EMPIRE STATE NEWS

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF FCRV

Holiday Issue 2017

Stiegler's State Report

Well, I guess it is that time of the year, AGAIN. Most of us have our rigs in storage already, while the others are going to sunshine.

I want to make sure that everyone has paid their NYSA dues, as it is due by December 31 to Robert Wolf.

Speaking of payments, as stated in Camping Today, the magazine can be sent to you for a fee of $20 for a year, and send that to the National office.

Our NYSA Spring Campout will be May 25-28, 2018 at the Herkimer Fairgrounds, with the committee hard at work. If you have never been there, come join us.

There has not been much happening except New York is chairing the North East Regional Campout next year. It is being held August 16-19, 2018 at The Ridge Campground in Mt. Morris, NY. If you do not know where Mt. Morris is, it is near Letchworth State Park off I-390 and Rt.36. They are very accommodating and are excited to have us. There is a big area where they can hold about 40 rigs, have a tent for our use, etc. The committee is working on entertainment, meals, activities, etc. all for $150 for the weekend. The application will be in this issue of ESN and also Camping Today.

We would like to wish everyone a very happy and safe Holiday Season.

John and Linda

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

to all from the

Ken-Ton-A-Wanderers Chapter

and

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

From the Office of the President (of NYSA!)

The holiday season is upon us and I wish all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Recently a meeting was held of the NYSA executive board to discuss the fate of the organization.

From that meeting a commitment was made to strive towards continuing the organizations existence.

Some "new" ideas were generated and will find their way being implemented to strive towards the continuation of the organization. There has been much change in the organization as the years have passed, but one thing has remained constant the "People" make up the organization. All of the friends and relationships that have been made are the base upon which this organization is founded upon.

So this is a call to all members to contribute in any way they possibly can so that the organization can continue so that others in the future can enjoy what the organization has to offer. We must remember FCRV/NYSA is for all members young and old. We have to strive for "recruiting" this range of members. I know it is difficult because we are competing with many variables that make it difficult for individuals and families to commit to such an organized camping group. Hopefully if we can simplify some things and focus on the fun and friendships we can steer the organization in the right direction so that it can exist into the future. I know many have question the future of FCRV/NYSA down to the district and chapter levels we need to look at perhaps reorganization due to our dwindling numbers to make it functional. The Executive board is committed to doing whatever is necessary to make the organization function. If you have suggestions or ideas please send them via email to anyone who is on the executive board, state directors, district directors, reps or tell someone in person. It will take us all united in our efforts to redefine how we operate and function in the future. The leadership is committed to working diligently on continuing the organization in the spirit of our founder, Hank Nathan. The NYSA and its members should and will continue to build this great organization into the future. We are also working on a location for the upcoming Northeast regional this is a works in progress and we will share information soon as the picture becomes clearer on a location.

Wishing everyone

a wonderful holiday

season and a year

filled with peace and happiness!

Red Rose Retiree Chapter

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

HAPPY CHANUKAH

Merry Christmas

Happy New Year

Happy, Healthy, Joyful 2018 and beyond!

Gloria and Phill Steinberg

Happy Holidays!

George & Tonya Rothmann

DISTRICT DIALOGS

HUDSON VALLEY DISTRICT

We have attended many meetings this camping season. Two district, two state, two at National in Ohio, and one at Northeast Regional in New Hampshire. One thing is for sure: All our leaders are for the same thing - the best for FCRV is first and foremost.

President Shari Weber reported FCRV will have a booth at the Tampa, Florida RV Show. Booth is in Building A, #40 January 16-21, 2018.

Dates of upcoming events:

- ♦ 2018 Retiree Rally, March 20-25 at the North Florida Fairgrounds, Tallahassee, Fl. The theme is Spring Break and register by March 9.
- ♦ Hudson Valley Spring District Campout is May 18-20 at the Shongum Shockers Campground hosted by the Shongum Shockers. Friday night hospitality will be Phill and Gloria and the No Names. We are planning a Saturday afternoon get together with more information to be announced at a later date.
- ♦ NYSA 2018 Spring Campout is May 25-28, Memorial Day Weekend at the Herkimer Fairgrounds and we will be "Celebrating Volunteers". Patty and Kathy are planning a fun-filled holiday weekend.
- ♦ Campvention is July 9-13, 2018 in Doswell, Va. The theme is "Where Our Country Began". Register by June 21.
- ♦ NYS is in charge of Northeast Regional August 16-19, 2018. It will be held at the Ridge Campground, Mt. Morris, NY. The theme is "Fall in Love with New York". Registration form to follow. Hudson Valley District has hospitality Thursday Aug. 16.

Thank you to Robert Wolf for putting together a Marketing Package for Facebook. Included will be the Finger Lakes District poster idea, membership information, ESN, camping activities, schedules and meeting dates.

Hudson Valley District has made a donation to Samaritan's Purse to victims of the hurricanes in Texas and Florida. We hope this helps to bring relief to many people. We have received thanks from the organization.

Jot down all the dates for your district's camping for 2018 and we hope to see you then. In the meantime, we hope your winter is an easy one. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy New Year to all.

George and Tonya Rothmann

(More on next page)

NYSA Scholarship

The Summer and Fall have past with nothing to report for Scholarship. We have had no donations to the fund. Coming soon is the time to request a Scholarship application.Applications can be obtained from us after Dec.1st.,2017 at petersen76@aol.com No applications are sent out via US mail.

We have decided to discontinue the Food Basket Raffle this coming year Last year it made $135 dollars,a small amount for all the work done by our members in collecting food and selling raffle tickets. The first Food Basket Raffle was held in 1990 (27 years ago). In some years a raffle was held at the Fall Campout or the NE Regional Campout. We would like thank ALL the members who made the FOOD RAFFLE a success over all these years.

We would like to congratulate Amy Wittmeyer on receiving a National Scholarship this past year. She received the Schuh Award given in the field of Conservation.

HERB & Marie Petersen

We wish everyone great friendship
and good health!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

From the Fiddler's Green Chapter
Western District

DISTRICT DIALOGS

WESTERN DISTRICT

Western has entered the party and planning phase of our camping season, with Holiday parties on tap for several chapters.

Ken-Ton is actively planning campouts which will include, just to name a few, State Campout, Memorial Day Weekend, Herkimer County Fairgrounds; joint Spring campout with the Fiddler's Green chapter; Campvention in Doswell, Virginia; the North East Regional Campout, set for August 16-19 at The Ridge Campground near Letchworth State Park; a Labor Day Weekend Campout; our own Western District Campout in September; and some additional campouts in October. EVERYONE is welcome to attend and participate in our campouts. If interested, please reach out to a Ken-Ton member (you know, Wittmeyers, Colliers, Labushesky's and Murphy) we ain't big, but we are definitely busy!

Fiddlers Green and Thundering Herd are also in the planning stages of campouts for 2018. We hope to publish their campout schedules in the Spring edition of ESN.

Here's hoping that you are able to share the upcoming holiday season with friends and family, and may all your dreams come true!

To all our friends and family:

May you have a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful Happy New Year!

Bob & Clare Gunning

NEW YORK RED ROSE RETIREE RALLY

July 31 thru August 4, 2018
AT THE HERKIMER COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
135 Cemetery Street, Frankfort, NY 13340
Exit 30 off the NYS Thruway, off of Rt. 5S, Fairgrounds exit

Last Name _____ First _____ Spouse _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # (_____) _____ - _____ E-mail address _____

Chapter _____ Handicapped ? Yes _____ No _____

First Time ? Yes _____ No _____ Emergency contact (print) _____

Address _____

Phone # of contact (_____) _____ - _____ Cell # (_____) _____ - _____

Detach here

COST: Advanced registration which is not refundable (U.S. Funds) $10.00 per couple, $5.00 single.
AT THE GATE $160.00 for 2 people in unit, extra person $50.00, singles $120.00 each

Please bring Auction item

Early bird arrival, Monday July 30, 2018 ***after 2 p.m.*** - $30.00

Please send reservation with check made payable to NY RED ROSE CHAPTER by July 1, 2018 to:
Dottie Jennings, 85 County Rt. 22, Oak Hill, NY 12460
Any questions, you may call Ron Wright at (845) 657-8542 or e-mail: rbw_569@yahoo.com

RALLY FEATURES

Pancake breakfast Games Crafts Talent show

Ice Cream Social Potluck Supper Catered Dinner Auction

Hiking

FIRE, POLICE, AMBULANCE – 911 **FAIRGROUNDS (315) 895-7464**

SO WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? AN EDITORIAL

I was privileged to attend a recent meeting of the New York State Association Board. It was an important meeting, as it addressed several key issues facing our state association, and indeed, the entire FCRV organization.

We are getting smaller. We have been for years. What does this mean for NYSA? The discussion was lively, thoughtful, and showed passion and commitment from those in the room. Yes, our numbers are going down due to the aging out of many of our members. Couple that with the fact that today's young people "just don't seem to want to join anything" and we are looking down the barrel of a double whammy. So what to do? A lot of ideas were floated; some were intriguing, and some were dismissed. One aspect that came out of these discussions was this: we want to *welcome* independent members of FCRV. It seems as though New York has a fair number of members who are not associated with any one particular chapter, and that's ok. You don't need to be a member of a chapter. This does, however, create the need for better, more frequent and more effective communication. And better communication will definitely be a plus for ALL members of our association. To that end, we MUST HAVE your email address in order to share this newsletter, and important news regarding New York State Association activities as it happens. These email addresses are NOT shared with vendors! They are kept private; believe me, I don't want mine given out to anyone who asks either! And if you do not have an email address we will still find effective ways to communicate with our members.

Another element to come out of these talks was the fact that we need to stop being a very passive organization and become more energetically involved in bringing in fresh members. It's time to hang up posters, send out reminders, and reach out to people who camp, and to businesses that support camping clubs.

We can begin by printing up Linda Austin's poster. (I'm working on that project over the winter.) Go to dealerships where we buy our rigs, get them serviced, or purchase supplies, and ask permission to hang these posters. Follow that up with hanging posters on the bulletin boards of state parks, and with permission, on the notice boards of private campgrounds.

Action is what is required to return this organization, NYSA to the vital entity it was 20 or 30 years ago, with hundreds of families, rather than dozens, in the various districts. Talking about how unfortunate it has become, or how sad, without action, is not going to solve our problems. I grew up in this organization and looked forward to camping many weekends throughout the spring, summer and fall. My kids did too. Let's all take a positive step forward in recruiting, or even just TELLING people, fellow campers, about FCRV. Invite them to the campfire. Share a pie or a S'more with them. Tell them what we do, and give them a brochure. We don't need to be overly pushy, just friendly and welcoming. Remember our motto: "Where strangers become friends, and friends become family".

I hope everyone has a blessed, wonderful Holiday Season, and Happy New Year!

Patricia Wittmeyer

Empire State News Editor

FAMILY CAMPERS AND RVERS

47th INTERNATIONAL RETIREE RALLY
NORTH FLORIDA FAIRGROUNDS
441 PAUL RUSSELL ROAD, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32301
EARLY DAYS: MARCH 16TH – MARCH 19TH
RALLY DAYS: MARCH 20TH – MARCH 25TH

LAST NAME: _____ FIRST: _____ SPOUSE/OTHER: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE/PROVINCE: _____ ZIP/POSTAL: _____

LAST NAME OF OTHER: _____ ADDRESS: _____ ST/PROVINCE: _____ ZIP/POSTAL: _____

PHONE# _____ OTHER: _____

WHICH ARE YOU REGISTERING FOR? CAMPING: _____ CAMP PASS: _____ IS THIS YOUR FIRST RETIREE RALLY: YES ____ NO ____

ARE YOU A VETERAN: YES _____ NO ____ NUMBER OF VETERANS IN YOUR UNIT: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ CONFIRMATION LETTER SENT IN PDF FILE: YES ____ NO ____

CONFIRMATION LETTERS WILL BE SENT BY EMAIL. IF YOU WISH IT SENT BY MAIL TO ANOTHER ADDRESS THAN THE ONE ABOVE, PLEASE PROVIDE THE ADDRESS IN THE SPACE BELOW:

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP/PROVINCE: _____

SPECIAL NEEDS PARKING:

TO BE PARKED IN SPECIAL NEEDS (HANDICAP) AREA, YOU MUST HAVE ON FILE WITH THE REGISTRAR AN UP-TO-DATE : DOCTOR'S CERTIFICATE, STATE LICENSE REGISTRATION INCLUDING HANDICAP PLATE, OR HANDICAP PLACARD.THIS AREA IS RESERVED FOR WHEELCHAIRS, WALKERS, OR THOSE WITH LIMITED MOBILITY PROBLEMS: _____

GUEST ARE WELCOME:

Guests/Non-FCRV members are welcome. They may be in their own unit or with you. Have them complete a registration form and indicate they are your guests. We strongly suggest they enter the camping area at the same time you do. We are guests or NON-FCRV members of: _____.

FEES:

EARLY BIRD PARKING (MARCH 16 – 19): FEE IS $25 PER NIGHT WITH WATER AND ELECTRIC. EARLY BIRD FEES WILL BE COLLECTED AT TALLAHASSEE.

RALLY FEES: MARCH 20 – MARCH 25 AND LEAVE MONDAY: INCLUDES: 5 nights of camping, water, electric, Ice Cream Social, 2 evening meals, entertainment and all activities connected with the Rally.

	Pre-registration (paid in advance in full)	At the Gate
Two people in a unit:	$225.00	$250.00
Single person in a unit:	$195.00	$220.00
Camp Pass (2 people or second couple in a unit)	$125.00	$150.00
Camp Pass (1 person or extra person in a unit)	$ 85.00	$110.00

REFUND POLICY: Refunds must be requested in writing by mail or email or phone call to the Registrar. Refunds requested before March 9, 2018 will receive the following: two people in a unit: $200, one person in a unit: $170.00, Camp Pass two people: $100.00, Camp Pass single person: $60.00.
After March 9, ONLY THE CAMPING FEE WILL BE REFUNDED. CAMP PASSES WILL RECEIVE NO REFUND.
Make checks or money order (US CURRENCY ONLY) payable to: FCRV/NCHA RETIREE RALLY 2018. NO CREDIT CARDS. Mail registration to: Bill and Penny Ramlow, 8009 Cherry Branch DR., Ruskin, FL. 33573. You can contact them at: 305-822-6589 and 813-545-6083 or email them at pramlow@aol.com.

STATE

CAMPOUT

2017

Have You Heard About the Schuh Scholarship?

It's been a while since anyone has talked about the "Schuh Scholarship". What is it? What makes it so special?

Back in the day (when I was younger, I SWORE I would never talk like that!) NCHA, and later FCRV, would award scholarships to high school students who were entering a field of study related to environmental conservation. Slowly that field of candidates dwindled to a point where they were not awarding very many scholarships at all, so they expanded the qualification requirements to anyone seeking post-secondary education. Funding came in through contributions directly into the Scholarship Fund.

But the Schuh Scholarship is different. It was established in 1988, by Mary E. Schuh, a longtime member of NCHA and FCRV, from the value of her estate at the time of her death. When these funds were received, it was determined that the Schuh scholarship be given specifically to those who are actively pursuing a career in a field related to the environment. This scholarship has given out every year since 1992, with more than $46,000 being awarded to students through the years.

New York State has been fortunate to recently have an applicant for the Schuh Scholarship. Amy Wittmeyer, a member of the Ken-Ton-A-Wanderers Chapter in Western District, is currently enrolled in Wildlife Management at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse (or ESF, for short) and was selected to receive the 2017 Schuh award. ESF enjoys a strong reputation for being one of the premier environmental colleges in the country. Everything, and I do mean EVERYTHING about this school is geared to some form of environmental education and training. Some of the majors awarded at this school include Aquatic & Fisheries Science, Bioprocess Engineering, Conservation Biology, Environmental Education and Interpretation, Sustainable Energy Management, and Wildlife Science, just to name a few.

In addition to teaching environmental programs, the school lives an environmentally friendly existence. Their most recently constructed building, Gateway, which serves as the Student Union for ESF attendees, is a LEED Platinum certified building, the highest level of sustainable construction recognition awarded by the federal government. On the roof of this facility is a garden, open to students and faculty to visit, which includes native species plants, and sections of gardens aimed at varying research projects. Rainwater is collected, and stored in the basement of the building for reuse and recycling. Many other aspects of this building were used, developed, constructed and created to be as environmentally friendly as possible, while creating a welcoming setting in which to eat meals, enjoy fellowship, and shop, and provide office space for faculty and staff.

Amy is pursuing a degree in Wildlife Science, and plans to obtain the Wildlife Biologist designation. As part of her coursework, Amy has spent time at the Cranberry Lake Research Station, and the Lucky Star Ranch, both situated in the Adirondacks. While taking outdoor courses at these facilities, as required by her major, she learned effective and safe techniques for catching, gathering statistical data on, tagging and releasing a variety of fish, birds and mammals. She

also came face to face with a Pere David deer, which are extinct in the wild; one population is under the protection of the Lucky Star Ranch facility. The one pictured here stared her down for a few minutes, then returned to the nearby woods. The Schuh Scholarship has been applied to these courses and field work, and has enabled Amy to successfully pursue her education in wildlife management. If everything stays on track, Amy will graduate in 2019 and hopes to use her education to the betterment of mammal populations in the wild, and help build better interactions between people and wildlife, possibly through education of the general public in park settings. Amy has asked me to convey her gratitude, both to the NYSA Scholarship, and to FCRV and the Schuh Scholarship, in assisting her to accomplish her education, leading her on a path to her dream, making the animal kingdom a better place for its inhabitants.

Hudson Valley District would like to showcase the Shongum Shockers and their 50 years of awards and certificates. They are proudly hanging in their clubhouse at the Shongum Shockers campground. This fall the chapter received a 50-year membership certificate. Congratulations to the Shongum Shockers!

This is a photo of one of the walls in my office at the FCRV Headquarters in Depew, NY. It celebrates accomplishments of Ken-Ton and Roaring Twenties members, (out of my storied past!), just as the photo to the left celebrates the accomplishments of the Shongum Shockers. If your chapter has a "Wall of Fame", please send me a good quality photo, and a brief explanation of the photo, and I will include them in future issues of Empire State News, where we really like to celebrate the accomplishments of our members and chapters.

Celebrate Volunteers!

NYSA State Campout

May 25th-28th, 2018
Hosted by All of Us!
Herkimer County Fairgrounds
133 Cemetery Street, Frankfort, NY 13340
[Take Exit 30 on the NYS Thruway]
Advanced Registration Fee - $7.50 per adult (nonrefundable)
Registration Fee at the Gate - $10.00 per adult
Camping Fee - $35.00 (Cash Please if paying at the gate)
Additional people in same unit pay registration fee only.
Please send payment and completed registration form payable to:
NYSA / NCHA
c/o LINDA STIEGLER
92 SANDRA DRIVE
CHEEKTOWAGA, NY 14225
(716) 982-5518 or stiegjl2@gmail.com

All sites include electric and water (50A service available for a $10 per night additional fee)
Early bird Thursday after 1:00pm and the camping fee is $25.00 a night.

Last Name _____ First Name(s) _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Zip: _____
Phone (____) _____ Cell (_____) _____
E-mail: _____
Number of Adults: __ M ___ F Youth: ___ M ___ F Teens: ___ M ___ F
Registration @ $7.50 per adult $ _____ Camping Fee $ _____ Total Enclosed $ _____
District _____ Chapter _____
Day Pass Only @ $10.00 per adult $ _____ (non-camping attendees)

Entry Deadline is May 11th, 2018

If you volunteer for a service or charity organization, please bring a photo of you volunteering there. We are celebrating the time, efforts and energy we all put into our volunteer activities.

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 Stieglers (as well as the National Office) with the start and stop date and your temporary address.

SEND ARTICLES TO:

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Email: pwittmeyer175@gmail.com

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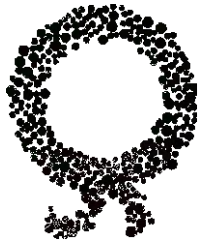
To receive email notification of next ESN availability:
ROBERT WOLF
Nysa.esn@gmail.com



Important Dates for 2018:
NYSA State Campout May 25-28, 2018
National Campvention in Doswell, VA
July 8 – 13, 2018
North East Regional (We're hosting!!)
Aug. 16 – 19, 2018

Inside this Issue:

- District reports
- Holiday Greetings
- Various Registration Forms
- Schuh Scholarship recipient
- Where Do We Go From Here?

FCRV NATIONAL OFFICE: **1-786-668-6242** **1-800-245-9755** **FCRVNAT@verizon.net** **www.fcrv.org**

"Where Strangers Become Friends
& Friends Become Family"

DELIVER AS ADDRESSED OR
TO CURRENT RESIDENT

DATED MATERIAL,
PLEASE DELIVER A.S.A.P.

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