



# The International Traveler



A newsletter for the chapters and members of the International Area of the Family Motor Coach Association

April 2019

FMC<sup>INTO</sup>.com

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Hello to all of the International Area (INTO) members from your President.

It is April and springtime is officially here. It's time to get the coaches unwinterized and get them ready to start another year of Chapter campouts, Area Rallies and International Conventions.

Speaking of International Conventions, we just had a successful convention in Perry, Georgia. We had approximately 2200 members show up in their RVs and approximately 850 were first-timers to a FMCA International Convention. Because we knew we had a lot of first-timers going to this Convention, we tried something new and something old! We had our usual Chapter Fair where the first-timers get to meet all of the chapters that were present. This time we added a "block party" the next day for the chapters that were in the Chapter Fair. Every attendee was given the location of the 37 chapters that were participating in the block party. This enabled the first-timers to be able to visit different chapters and sit down with the chapter members and get acquainted.

The International Area had approximately 150 new first-timers join one of our International Area chapters. It's great this block party worked out successfully and the first-timers felt comfortable with the different chapters and joined at least one chapter during this event. We hope to do this at other conventions!

The International Area Chapters that participated in the Chapter Fair and Block Party were the Amateur Radio, Diesel RV Club, Military Veterans, Singles International, Roadtrek International, FMCA Chapter: Habitat for Humanity®, Workhorse Chassis Motorhome Club, Newmar International of FMCA, Spartan Chassis International, Racecar Fans, S.O.I. Motorhome Club, One Hundred Plus, Thor Diesel Club, Full Timers, American Coach Chapter of FMCA, Entegra Coach Owners

Association, FMCA Energized, Elk International, and the Monaco International chapters. Thank you all for your support of FMCA and the International Area.

Campaigning, Campaigning, Campaigning; the campaigning has officially begun. This is an election year for National Officers and at Perry it was quite obvious that the campaigning had started big time. Let me list the positions and the candidates running for our **National Offices**:

President	Jon Walker
Senior VP	Percy Bell Sr. Jack Mayberry Rett Porter
Secretary	Kathie Balogh Ken Carpenter Connie Jones
Treasurer	John Reynolds

The election of the National Officers will take place at the International Convention in Minot, North Dakota. All National Directors and Alternate National Directors should contact each of these candidates so they can explain their platform to you. Then you can explain their platform to your chapter members.

The summer convention always has a business meeting, which the Chapter National Directors and Alternate National Directors need to attend. There is a lot of business that must be conducted at the summer convention, but there's even more when the National Election of Officers is being held. So please, be making preparations to attend the summer convention because this is a **member-owned organization**. Your vote represents your chapters and can change the future of FMCA.

There are 5 FMCA Areas having elections that will be occurring between now and mid-May 2019. The chapter National Directors in each one of these areas will be casting a vote for the individual running for the position of National Vice President of their specific area. Here are the Areas having their National Vice President elections:

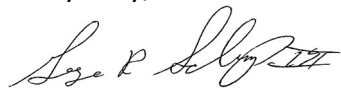
Midwest Area	Gary Milner
Northeast Area	Barbara Smith John Traphagen
Rocky Mountain Area	Jamie Erickson
South Central Area	Joe Wright
Southeast Area	Betty Duncan

Keep in mind, the International Area (INTO) is the largest Area geographically and has over 60 chapters with approximately 11,500-plus members. Our votes definitely guide the future of FMCA!

Mark your calendars for the International Area Rally in Myrtle Beach, SC, which will begin on October 21<sup>st</sup> with people leaving on October 26, 2019. We only have 200 reserved 50-amp, water and sewer

sites available right on the beach. Please read Sr. VP Paul Mitchell's write up about our up-and-coming beach party.

Everybody, have safe travels and we will see you down the road.



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## Senior Vice President's Message

### Rally News from your Sr. VP & Rally Coordinator, Paul Mitchell

2019 has been a very busy year so far. A quick run out to Perry for FMCA's 99<sup>th</sup> International Convention, which proved to be great for our Chapters, with over 20 represented at the Chapter Fair. New this year was the addition of a time for Block Parties for registered Chapters and a stipend of \$75 for participating chapters to provide food and drinks. It was a great event and all our chapters were able to sign up a significant number of new members, as well as having a great party.

Our focus now is for our INTO 2019 Rally "At The Beach" from October 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>. We have planned a great program for everyone; the best shows in Myrtle Beach along with lots of time to enjoy all the activities at the campground.

We will be staying at Lakewood Camping Resort, right on the ocean, and you will have access to all the Resort's facilities during your stay. This includes the indoor and outdoor pools, water park, game room, and bikes for your use in the park. We have reserved the first 12 rows in from the ocean for our guests. Go to [www.lakewoodcampground.com](http://www.lakewoodcampground.com) for information on the resort.

Our first night, October 21<sup>st</sup>, will start with a feast at Benjamin's Calabash Seafood Buffet. Go to their website at [www.originalbenjamins.com](http://www.originalbenjamins.com) to see the details of the 170 item All-You-Can-Eat Seafood Buffet. We will follow our Buffet with **One The Show** at the Alabama Theatre. Go to their website at <http://www.alabama-theatre.com> for details and a video preview. This will be the 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season of the show, which has consistently been voted the #1 Live Entertainment Theatre.

On October 22<sup>nd</sup> we will be attending **Time Warp** with hits from the '60s, '70s and '80s at The Carolina OPRY Theater. Go to [www.thecarolinaopry.com](http://www.thecarolinaopry.com) for details about the show and the performers.

On October 23<sup>rd</sup> we will be at **Legends in Concert** for music from the Blues Brothers, Elvis Presley, Barry White, George Strait, and Whitney Houston. Go to their website at [www.legendsinconcert.com/myrtle-beach](http://www.legendsinconcert.com/myrtle-beach) for details on all these great performers.

On October 24<sup>th</sup> we will go back to the Carolina OPRY Theatre for their hit show, **The Carolina OPRY**. The award-winning show blends two hours of high-energy music, comedy, and dance with state-of-the-art lighting, sound, and special effects. Visit their website at [www.thecarolinaopry.com](http://www.thecarolinaopry.com) for all the details.

Our final night, October 25<sup>th</sup>, will be **Pirates Voyage, The Most Breathtaking Dinner Show Ever**. Go to their website at <https://piratesvoyage.com> for a video and details of our final night together. You will get a feast fit for a pirate with a "half o'roasted Cackler," pulled barbeque pork, cob o'buttery corn, and herb-basted potatoes, soup, bread, soft drinks and dessert are included plus a fantastic show.

In addition to the off-site activities, we plan on having coffee each morning, an ice cream social, our first ever BBQ cookoff (details out shortly), FMCA benefits seminars, a miniature golf tournament and games on the beach.

Go to <http://fmcainto.com> to sign up for this not-to-be missed destination rally.

Contact Paul Mitchell at 209-815-1837 or [palibs@aol.com](mailto:palibs@aol.com) if you have any questions.

Paul G Mitchell  
INTO Senior Vice President/Rally Master

