

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 2

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SPRING 2023 (April, May, June)

From The President's Desk...

This is the last opportunity to address you as President of NAARVA through the VOICE Newsletter. It's been a journey!

My first Rally year as your NAARVA President, 2020, was derailed by Covid along with every member of our nation and throughout the world. A pandemic that continues to impact our families, communities, churches, and employment and developed a new "norm" for all aspects of lives, but through it all, NAARVA survived.

Congratulations to our Region Directors as they safely navigated the 2023 Rally Season. The annual rallies are a great opportunity to plan your recreational vehicle travels. Visiting cities, states, and national landmarks and enjoying family and friends across the United States. Some of our families continue to struggle with the effects of the pandemic, illnesses, business loss, educational plans on hold, and grief that can stifle our forward movement. Let's always be ready to encourage one another when we can. Let's make our club, the regional and national rallies, the place to be when you want to relax and enjoy time on the beach or golf course, by the campfire, or cast a line to fish!

I have served NAARVA during my term to preserve and protect the legacy of NAARVA. I am a very proud member of NAARVA and how it has weathered the storm of change caused by the pandemic, how our members brushed aside the devasting effects of the loss



LOUISE GROGAN

that we experienced over the last three years, paid our dues, cleaned, repaired, and restored our recreational vehicles and got back on the road again!

Thank you, NAARVA members and Executive Board members, for allowing me the opportunity to serve this historic organization. The recreational vehicle industry owes you all a great amount of gratitude. Gratitude for continuing your support to NAARVA and the RV industry!

God Bless You all as you travel. I hope to see you at future NAARVA events as Barry and I turn our attention to the joy of a campfire; please come and say hey!

Best Regards,

Louise Grogan NAARVA President -2019-2023



Your Executive Board Candidates

Dear NAARVA Members,

It is time for our election of officers to the Executive Board of Directors of NAARVA, Inc. The Nominations/Election Committee received nominations for the positions of President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, General Secretary and Assistant Treasurer. The candidates have submitted statements of their qualifications and expectations for advancing NAARVA to a better organization. These were included in the Winter 2023 *VOICE*, and are repeated again in this *VOICE* issue. Make sure you submit your completed ballots in time to meet the July 24, 2023 postmark deadline.

Dorothy Redd, Chairperson, Nominations/Election Committee

For President...



RODNEY THOMPSON

Rodney Thompson currently serves as the 2nd Vice President of NAARVA and is seeking the position of President of NAARVA.

Rodney is the Liaison of the Constitution and By-Laws committee, Membership Chairperson and Chairperson of the Youth Program.

He has been a member of NAARVA and *Texas Sojourners* for 11 years, and has previously held the position of Assistant Regional Director for the Southern Region for two terms.

He is a United States Army Veteran, who also attended Prairie View A&M University where he majored in Business. He retired from the United States Postal Service where he served as President, Vice President, OWCP Rep, and Steward of National Letter Carriers Association Branch 3867.

His goals and plans are to con-

tinuously develop processes and procedures, bring consistency to the organization, continue to recruiting new members and advance this wonderful organization into the next phase.

For President...



CHARLES E. BREEDLOVE

My Sisters and Brothers of NAARVA:

My name is Charles E Breedlove NAARVA (#94-3528) currently serving as the Southern Region Director. I am seeking election for the position of President of NAARVA.

I am a member of *Space Age RV Club* of Huntsville, Alabama. I have been a member of NAARVA and the Southern Region for eight years. I'm a past President and Vice President of *Space Age RV Club*. I also serve as Parliamentarian and Chairperson for the By-Laws for the Southern Region.

I retired from the US Army with over twenty year's of service and retired from the U.S. Postal Service with over twenty year's of service. I am a member of many Social Organizations and Clubs where I serve as Vice President and other elected positions. Currently I am the President of the Roadrunners Corvette Club of Huntsville, Alabama and one of its founding members.

My goal will be to preserve the integrity of our great organization, increase our membership, and have a quarterly financial report sent to all members. I will also have every member get a copy of all approved minutes from all meetings from the Executive Board.

Another goal, if I'm elected as the next President with the permission of the members, is to sell the NAARVA Property at 614 Chipley Ave., Charlotte, NC. I will have a committee to report on property to buy that can accommodate office space and RV sites to the members.

I also want to see more sponsors added to our website. I'd like to inform all the members of NAARVA that there is a Commercial Account at Advance Auto Parts Store. You can go to any Advance Auto Parts Store in the U.S. and U.S. Territory to receive the Commercial Discount. All you have to do at checkout is to present your NAARVA dues card and Corporate Account number 1846086076 to the sale person to receive your discount. This is one Corporate Account I got for NAARVA and I'm working on other accounts. I have heard from members, "what is NAARVA doing for them?" This account will be added to the other accounts NAARVA has on its

(See, Candidates, page 3)

Candidates...

(Continued from page 2)

webpage. Now we can tell all ours members they can save money if they chose to use these Corporate Accounts that NAARVA has on its webpage.

If I am elected as the next President of NAARVA, every member will have a voice and be heard. I will support the Members-at-Large by letting them have a voice on the NAARVA Executive Board and all members will be treated with the same respect.

I'm asking you to VOTE for me to continue moving NAARVA forward. Thank you in advance for your Vote!

For 1st Vice President...



MYRTLE MAYFIELD

Myrtle Mayfield 94-1182, I am asking for your support and for your vote!

Oualificatiaons

Former First Vice President 2014-2018; former National Rally Chair 2018; former Second Vice President -2019-2020; former Southern Region Director 2010-2013; former Southern Region Director -2009-2009; former President and Co-founder of *Georgia Easy Riders RV Club* 2006-2008; Former Regional By-Laws Revision Chairperson; Past National Constitution and By-Laws Chairperson; Past Co-Chairperson for the NAARVA National Camp Rally (Rayne, LA); responsible for a successful Southern Region Rallies - 2011, 2012, & 2013.

Rally Experience

Assisted in planning the following Rallies from 2014-2018 as First Vice President. Developed the first Rally Survey soliciting members input and implemented same in Oklahoma in 2014. Compiled results and shared with Regional Directors. Updated the National Rally Manual and issued it to Regional Directors. Planned and implemented all Regional Rallies while serving as Regional Director from 2010-2013.

Plan for advancing NAARVA

My plan for advancing NAARVA is and continues to have better communication. We have already made strides in communicating through using Constant Contact. However, it can be expanded by ensuring that we have updated email address for members. I'd also like to see us participate in another Strategic Planning seminar and follow up on the plan. Start on a 3-year plan for the upcoming Rallies by selecting venues and dates

Education

Bachelors Degree in Sociology; Masters of Social Work Employment; Retired Educator - DeKalb County School System as a Resource Coordinator; retired from Equifax and IBM as a End User Analyst and Manager.

Other Information

I am widowed and have one adult son, a daughter-in-law, two grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

I am an active member of Green-forest Baptist Church, Decatur, Georgia; Life member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; Life member of National Council of Negro Women; Past 2nd VP of NAACP - Rockdale Branch

I am a former board member of the Georgia Radio Reading Service for the Visualy Impaired.

For 1st Vice President...



REV. JESSE BATTLEHello Fellow NAARVA Members.

Having spent the last few years observing the culture of NAARVA's leadership, including, but not limited to, the conduct and responsibilities of each of the executive offices and officers. I have observed that the responsibilities of the office of 1st Vice President has an essential financial impact on NAARVA and its membership. An example of such impact lies in the planning of the National Camp Rally. In accordance with the job description in the rally packet, the 1st Vice President is "in charge of the National Rally, along with the Rally Chairperson"; he/she is required to "go on site visits, along with the Rally Chairperson"; he/she is to "negotiate all contracts and bring (them) back to the President for approval and signature." In addition, Article II, Section 2 of our By-Laws states: "The 1st Vice President ... shall serve as National Camp Rally Coordinator; and additionally, shall serve as chairperson of the Rally Oversight Team..."

The office of 1st Vice President is most crucial to the rally cost which is passed on to NAARVA members. The lack of involvement in this process on the part of a 1st Vice President, who is experienced in handling such negotiations, is that the overall cost handed down to the membership could be considerably higher. In light of the aforementioned factors, I feel it absolutely essential that the person who fills the office of 1st Vice President be someone who is skilled in negotiating. Therefore, after extensive consideration I have decided to run for the office of 1st Vice President of this esteemed association.

A Biographical Sketch:

Jesse Battle is a 73-year-old retired bishop who spent most of his adult life as senior pastor in churches in Ohio, Michigan and Missouri. From 2001 until 2019, he served his denomination as bishop in Hawaii for eight years, and in Missouri for ten years. During his tenure as bishop, he was responsible for the training and development of local pastors, along with

(See, Candidates, page 4)
The NAARVA Voice - 3

Candidates...

(Continued from page 3) diocese.

After longing for several years to own a recreational vehicle, Battle and his wife purchased his first RV (a Class A diesel) in 2012. They attended their first National RV Rally with the Family Motor Coach Association, held in Gillette, Wyoming. During the next FMCA rally, they learned about the *MO/KAN Roadrunners* and the National African-American RVers Association. They joined both groups shortly there after.

In addition to serving his local chapter as chaplain, Battle has served NAARVA as National Chaplain and parliamentarian during the past four years. He brings to NAARVA the unique experience of having successfully served in executive positions for nonprofit organizations throughout his career. For more than 40 years, he has served as a parliamentarian in both a teaching capacity and as a practicing parliamentarian.

He served as an executive officer, culminating as president, of the Hampton University Ministers' Conference, which for more than 100 years was regarded as one of America's most prestigious interdenominational conferences of African-American pastors.

Other areas of service included:

Board Member, National Urban League; Board Member, Clark County Family Services; NAARVA 1st Vice President; Member, Clark County Drug Control Council; Board Member, NAACP; Board Member, Opportunity Industrialization Centers (OIC); President, Church Development Institute; Vice President, Cross-Cultural Pastors' Association; Board Member, Aenon Bible College; President, Ecumenical Leadership Council of Missouri.

After attending elementary, high school and college in St. Louis, Battle served in the U.S. Army where he graduated from U.S. Army Helicopter Flight School and mastered the intricate details of flying the Huey (CH47A) and Chinook (UH1D) helicopters. While stationed at the largest

army airfield in South Korea, he was credited with stopping a major racial incident between Black, White, and Korean soldiers in the local village just outside of the post. Subsequently, he was appointed by the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Korean Support Command, to the position of Equal Rights Liaison Officer for the Command.

Battle holds a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree, and a Doctorate of Ministry (D.Min.) degree. In addition, he holds two honorary doctorates. He has been married for 32 years to Denise (Watt) Battle, a special education high school teacher. While Battle is the proud father of a Harvard educated daughter and a Princeton educated son; he and Denise have a younger daughter who is preparing to enter her first year of medical school.

2nd Vice President...

BRIAN SKIPPER

Brian is serving his second term as the Central Region Director, a position he has held since April of 2020.



He is also the President of his local camping club, *The Akron Adventurers Kamper Club (AAKC)*, and has held the position since 2017.

Born and raised in Akron, Ohio, Brian was educated in the Akron Public School system. He began his employment with the City of Akron, Ohio in 1984 after which he became employed by the Akron Board of Education in the same year. Brian retired from the Board of Education in 2015.

During his working career, Brian coached many youth sports including soccer, basketball, and football. Brian was also a Youth Advisor with the New Era Baptist District Association and

helped to organize many events to benefit the youth in his community.

The Skipper family began their camping experience with Brian's inlaws and their RV. After experiencing the enjoyment of RVing, the Skippers purchased their first of several RVs. They have officially been camping since 2011 at which time they became members of their local camping club, AAKC. They also joined NAARVA the same year.

Brian enjoys traveling with his family and friends both with the RV and by air. He also looks forward to the fellowship with old friends and meeting new friends at the Central and National Rallies.

Brian and his wife, Tammy, and have been married for 24 years. They have two handsome sons, Mario and Nicholas, and two beautiful grandchildren, Milan and Phoenix.

2nd Vice President...

JOE BRADY



I, Joe Brady am running for the 2nd Vice President position. I have held the position of 1st Vice President for the last four years. I believe my duties as 1st Vice President qualify me to hold the position as 2nd Vice President.

I have been a member of NAARVA for 24 years. During that time I have held the position of Assistant Financial Secretary, 1st Vice President, and Chairman of the Constitution and By- Laws Committee.

My goals for NAARVA is to increase the membership and find ways to get our former members to rejoin, keep our members informed on what's going on at the executive level, get Members-at-Large more involved, fight to get the Members-at-Large on the executive board.

(See, Candidates, page 5)

Candidates...

(Continued from page 4)

I am dedicated to NAARVA to do whatever it takes to keep NAARVA moving in the right direction.

I appreciate your vote and support. Thank you in advance.

For General Secretary



ELAINE STANDIFER

As current General Secretary of NAARVA and I happy to nominate myself for the upcoming 2023-2025 Executive Board.

My husband Ron and I joined NAARVA in 1996 right after cofounding the D.C. Connection RV Club and have attended twenty NAARVA National Rallies.

Prior to retiring in 2015 my work history consisted of being a Human Resources Manager and VP for numerous high-tech companies in the Northern Virginia area.

Following are my positions held within NAARVA over my twenty-six years as a member and have enjoyed the growth I've seen and continue to see within the organization. I knew I wanted to be a part of such a family-oriented association.

1999 - 2001, Assistant Recording Secretary, National.

2001 - 2007, Scholarship Chairperson, National.

2005 - 2007, Public Relations, National.

2014 - 2021, Public Relations, Eastern Region.

2017 - Present, Public Relations, National.

2021 — Present, General Secretary I look forward to continuing my support of NAARVA in this capacity. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my nomination.

For Asst. Treasurer...



ANDREA JEANNE "AJ" JOHNSON-HARVEY

I am submitting my application for the position of Assistant Treasurer. I have been a member of NAARVA for 17 years and have held positions at both the Regional and National levels. My experience in leadership positions began as Secretary of The Group Camping Club. I was then elected president and served until I was elected as Eastern Region Executive Secre-After serving in that position for several terms. I was elected to the position of Assistant Director, where I served until I accepted an appointment on the National Executive Board as Assistant Financial Secretary. I was responsible for developing and presenting our membership with the first Annual Budget to be voted on and accepted by our membership. In 2021 I was appointed to the position in which I currently serve, responsible for all rally related financial transactions. I have dedicated time and energy to the success of NAARVA, and I seek to continue to do so as your elected Assistant Treasurer.

I have an extensive background in leadership, management, and administration. I began my career as a Legal Clerk in the New Jersey Army National Guard in 1981. I was commis-

sioned a Second Lieutenant in 1985 as an Intelligence Officer. Over the next several years I served in various intelligence assignments and completed several levels of military schooling. I began my active-duty career in 1997 at National Guard Bureau in Washington, DC. While on active duty my assignments included supervisory and managerial responsibilities for anywhere from 3 to 75 personnel in Washington, DC, Carlisle, PA, and Tampa, FL. In July 2007 I deployed to Afghanistan where I served on the NATO staff until my redeployment in August 2008. In 2009 I again deployed, this time to Baghdad, Iraq where I served for seven months. I returned to Washington, DC in 2010 and served in several leadership positions until my retirement in January of 2016 at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel

I hold a Bachelor of Science degree from Regents College, and a Master of Business Administration in Human Resource Management from American Intercontinental University.

My awards include Department of the Army Staff Identification Badge, NATO Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal w/Campaign Star, Iraq Campaign Medal w/Campaign Star, the Army Achievement Medal, Army Commendation Medal (3rd Award), Meritorious Service Medal (5th award), Defense Meritorious Service Medal (2nd award) and Bronze Star.

I am married to Colonel Retired Kevin Harvey of Jersey City, New Jersey. We are the proud parents of four children: Reginald (33), Capt. Andrew Harvey (32), Emily (30), and Laurajeanne (26). We have been avid campers and RVers for over 35 years.

Shortly after my military retirement in 2016 my husband and I began to live and travel full-time in our RV, which we did for 5-1/2 years. We have crisscrossed the country several times and look forward to every new experience on our grand adventure. Although we no longer live full-time in our RV, we continue to camp with our club, *The Royal Campers*, attend Region and National Rallies, and frequently hit the road for a new adventure.

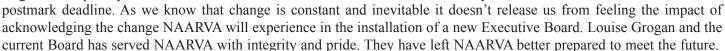
The NAARVA Voice - 5

A Word From the Editor...

HERE WE GO!!!!

The dam has burst! After planning projecting, smoozing, and conjecturing we are now in full swing. Eastern Region completed their "Camping in the Golf Capital" Rally, Southern Region just pulled off their 17th Annual Rally, and the Central Region by the time of this printing has finished their "Ease on Down the Road" Rally in Hutchinson.

NAARVA is Rockin' and Rollin' and in full swing. Amidst all the Partying and Rallying we have the seriousness of the upcoming NAARVA National Executive Board election. Don't forget to complete your ballots and submit them in time to meet or beat the July 24, 2023



In this edition of the *VOICE* we have the continuing presentation of the candidates running for the NAARVA Executive Board, recognition and chronicling of prior NAARVA scholarship winners, presentation of the accomplishments of regional club members, and our regular Chaplain's Corner, and *"Looking Ahead"* entries. Yes, NAARVA is in full swing, but there is still much, much more to come!

James Gregory

Editor, NAARVA VOICE



Catching Up with Some of NAARVA's Scholarship Alumni

By Gwynne Toney, Contributor

In celebration of our 30th Anniversary, NAARVA would like to acknowledge recipients of its National Scholarship. The name was changed in 2019 to "*The Carolyn J. Buford Scholarship*", to honor NAARVA's 7th President who passed away on August 21, 2018.

Since its inception in 2006 the National NAARVA Scholarship Committee has awarded 65 scholarships to deserving students of NAARVA family members.

We are extremely proud of ALL of NAARVA's Scholarship Alumni and their accomplishments, both in and out of the classroom. We are excited to follow these ambitious young men and women as they live out their purposes.

While some of our scholarship alumni are steeped in the collegiate life, our freshly minted and seasoned graduates have moved on to fascinating careers in industry, education, technology, law and beyond! NAARVA takes a peek into the lives of five of our alumni through a "where-are-theynow" format. Here they share their current status and their goals and aspirations for the future.

Kelsey Brown

Granddaughter of Alex L. and JoAnn Fitts; *Rocky Mountain RV Rollers*, *Central Region*.

Kelsey Brown was awarded the NAARVA Carolyn J. Buford Scholarship in 2022.

Kelsey attends Georgia Southern

University in Statesboro, Georgia, where she completed her freshman year in May. She is currently working on a Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Science. She is involved in a variety of campus organizations such as Campus Crusade for Christ, Delight Ministries, and the Child Life Organization. She will work for WinShape Camps as a Worship Leader over the summer, traveling to nine different communities across the United States and spreading the Gospel to children. Kelsey aspires to become a Child Life Specialist, and work in children's hospitals helping children and families cope with the hospitalization process.



Crystal Fitts

Granddaughter of Alex and JoAnn Fitts; *Rocky Mountain RV Rollers*, *Central Region*.

My name is Crystal Fitts. In 2016 I was awarded a NAARVA scholarship that helped me get my Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, IA. After graduating during the pandemic in 2020 I went on to be a COVID ICU nurse in Colorado Springs, CO. After about two (Continued on page 7)

Education Station

JOELLEN DAVIS NAARVA Scholarship Committee Chairperson





Where Are They Now?

(Continued from page 6)

vears I became an ICU travel nurse and care for people all across the United States. So far I have traveled to Roanoke, VA; Houston, TX; and Wilmington, NC.

Briana Guillory

Granddaughter of Sam and Hazel Stallcup; Original Las Vegas

Rolling Wheels, Western Region

After graduation in 2016, I went on to teach AP Environmental Science in Newark, NJ. While that year was rewarding, I chose to pursue my Master of Public Health at Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA in community health and prevention, graduating in March 2020.

The pandemic opened the door to utilize my degree and work for a leading pharmaceutical company, Merck & Co., as a contractor. Within six months, I was promoted to a full-time employee as a study manager supporting non-interventional research studies. My aspiration led me to take an internal role as a project manager a year and half later, where I am currently working on the launch of a new product.

My passion for organization and desire to develop future leaders shepherd my journey of entrepreneurship, launch business, Be Great By Design, to provide high school and college students tools to enable future success in 2021. These tools consist of planners, 1:1 and group consultation sessions, and leadership training to students at various institutions. This endeavor led Colby College to write an article on me titled "Learning to Lead". https://news.colby.edu/ story/learning-to-lead/

Personally, I purchased my first house right outside of Philadelphia in December 2022 and purchased my first car in March 2023.

After being awarded the NAARVA scholarship, I have accomplished many things and the opportunity provided my NAARVA has played a role in my accomplishments. Thank you again to the organization and my support system for supporting me throughout my journey.



Alexis P. Jackson (Walker-Dunham) Esq., Granddaughter of James and Pat Walker; The Rocky

Mountain Rollers, Central Region

Alexis was awarded the National NAARVA Scholarship in 2014.

Alexis graduated from The University of Denver, where she earned her BA in Political Science and Communication Studies, cum laude, 2018. She continued her grad studies at The University of Iowa College of Law, where she was awarded her JD, with distinction in 2022.

Alexis is currently a commercial real estate attorney at Faegre Drinker, in Denver, Colorado. She represents clients on a wide range of real estate matters, including acquisitions, dispositions, and leasing transactions. She also enjoys giving back to the community and providing pro-bono legal representation to the firm's pro-bono clients.

Steven Parson

Grandson of Barry and Louise Grogan; California Cruisers, Western Region



Hello! My name is Steven Parson, and I was a recipient of the NAARVA National Scholarship in the year 2020. This scholarship helped kickstart my college education at Pepperdine University where I studied Political Science. Since this was during the peak of the pandemic, all of my classes were held via Zoom. After finishing my first year of college at Pepperdine, I realized that Pepperdine was not the best fit for my college experience. I decided to transfer to the University of Southern California the following year and it was the best decision I could have made.

Currently, I am a rising senior at USC studying Philosophy, Politics, and Law with a minor in Business Law. Since transferring, I have been

able to take advantage of various opportunities and have excelled in the classroom as well. I have been on the Dean's List each semester at USC, and I have recently committed to a Summer Analyst position at Goldman Sachs.

I've been heavily involved with extracurriculars on campus as well, such as serving as a Director on the Environmental Student Assembly, writing for the renowned publication *The* Daily Trojan, and competing on our undergraduate Moot Court team.

Upon graduating from USC in Spring of 2024, I plan on enrolling in law school in pursuit of my Juris Doctorate to focus in either environmental law or corporate governance.

Past Recipients of the NAARVA National/Carolyn J. Buford **Scholarship**

2022: Kelsey Brown, Jasmine Brown. **2021:** Eric F. Battle, Jr., Autumn Gavlin, Joshua T. Williams, Noelle Curtis, Naia King.

2020: Steven Parson, Jasmine Hanes, Caleb Mason, Darius Sherrod.

2019: Isaac Charles Cleaver, Bobby Eslick, Akira Pierce, Julian Tillman, Leon King.

2018: Troy Baughman, Makiyah Owens, Joseph George-Michael Patrick.

2017: Chelese Washington, Mikayla Lewis, Daniel Alfred Baughman.

2016: Trayland Rose, Crasherra Gaines, Crystal Ann Marie Fitts, Diamond Veasley, Robert Baughman, Jr., Elizabeth Cochrane-Benoit.

2015: Alexus Simone McNeil, Chelsey Thompson, Cameron Mackenzie Johnson, Jerett Kirrene, Alexandria Michelle Smith.

2014: Rhea Christmas, Markita Dawn'ee Cummings, Nigel Hammett, Faith Miller, Alexis Walker Dunham.

2013: Darryl Baugh, Kendrick Goolsby, Jacqueline Griswold, Ciara Caitlyn Johnson, Kaalen Kirrene, Aaliyah

2012: Brittany Trana Cobbins, Shara Marie Fuller, Joseph Hymes V. Alena Payne, Damonique "Nikki" Thomas.

2011: Nkenge Cameron, Justin Conklin, Robin Christmas, Whitney Johnson, Nathaniel James Howard Shelton.

2010: Laurel Adams Akingele Cameron, Ashton Hood, Dacia Monè Mays, Avery

2008: Shamrika Byas, Danielle Givens, Michael Harper, Ronald Dale Watkins, Jr., LaRita E. Williams.

2007: Robert Smith

NAARVA NATIONAL CAMP RALLY



"THEN & NOW"

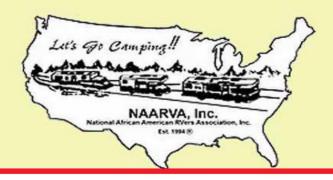


July 23rd - 30th 2023 Golden Village Palms RV Resort Hemet, CA

Hosted By Western Region



JOIN THE FUN.
JOIN THE FAMILY!



NAARVA Chaplain's Corner...

Antidotes to Fear

One of the greatest hits by the famed Broadway singer Frank Sinatra was "My Way"! He starts with a reflection of his life against the realization that he was nearing the end of life. Verse one laments, "And now, the end is near, and so I face the final curtain..." Verse two reminds us that no matter how impoverished or successful one's life has been, we all have regrets. Sinatra says, "Regrets, I've had a few... "He then goes on to say, "Yes, there were times, I'm sure you knew, when I bit off more than I could chew; but through it all, when there was doubt, I ate it up and spit it out... I've loved, I've laughed and cried; I've had my fill, my share of losing. And now, as tears subside, I find it all so amusing..."

While regrets are indeed a part of life, regrets are often the result of fear! Like Sinatra, I find it amusing that most of us are besieged with fear — in many cases unmanageable fear! I've counseled adults whose life's ambitions were thwarted by unexplainable fear; dreams were unfulfilled; talents unrealized; goals missed; abilities untapped because people were too afraid to set aside their apprehensions and move forward towards their dreams. Fear is crippling! It robs the soul of satisfaction; life of peace and happiness! Fear is cruel; it ravishes one's sense of independence! Fear is a form of mind-control, a form of mental programming and a weapon of psychological torture! In fact, fear is so devastating that Paul cautioned Timothy, his son in ministry, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (2 Timothy 1:7)

The six primary fears that rob us of our ability to live our lives to the fullest are: fear of failure, fear of criticism, fear of the unknown, fear of poverty, fear of being alone, and fear of sickness/death. In reference to the fear of death, I find it ironic that people who are afraid to die are so traumatized by the possibility of death that they are, in effect, also afraid to live! By this, I do not suggest that we live recklessly; however, we cannot allow the risk of what could happen to stop

THE REV. JESSE BATTLE National Chaplain, NAARVA bishopjessebattle@gmail.com

us from doing what can happen! FEAR MUST BE MANAGED!

The above referenced text gives the antidotes to fear. God bestows upon us three things necessary to manage fear in day-to-day living. He



gives us the spirit of power, the spirit of love, and the spirit of a sound mind. First, it's important to emphasize Paul's use of the term "the spirit of" as we consider our God-given anti-dotes to fear! This suggests that not only do we have access to these gifts; but that they are intrinsically woven into our nature. We are given the ingredients to continue the production of these elements of protection. Being endowed with "the spirit of" denotes that those qualities necessary in forming these definitive elements are ingrained in our character, thought and attitudes. In other words, we have the stuff necessary to do the job!

The spirit of power is our first antidote to fear! The power to live without fear resides within us! We must remember that: "(We) are of God ... and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in (us), than he that is in the world." (1 John 4:4). The power over fear that resides in us is greater than the power of fear that seeks to torment us! The spirit of love is our second antidote to fear because one does not fear what one loves! The Bible also teaches: "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear..." (1 John 4:18) I suggest that when we learn to love God, to love people, and to love life, we will soon discover that fears will subside exponentially! Our final antidote to fear, the spirit of a sound mind, equips us to make decisions free of irrational fears. Our clarity of thought is inherent in every decision we make. Members of NAARVA, we are free to pursue our dreams. There need not be anything left on our bucket lists when at last we join the "Celestial RV Rollers" for that great RV campout in heaven with Jesus Christ Himself as our Wagon Master!



there is no fear in love



The Chaplain's Parting Words to the Members of NAARVA

By The Reverend Jesse Battle National Chaplain

As NAARVA's National Chaplain, appointed by Louise Grogan, the outgoing president, my tenure of office will expire on July 29, 2023, with the swearing in of NAARVA's new president. As such, this is my final article for the NAARVA *Voice*. I have enjoyed shar-

ing my thoughts with my fellow NAARVA members during the past four years. I eagerly look forward to the thoughts of our new chaplain, once appointed by the incoming president.

I am proud to say that I have found NAARVA to be a vibrant and closeknit community that exemplifies the spirit of unity. Founded in 1993, with the aim of fostering camaraderie, providing support, and promoting a love for RV travel among the African American community, NAARVA has successfully cultivated a strong sense of togetherness among its members.

(Continued on page 10)

The Chaplain's Parting Words to the Members of NAARVA

(Continued from page 9)

One of the key aspects of NAARVA's unity lies in the sense of belonging that flows from region to region, and from club to club. While African American RVers often face unique challenges and have specific interests and perspectives, NAARVA provides a safe space for members to relate to one another, share their stories, and support each other through their RVing journeys. This shared identity and understanding forge bonds of kinship and create a welcoming environment for all members.

Unity must always be the rallying cry of NAARVA's mission. Members from diverse backgrounds and experiences coming together, united by a strong passion for RVing and a shared desire to celebrate and preserve their culture and heritage while traversing the highways and byways of this great country. NAARVA serves as a platform for members to connect, share experiences, and build lasting relationships.

NAARVA's gatherings, be they national, regional or club level, serve to further reinforce unity among its members. The association organizes national rallies, promotes regional rallies and local club campouts where members can come together to enjoy the RV lifestyle and engage in activities that promote fellowship and cultural enrichment. These events serve as opportunities for members to forge connections, exchange travel tips, and celebrate their shared love for RVing.

Moreover, NAARVA encourages members to actively participate in the affairs of the association. Volunteer opportunities, leadership roles, and committee involvement allow members to play an active role in shaping the direction of NAARVA and making a positive impact on the direction of the association.

This inclusive approach fosters a sense of ownership and shared responsibility among members, thus strengthening the aforementioned unity.

NAARVA's emphasis on education

and mentorship also contributes to unity within the organization. The association provides resources and workshops to support members in their RVing journey. Experienced RVers often share their knowledge and expertise with newer members, creating a supportive network that fosters personal growth and strengthens the overall bond within the association. The resulting unity fostered by such networking is the cornerstone of our shared experience.

NAARVA's commitment to creating a sense of belonging, organizing events that promote fellowship, encouraging active participation, and fostering mentorship all contribute to the strong unity within the association. Through their shared love for RVing and a deep appreciation for African American culture, NAARVA members come together as a close-knit community, celebrating their shared experiences and forging lifelong connections.

SOUTHERN REGION

Greetings Southern Region,

I'd like to first thank our Host, *Merrimac Sams RV Club* for putting together a wonderful "A-MAY-ZING Spring Fling" here at Carolina Pines RV Resort, Conway, SC. This is our 17th Annual NAARVA Southern Region Rally, and we are glad to be rallying here together at this wonderful resort!

I also want to thank everyone who represents their Chapter/Club for attending the Region Camp Rally. I hope you all are enjoying all the planned scheduled activities put together by the host club. For a Region Camp Rally these scheduled activities are second to none. The Southern Region last Camp Rally was May of 2019, hosted by the *Georgia Easy Riders RV Club* in Atlanta Ga. It's been exactly four years since our last Camp Rally and what a joy it is to be back together again. As we near the end of a great

17th Annually Camp Rally, it's now time to put plans in motion for the 18th Annually Camp Rally at Lost Lagoon in El C a m p o , Texas. Be looking for



CHARLES BREEDLOVE Director, Southern Region breedlve1@gmail.com

the Rally Package before the end of 2023 year.

The last 12 months have been productive as we have had all hands-on deck with our executive board and I'm extremely appreciative of how we've worked together for the good of NAARVA and our Region. Our website is looking great, and we are experiencing great results from it. Through 'Constant Contact' we're

making sure that all members are informed. As always please let your president know if you are not receiving information via Constant Contact. Thanks to my Assistant Director, Venson, who has worked diligently on membership.

Your president is representing you and your club members and are held accountable for making sure that your voice is heard. So please be sure to read all correspondence from NAARVA and the region, so that you are well informed.

It is once again time for us to elect officers for the Executive Board of NAARVA for 2023-2025. Every member in Good Standing with all dues paid, will get a ballot to cast their vote for the candidates of their choice. If any part of your dues are not paid you will not be getting a ballot to cast a vote. The ballots were mailed out before the end of May 2023. You can go to the

(See Southern Region, page 11)

10 - The NAARVA Voice

SOUTHERN REGION...

(Continued from page 10)

NAARVA Voice to read each candidate's BIO.

The Western Region is working hard to present all NAARVA members an outstanding 30th Annual National Camp Rally. The Rally will take place at Golden Village Palms RV Resort in Hemet, CA. The dates are July 23-30, 2023. The theme is "NAARVA Then and Now, It's a Celebration". It's going to be time to celebrate our 30+ years of getting together, remembering where we started and looking at where we are now. I'm looking forward to seeing as many Southern Region members as possible at Sunny Golden Village Palms RV Resort for a great CELEBRATION!

Please join me in saluting our Southern Region Scholarship recipients, Ayanna Busby and Stephen Stoudemire. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors!

Finally, 2024 is a Southern Region election year. All elected Executive Board positions are up for election. All appointed positions will be appointed by the new Southern Region Director. In January 2024 we will open the nomination process to except candidates for all elected positions. If you qualify and want to fill anyone of these elected positions, please be sure to put in your nomination. Also, if you want to fill an appointed position, please let the new Director know of your interest. Please be sure to review the duties of each position in our Southern Region Bylaws.

Let's continue to grow and be strong as an RV organization through mutual respect of one another and continuous support for the purpose of which we stand.

Remember ownership of a Recreational Vehicle is a privilege, but ownership of a Recreational Vehicle with our NAARVA Southern Region family is simply AWESOME!
Respectfully

Charles E Breedlove NAARVA Southern Region Director

EASTERN REGION

Greetings from NAARVA Eastern Region!

2023 REGIONAL RALLY

NAARVA Eastern Region held their Annual Camp Rally at Lakewood Camping Resort in Myrtle Beach, SC from May 11-14, 2023, with early admission commencing May 7-10 2023.

The rally was planned with the COVID-19 criteria in place, with meals distributed in closed containers, and with face mask and social distancing optional. There were 91 RV sites and six cottages registered for the rally and out of that number 19 were new members of NAARVA Eastern Region as well as first timers attending a rally. The Opening Ceremony kicked

off with our Master of Ceremony William (Bill) Christmas. The Presentation of Colors was by Carolina Forest HS NJROTC and with the



BELINDA MOORE Director, Eastern Region queenbee2300@aol.com

live vocal performance of The National Anthem sung by Preston Carter an employee of Lakewood Camping Re-

(See Eastern Region, page 12)

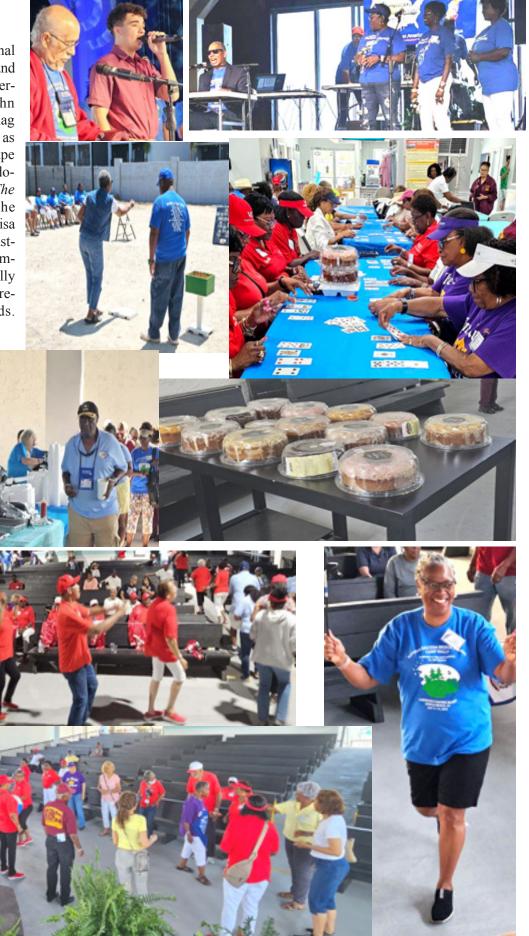


Eastern Region...

(Continued from page 11)

sort followed by the Negro National Anthem video of "Lift Ev'ry Voice and The Eastern Region flag cer-Sing" emony was pre-ceeded with John King's renovated Eastern Region's flag stand which displayed colorful lights as well as a new flag stand in the shape of a recreational vehicle that was donated to The Eastern Region by The Virginia Camping Cardinals. The Flag Ceremony was conducted by Lisa King, Flag Coordinator for The Eastern Region who had youth, new members and first timers attending a rally carry and place the flags in their precise slots on the two flag stands.

(See Eastern Region, page 13)



Eastern Region...

(Continued from page 12)

Overall, the rally was a success as the resort had large 30/50 amp fullhook-up sites and plenty of amenities for the members to enjoy that included a beach, water park with slides and a lazy river, Indoor/outdoor pools, volleyball and basketball court and free rental of paddle boats and bicycles. The attendees had an enjoyable time playing the games at the rally such as card bingo, cake walk and the trash talking competitive Beanbag Baseball Tournament where Lisa King's team finally got their win. On Saturday evening Terrell and Darius Michael Shackleford put on such a fantastic night of entertainment with Lip Sync and Karaoke. Some of the members who participated in the event showed off their talent by dressing up as the person/group that they were lip singing or doing Karaoke to. We also had amazing live vocal entertainment performance by members of the Eastern Region - Denise Hamilton, Darius and Sharon Shackleford, who brought the house down with their awesome gospel and R & B performance.

We collected at our Worship Service \$510.00 and made a charitable monetary donation to the New Directions Family Shelter in Myrtle Beach, SC. Door Prizes were given out on Friday and Saturday with the help of youths calling out the winners as well as the big winner of the 50/50 who was overjoyed with their cash winning of \$500.00.

2023 CURRENT CLUB STATUS

The Eastern Region has a total of 186 members current in their 2023 membership dues. Out of the 186 members, 35 are new members to the Eastern Region and out of the 35 new members, 16 attended the 2023 Eastern Region Annual Camp Rally. All of the eight chartered/clubs of NAARVA National in the Eastern Region are current in their NAARVA chartered dues.

2024 NAARVA EASTERN REGION ANNUAL CAMP RALLY

NAARVA Eastern Region will not be hosting their Annual Spring Camp Rally in 2024 as they will be hosting the 2024 NAARVA National Annual Camp Rally.

NAARVA Eastern Region is in the process of planning the 2024 NAARVA National Annual Camp Rally. Resort site visits to Encore Clerbrook Golf & RV Resort in Clermont, Florida and Resort at Canopy Oaks in Lake Wales, Florida were conducted by the Director and Assistant Director of NAARVA Eastern Region and the Assistant Treasurer of NAARVA National and found both of them to be suitable to host the 2024 NAARVA National Annual Camp Rally at. Site visits at the other potential Resorts will be done at a later date. The final decision of the venue where to host the 2024 NAARVA National Annual Camp Rally at will be made by the NAARVA National Executive Board. The potential Resorts that are in consideration

- Encore Clerbrook Golf & RV Resort in Clermont, Florida.
- Resort at Canopy Oaks in Lake Wales, Florida.
- Camp Margaritaville RV Resort, Auburndale, Florida.
- Bethpage RV Resort in Urbana, Virginia.
- Lakewood RV Resort in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.
- Carolina Pines RV Resort in Conway, South Carolina.

The dates for the **2024 NAARVA National Annual Camp Rally will be 7/21-28, 2024.** Please put this date on your calendar and look for the location of the rally and the up-to-date information regarding registering for this rally on our website www.naarvaeast.com and on the NAARVA

CENTRAL REGION

BRIAN K. SKIPPER Central Region Director



btmns@yahoo.com

Greetings NAARVA family and friends, Our 2023 Central Region Rally held in Hutchinson, Kansas was a success! We had a funfilled week which included dinner at an Amish restaurant, tours to local attractions, daily seminars, Wine and Paint, Grill and Chill for the men, Sophisticated Ladies event, games, night bike rides, and more.

DJ Sean E. Mack set the stage for the entertainment for the week which culminated with Macyn Mac Sauce McMillan, a local youth rapper and for the first time in Central Region's history, national recording artist, Nelly "Tiger" Travis. Shout out to Chuck Byrd for securing these artists!

Special thanks to the Central Region Executive Board, Club Presidents and volunteers. Because of you, we can mark this rally as one of our best! Thanks.

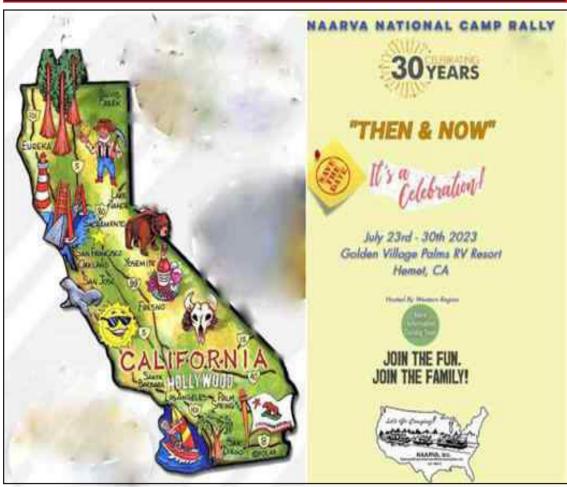
Brian Skipper

website <u>www.naarva.com</u>. Also, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding this rally at 570-977-9172 or email: <u>queenbee2300@aol.com</u>

Stay safe and we look forward to your attendance at the 2024 NAARVA National Annual Camp Rally hosted by NAARVA Eastern Region as there will be fun, fellowship with family and friends waiting just for you.

Belinda (Bee) Moore Director NAARVA Eastern Region

WESTERN REGION



Easy Way to Pay NAARVA Dues!

Paypal provides an easy way to pay your dues and Charter Renewals. Check it out at naarva.com

Become a Friend of NAARVA.



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 *VOICE* content submissions for Summer 2023 is September 10, 2023.

NAARVA members may access *The Voice* through the NAARVA website: www.naarva.com.

The Voice is published four times yearly by NAARVA. Voice Editor: James Gregory imscholar2@cs.com.



CHARLES GILL, JR. Director, Western Region cdg2511@comcast.net

Greetings NAARVA Members,

Time is getting short for registering for the NAARVA 30th Annual National Camp rally. We are ready to provide you with an entertaining week with us out West. The Rally will take place at the Golden Village Palms RV Resort in Hemet, CA. The dates are July 23 -30, 2023. The theme for the rally is "NAARVA Then and Now, It's a Celebration".

If you haven't done so already, get your rally attire together for daily shirts representing clubs, regions and NAARVA.

Also be prepared for our "White Night" featuring live Jazz, and honoring our ancestors by dressing in African Attire for our Saturday Dinner. See you there!

BereavementInformation

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 the NAARVA's National Benevolence Chair.

July

General - All Regions NAARVA National Camp Rally

July 23 - 30, 2023 Golden Village Palms RV Resort, 36 W. Florida Avenue Hemet, California 92549





Central Region Akron Adventurers Kampers Club July 27 - 30, 2023 Atwood Lake Park 9500 Lakeview Road Mineral City, OH 44656



Central Region Minnesota Voyagers RV Club July 14 - 16, 023 **Bunker Hills Regional Park** 13101 County Hills Regional Park 13101 County Pkwy B. Coon Rapids, MN 55433 (763) 324-3330 **Hosts: Crocketts**



Central Region Ohio Buckeve Roadrunners July 27 - 30, 2023 **Follow The River Resort** 12273 Markland Town Rd. Florence, IN. (812) 427-3330 **Hosts: Eakins & Gibson**

Southern Region - Georgia Easy Riders RV Club July 14 - 16, 2023 Pine Mountain RV Park 8804 Hamilton Road Pine Mountain, GA 31822 (706) 663-4320 **Hosts: Lowes & McCrarys**





Western Region - Funseekers RV Club **Rain City Family Travelers** July 14 - 16, 2023 **Brook Hollow RV Resort** Kelso, WA (800) 867-0453 **Hosts: Gerald & Mary Singletary**

August



Eastern Region - DC Conection RV Club August 25 - 27, 2023 **Cozy Acres Family Campground** 2177 Ridge Road Powhatan, VA 23139 Phone: (804) 598-2470

www.cozyacres.com

Eastern Region - The Innovators of North & South Carolina August 10 - 12, 2023 Coastal Georgia RV Resort 287 S. Port Parkway Brunswick, GA 31523 Norman Butler - (803) 609-2702





Eastern Region - Triangle RVer's August 24 - 27, 2023 Holiday Trav-L-Park Virginia Beach, VA



Eastern Region Virginia Camping Cardinals August 17 - 20, 2023 Raleigh Oaks RV Resort **527 US Highway 701** South, Four Oaks, NC Jerry & Debra Persons (757) 377-9688



Central Region Akron Adventurers Kampers Club August 24 - 27, 2023 **Grand Vue Park Campground** 250 Trail Drive Moundsville, WV 26041



Central Region Ebony Dream Makers August 18 - 20, 2023 Blackhawk Campground 3407 E. Blackhawk Drive Milton, WI (608) 868-2586 ext. 2

Looking Ahead: Summer 2023

Celebrations and Events, Includes Available Regional Club Events

August

Central Region
Indiana Soul Journers RV Club
August 24 - 27, 2023
Pine Mountain RV Park
411 Pine Mountain Rd.
Pigeon Forge, TN, 37863





Central Region
Minnesota Voyagers RV Club
August 25 - 27, 2023
Lake Byllesby Campground
7650 Echo Point Road
Cannon Falls, MN 55009
(651) 480-7770



<u>Central</u>
<u>Region -</u>
<u>MO/KAN</u>
Roadrunners

August 17 - 20, 2023 Coachlight RV Park, 5305 S. Garrison Ave. Carthage, MO 64836 (417) 358-3666 - Contact: Buford Central Region Ohio Buckeye Roadrunners



August 17 - 20, 2023 Kentucky Horse Park 4089 Iron Works Pike Lexington, KY 40511

Hosts: Baskerville & E&L Smith

Central
Region Ohio
Buckeye
Roadrunners



August 31 - September 4, 2023 Scenic Hills RV Park 4483 Township Road 367 Millersburg, OH 44654 - (330) 893-3607 Host: P&A Smith



Central Region
- Rocky
Mountain RV
Rollers

August 17 - 20, 2023 Trinidad Lake State Park 32610 Highway 12 Trinidad, CO

Hosts: Alton & Debra Clark

August

Western Region - Funseekers RV Club **Rain City Family Travelers** August 17 - 19, 3023 Founder's Day American Sunset RV Park Westport, WA - (360) 268-0207



September



Eastern Region - DC Connection RV Club September 8 - 9, 2023 Raleigh Oaks RV Resort & Cottages 527 US Highway 701 South Four Oaks, NC 27524 Phone: (919) 934-3181 www.raleighoaksrvresort.com



Eastern Region - The Innovators of North and South Carolina September 21 - 24, 2023 355 Lee Road Benson, NC 27504 **Roosevelt Garrison** Phone: (803) 620-2152



Eastern Region - New Horizon RV Club September 7 - 10. 2023 New Horizon Campout Carolina Pines RV Resort 5800 SC - 90 - Conway, SC Wagon Master: (843) 896-0700



Eastern Region - Triangle RVer's **September 16, 2023** James & Pam Holloway's Venue 3237 Forestville Road Raleigh, NC 27616 One day event of fellowship, games and eating.



Eastern Region - Virginia Camping Cardinals September 7 - 10, 2023

Misty Mountain Camp Resort 56 Misty Mountain Rd. Greenwood, VA 22943 Reggie & Noelle Lipscomb - (301) 537-8824

Looking Ahead: Summer 2023

Celebrations and Events, Includes Available Regional Club Events

September



Central Region - Akron Adventurers Kampers Club September 1 - 5, 2023 Evergreen RV Resort 16359 Dover Road (250) Dundee, OH 44624 (888) 359-6429



Central Region - Ebony Dream Makers September 15 - 20, 2023 Wisconsin Riverside Resort, Inc. S 13220 Shiffler Rd. Spring Green, WI 53588 (608) 588-2826, ext. 1

Central Region - Indiana Soul Journers RV Club September 21 - 24, 2023 Cardinal Center Campground 616 SR 61, Marengo, OH 43334 (419) 253-0800





Central Region - Minnesota Voyagers RV Club September 15 - 17, 2023 Pine View Campground (Ft. McCoy) 8053 W. J Street Sparta, WI 54656 (608) 388-3517 Host: Jeffersons



Centerl Region - MO/KAN Roadrunners September 7 - 10, 2023 Lazy Day Campground 214 Highway J Danville, MO 63361 (573) 564-2949 - Contact: Daniels

September

Hosts: Stanleys

Central Region - Ohio Buckeye Roadrunners September 14 - 17, 2023 Winton Woods Park 651 Lakeview Drive Cincinnati, Ohio 45231 (513) 521-2267





Central Region - Rocky Mountain RV Rollers September 8 - 14, 2023 Santa Fe Skies RV Park Santa Fee, NM 87508 **Hosts: James & Arnetta Gregory**

Southern Region - Georgia Easy Riders RV Club September 8 - 10, 2023 **Americus KOA Journey** 1619 US 280 Americus, GA 31709 (229) 874-1234 Hosts: Davis/Thomas & Rose Morgan





Western Region - California Cruisers September 20 - 24, 2023 **Sun Outdoors** Chula Vista, CA **Hosts: Michael & Beth Gill Terry & Valerie Futch**

Western Region - Funseekers RV Club **Rain City Family Travelers** September 14 - 16, 2023 Salish Seaside Resort Victoria, BC (250) 590-5995 Hosts: Leith & Brenda Lynch

