



EMPIRE STATE NEWS

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF FCRV



Fall Issue 2021



Words from Wittmeyers: NY State Report

Wittmeyers have had a very lively camping season, traveling to district, regional and national rallies, and making many new friends along the way.

Patty Wittmeyer and her daughter Amy, along with Kathy Collier and her daughter Michelle, traveled to the Finger Lakes District Spring campout at Riverside Campground in Wellsville. Please see Linda Austin's report later in this newsletter. Suffice it to say that the other campers were shaking their heads over the lunacy coming out of our trailer! Kathy and I then repeated the process without our girls for the Finger Lakes Fall campout, same campground. Yes, we're going back in the future to enjoy shared activities, games, and fellowship.

Joe and Patty traveled to the annual Campvention in Elkhorn Wisconsin, made a whole different set of friends, renewed several friendships, and enjoyed the Horseshoes, evening programs and meetings. Please DON'T ask Patty about her brief career as an actress or she'll toss her mangled Italian accent at you, which she used at the Murder Mystery Theater for Monday night's Evening Entertainment. **BONGIORNO!**

We then went on to attend the annual Northeast Regional Campout, held at FCRV Commercial Member campground ROSS HILL CAMPGROUND in Lisbon, CT. The theme was Bizzy Beaver's European Campcation, with games to find Bizzy's missing luggage, a roving passport game where we had to answer questions to get our passport stamped, shared dinner, "boat" races (think bottle corks for boats) and roaring campfires. Bingo was a crazy success, and we were finally chased out of the campground a day early by Hurricane Henri. The storm chased us back east, all the way to Herkimer, where the rain finally stopped, and we did too. Trees came down in the campground and there was some property damage to a camper or two there as well, but no FCRV members sustained damage or harm. Many thanks to Lisa and Don Basso for overseeing a wonderful campout! Additional, event-specific reports are later in this newsletter.

Joe & Patty Wittmeyer
NY State Directors

NYSA President

As I write this we are in the second week of October and the leaves are fast approaching peak in many areas. I hope all get an opportunity to get out and truly enjoy what New York State has to offer in the fall to campers. I hope all have a safe and fun Halloween, and a great Thanksgiving surrounded by family and friends. We are still working on continuing to keep NYSA and FCRV a viable organization by planning a meeting and discussing future campouts such as the spring State Campout, and bringing back the Fall Campout as well. I invite all to attend a NYSA zoom meeting on Nov. 7 at 7:00pm. Please send your email to Patty Wittmeyer if you would like to join us to discuss plans for spring state, and your thoughts on bringing back a fall camp out. There has been preliminary discussion on Region 5 (our region) hosting Campvention in 2024. Enjoy what fall has to offer, stay safe and healthy. Hope to see you at the zoom meeting on Nov. 7. At 7:00 pm. Please keep yourself healthy and safe and we will look for all to return to the fun of camping and being with friends in the great outdoors.

Sean McHale
NYSA President



SAVE THE DATE!

Spring State Campout

May 27 – 30, 2022

"Back Together Again"

AROUND THE STATE

Finger Lakes District

The Finger Lakes District was very excited to have a Spring Campout May 14-16, 2021!!! We had not been together since September 2019!! Top of Hill Chapter hosted this event at the Riverside Campground in Wellsville with a theme, "TOGETHER AGAIN". Some tired of hearing that country song over the weekend!

At this location we are able to park in a horseshoe pattern with both electric and water hookups, a fire pit in the center and a pavilion at the open part of the horseshoe. We kept the fire going all weekend to encourage this gathering space for CDC guidelines. Naturally we had the traditional district meeting and chapter sales. We had yard games available, a catered Saturday evening meal and juice with muffins and donuts for Sunday morning. Our Saturday evening entertainment was group participation with jokes, songs, memories, etc.

Our guests included a potential FCRV member couple, Our State Director, Patti, and some of her family members (Kathy, Michelle and Amy). Some members came as day visitors on Saturday. We had a great group with excellent member participation!! We look forward to our Fall District campout that will be hosted by the PALS Chapter.



It is with great sorrow that we share the following information:
VICKIE ROOP : Vickie Roop passed away on Wednesday, October 13th in the hospital in Fort Wayne, Indiana from heart failure. Vickie held many important jobs in FCRV over the years, most recently as Editor of the national newsletter, Camping Today. She also worked as

Campvention Advisor for this past Campvention in Wisconsin. Vickie will surely be missed by her many friends in FCRV.

Funeral arrangements haven't been announced. A full Farewell will be in the next Camping Today.

Western District



Members of the Fiddlers Green and Ken-Ton-A-Wanderers chapters enjoyed a Halloween themed weekend at Woodstream Campsite in Gainesville, New York for the annual Western District Campout. A gorgeous autumn weekend was the perfect setting for haunted hayrides, enthusiastic Trick or Treating, and casual strolls through a very decorated campground.

All of these sites were decorated by the campers themselves, who clearly enjoyed putting up huge displays for the enjoyment of others.



We also played cards, enjoyed a polish/german dinner together, and capped it all off with warm bright campfires. We enjoyed it so much, we've already booked sites for next year!



NEWS FROM NATIONAL...


“Wander Wisconsin” was the theme of this year’s annual national rally, run by the Board of Trustees. Meetings, hospitalities, entertainment, sports events and the ever-popular Teen Royalty Pageant took place at the Walworth County Fairgrounds in Elkhorn, Wisconsin. Joe and I ran gate registration for this event, which was fun because we got to see everyone come in, slow things down by talking too much to many friends, and just generally have fun with it. Many thanks to Linda & Nyhl Austin, Christine & Steve Wheaton and Carolyn & Howard Heckman for helping out with that job. We also received help from the young lady (and her mom!) who went on to become the national Teen Queen, Brianna Coniglio.

Horseshoes proved to be Wittmeyer’s game this year, with Joe and I winning mixed doubles, and I won Ladies Singles. I also came in second in the Ladder Golf, with Howard and Carolyn Heckman of Finger Lakes coming in second in Ladder Golf doubles. Carolyn Heckman came in second in the Washer Toss. Nyhl Austin took 2nd place in the adult category of the Conservation Poster Contest.

New York’s own Sue Fromholzer, of Western District, stepped down from the Board of Trustees at this Campvention, and she received special recognition from FCRV President Gerry Pfirsch for her 38 years of service to this organization, ranging from Office Manager to Vice President – Operations.

While FCRV held their Campvention, we noticed another group parked across the way. They were waiting nearby so they could have *their* national event. One thing led to another, and now we are sharing events and campouts with Friends & Family Camping Club (FFCC), and even looking at the feasibility of our two organizations combining forces.

Now about that acting bug mentioned earlier in this newsletter...What a blast! Seems as though the scheduled entertainment for Monday night at Campvention cancelled due to illness. So in a quick turnaround, the Murder Mystery slated for a dinner program was turned into an entertainment event on the main stage, where we all tried to figure out who murdered “Crick” who was a real pain in theneck. Yours truly was an Italian CSI expert, and yes, I really hammed it up! It was so much fun, and those of us on stage formed several new friendships. No, I did NOT

murder her! 

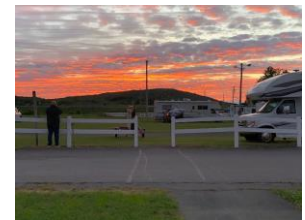
AROUND THE STATE (cont’d.)

Spring State Campout was held once again at the Herkimer County Fairgrounds, and everyone was glad to return to camping, and to be able to renew friendships in person this year. The festivities



began with a mini-birthday celebration of longtime member Ted Murphy from Western District.

Cornhole was the order of the day on Saturday, and after a rainstorm in the early evening, we were all treated to a glorious sunset.



We held our General Meeting during the weekend and restated that while we may be small, we are still moving forward as NYSA, and ideas were floated on how we might increase our numbers, especially with the lure of scholarship money. Carefully sharing meals such as the pancake breakfast and our evening dinner helped cement



friendships, and even allowed guest Trustee Matt Mantia to talk about membership. Saturday night was capped off with a program of music and dancing.

[For National Scholarship Info](#)

Visit the national FCRV website at
www.fcrv.org/programs2/national-programs/scholarship/

The timeline for requesting applications is anytime after 12/1 to 4/1. The deadline for submitting completed Applications is April 15th.

[NYSA SCHOLARSHIPS](#)

The New York State Association (NYSA) of FCRV 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 per year). Must be an FCRV member for at least one full year. 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
76 Gaymore Road, Port Jefferson Sta., NY 11776-1353
Preferred method of contact is email: petersen76@aol.com
Deadline for the return of completed NY State scholarships is May 1.

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

[NYSA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION REQUEST FORM](#)

Due to us being "snowbirds", please email this info to:
petersen76@aol.com

Please email me the information packet regarding the NYSA Scholarship.

My FCRV membership # is _____

Join Date: (month/year): ____/____

I am: _____ a high school student.
_____ currently enrolled in college

[Important Upcoming Dates:](#)

Nov. 7: Zoom meeting at 7 pm

(send your email address to Pat Wittmeyer)

May 27 – 30, 2022: Spring State Campout

Inside this Issue:

- State President's Column
- Pictures various Campouts
- District Updates

