



EMPIRE STATE NEWS

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF FCRV



Spring Issue 2020

Words from Wittmeyers: NY State Report

To quote a popular song from the 60's: "The times they are a changin'". So unless you're living in a cave (which actually could be the best place to be...) you know COVID 19 is wreaking havoc in New York State. As I type this, New York City has just been declared the epicenter of this pandemic, with 5% of the world's cases there, and well over 550 in my own county, which numbers will grow by the time this newsletter reaches your desk. So we are making plans cautiously, but optimistically, that quarantines will be reduced if not outright eliminated by the time Memorial Day weekend and our annual State Campout roll around. The theme of the campout will be "Casino Night" and we will have various casino games as the evening entertainment on Saturday. Friday and Sunday will be other game playing nights in our usual small groups together in the hall. We will have our general meeting and various committee meetings and reports, along with some recreational activities to make it all worth your while to come and renew friendships, break bread together in a healthy manner, and enjoy our annual event. The registration page is found elsewhere in this newsletter.

IF, and that is a BIG "IF", we have to cancel or severely retool this event, we will keep you updated by emails. They are the most efficient manner of communication these days, and respond well to an ever-changing situation. It all depends on the health of our members, and the status of various quarantines and restrictions in place to safeguard that health. If you know members in your area or chapter who do not have emails or access to a computer, *please* keep them advised of developments. A simple phone call letting them know is not asking too much right now.

Joe & Patty Wittmeyer
NYSA State Directors



NYSA President

Well spring is almost here and getting outdoors is on the minds of us all. I hope all are safe as we deal with the covid-19 virus. This virus has impacted the FCRV organization as well. Recently the National Retiree Rally was cancelled. As we look to Spring State which will be held over Memorial Day weekend at Herkimer County Fairgrounds we will continue to be optimistic that we can still hold the event. The progression of the virus will prompt us to be fluid in our decision making as we move closer to holding Spring State. The health and safety of members and families will take precedence in reaching a decision. We will keep you informed on developments regarding the spring campout. I know much thought and planning has been put into holding a fun "Casino Night" themed campout.

I recently received notification From Robert Wolf that he is resigning as Membership Chairman for New York. I would like to thank him on the work he has done on behalf of the organization. This also means that we will be looking for a person to take over the position. We really need someone to keep track of the members of the organization. A very critical responsibility is to keep an active data file of members and their status within the FCRV Structure, NYSA association and chapter status. This position also gives notice to members about when NYSA dues must be paid. If interested please contact myself or any other officer listed in the newsletter.

Please keep yourself healthy and safe and will look for all to return to the fun of camping and being with friends in the great outdoors.

Sean McHale
NYSA President



AROUND THE STATE

Hudson Valley District: Happy Spring - almost. We all hope everyone is happy, healthy and ready to start camping soon. We can begin with NYSA Spring State, Memorial Day Weekend. More info is in this issue of ESN.

Hudson Valley District will have a luncheon and meeting Sunday, June 14, 2020, 1:00pm at Christina's, 812 Ulster Ave, Kingston, NY 12401. RSVP to Terry by June 6. 845-687-0124 or millert1054@yahoo.com

FCRV has an upcoming election. Trustee positions up for election are: President - nominees are Gerry Pfirsch of Montana and Jan Cushing from Wisconsin. VP of Programs - nominee is Lorne Douglas of Ontario. Recording/Corresponding officer - nominee is Beth Standiford of Missouri. Biographies and platforms appear in March issue of Camping Today.

The 60th International Campvention will be held at Brigden Fairgrounds, Brigden, Ontario, with early bird days 7/10 and 11, and the rally itself on 7/12 to 7/17/2020.

61st Campvention 2021, July 11-16, 2021, Elkhorn, Wisconsin will be hosted by the Trustees. There is a contest to design the booklet cover and registration form. Theme is "Wander Wisconsin". Can be in color but also must look good in black and white. For important info to artists young and old, contact Pat W at National Office or Jack Smye. Project is due 5/1/20. Hope to see everyone soon.

George and Tonya Rothmann
Hudson Valley District Director

Suffolk District has been quiet through the winter months. I'm sure the clubs have had Christmas Parties. Our reservation system lottery worked pretty well this year. They are hoping that next year it will be totally online. The district's spring campout will be the last weekend in April at Indian Island County Campground and the fall campout will be at the end of September at Cathedral Pines in Yaphank. That's if Suffolk County doesn't shut down the county parks due to the pandemic right now. I don't know what we'll do if they do that. We lost two long-time members in December: Rosemarie Reilly of the Drifters and Carol Paulson of the Pathfinders. They will be missed by their families and friends.

VOTE FOR NEW TRUSTEES!!
See page 5 for details



Finger Lakes District:

Many of us in the Finger Lakes District are anxious to get our campers cleaned and back out on the road. These recent weather teasing days have given us the camping fever!! Hopefully we can scout out some new members to keep the FLD going for years to come. As with many districts throughout our FCRV organization, we are struggling to maintain membership numbers. 2019 was a rough year for our district since we lost several members: Harold Wheeler died July 4th at the age of 100; Robert Magee died September 2nd and Mary Ellen Winslow died November 25th. These folks had remained good friends with many even though they were no longer able to be active campers. Then on December 30th we lost a very active member, Ralph Rossman. He had been officers of two chapters (PALS and Top of the Hill) over recent years and a willing, joyful worker. He is missed so much by all of us.

The three chapters of FLD have met monthly over the winter months. Some chapters have a pot luck and a meeting and others go out to eat and return to the hosts' home for a meeting and dessert. Sort of an eating club in the winter!! Now wait, we are also an eating club in the summer!!

Our Spring Campout will be hosted by the PALS chapter on the weekend of May 15-17, 2020. This will be held on the Almond Rod and Gun Club property with a theme: "Roses are Red, Violets are Blue, Camping is our Favorite Thing to Do". PALS will do a great job, as they always do to carry out the theme and provide a fun schedule of events. Keuka Kampers have begun their plans for our Fall FLD Campout traditionally held in September. Each chapter has a full schedule of monthly camping plans for the summer, alternating hosts/wagon masters. Many of these take place in back yards and occasionally in campgrounds. Best wishes to all of our NYS camping friends and have a happy, healthy 2020 season.

Western District has been busy working on plans for the upcoming State Campout. We are moving forward as though this WILL happen. If we find out closer to the Memorial Day Weekend that it simply cannot happen, we will notify folks BY EMAIL. It is the most efficient way of communicating quickly and efficiently in these turbulent times, so please watch your email as we get closer to the date. And please update your members who do not have access to a computer or do not have email. We want everyone informed on this matter.

Registrations are due by May 10th so we have time to get our food orders and supplies in. An activity fee of \$7.50 per person will be collected at the campout, but registrations need to get to Mike Burns before that May 10th deadline. Thank you for working with us with these unexpected conditions.

IF CORONA VIRUS FORCES CANCELLATION OF THIS EVENT, YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED BY EMAIL. UNTIL THEN, WE ARE ASSUMING WE ARE A GO!



CASINO NIGHT at

NYSA State Campout

May 22nd - 25th, 2020

Hosted by Western District

Herkimer County Fairgrounds

133 Cemetery Street, Frankfort, NY 13340

[Take Exit 30 on the NYS Thruway]

The Camping Fee will be covered by NYSA.

There will be a \$7.50 activity fee per person to pay for the cost of food and supplies.

FEE WILL BE COLLECTED AT THE CAMPOUT

PLEASE REGISTER SO WE HAVE ENOUGH FOOD AND SUPPLIES!!



Please send payment and completed registration form payable to:

NYSA / NCHA

c/o MIKE BURNS

PO BOX 51

NELLISTON, NY 13410

Ph: (518) 763-3868 or email: MCBURNS@FRONTIER.COM

Early bird Thursday after 1:00pm

Last Name _____ First Name(s) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

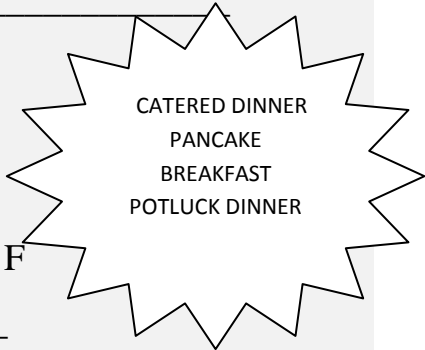
Phone (____) _____ Cell (____) _____

E-mail: _____

Number of Adults: __ M __ F Youth: __ M __ F Teens: __ M __ F

Registration @ \$7.50 per adult \$ _____ Total Enclosed \$ _____

District _____ Chapter _____



Registration Deadline is May 10th, 2020

What to bring:

- Dish to share at Pot Luck Dinner ♦ Money for Casino Night on Saturday evening
- Your own utensils for all group meals ♦ Books for Book exchange
- Your conservation posters ♦ Ladder golf, Bocce & Washer Toss sets

Mason Jar Science



This Christmas Ian received a book called *Mason Jar Science- 40 Slimy, Squishy, Super-Cool Experiments* (by Jonathon Adolph). All the experiments are done with a mason jar. One of the experiments that we have done is the Tiny Tornado.

Materials:

Water
Dish washing soap
Quart size mason jar (preferably w/ smooth sizes, w/ 2-piece lid)
Vinegar (if needed)

Food Coloring
Glitter or seed beads (optional)

Instructions:

1. Fill jar with water, leaving an inch or so of space at the top.
2. Add about a teaspoon of dish washing soap and a couple of drops of food coloring. To witness the effect of debris being swirled around by your tornado, add a sprinkle of glitter or some small beads.
3. Screw on the lid, check for leaks, and give everything a shake to mix it all up.
4. Set the soapy water spinning by moving the jar in a circular swirling motion for 5 to 10 seconds. Stop swirling, hold the jar up to a light or window, and witness the awesome power of nature.

Hope you enjoy it as much as we did.

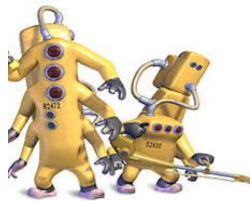
NYSA Youth Director, Carol Burns email: mcburns@frontier.com

Rollie Pollies

Armadillididae- Or as we know them pill bugs, potato bugs, or rollie pollies are not bugs at all. They are in fact terrestrial crustaceans. They live in dark damp places. Don't worry if they get into your home. They can't reproduce or survive in a dry environment. They don't bite or sting. They have gills instead of lungs. * **fun fact** * They have blue blood. And they mostly feed on decaying plants and even animals. They can be a pest though. In areas with wet conditions they can eat fresh fruits and veggies (the roots, stems, leaves, tubers, shoots, and fruit). Some examples of vulnerable crops are beans, melons, potato, lettuce and strawberries.



But **STOP** before you get out the bug killer/repellent. Here is why I've been writing a conservation article about such a creature. Well, some facts are coming to light that show we might really need these little guys. It seems that they have the ability to remove heavy metal contamination from the soil, including contaminants such as copper, zinc, lead, and cadmium. Disgusting as it sounds; these guys don't urinate and eat their own poop. This way the toxins are not put back into the ground. At least not until they die and decompose. Isn't Mother Nature fascinating?



I know what you are thinking. This is only a temporary solution. Oh the possibilities, if we could figure out how to do what they do and a safe disposal of these heavy metals.

I believe that Mother Nature has given us lots of clues as to how we can clean up the mess we've made of this world. We just need to stop, look, and listen.

NYSA Conservation Directors Mike and Carol Burns mcburns@frontier.com

CONSERVATION

Please keep in mind that Conservation Posters are due at the Spring State Campout. If you or your children are home for the time being, have them make posters with messages of Conservation awareness for the contest at the State Campout.

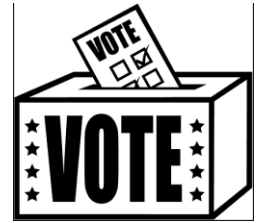
Camping Is... Coloring Page

The Camping Is... Coloring page for young children can be obtained by sending a request for a copy of the electronic file to pwittmeyer175@gmail.com. The submitted pages will be judged at the State Campout.



FCRV NATIONAL ELECTIONS

By now you should have received the election ballot for the FCRV National Board of Trustees. There are three positions which need to be filled this year. If you file your ballot electronically, it will be held in a secure database with other votes. If you file a paper ballot, it will be verified as not being a duplicate ballot, and will also be held until the voting deadline, which is April 15, 2020. You cannot vote both electronically and with a paper ballot, it must be one or the other. Please use this opportunity to help select the people who will lead us forward in camping. If you did not receive a ballot, either electronically or a paper ballot in the mail, please call the National Office at (716) 668-6242 and request a ballot.



For National Scholarship Info

go to FCRV website: <http://www.fcrv.org/programs2/national-programs/scholarship/> completed National FCRV scholarship application deadline is April 15 (request after 12/1, prior to 4/1)

NYSA-NCHA SCHOLARSHIPS

New York State Assoc. offers college scholarships to members or their children or legal dependents belonging to an affiliated chapter or an independent member who pays NYSA dues (\$5.00/year). FCRV membership must be at least ONE year old. Scholarships are awarded for both two and four year accredited institutions of higher learning. Students currently enrolled in college are given equal consideration with incoming freshman students. Scholarships are awarded at the state campout in May and vary in number and amount of award.

Herb & Marie Petersen, Directors

76 Gaymore Rd., Port Jefferson Sta., NY 11776-1353

Preferred method of contact is email-
petersen76@aol.com

Deadline for the return of completed NY State Scholarship applications is May 1.

NYSA-NCHA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION REQUEST FORM

Due to being "snowbirds" -Please e-mail this info to
petersen76@aol.com

Please email me the information packet regarding the NYSA-NCHA Scholarship.

My FCRV membership # is _____.

Join date: Month ____ / Year _____.

I am ____ a high school student.

____ currently enrolled in college.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The ESN is also now available on the FCRV website in the "Newsletters" section under New York.

The ESN will now be published 3x per year.

The due dates will be as follows:

Spring Issue – March 15 (Published in April)

Summer Issue – June 15 (Published in July)

Holiday Issue – November 15 (Published Dec.)

Please send reports via email whenever possible.

Please try to submit articles near the due date, and Placing ESN first in the subject line of your message is always helpful.

As always, Snowbirds receiving a printed newsletter, please send change of address form to the Editor (as well as the National Office) with the start and stop date and your temporary address.

SEND ARTICLES, UPDATED ADDRESSES AND INFORMATION TO:

Patricia Wittmeyer

50 Victory Avenue

Hamburg, NY 14075

Email: pwittmeyer175@gmail.com

To receive email notification of next ESN availability:

PAT OR JOE WITTMAYER

Pwittmeyer175@gmail.com

Important Dates for 2020:

May 22-25: State Campout

July 13-17: Campvention

Inside this Issue:

- State President's Column
- Cast your FCRV National vote
- District Updates
- Good bugs!

FCRV NATIONAL OFFICE: 1-716-668-6242 1-800-245-9755 FCRVNAT@verizon.net WWW.FCRV.ORG



*"Where Strangers Become Friends
& Friends Become Family"*

NYSA/FCRV
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**DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER
A.S.A.P.**