



Region 5 Report

Illinois-Indiana-Kentucky

Bob Moyers, President

February, 2009

Bill Schrader, Editor

IBT addresses financial challenges facing WBCCI

The Wally Byam Caravan Club International board of trustees had a jam-packed agenda for its Mid-Winter meeting in January at Rayne, Louisiana, including attempts to get its financial house in order.

Rayne, located 125 miles west of New Orleans on I-10, is the Frog Capital of the World.

The event attracted 116 WBCCI members.

First order of business was handling the \$103,279.76 loss from the Madison, Wis. International Rally last summer. A motion was approved to transfer that amount from the International Rally Fund to the General Fund. This cuts the International Rally Fund balance, accumulated from gains in past International rallies, almost in half.

Jerry Larson, International president for the Madison Rally, commented that in 2007, when the rally was booked. Madison required a guarantee of 1,200 RVs. He said early reservations in January, 2009,



A mural in Rayne, Louisiana, site of this year's WBCCI Mid-Winter International Board of Trustees meeting, proclaiming it the Frog Capital of the World.

The International Board of Trustees addressed 25 other motions during the two-day seminar and board meeting.

Five of the motions related to the WBCCI's financial situation, an attempt at ending the string of annual deficits the organization has experienced.

One motion approved was increasing the annual WBCCI dues. Figures of \$10,

\$15 and \$20 were considered and the board voted to approve a \$10 increase to \$65 per year. This is the first dues increase since 2006. In the wake of that dues increase the organization lost 577 members, the largest single year loss in 10 years. The previous year membership had increased by 15, the only year of an increase in the past 25 years.

Two of the motions reduced expenses. One approved reduced executive board expense reimbursements by an overall 25 percent...25 percent for the president and vice presidents; 19.4 percent for the treasurer; 19.2 percent for the secretary; and 66.7 percent for the immediate past president. The other motion approved cut the Region officers expense reimbursement by 10 percent across the board.

One motion approved increased expenditures. The new Marketing Committee was given a \$5,240 budget for the remainder of 2009 and \$15,000 for 2010-11.

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Message from President Moyers

Your Region 5 officers completed a busy week in Rayne, LA at the Winter IBT.

We had meetings on Monday and Tuesday, IBT Seminar on Wednesday and Thursday followed by a free day to tour on your own Friday. Saturday was the IBT meeting and if you listened to the live streaming you would have heard a lot of changes being made.

Hopefully these changes will help make our club stronger. Some of the major changes are:

- 25 percent reduction in International officers expenses;
- 10 percent reduction in Region officers
- A marketing plan that has been funded and is in the process of being implemented.

Our units will be voting on our new 3rd Vice president nominee who is John Boutwell from California and our own Dick Heyde is a candidate for the two person Nominating Committee for the next year.

Region 5 received the region merit award again for 2008-2009. This is our second time for this award. The unit merit award forms

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Florida State Rally dinner first Region 5 event in '10

The first Region 5 event for 2010 will once again be the annual dinner held in conjunction with the Florida State Rally at Sarasota, FL Feb. 16-21.

The Florida State Rally is annually an outstanding event and the second largest rally in WBCCI behind the International Rally. It features seminars, games, crafts, contests, tours and excellent entertainment.

The Region 5 dinner will start at 5 p.m. sharp so everyone can get back to the Rally grounds for the evening program. The location will again be the Trinity United Methodist Church at 4150 South Shade Avenue in Sarasota.

Catering the meal will again by John Willette and his crew from the Sarasota Shrine Club.

Ballots going out for Region 5 election

Ballots are going out to Unit Presidents for the 2010 election of Region officers. The slate: President Louise Humble; 1st VP Bob Gregory; 2nd VP — Barry Bell. Spots are on the ballot for write-in candidates. The ballots are to be returned to Region 5 Secretary Barbara Bergen by April 25. New officers will be installed at the Gillette International.

Mid-Winter IBT meeting held at 'Frog Capital'

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Another financial measure approved provided for two-year budget planning.

Eight of the motions considered had to do with changes in the grievance procedure. President Tom Collier noted that in 2009 more grievances were filed than in any other year in the history of the club. Seven of the motions that were housekeeping in nature were consolidated into one and approved. A motion to add the actions of suspension or probation to the appeals process was rejected.

Among the other motions considered by the board were:

--To make the Mid-Winter IBT an International Rally like the summer event rather than being operated by a Unit or Region as now is the case. This was defeated.

--To allow Unit executive boards to appoint Unit delegates to the annual June meeting. This was approved.

--To do away with proportional voting by the delegates at the annual June meeting. This was defeated.

--To move the IBT meeting at the International Rally to the third day of the Rally, rather than the week before the Rally starts. This motion was withdrawn. The change this year of moving the IBT seminar to June 26 and the IBT board meeting to June 28 will be reviewed before any action is taken.

--Reorganize the WBCCI into seven regions rather than 12. Make the International Rally a rotating Region function rather than a responsibility of the president. Remove the position of International Third Vice President. Reduce the responsibilities for International and Region officer travel. The motion was withdrawn after it was deemed to big to tackle at this Mid-Winter IBT. The motion was forwarded to the 2020 Committee for review and redrafting.

Big increase in Region 5 MALs

Region 5 experienced a major increase in Members-At-Large this year, with 20 new Airstream owners added to the list. The net gain was only 8, however, because 12 of last year's Region 5 MALs failed to renew. Seven of the non-renewals were in Illinois, 3 in Indiana and 2 in Kentucky.

For 2010 the MAL distribution is 15 Illinois, 15 Indiana and 6 Kentucky.

Message from President Moyers

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are in and the winners will be announced at the International.

Lee and I are on our way to Florida and will be in Sarasota for the Florida State Rally. We look forward to seeing all of our Region 5 members who attend the rally. Last year we had over 90 at the Region 5 Dinner which is held every year.

Please remember the people in Haiti.

Bob Moyers

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A coal strip mining area in Southern Illinois has been converted to the beautiful Du Quoin State Fairgrounds that will be the location of the 2010 Region 5 Rally in September. The fairgrounds has a camping area for 1,000 RVs amidst the numerous lakes and trees.

Du Quoin Fairgrounds Region 5 Rally location

The Du Quoin State Fairgrounds, which will host the 2010 Region 5 Rally Sept. 15-19, is a unique facility with a fascinating history.

It all began in the late 1800s with a young Will Hays launching a business career in Du Quoin peddling soft drinks from a pushcart. This evolved into a franchise for Coca Cola for all of southern Illinois, the launching of Midwest Dairy Products that served 37 communities in eight states and the launching of the Du Quoin State Fair in 1923.

During that first fair there were no electric lights. The grandstand held just 3,000 people and the oval only half mile round.

From this modest beginning the imaginative Hays transformed the fair into one of the Midwest's finest. The grandstand holds 18,000.

The stage hosts top performers from Las Vegas, Nashville and Broadway. The track has been expanded to a mile and harness and auto racing added. Attendance is in the millions to a community with 6,500 residents.

The most significant step Hays took in his building program, came in 1939 when he bought the Black Gold Strip Mine that adjoined his fair property and set out to fill, level and landscape the property along with planting 1,400 trees. Today there are 1,200 beautiful acres with 12 lakes and ponds, 30 miles of winding, paved roadways and a 1,000 site, full hook-up RV park that will host the Region 5 Rally.

Probably the most striking additions are the two antebellum style mansions in the middle of the fairgrounds, These were the homes of Gene and Don Hays, Will's sons, who ran and helped the fair prosper during the 1950s through 1980s until their deaths. Their major coup was getting the Hambletonian harness horse race as a fair attraction from 1957 to 1980.

The fair was sold to the State of Illinois in 1986 to make it a true "state" fair.

The far-sightedness of Will Hays and his sons will be greatly appreciated by Region 5 members in September,



The original main gate to the DuQuoin State Fairgrounds

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Officers at the Region 5 opening ceremony at Brandenburg, Ky. in September 2009

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Caravanning — How do I begin?

By LOUISE HUMBLE
Region 5 First Vice President
Region Caravan Chair

Caravanning season is fast approaching and some of our experienced caravan leaders have already begun to make plans for this year's caravan. Some of our soon-to-be-experienced caravan leaders are wondering how to begin.

One question that is often asked is, "Where would I go on a caravan?"

Think of somewhere you would like to go. The chances are very good that if you would like to go to a particular place, others will be interested in going there too.

Another question that occurs often, "How long should I plan to be gone?"

Caravans come in all lengths. Some are long and some are short. For your first caravan, plan one that will be only 3 or 4 days long. One proven successful plan is to have a caravan that starts on Friday and ends Monday afternoon. The length is about right for a first time caravan leader and it will also allow the working members more of an opportunity to participate. Some potential caravan leaders wonder if having a unit caravan will interfere with planned rallies. Caravans and rallies can complement each other. Plan the rendezvous of your caravan to be two or three days prior to a rally and have the caravan end at the rally. Those who were unable to go on the caravan but are attending the rally will get to hear about all the fun things that happened and will

the caravan end at the rally.

Mystery caravans are always fun. Plan the route, the tours, the meals, etc. and get the help you need. Caravanners can help with the meals, skits, games or whatever you plan of that nature without knowing exactly where they are going to be. Also, have a contact number so that those who cannot participate in the whole caravan can call you to find out where to join when they are available. Don't let them know more than a day in advance so it won't spoil the fun! One really nice thing about mystery caravans is the fact that if something goes awry with plans after the caravan starts, the leader can just change the plans and no one will be the wiser.

Don't miss out on all the fun. Start planning a caravan for your unit today.

Region 5 membership decline still an issue

By **BOB GREGORY**
Region 5 2nd Vice President
Membership chairman

Your Region 5 Membership Chairman has continued to give a lot of thought, research and analysis to the challenge of reversing the continued loss of members. There was a net loss of 22 members between July 1, 2009, and December 31, 2009. *Two* of our seven units actually had a net gain of two members. *One* unit alone had 10 of those net losses. The remaining *four* units lost the remaining 12.

Could, by chance, those two units that had net gains have already instituted the new Region 5 Recruiting and Retention Guide? Yes, you were correct; they did and are they moving on in the numbers. Movers and shakers they are called -- they are commended for being determined to get the job done.

New Unit board members, officers and members, I challenge you to print off a copy of the R&R Guide (on the Region Web Site), study it hard and ask for it to be discussed at your first Unit rally this Spring. We just can't possibly give up on putting the effort into retaining current members and recruiting new members. Can we do it? You bet we can. Ask someone to make contact with those members that did not renew by December 31. They may be glad that someone cared for them enough to make a personal contact with them.

Cindy Reed's office at WBCCI headquarters sent the following information to Region Membership Chairs. You may be surprised at the number of NEW and USED Airstreams purchased by both members and non-members.

Number of New Airstreams sold in 2009 -- 984

Number purchased by WBCCI members: -- 96 (9.8%)

Number purchased by non-Members -- 888 (Of the 888, only 77 joined a WBCCI Unit)

Incidentally, there were 1,216 New Airstreams sold in 2008 and 1,572 in 2007. Those two year percentages were very close to the 2009 numbers in each category. Amazing isn't it, that people are still buying the number one RV in the industry in such numbers.

WBCCI Headquarters mails a letter to each new Airstream owners addressing WBCCI membership and the benefits of joining a unit. That letter contains the name, address and phone number of the Point-of-Contact in the WBCCI Unit nearest the mailing address of the new owner. An information copy of that same letter is mailed to the unit Point-of-Contact and to the Region Membership Chair for follow up.

Are we taking advantage of this important information placed right in our hands or do we allow it to lie idly by and pass up a super opportunity to share a great life style with we that also own an Airstream RV. Your Unit Recruiting Specialist would love to have those leads/prospects to initiate a contact.

Spread the good news of Airstreaming around and lets see who will be recognized for being the number one unit in membership net gains for Region Five during our Region Rally at DuQuoin in September 2010. Good luck and we will see you there.

2010 REGION 5 RALLY
 SEPT. 15-219, 2009
 Du Quoin State Fairgrounds, Du Quoin, Illinois

Last name _____ First _____

Spouse _____ Guest(s) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Handicap parking Yes No

WBCCI No. _____ Unit _____ Region _____

RALLY REGISTRATION FEE

Trailer/Motorhome -- 2 persons \$195 _____

Trailer/Motorhome -- 1 person \$175 _____

No RV on site -- 2 persons \$135 _____

No RV on site -- 1 person \$115 _____

Child/grandchild -- per child

Ages 4-12 \$ 35 _____

Ages 3 and under FREE

First timer -- Deduct \$10 per person. _____

REGISTER FOR ONE TOUR ONLY

Wine Trail Tour (chartered bus, lunch)

\$38.00 x _____ (No. of persons) _____

Bison Bluff Farm Tour (tour, lunch)

\$18.50 _____ (No. of persons) _____

Aisin and Miners Field

No charge _____ (No. of persons) _____

Early parking available Sun, Mon., Tues.,

Sept. 12, 13 and 14.

_____ nights at \$15 per night _____

TOTAL

Would you be willing to participate in open

House on Sat., Sept. 18 YES NO

Mail registration (including SASE for receipt), with check

payable to "Region 5, WBCCI, to Ron Gordy, Region 5

Treasurer, 202 McCutcheon Dr., Lafayette, IN 47909.

Register by Aug. 1 to receive rally plaque

Full refund cancellation accepted until Sept. 8, 2010

Region 5 News In Brief

Erika Schaeffe, president of the Southern Illinois Unit, underwent double by-pass surgery on Friday, Jan. 29 at St. John's Hospital, Prairie Heart Institute in Springfield, Ill.

Nancy Broglin, Southern Indiana Unit secretary and news letter editor, underwent knee surgery on Tuesday, Jan. 26 at Bloomington, Ind., Hospital. She will be undergoing two weeks of rehabilitation in Bloomington.

The **Northern Illinois Unit** is expanding its February outing this year to include a tour of the FermiLab Atomic Research Center at Batavia, Ill. at 10:30 Feb. 24, to be followed by a lunch at Harner's Restaurant in N. Aurora.

The **Southern Illinois Unit** is planning a Unit Caravan for the return trip from the International Rally in Gillette, WY. The caravan will leave Gillette on July 6 with stops at Medora, ND, Roosevelt National Park, Menoken Indian Village, Lewis and Clark's Fort Mandan, the Laura Ingalls Wilder home, Pipestone National Monument, and the Norwegian Museum with nine nights of camping and five meals.