



EMPIRE STATE NEWS

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF FCRV



Holiday Issue 2019



Words from Wittmeyers: NY State Report

Who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks? Due to very busy schedules and end-of-season campouts, we decided to hold our Fall meeting in an online meeting forum. Once yours truly figured out (most) of the intricacies of downloading software, sending out meeting alerts, and generally gumming up the start time, (hey, nobody's perfect!!) we had a meeting attended by officers and field staff.

The biggest challenge facing NYSA is similar to that of FCRV: our membership numbers are getting alarmingly small. And while we may have a little over 150 families as members in New York, many of them are no longer able to camp. Thus, participation and attendance continues to slide.

We are working on a new initiative where we attract applicants for the NYSA Scholarship via colleges and universities with Environmental curricula. Membership in NYSA/FCRV will be one of the criteria for applicants; families will be strongly encouraged to join and keep their memberships once the student graduates.

Joe & Patty Wittmeyer
NY State Directors



May the Peace and Joy of the Season be yours throughout the year
WESTERN DISTRICT

NYSA President

Well as I write this winter has officially set in and it looks like the holiday season is upon us. I hope you are in good health and spirits. I wish you all a Happy Holiday and a Happy New Year. We just recently had a "Go To" meeting which is conducted on line via live feed. We had primarily discussed the spring campout and it appears that it is progressing along nicely. The campout will be held at Herkimer county fairgrounds, and the theme is "Casino Night". Again we are still trying to keep costs down and provide a "NO COOK WEEK END" which is awesome! You should see more details from New York State Directors Joe and Patty Wittmeyer in their article. I would also like to remind individuals to pay their dues. As of the meeting New York State Membership was at 155.

We will still continue to strive for increasing our membership with some new approaches. Discussion has occurred around scholarships specifically to appeal to conservation or environmental focused students, their families would have to join FCRV/NYSA as a requirement and participate in campouts such as State, District Club with some other criteria. More details will be forthcoming as this becomes finalized.

Yours In Camping

Sean P. McHale
NYSA President



AROUND THE STATE

Hudson Valley District

Our Hudson Valley District Fall meeting was held Saturday, Oct 5th at 1pm in Kingston, New York. The meeting was well attended on a beautiful fall afternoon with all the splendid Autumn colors.

Many items of business were discussed and some decisions were made.

Our scholarship winner, Samantha Smith was present. Samantha thanked Hudson Valley District for the award and gave us a birds-eye view of her first few months as a college student. Our best to Sam.

Our Hudson Valley District banners were displayed and appreciated for the hard work and beauty they represent.

Our next meeting is Saturday, June 13, 2020, 1pm, at Christina's in Kingston.

Hudson Valley District members wish Happy Holidays to all and also a Happy, Healthy New Year.

George and Tonya Rothmann
Hudson Valley District Directors



Hudson Valley District wishes you old-fashioned pleasures, happy memories and all the joys of the Christmas Season.

Suffolk District

We closed out our camping season with our Fall District campout September 20-22nd at the Joseph Masem Campground at Cathedral Pines. We had 16 families attend with a headcount of 35 people. It's harder to draw a crowd when it's dry camping. We had Friday night cake and coffee, Saturday breakfast, Saturday night pork loin dinner, and an "America Says" game night for Saturday hospitality complete with wine and cheese. We played candy bar bingo and had puzzles to do during the day. We had a meeting on Sunday morning. Some of the chapters were still camping as of last weekend.

We haven't heard any word on how the reservation system is going to work this coming season only that they promise not to raise the rates.

Bob & Clare Gunning
Suffolk District Directors



"America Says" champions are Donna & Mike Fontana, Melissa Nauss, & Jim McGrattan.

To all our friends and family:

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

Bob & Clare Gunning



Our District Chef,
responsible for
all our great
meals, is Bob
Colwell



CONSERVATION

Just a reminder that all Conservation poster judging will be at the Spring State camp out. There will also be an opportunity to make a poster then. I will bring some supplies. I would like to have several (in different age groups) from each District. If anyone wants information about DEC camp please contact Mike.

Carol and Mike Burns
Conservation Director
mcburns@frontier.com

*****Remember that if it is over 32 degrees the ticks are out*****

YOUTH

It will be the same open judging for the Camping Is poster as is with the Conservation posters. The Camping Is coloring page can be found (not yet) on the FCRV website under the youth program section. If you have problems accessing it please contact me.

Carol Burns
Youth Director
mcburns@frontier.com

*****Parents please remember to have all necessary documents for the border crossing for National.*****

TO ALL OUR CAMPING FRIENDS:
MERRY CHRISTMAS 2019
And HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020!



From the Finger Lakes District



Apply Now for Scott Campership to Attend DEC Summer Camp

For many years NYSA has sponsored youth and teen members attendance at NYS DEC Summer Camps in the Adirondacks, Catskill and Allegany Mountains.

DEC camps combine environmental education, hunter education programs, and outdoor recreation into an adventurous experience. We use a fun, hands-on approach to teach about the environment.

Campers will have the opportunity to learn outdoor skills including backpacking, camping and canoeing. First hand experiences in the outdoors have inspired many campers with a life-long passion for nature and a dedication to stewardship of our natural resources.

Interested in attending? Send an email to mcburns@frontier.com with a brief explanation of why you want to attend the camp. I will reply with an application and let you know if you have been chosen to attend camp in 2020. For more information, go to <https://www.dec.ny.gov/education/29.html>

Finger Lakes District

The Finger Lakes District (FLD) has three active chapters: KK (Keuka Kampers), P.A.L.S (Partners of Allegany, Livingston, Steuben) and TOH (Top of the Hill). In 1972 there were about 35 chapters in FLD! These three current surviving chapters have a total membership of 17 households, with several being members of 2 chapters. TOH is a retiree chapter that meets/camps in the middle of the week, while the other two follow weekend schedules. All FLD chapters meet year-round having meals and meetings most winter months. These chapters have also recently given "Honorary Membership" to several previous members that are no longer able (age and health related) to be actively involved, following the established national FCRV guidelines.

We have a chapter rotation schedule for the hosting district campouts and coordinators meetings. Top of the Hill Chapter hosted the 2019 Fall District Campout, "Cornfield Drama", held at the Riverside Campground near Wellsville. We had very good attendance and were honored to have special guests Joe and Patty Wittmeyer, FCRV New York State Directors, there for the weekend. We all had fun with the "Corn" theme decorations, jokes and, of course, a corn hole tournament. Carolyn Heckman won the ladies division and Joe Wittmeyer won the men's and overall 1st place. On Saturday evening, during the music intermission, Patty and Joe presented the National Humanitarian Award to Christine Wheaton for her work in presenting Quilts of Valor to TOH veterans. This award had been announced at Campvention but Chris was unable to attend in July.

Each October FLD has a Recognition Dinner. In recent years a prepared meal has been organized by the district officers. Entertainment starts out with fun awards recognizing memorable happenings during the recent camping season. You can guess this leads to lots of laughter and embarrassment. Then we usually have some musical entertainment from an outside group. Our district officers do an amazing job organizing this event.



60TH INTERNATIONAL CAMPVENTION

THE TRUE NORTH STRONG AND FREE

Family Campers & Rver's

Hosted by Region #7 Eastern Canada

Brigden Fairgrounds,

2435 Courtright Line Brigden, ON, N0N 1B0

July 13 – July 17th 2020,

fee covers July 12-17th (6 nights)

Early Bird Days: July 10th & 11th @ \$ 25/night (pay @ registration- cash)

Registrations are needed by: June 1st, 2020



Last Name: _____ First Name: _____
 Spouse/Guest: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____
 State/Province: _____ Postal Code/Zip Code: _____
 Phone number: _____ e-mail: _____
 Handicapped/ Special Needs Parking: Yes: _____, No: _____
 Motor Home _____ 5th Wheel _____ Travel trailer _____ Pop-Up _____ Tent _____
 Number of people in your unit:
 # of Adults: _____, Teens: _____, Youth 0-12: _____, Total # of people in unit: _____
 Please list the names and ages of all the Teens and Youth:

Name	Age	Name	Age

Gates will be open from 8am- 8pm (all days)

REGISTRATION

Everyone must complete a registration form including second families and camp passes. Submit payment with the registration form. All funds should be Canadian currency of cheques or money orders. NO CREDIT CARDS.

	Registration	At Gate
One Family in the Unit	\$325 CDN	\$335 CDN
Extra Family in Unit (pay separate)	\$ 200 CDN	\$210 CDN
Week Drive-In pass	\$200 CDN	\$210 CDN
Walk-In Camp Pass (per day)	\$40 CDN	\$40 CND

Make cheques/Money Orders payable to: 2020 FCRV Campvention , * CASH ONLY AT GATE

Mail to: Marilyn Rosenberger
 1505 Ottawa Street N. Apt 511
 Kitchener Ontario N2A 0E8

Refund policy: If you are unable to attend,
 all except \$35 CDN will be refunded

Contact at : 1-519-501-4331 or rosenberger44@gmail.com

I Would like to volunteer for: _____?



**49TH FCRV INTERNATIONAL
RETIREE RALLY
NATIONAL PEANUT FAIRGROUNDS
DOTHAN, ALABAMA
EARLY DAYS: MARCH 20th - 23rd
RALLY DAYS: MARCH 24th - 30th**



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

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

OTHER'S ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT: _____ CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP/POSTAL: _____

PHONE #: _____ OTHER: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ CONFIRMATION SENT: pdf: _____ word: _____ mailed _____

CONFIRMATION LETTERS WILL BE SENT OUT BY EMAIL IN JANUARY. IF YOU WISH IT SENT BY MAIL TO A DIFFERENT ADDRESS THAN THE ONE ABOVE, PLEASE SUPPLY THE ADDRESS BELOW:

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ST/PROVINCE: _____ ZIP: _____

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? _____

SPECIAL NEEDS PARKING: TO BE PARKED IN SPECIAL NEEDS (HANDICAPPED) 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: _____

GUESTS ARE WELCOME: Guests or Non-FCRV members are welcome. They can be in your unit or their own. Have them complete a registration form, indicate they are your guests and send the correct amount. We strongly suggest they enter the camping area at the same time you do. We are guests or NON-FCRV members of:

RALLY FEES:

EARLY BIRD DAYS: (MARCH 20 - 23) FEE \$30 PER NIGHT WITH WATER AND ELECTRIC AND WILL BE COLLECT AT DOTHAN.
RALLY FEE- MARCH 24 - 30 AND LEAVE ON MONDAY: INCLUDES: 6 nights of camping with water and electric, Ice Cream Social, two evening meals, entertainment and all activities connected with the Rally.

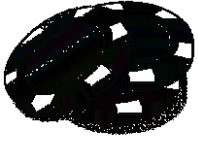
	PRE-REGISTRATION (PAID IN ADVANCE FULL)	AT THE GATE:
Two people in a unit:	\$250	\$275
Single person in unit:	\$220	\$245
Camp Pass or 3 rd person in unit:	\$100	

REFUND POLICY: REFUNDS MUST BE REQUESTED IN WRITING BY MAIL, EMAIL OR PHONE CALL TO THE REGISTRAR. REFUNDS WILL NOT BE PAID UNTIL AFTER THE RALLY. Refunds requested before March 15' 2020, will receive the following: two people in a unit: \$225, one person in a unit will receive \$195. Camp Pass will receive no refunds.

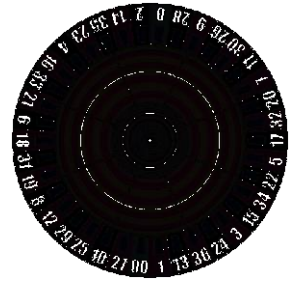
Make checks or money order (US Currency) payable to: FCRV/NCHA RETIREE RALLY 2020. NO CREDIT CARDS. Mail to Bill and Penny Ramlow, 8371 Night Owl DR, Riverview, FL. 33569. .You can contact them at: 305-822-6589 or 813-545-6083 or email them at pramlow@aol.com

I would like to volunteer for: _____

SPRING STATE CAMPOUT 2020



“CASINO NIGHT”



MAY 22 – 25, 2020



Herkimer County Fairgrounds
133 Cemetery Street, Frankfort, NY 13340
[Take Exit 30 on the NYS Thruway]
Advanced Registration Fee - \$7.50 per adult
(nonrefundable)



Camping Fee – FREE THIS YEAR!!

Additional people in same unit pay registration fee only.

Please send payment and completed registration form payable to:

NYSA / NCHA
c/o MIKE BURNS
P.O. BOX 51
NELLISTON, NY 13410
Early bird Thursday after 1:00pm

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)

Registration Deadline is May 8th, 2020

If you can borrow a Roulette wheel, or other “Casino Night” supplies, please email Mary Thompson at

marrythompson75@gmail.com

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:

ROBERT WOLF

Nysa.esn@gmail.com



And



To all our Friends in NYSA!

KEN-TON-A-WANDERERS

Important Dates for 2020:

May 22-25: State Campout

July 13-17: Campvention

Inside this Issue:

- State President's Column
- Holiday Greetings
- District Updates

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
ESN Editor:
Patricia Wittmeyer
50 Victory Avenue
Hamburg, NY 14075

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