rallies for me.



Dorothy Kinslow, Central Region with Son Jerry & Daughter-in-law, Jerri Kinslow

DK: The first thing I would like to see NAARVA do is change their communications system. At the present time, we're doing communications through e-mails and there are members who don't have internet or computers and some who don't even know how to turn on a computer, let alone keep up with the e-mails and what's going on. I think that we should have some type of program that the national can communicate with the Presidents of their clubs and the Presidents can get information to their club members. I know that they think that everyone has a printer. We didn't get our registration cards through mail, like we always have before. Another thing that NAARVA needs to do is to have communication with the new members; I don't think we're giving them enough

attention. And we can do this through registration, to a point. (cited incident involving perspective member). We have a big problem, we say that we're one big family but then when we get out, we're kind of stuck to ourselves or our club members. You have to be a really outgoing person to get hooked up with all the other clubs to know what's going on. When NAARVA meets, you need to have a little social event where we can just get together with the different clubs and regions. We have Meet 'n Greet, but we get our snacks and we stay with our clubs. We need to change that.

Jerry: Our experience with NAARVA has been very limited, but we were stepping into filling my Father's shoes to make sure my Mom was able to get to the NAARVA events. As we've done that over the last five years, my wife and I have actually become very interested in becoming NAARVA members. So, with that being said, we think it is a good association and would definitely be interested in taking that step towards becoming members. Of course, there are some things that we have seen as far as being able to communicate with the people who are wanting to get involved with your NAARVA group. But I think you guys have a good thing going here, we look forward to becoming members.



"Have you ever considered an automatic leveling system?"



Melo "Big Willi" Odoms, At Large member - Eastern Region

Going forward, I think that we need some professional business people that should arrange the next outings where the accommodations are better, where there is something to do for the constituents and for their children, friends and whatever. I think that everything should be changed as far as what we pay for. I think it should be some RV parks or towns that are surrounded by activities for things that you could do, places that you could go. Not in the middle of nowhere where the temperatures are exorbitantly high, over 100 degrees where you have to stay in your coach all day long and really can't come out until night, and the only thing you can do is attend the affairs that were set up by NAARVA. I think we should not be tied into where the National event can be. It can be anywhere in the United States. These are coaches that travel across country. People that come from every city every state in America to attend this rally. The rally should be held anywhere in America that NAARVA can afford — in New England, in Detroit, wherever, not in the middle of the hottest places you can find.

Text edited for brevity.