

ON THE ROAD AGAIN.....



**Official Newsletter of the
FMCA CHAPTER: HABITAT FOR HUMANITY®
August, 2009
Editor --- Marion Braum**

LET'S BUILD TOGETHER Bill McLaughlin, President

Greetings,

There is a great deal to report since the last newsletter. The FMCA 82nd International Convention was held in Bowling Green, Ohio, we completed a Chapter build in Ypsilanti, Mich., and our FMCA Chapter: Habitat for Humanity® gained several new members.

The Convention was held on the campus of Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio. It was neat being on a college campus. The events were spread out and required a bit of walking. However the tram systems worked well, thanks in good part to our Chapter members who worked the tram detail. Another example of FMCA Chapter: Habitat for Humanity members volunteering to serve.

Several new members were signed prior to and during the Convention. Check the VP of Membership's column in this newsletter for the details. One new member couple is working with the build team in Wauseon, OH, following the Convention.

We have 8 coaches working for the Fulton County affiliate in Wauseon, Ohio for 2 weeks following the Bowling Green Convention. The Fulton County build is the second build this year to be supported by both money and labor. Habitat for Humanity is a designated charity of FMCA. The dollars contributed by FMCA members have been put to work to help fund a house. This is a wonderful combination of money and labor that will build a house for a partner family. Kudos's to all.

Our nominating committee, John Harder (harderjc@live.com), Charmaine Irwin (charmjack@cogeco.ca), and Barri Amor (bamor@sympatico.ca) is working to fill the slate for Chapter officers. Elections will be held at the FMCA 83rd International Convention in Albuquerque, NM, March 2010. I extend an open invitation to all to think about getting involved in the leadership of the Chapter. In order for a proposed slate to be printed in the winter newsletter, please contact the nominating committee by November 15th. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the Convention. The nominating committee will be pleased to answer any of your questions.

Get involved, the work is enjoyable, the friendships made are wonderful, and the rewards are out of this world.

Bill McL



SUMMERTIME
AND
THE BUILDING IS EASY





2009 BUILD SCHEDULE
Deann Harrington, VP Build Coordinator



ONEONTA, NY August 17 to 28, 2009 This new construction build follows the NEAR rally in Essex Junction, VT. MORE BUILDERS STILL NEEDED – CALL NOW ☎ Leaders: Lynn & Deann Harrington, phone (518) 586-6594 or (518) 744-8889, E-mail: lynndeann@hughes.net

FARMINGTON, NM October 19 - 30, 2009 This new construction build follows the Rocky Mountain Ramble in Farmington, NM. Leaders: Bob & Lynn Christensen Phone: (206) 235-2431 or (206) 293-1897 E-mail: souderbob@netscape.com Sign-ups open on August 10, 2009.



2010 BUILDS

THERE WILL NOT BE a build after Western Area Rally. It would run into the INTO rally being held in Quartzite, AR later in January 2010. I am trying to find a location for a build following the INTO rally, build dates being, January 25 to February 5, 2010.

VERO BEACH, FL – February 8 to 19, 2010 Team Leaders: Jack & Charmaine Irwin - Sign-ups open on Oct. 28th, 2009, Phone: (905)659-5350 or e-mail: charmjack@cogeco.ca

PLEASE, PLEASE KEEP YOUR E-MAIL UP TO DATE WITH THE CHAPTER SECRETARY so we can keep you informed as builds develop between newsletters.

TEAM LEADER WORKSHOP: The Bowling Green workshop resulted in four more couples as possible team leaders for our chapter. Another workshop will be scheduled at Albuquerque, NM, convention in March 2010. Please think about attending and see how you could advance our chapter goals by volunteering as a leader.

MY CONTACT INFORMATION: ☎ (518)586-6594 (Verizon) or (518)744-8889 (AT&T) E-MAIL: lynndeann@hughes.net



SIGN-UP PROCEDURE

Sign-ups will be listed for each build. All sign-ups will be accepted AFTER 10:00 A.M. EST on the day stated by the Team Leader or your Build Co-ordinator via phone or e-mail.

BUILD PARTICIPANT CANCELLATIONS - If you find a need to cancel after acceptance on a build team, please call the same person you signed up with to cancel. Thank you.

Happy Building – Safe Travels! Deann

SEND DIGITAL PHOTOS THAT YOU'VE TAKEN OF HFH BUILDS TO MARION@BRAUM.COM SO THEY CAN BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER!

CHANGE IS INEVITABLE - WHAT DO YOU DO?

All changes to personal information, addresses, e-mails, etc., should be sent to the secretary at fmcahfst08@hotmail.com or by snail mail to our Chapter address at 3590 Round Bottom Road, Cincinnati, OH 45244.

FMCA CHAPTER: HABITAT FOR HUMANITY®
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - CONDENSED MINUTES
THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2009 – BOWLING GREEN, OH

The meeting was called to order at 3:11 PM. Officers present were Bill McLaughlin, President; Dave Salter, VP-Membership; Fred O'Donnell, National Director and Sue Salter, Secretary/Treasurer. The usual meeting formalities were conducted by Bill and he called on Alan Schmiedt for the invocation.

SECRETARY'S MINUTES OF PERRY MEETING: Motion made (Linda Laymon) and seconded (Dave Salter) to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve as written in our newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Full Report is on Page 5.

VP-BUILD COORDINATOR: Report read by Bill McLaughlin on behalf of Deann Harrington:

"As Bill reads this to you, Lynn & I hope to be back in Ticonderoga, NY, and our weekend family Reunion; parties have already begun. Hope you have all enjoyed your time at convention in Bowling Green. A great deal of time and energy is expended by your Build Coordinator and the chosen affiliates to plan a build for our chapter teams. Our most recent (past six months) builds have not been filled with participants. Sign-ups really drag in days after the opening sign-up time.

The build in Oneonta, NY in August is in jeopardy of being cancelled if we do not have more builders. (Editor's Note: The build is ON and you can still sign up!)

Can any of you offer some reasons why members are not signing up? Is there anything your Executive board can do differently to better serve your building needs as chapter members? Are the Builds in the wrong place? Wrong time? Any feedback about our build planning would be greatly appreciated; just contact me via email or phone."

VP-COMMUNICATIONS: Report read by Bill McLaughlin on behalf of Marion Braum:

"The next newsletter is due to come out soon after this Convention. With our new electronic version, we are not limited in space and can include stories/commentary on members' experiences of their builds, either Chapter builds, Care-a-Vanner builds or local builds. You can email me, marion@braum.com, these documents or photos so we can share them with the whole membership through the newsletter.

Remember to keep your email address up to date with Sue, our Secretary, so you won't miss the announcement of the newsletters. Finally, remember the Chapter Website has all the newsletters, the recent past ones and the present, as well as the Build Calendar for your travel planning."

VP-MEMBERSHIP: Dave Salter report can be seen on page 5 of this newsletter. He also thanked the members that tended the Habitat Table in the Information Center.

NATIONAL DIRECTOR: Fred O'Donnell reports can be seen of page 4 of this newsletter. (Editor's Note: It is definitely worth reading for an understanding of FMCA's on-going issues that affect us as a chapter and members of FMCA.)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Bill reported that the Habitat Seminar, presented by Linda and Lynn Laymon, was outstanding. He stated that it was up-to-date and a fresh new presentation.

OLD BUSINESS: Sue Salter brought up a motion, as discussed in Perry, to add the wording: "All payments must be made in US Funds, drawn on a US Financial Institution" to the Standing Rules Articles regarding payments of any sort to the Chapter. A discussion regarding the fact that Canadians knew of various ways to eliminate bank fees and charges, led Bill to declare this motion moot.

NEW BUSINESS: Bill called on John Harder for a report from the Nominating Committee. John stated that all Offices were open, but that there are nominees for all offices, except VP - Membership and Alternate National Director. The Committee welcomes any nominees.

(Cont'd on Page 5)

FROM YOUR NATIONAL DIRECTOR

The Governing Board (GB) met on Monday, July 20th at Bowling Green State University, Bowling, Ohio, during the FMCA's 82nd National Convention. Many items were on the agenda that will have lasting effects on FMCA. Highlights of the voting are:

1. The GB approved the creation of the Associate Chapter, a chapter that enjoys many of the same benefits as other FMCA chapters but will not have representation before the GB. As few as 10 FMCA members can establish an Associate Chapter.
2. Effective immediately, chapters must only have one (1) business meeting per calendar year to remain active.
3. The former President's Council, a body of three, appointed by the FMCA President, will now be known as the FMCA Review Council, consist of 5 members and be selected in the same manner as the FMCA Nominating Committee.
4. FMCA Mail Forwarding Service will increase from \$5 to \$10 per month.
5. Family registration at the National Conventions will increase \$15.
6. A recommended 50% reduction of the reimbursement to GB members was disapproved.
7. The Executive Board (EB) recommended that MEDEX not be funded for 2010. The GB disapproved the EB recommendation.

MEDEX has been a contentious issue that has been the most talked about issue within FMCA. Many see MEDEX as a major benefit of membership; others feel it is grossly overpriced for the benefit received. Since the initial contract, when cost was \$1.25 per member per year, MEDEX has continued to raise its cost. The most significant raise followed an FMCA dues increase in 2003. At that time, the rate was increased to \$4.25. The contract for 2009-10 specified a rate at \$4.75. With over 100,000 members, FMCA must allocate approximately \$500,000 to cover MEDEX cost for one (1) year.

The MEDEX contract provided an escape clause that allowed either party the option to cancel provided certain conditions were met. The EB decided to exercise the option and directed Don Eversmann to notify MEDEX of the Board's intent not to renew for 2010 and to seek bids from other similar services. MEDEX responded by asking for a copy of FMCA financial statements for additional study before responding further. FMCA has asked for similar documents from MEDEX that would justify MEDEX rates, MEDEX has refused to provide any financial documents. The contract provided for mandatory arbitration in any disputes and therefore offered some protection from potential lawsuits.

FMCA was in an excellent bargaining position to gain concessions from MEDEX that could have resulted in a lower rate for 2010 but the GB's decision to put funding back into the 2010 budget eliminated that advantage. I did not support funding MEDEX for 2010. I believe that the Executive Director and the legal staff should have been directed to negotiate the best contract possible with a maximum cost per member set by the GB.

The election of National Officers resulted in the election of Charlie Schrenkel as President, Judy Czarsty as Senior Vice President, Joanne Durbin as Secretary and Will Young as Treasurer.

For those seeking a more in-depth report, check the FMCA Chapter, Habitat for Humanity website.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit us online at:

www.fmca-hfh.com

CHAPTER OFFICERS:

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IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Linda Walden (and Lynn Laymon)



Fred

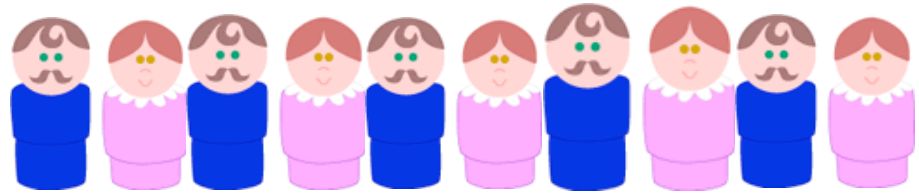
A discussion ensued regarding the election (in Albuquerque) of a Temporary Delegate for the Summer Convention in Redmond, OR in 2010.

Bill discussed the changes in the Care-A-Vanner area at HFHI. Mary & Tony Campbell have taken the RV Coordinator Desk on the road. They're still working out a few glitches, but it seems to be working quite well. At this time we will continue scheduling our own builds and taking sign-ups.

Bill announced that the build team for Fulton County would meet after this meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:11 PM. Drawings for door prizes followed, as well as an Auction of two of Arlene Kaminski's beautiful handmade items, which added \$27.50 to our Treasury.

Respectfully Submitted:
Sue Salter, Secretary/Treasurer



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Dave Salter reported that membership was at 176 before the convention (after unpaid members were removed) and we had 10 new members sign up during the convention. Two of these were a result of FMCA's free one-year membership offer, if they also joined a Chapter. There are approximately 111 members whose dues will expire in December of 2009. He also thanked the members that tended the Habitat Table in the Information Center.

I also would ask any chapter members attending the Northeast rally in Essex Junction, Vermont to attend and offer their support to Bob Mills and Lise Giguere, who volunteered to give the presentation about Habitat for Humanity at the rally.



Treasurer's report:



Wells Fargo Accounts:

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Balance as of 3-15-09 | \$10,438.57 |
| Income | 538.22 |
| Expenses | (147.65) |
| Balance as of 7-1-09 | \$10,829.14 |

Americus - Project Code 1108012

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Balance as of 3-3-09 | \$35,990.84 |
| Income | 724.28 |
| Withdrawals | (33,000.00) |
| Balance as of 7-15-09 | \$3,715.12 |