



WESTERN BYWAYS

BIXBY CREEK BRIDGE
PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY

FRVA WESTERN AREA NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2025 EDITION

Volume 39 Issue 3

Western Area FRVA

Peter Jautaikis - Editor

Summer 2025

President's Message



Hello, Western Recreational Vehicle Families,

It's summertime, and Janie and I are feeling grateful for the freedom our RV lifestyle provides. The open road still calls to us, even as diesel prices are on the rise. Our motto remains the same: **"Go while you can, go as often as you can, and go until you can't go no more."**

Recently, I had the pleasure of attending the Northwest Area Rally in Albany, Oregon. What a fantastic event! It warmed my heart to see so many smiling faces enjoying good times, laughter, and the simple joy of just being together.

Our next stop is Gillette, Wyoming, for the **111th FRVA "Rock & Roll High School" Convention**. I'm looking forward to the nostalgia—memories of high school days, sports, drive-in movies, and Friday night hangouts at the local diner. This is certain to be a fun and exciting event.

As an FRVA officer, I've had the privilege of sitting in on various committee meetings during this planning season. It's impressive to see the dedication from everyone behind the scenes—everything from securing new vendor contracts to introducing new services for our members. Additionally, many are working hard to review and update policies and procedures that will be presented for a vote at the convention.

As I witnessed and participated in the many hours of planning and coordinating, I was reminded of how much work goes into keeping our organization moving forward. As such, I want to extend a **heartfelt thank-you** to each and every volunteer who has given so much of their time and energy to assure our organizations' ongoing success. **FRVA and WRVA**

could not and would not exist without your hard work, passion, and commitment.

Thanks to our collective efforts, we have accomplished so much. Our most recent successful endeavors include:

- ◆ A new name (WRVA) and vibrant Logos
- ◆ A Refreshed Rally Sponsorship Program
- ◆ Relaunching our Facebook & adding Instagram
- ◆ And ... Perhaps most exciting of all ... opening Registration for our 35th Annual Indio Rally in time for the July/August FRVA magazine!

With strong support from FRVA, we launched registration on **June 23rd**, and the momentum is already building. This year's rally will be extra special as we open the doors to the **City of Indio** and invite local residents and businesses to join us. We are working closely with the mayor's office to create new opportunities to engage the surrounding communities, while still offering the signature events we all love, which includes our fabulous parade, exciting entertainment, and BINGO. This year we are also planning to add a **Chapter Street Party and a Chili Cook-Off**.

Now, all that's left for **YOU** to do is: Register, Pick your best "Roaring 20s" costume & Bring a friend!

Let's make this rally one to remember!

Safe travels and we'll see you down the road soon.

James McDaniel, F371784
Western Area President of FRVA
Western RV Association President



At the Gillette, WY
FRVA's 111th
International Convention

Western Recreational Vehicle Association's New Logos



WESTERN RV ASSOCIATION



Senior Vice President's Message



Hello, Western Area,

I find it difficult to believe that it is time for another quarterly Western Area Newsletter. The time has really flown by since my last submission. I thoroughly enjoyed my time in Iceland, and since I have been home, I have enjoyed a couple of RV trips, hosting relatives for my father's 92nd birthday party amidst

actively helping to plan our next area rally in Indio, CA. January 7-11, 2026. As for writing this on July 17, 2025, there are only 174 days before our Roaring 20s rally.

I am currently enjoying the FRVA International Convention in Gillette, Wyoming. The weather has been changing day to day. When I arrived, it was in the upper 90s, followed by rain and temperatures in the high 60s. It looks like it will settle to be in the upper 80s until I start home at the end of the rally on Saturday. The number of RVs and participants are quite low for an international rally. It is my hope that those that didn't travel to Gillette from our Western Area have plans to attend our area rally.

There were a few notable bylaws changes to our organization, and the elections were held for our national officers. I trust that your own individual chapter representatives will report to their membership the details of the decisions of the Governing Board.

I think most would agree that our area rally last year was counted as one of the best rallies we've held to date. It is our goal to have different activities that have not previously been provided at our rallies. For instance, the camel rides last year were a big hit, and went perfectly with our Arabian Nights theme. I have had several requests to have the camels back this year. I will be checking with the owners to see if they would like to return. Additionally, we had planned on having a tethered balloon last year, but the winds were uncooperative. It is our hope to have the hot-air balloon there this time.

I hope to see all of you at our Roaring 20s area rally in January,

Mike Kirk, F99230S
Senior Vice President

Southern Area Vice President's Message



Hello, once again, all WRVA members. Since we last spoke I had a great chapter visit with the Cruisin Condos and met with some of the members, including Executive Board members Ray Miller, President; Kirk Mitchell, Vice President; Lynn Miller, Secretary; and Steve Hawkey,

Treasurer. My wife and I had an enjoyable conversation with the officers and learned they are looking for new members. I will do what I can to drive membership their way.



I also visited my chapter, Camping Squares. One of the main reasons is we lost one of our great members, Lorna Fields, about a month ago. She was the past president of the chapter and was a great volunteer at our Western Area rally. Kim and I attended the celebration of life for Lorna along with all the members of the Camping Squares. All of our thoughts and prayers are with her husband Gary Fields.



In June Kim and I also celebrated one of our friend's retirement celebration at Flying Flags in Buellton, CA. I had the pleasure of meeting the general manager, Jennifer Robinson, and Megan Friend, the

operations manager. They really made us feel special. They stopped by and delivered a bottle of champagne for her to celebrate.



While we were there, I had a chance to meet a camping group called Outsiders RV Club. I shared information about FRVA/WRVA and information about our upcoming 35th Indio area rally. I've had several of the members reach out to me, and I walked them through the registration process and explained to them how much fun we have at the event. Three of the members assured me that they will go and spread the word to everyone they know.

I would like all members to check out our new Facebook page "**WRVA Community & Events.**" Tell all your friends to add us and post all your RV ventures and rallies on the page so we can grow it. We are also working on our Instagram page, and it should be up by the time this issue comes out, it's called "**WRVA_community**". There is a link on the page that will take you to our FB page, website, and Contact Us page. It also has our new cool Logo. I hope you all really like the Logo - we worked hard on it.

We are all working hard on the 35th Annual Western Area Indio Rally being held on January 7 - 11, 2026. Please tell all your friends and visit <https://indiorvally.com/> for the latest information. Mail-In and Online Registration Forms are now open for the 2026 Indio Rally. You will find links to the forms on the website.

We all look forward to seeing you all soon.

Safe Travels all,

Greg O'Neal, F506466
Southern Area Vice President

For many, Chapter Membership is considered the best part of FRVA. Become a FRVA Chapter member and take advantage of these benefits:

- ◆ Meet interesting people
- ◆ Form lasting friendships
- ◆ Learn more about RVing
- ◆ Visit worthwhile places
- ◆ Create meaningful memories

Central Area Vice President's Message



During the first half of 2025 Jacqui & I have been busy. Attending Indio, Quartzsite, and several Sierra Ramblers rallies.

In June we attended the Northwest Area Rally in Albany, Oregon, as a vendor. We had a great parking spot right outside the vendor hall. It was well appreciated during the rain showers. It was a small rally this year, and we always enjoy visiting with our customers.

I will say the HOT Dog bash was great.

As we made our way back toward Sacramento, we stopped in Brookings, Oregon, for a few days. The Beachfront RV Park is hard to beat, as you have a great view of the ocean out the front of the RV.



This year the amount of driftwood was unbelievable. Locals said they had king waves in January, and the logs washed onto the beach.



The weather was fantastic in Brookings, mostly in the 60-degree range. That was way better than the 100s in Sacramento.

I hope to attend a few of the Central Area chapter rallies in the future.

Safe travels, everyone.

Jim Wright, F459405
Central Area Vice President

Central Area Vice President's Biography

Hi, my name is Jim Wright, I am the Western RV Association Central Area Vice President. For those of you who do not know me, below is information about me.

I have always been interested in building things. I was in the aftermarket automotive industry from 1977 to 2014. During this time, I was a speed shop store manager, sales manager, in charge of writing instruction for products, taking photos for catalogs, and designing and building CHP training cars.

In 1982, I married my wife, Jacqui, who also had a big interest in cars. At the time I had a 1940 Ford, I am not sure if she married me or the car. During the 2020 shutdown we updated the 1940 Ford.

In late 2014 Jacqui & I decided to get an RV. We had never been camping in the past but took the plunge. We purchased a Class A motorhome and the rest is history. We traveled with friends all over the US. Last look I think we have only missed 8-9 states that we have not camped in with our RV.

In 2016, I started my own company J Wright Concepts with two products for RV enthusiasts and have been a vendor at FRVA national and area rallies. The most popular product currently is my Hose-Grip.

I joined the Sierra Ramblers chapter in 2019 while at Indio, our first year as a vendor. I am currently the president of the Sierra Ramblers Chapter and enjoy attending rallies with our chapter. Jacqui and I also belong to the Overland Trailblazers West Chapter.

Northern Area Vice President's Message



Hello, Western RV Association Family. I am Keith Session, one of the new additions to the WRVA Executive Team. I am your new Northern Area Vice President! My wife, Sharon, and I have been RVing for over 20 years, exploring these great United States. Last year we spent over 200 days in our RV (Big Blue), exploring this great nation.

We are both retired from the City of Los Angeles and our passion for the Open Road and connecting with fellow RV enthusiasts led us to join the FRVA (formerly FMCA) nearly 10 years ago. I currently serve as the President of the California Capital Bay Area Liners, a WRVA chapter. We volunteer as the arrival group at the annual Indio rally.

We most recently attended the 2025 Northwest Area Rally at the Linn County Expo Center in Albany, Oregon. We had a great time meeting and talking with new people and seeing some familiar faces from the Western Area.

We also enjoy international travel, as we are on our way to Paris, France, and Barcelona, Spain, later this summer.

I've attended several rallies and am actively working to enhance our rally experience in Indio. As a member of the Western Area Executive Board, I am excited to be a part of the planning for our 35th Annual Indio Rally, January 2026. Registration is now open; please invite guests, family, and friends. Don't forget to register early.

I look forward to meeting you, and working with our President, Executive Board, and Rally Captains, to enhance our Rally experience, and foster a welcoming community for RVers of all experience levels.

Keith Session, F461476
Northern Area Vice President



Membership / Chapter Fair



Your chapter membership person should be getting lists from the national office about all the people who join Family RV Association each month. If that person in your chapter is not receiving this list, your Secretary should contact the national office and request this list if you are looking to recruit new members.

We will be having a Chapter Fair in Indio in January.

I'm not sure exactly what day it will be but should have the information in plenty of time for you to notify me (Alice Bernard) that your chapter would like to participate in this event. This is a good time for you to have information out where interested people can check out your chapter. More information in the next issue of the Byways. Alice Bernard e-mail: bernardfrogfarm@yahoo.com or you can contact me cell phone; 530-519-7346.

Alice Bernard, F79098
Membership & Chapter Fair Captain

JANUARY 2026

Western Area Rally

January 07-11, 2026
Indio, CA

Register

Mail-In

Visit: <https://www.frva.com/fmca-event-registration>
for Registration Forms



FRVA Replacement Plate



If you are looking to order an FRVA plate to replace your existing FMCA plate, then login with your account to <https://www.frva.com/> and select Store and navigate your way to the plate product to place your order. This is a special-order item and only fulfilled on demand. Normal shipping times DO NOT apply. Please allow 10-12 weeks minimum for delivery.

Ladder Brackets



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
Western Byways welcomes comments and suggestions about information published in the newsletter
Email me at newsletterwmha@gmail.com

WRVA Executive Board 2025

President: James McDaniel F371784
Cell (925) 818-7718
e-mail: jmcdan2296@sbcglobal.net

Senior V P: Mike Kirk F99230S
Cell (916) 747-5232
e-mail: mike_kirk25@yahoo.com

Northern Area V P: Keith Session F461476
Cell (310) 961-8328
e-mail: sessionk@gmail.com

Central Area V P: Jim Wright F459405
Cell (916) 955-0048
e-mail: jnjwright1940@gmail.com

Southern Area V P: Greg O'Neal F506466
Cell (714) 336-1923
e-mail: westindiorallyvendors@gmail.com

Secretary: Carol Bassford F447869
Cell (909) 210-3807
e-mail: fishcar71@gmail.com

Treasurer: Vickie Smith F449387
Cell (559) 240-6038
e-mail: wmhatreasurer6@gmail.com

Immediate Past President: Bob Golk F316752
Cell (661) 599-3548
e-mail: rgolk@outlook.com

WRVA Appointed Offices 2025

Membership: Alice Bernard F79098
Cell (530) 519-7346 Tel. (530) 934-7346
e-mail: bernardfrogfarm@yahoo.com

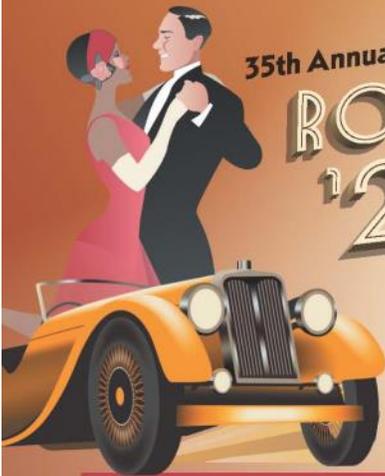
Bylaws Chairman: Phil Griffin F128165
Cell (818) 406-4619 Tel. (818) 346-9869
e-mail: griffip@earthlink.net

Western Byways Editor: Peter Jautaikis F438339
Cell (209) 599-6060
e-mail: newsletterwmha@gmail.com

Webmaster: Peter Jautaikis F438339
Cell (209) 599-6060
e-mail: jautaikis2@gmail.com

Western RV Association Website

<http://wafrva.com/>



35th Annual Western Area Rally

ROARING '20S

JANUARY 7-11, 2026

INDIO, CALIFORNIA

Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival

HIGHLIGHTS

4 Nights of Camping · 3 Nights of Entertainment
 2 Ice Cream Socials · Parade · Ladies' Luncheon
 1st Time Attendee Orientation (Thu., 1:00 p.m.)
 Bingo · Pet Extravaganza · Commercial Exhibits
 New/Used Display RVs · Chapter Fair · Seminars
 & Crafts · Coffee & Goodies Each Morning

GENERAL INFORMATION: Early Arrival Area opens Sunday, Jan. 4 (Fee Payable On-site)

EXHIBIT HOURS: Display RVs Open Wed., 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
All Commercial Exhibits Open Thu. – Sat., 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

PRIVATE GOLF CART RENTAL AVAILABLE: Call Cart Mart for reservations, Jesus Vasgas (760) 744-4420 ext 3116

DIRECTIONS: I-10 to Monroe. Monroe south 3 miles to 48th. Left ½ mile to Arabia Street. Left on Arabia to the arrival area on the right. Arrive with waste tanks empty and water tank full.

Western Area Rally Registration Form

Permanent changes to membership files cannot be made from this form.

Member Number:	Last Name:	Pilot:	Co-Pilot:
Address (If this address differs from your billing address, please call):		City:	State/Province: Zip/Postal Code:
E-mail:		Telephone:	Cell Phone:
RV Make:	RV License:	Length:	<input type="radio"/> First Time at a Western Rally
1. Guest/Child's Name/Age:		2. Guest/Child's Name/Age:	
Disabled Parking? (see below) <input type="radio"/> Yes			

Registration Category	Pre-Reg	On-Site	Qty	Total	Parking Information
RV with 2 Adults – Dry Camping	\$ 275	\$ 285		\$	Electric Parking – 30 amps or 50 amps Generator Hours – 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. Disabled Parking – Reserved for those with proof of qualifying medical needs. State-issued placard must be visible. Early-Arrival Fee – \$30 per night payable on-site, cash or check only
RV with 2 Adults – 30-Amp Electric	\$ 460	\$ 470		\$	
RV with 2 Adults – 50-Amp Electric	\$ 575	\$ 585		\$	
RV with 2 Adults – 24-Hour Generator	\$ 275	\$ 285		\$	
RV with 1 Adult (subtract)	-\$ 20	-\$ 20		\$	
Each Additional Occupant	\$ 20	\$ 30		\$	
Passport for 1 Adult ¹	\$ 80	\$ 90		\$	
Children under 13	Free	Free		Free	
Ladies' Luncheon – Fri, Jan. 9, 1:00 p.m.	\$ 20	\$ 20		\$	
Day Passes – Fri, Sat. & Sun. \$10/day/person	On-Site	On-Site		On-Site	
¹ No RV parking; includes exhibits, entertainment, seminars, socials & Coffee Hour.				Total	\$

Volunteer Opportunities

PLEASE CHECK ONE

	Pilot	Co-Pilot
Activity Carts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Coffee Hour	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Commercial Exhibits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
FRVA Store	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Games	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
General Volunteer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ladies' Luncheon	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Security	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Setup	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trams	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Got questions? Please Contact:
 Carole Hazeltine at (916) 838-7200
 or dickhazeltine@yahoo.com

Payment Information

Credit Card Online:
 www.frva.com
Phone:
 (513) 474-3622
 (800) 543-3622

Checks
 Make checks payable in U.S. funds to FRVA
Return completed form and payment to:
 Western Area Rally; c/o FRVA
 8291 Clough Pike
 Cincinnati, OH 45244

Rally Contacts

President/Rally Master:
James McDaniel, (925) 818-7718
 jmcddan2296@sbcglobal.net
Sr. VP/Co-Rally Master:
Mike Kirk, (916) 747-5232
 mike_kirk25@yahoo.com

Cancellation Policy

Refunds will be made upon written request (arearallies@frva.com) and may require Western Area Executive Board Approval. All badges and materials must be returned to FRVA before any refund is issued. Cancellations made by October 15, 2025, will receive a refund minus a \$50 processing fee. Cancellations made after October 15, 2025, will receive a refund minus a \$50 processing fee, and minus the amount of prior committed expenses directly associated with the planned attendance. Absolutely no refunds will be made after December 5, 2025.



WESTERN RV ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS

For Many, Chapter Membership is considered the best part of FRVA

Did you realize when you joined FRVA that you not only became a member of the premier RV association in North America but also one of the largest networks of RVers in the world? That's right, the FRVA family includes thousands of RV enthusiasts who, like you, not only have a zest for travel but also hobbies and interests off the highway. What better way to meet folks who share your "likes" than to become involved in one or more of FRVA's chapters? FRVA chapters have get-togethers at chapter rallies, area rallies, and conventions to share stories, talk about issues that involve the RV community, assemble for social activities, and have a great time!

Joining a chapter is a great way to make lifelong friends and maximize the enjoyment of your RVing lifestyle. Please feel free to contact any of the Chapters below. They will be happy to have you join them for an outing.

WRVA Northern Area Chapters ... Keith Session Vice President

Alpine Coach Norcal
 California Capitals & Bay Area Liners
 Diablo Ramblers
 Freedom Rollers RV Club
 GMC Forty Niners
 Gold Diggers
 Gold Dust Travelers
 Golden Spike

Monaco NorCal
 Northern California FMCA EIk
 Safari R Us
 Sierra Hi Rollers
 Sierra Ramblers
 Thousand Trails West
 Western Bus Nuts

Open phone camera and Scan QR Code for detailed Northern Area Chapter information from the Western Motor Home Association website:
wafmca.com



WRVA Central Area Chapters ... Jim Wright Vice President

Beat the Odds
 California Coasters
 California Heartland
 Komfort Cruisers
 Midweek Wanderers

Roamin' Catholics Southwest
 Romers
 Safari of Southern California
 Valley Cruisers

Open phone camera and Scan QR Code for detailed Central Area Chapter information from the Western Motor Home Association website:
wafmca.com



WRVA Southern Area Chapters ... Greg O'Neal Vice President

Alpine SoCal
 California Chapter
 Camping Squares
 Cruisin' Condos
 Discovery Club of California
 The Dolphins

GMC Pacific Cruisers
 Outdoor Resorts Palm Springs
 Outward Bound'rs
 Overland Trailblazers West
 Southern California FMCA EIk

Open phone camera and Scan QR Code for detailed Southern Area Chapter information at the Western Motor Home Association website:
wafmca.com



This Chapter information, along with the contact's mailing address, is posted on the FRVA website - FRVA.com and at wafmca.com. It is to be used only for chapter-related inquiries. Any other use of this information is expressly prohibited.

Remembering Rick Ammerman



**Western Recreational Vehicle Association of FRVA
PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, the Family RV Association (FRVA) and the members of the Western Recreational Vehicle Association (WRVA) join together to recognize and honor the life, service, and dedication of **Rick Ammerman**; and

WHEREAS, in the words of President John F. Kennedy,

“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them”; and

WHEREAS, Rick Ammerman endeavored to make a meaningful difference in the Western Area, always eager and willing to take on new responsibilities, consistently demonstrating leadership, humility, and commitment; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Rick approached then-President of the Western Motorhome Association, Lon Cross, with the simple but profound question, *“How can I help?”* In response, Rick accepted the role of Tables and Chairs Captain, a position he and his wife Paula fulfilled with dedication from 2018 through 2020; and

WHEREAS, Rick continued his service by becoming the **Central Area Vice President** from 2020 to 2024, and was further entrusted as **Senior Vice President** for 2024 to 2025. He also contributed his talents as a member of the FMCA/FRVA Education Committee, working to develop educational platforms for the enrichment of all members; and

WHEREAS, Rick Ammerman has touched the lives and hearts of countless members simply by being himself — a person of integrity, kindness, and tireless service. His presence, hard work, and influence within the Western Area will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the **Western Recreational Vehicle Association (WRVA)**, do hereby proclaim **August 23, 2025**, as:

RICK AMMERMAN DAY

We urge all members of the Western Area to honor this observance and participate fittingly in remembering and giving thanks for Rick’s life, contributions, and enduring legacy.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we hereunto set our hand this **13th day of July, 2025**.



James McDaniel, F371784
Western Area President

Editor's Corner



National Directors

There are presently 10 Areas that make up the Family RV Association and 274 chapters. Each chapter must have a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, National Director, and an Alternate National Director is now optional.

The National Director elected from each chapter serves on the Governing Board of FRVA.

It is the obligation of the National Director to represent, at all times, the best interests of the entire Family RV Association membership.

National Directors need to understand that they are responsible for the policymaking of the organization. The National Officers are responsible for the administration of those policies.

One of the main duties of National Directors is to keep their chapters informed of items pertaining to the National Organization and of the areas, as well as keeping the National Organization apprised of items happening on the chapter level. **Another important duty is participation in and voting during Governing Board meetings.**

As National Directors, Karen and I attended the Governing Board Meeting at the 111th International Convention & RV Expo at the CAM-PLEX multi-event facilities in Gillette, WY. Karen represented a chapter in the Western Area, and I represented a chapter in the International Area.

The Governing Board Meeting consisted of reports from all the FRVA committees, voting on proposed Bylaws Amendments, Policies and Procedures Amendments, and electing National Officers. The meeting lasted all day.

I highly recommend that everyone seriously considers representing their chapter at one time or another in order to get intimately involved with the operations of FRVA. Seeing and participating in the process is very rewarding. Don't just sit on the sidelines ...

Peter Jautaikis F438339
Western Byways Editor

Election Results for 2025-2027 FRVA National Offices



National President: **Paul Mitchell**

National Vice President: **Bob Weithofer**

National Secretary: **Glenda Milner**

National Treasurer: **Ken Lewis**

The elections were held at the Governing Board meeting on July 16, 2025, at FRVA's 111th International Convention in Gillette, Wyoming.

Stay in touch by making sure you're Opted-In [Edit your FRVA "Communication Preferences"](#)

- ◆ Login to your FRVA Account
 - ◆ At your Membership Profile/Dashboard page. Click on Pilot or Co-Pilot **"Edit Profile"**
 - ◆ Scroll down to **"Communication Preferences"** & I recommend you Subscribe to **ALL** Communication Types in order to stay up to date with all things associated with FRVA
- ⇒ At least make sure you Subscribe to **"Area Newsletters"** & **"Area Rallies"**



As you advocate for FRVA, the premier RV owner's organization, and highlight its numerous benefits, not only do your RVing buddies enjoy perks, but you also unlock fantastic freebies for yourself. And the more you recruit, the more rewards you'll continue to receive. Visit <https://www.frva.com/recruit-new-members-promotion> for more information