



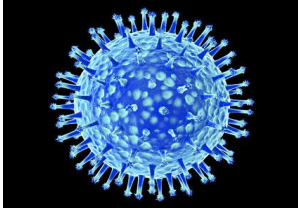
EMPIRE STATE NEWS

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF FCRV



Summer Issue 2020

Words from Wittmeyers: NY State Report



Hello everyone! We hope you are all staying healthy and safe during these challenging times.

Many of you were able to respond to a recent survey to the NY State Association membership wherein we asked about attendance and participation if we were to go ahead with plans to hold our State Campout in the fall.

Responses were universal: at this time, no one would feel comfortable attending an event with people from across the state. After dialog back and forth with Sean McHale, our NYSA State President, it was reluctantly agreed that we would not hold a State Campout in 2020.

We are working with this year's campout chairmen to move ahead with their plans in 2021.

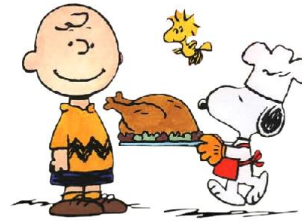
Meanwhile, back at the ranch....

We're taking advantage of this "down time" to update our records and information about the various chapters in New York. We know there have been some elections and different people have taken on new responsibilities within your local organizations. Would you be so kind as to send us the name and email of the President of your chapter so we know who to reach out to if we have quick information to share (or get). Please send that information to jwittmeyer@hotmail.com.

Joe & Patty Wittmeyer
NYSA State Directors

This issue of Empire State News is only to provide updated information on our Statewide campout and ideas during the Pandemic.

Accordingly, the updates from districts in NY and the various program reports are not included this time around. So we are asking that you prepare reports and consider sending in Holiday Greetings from your Chapter or District in the Holiday issue of Empire State News. The deadline for that issue will be Monday, November 23, 2020 (just before Thanksgiving!).



Membership continues to be a concern within FCRV, and in our own chapters. Websites are the most effective tool in getting your message out today in a cost effective manner. None of us have thousands of dollars in advertising budgets, so we need to utilize methods that are free, and are used by Millenials and Gen Xers as primary research tools. If your chapter or District has not yet developed a website, now might be the time to use the abilities of members within your group to put a page on Facebook for your chapter. Once it's up there, tell members to visit it; spread the word among friends. Update it with activities, or at least pictures of past campouts, tours, and events. Build it now, update it as events begin to start back up again.

There is a New York State Assn page on Face book. There is not a whole lot on it, but it is a great starting point. (Now I have to follow my own advice and update it!!)

Websites are an excellent way to communicate, not only with your members, but also with those
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who are looking to camp with a group. RV sales have never been stronger, and just look at state parks – you can't get in unless you made reservations WELL in advance of your trip. Joe and I recently travelled to Acadia National Park in Maine. Hiking trails were very busy, and area campgrounds were full.

So when members with enough disposable income to purchase a camper are looking for stuff to do with other people, they're going to do research – on the internet. Go looking yourself, right now. Look for group camping, or family camping, and you'll probably find a few FCRV sites. Take notes, see what content they like, and then

build your own site based on what you like and want to put on your chapter or district website. You can use the FCRV and NYSA logo's as long as your website is in good taste and does not harm the names or identities of the national or state entity.

Websites can be used to promote next year's campouts and activities. You can also highlight things that have been done in the past; it shows some of what visitors might be able to look forward to in the future.

FIELD DIRECTORS, DISTRICT DIRECTORS AND CHAPTER PRESIDENTS: Please be preparing your submissions for the Holiday issue of Empire State News. We want to hear what you've been up to!

Even though our campout is not taking place this year, keep in mind that our programs are still in effect. Conservation efforts in your own area may qualify you for Chapter recognition; Scholarship applications are still being accepted. (Deadline for applications is May 1 of each year.) And if your chapter goes for a hike, bicycle ride or canoeing/kayaking, that qualifies too! If you participated remotely in the FCRV Virtual Campvention this year under the Campers Actively Moving Program (C.A.M.P.) you may qualify for FCRV Merchandise Certificates. See the national website, WWW.FCRV.ORG for additional information on these and other programs embraced by NYSA.

We are apart, but we are all in this together. Enjoy your camping opportunities; many of us across New York are back at it, practicing the "original social distancing" in State parks and private campgrounds.

[For National Scholarship Information](#)

Go to FCRV website:

fcrv.org/programs2/national-programs/scholarship.

National FCRV scholarship application deadline is April 15th of each year.

[NYSA-FCRV SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION](#)

[REQUEST FORM](#)

Please email the following information to:

Petersen76@aol.com

"Please email me the information packet regarding the NYSA-FCRV scholarship. My FCRV # is _____

My join date is Month____/Year_____

I am: _____ a high school senior
 _____ currently enrolled in college"

[For NYSA Scholarship Information](#)

The New York State Association 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/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 freshmen students. Scholarships are awarded at the State Campout in May and vary in number and amount of award. Deadline for return of completed application is May 1 of each year.