



EMPIRE STATE NEWS

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF FCRV



Holiday Issue 2022



Words from Wittmeyers: NY State Report

Well it has “been a minute” since we last published Empire State News! Here in the western end of the state we have some positive information regarding membership. Three members of the NY Bluebirds from Family and Friends Camping Club (you may recall that they merged with FCRV in July) have made contact and we are looking forward to camping with them next year. We also have a new member in Rochester and have reached out to them. They joined via the internet, so those marketing strategies are beginning to pay off. This newsletter covers a lot of topics, time and space, so the graphics are, um, mixed up to say in the least!

Future events for NYSA include the Spring State Campout, slated for May 26-29 at the Herkimer County Fairgrounds. We are also next in line to host the Northeast Regional Campout, which is kind of like a State, only with participants from other states, and in 2023 we have been asked to host, as a region, the national Campvention. We are still awaiting a location, so that one will involve pre-planning and time to set up committees. Don’t miss the General Meeting at the State Campout – the Campvention Chairman is Debbie Swanson, from the Western New York area, and she will have a batch of information to share on Campvention.

We hope you and your family have a peaceful and blessed holiday season and prosperous New Year!

Joe & Patty Wittmeyer
NYSA State Directors

Email: PWITTMAYER175@GMAIL.COM



NYSA President

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable holiday with family and friends. I know we really haven't had much of a winter to date, and I'm sure we will see some winter weather ahead. Just think - every day after Christmas is one step closer to once again enjoying camping with family and friends.

Hopefully we will see you at the spring campout to reconnect with people and work on keeping the organization alive and moving forward so that future members can enjoy the programs and activities that FCRV/NYSA chapters offer to its members.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Sean McHale
NYSA President



Finger Lakes District sends greetings to all New York members for Happy Holidays and may we all have a safe and healthy New Year!



Your Friends in the Finger Lakes!

DISTRICT NEWS

Western District recently welcomed three members from the NY Bluebirds of the Family and Friends Camping Club (FFCC) into FCRV. They have shared their camping schedule with us, and we are building our plans for next year to share with them. If anyone has been advised of new members in their area via the FFCC/FCRV merger, please make them feel welcome.



In other news, the Fiddler's Green chapter held their annual turkey dinner in early October. It was centered around "Garbage Can Turkey" – you've all heard of it. Well doesn't that bird look tasty?



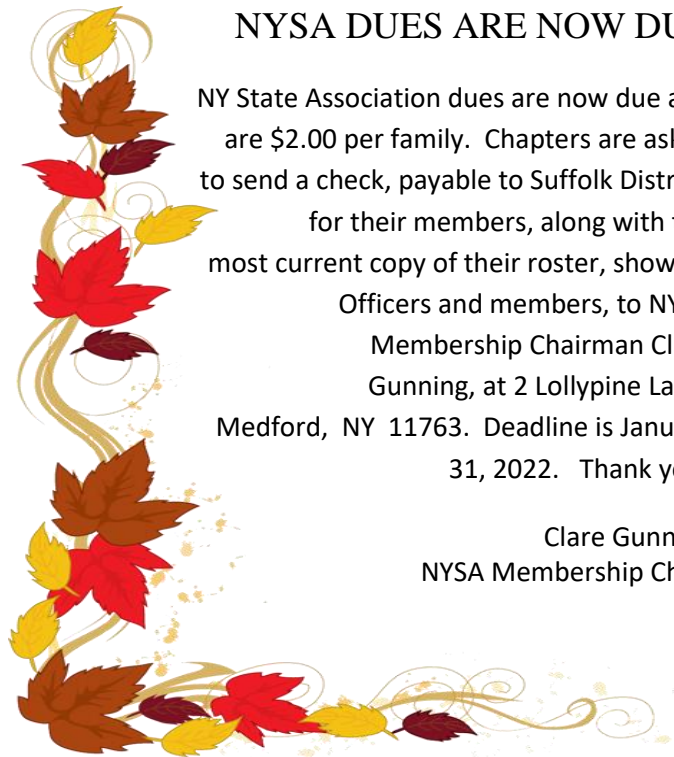
STATE CAMPOUT 2023

Plans are underway for the 2023 Spring State Campout. It is scheduled for the weekend of May 26-29, at the Herkimer Fairgrounds, near Utica. Ideas for meals and activities are under discussion. If you would like to offer ideas or suggestions, or even volunteer to help out, please let us know at PWITTMAYER175@GMAIL.COM

NYSA DUES ARE NOW DUE

NY State Association dues are now due and are \$2.00 per family. Chapters are asked to send a check, payable to Suffolk District, for their members, along with the most current copy of their roster, showing Officers and members, to NYSA Membership Chairman Clare Gunning, at 2 Lollypine Lane, Medford, NY 11763. Deadline is January 31, 2022. Thank you!

Clare Gunning
NYSA Membership Chair



Suffolk District sends best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season to all our friends in NYSA, and



Happy New Year!

Clare and Bob Gunning
Suffolk District Reps

DISTRICT NEWS (continued)

Finger Lakes District

First of all, we wish all of our fellow campers in NYS a very happy and healthy Christmas and New Year. Blessings to all as they face life's daily challenges and help us to be thankful for each day granted.

Finger Lakes District has really enjoyed being able to have events after the pandemic shutdowns. Since we are down to 2 chapters, we recently established a Team One and Team Two approach to the hosting of our district campouts.

Our FLD 2022 Spring Campout, hosted by Team One, was held May 13-15. Starting on a Friday our natural theme was "Friday The 13th ". We had ladders to walk under, black cat cutouts in the yard, the number 13 hanging from the pavilion rafters, a campfire discussion about superstitions, fake broken mirrors, horseshoes and a full-size Freddy Krueger handmade by a members' daughter-in-law!! Our schedule of events started at 13 minutes after the hour or at least ending with a 3! Our evening wrapped blind auction even earned \$113.00. We had 100% membership participation in this weekend!!

Our FLD 2022 Fall Campout, hosted by Team Two, was held September 23-25. The theme was, "Back to the 50's and 60's". Vinyl records hung from the ceiling in the club room and then our dress like the 50's contest was fantastic! Saddle shoes, aprons, leather jackets, neck scarves, slicked back men's hair, bowling shirts, etc. were plentiful. The hosts provided and typical 50's meal of chicken and biscuits followed by a wrapped auction. We had excellent attendance at this event, and it included two units from out of district: Mike, Carol and Ian Burns from Central plus Mary Thompson and Ginny Groff from Western. It was easy to welcome them and enjoy their participation. Ian Burns won the costume contest with his perfect hair and wearing a grandfather's bowling shirt! Joe and Patty Wittmeyer had planned to be with us but Joe's fall, with major injuries, prevented their travels. Patty kept us updated on Joe over the weekend.

We had discontinued our annual Fall Recognition Dinner, so we decided to all meet at a restaurant for an early afternoon meal on Saturday, October 8th. Once again, we were blessed with 100% attendance plus a guest\former member. Some recognition of camping memories were mentioned. Then the FLD Membership chairperson presented membership recognitions certificates to chapters and all individual members. This was like the ones formerly issued by the national office for anniversary years.

We all are looking forward to an easy and healthy winter so we can get back to camping in 2023.



MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM THE
FIDDLER'S GREEN
CHAPTER
SPRINGVILLE, NY



Ken-Ton-A-Wanderers Chapter, in Buffalo,
Sends Holiday Greetings and Best Wishes
for a Happy New Year to all our camping
friends!



FFCC: What is it, and what does it mean for NYSA?

FFCC stands for Family and Friends Camping Club, and this is how they came to be part of FCRV. Back in 2020, when the national Campvention was in Elkhorn, Wisconsin, there was another group of campers nearby. Apparently, they were waiting for the same space we were presently occupying because they were having their rally there the following week.

Some of our members started talking to their members and we learned that they had been sponsored by Starcraft manufacturers of RVs. However, the sponsorship was being withdrawn, and FFCC was unsure of their future. Their folks talked to our folks, and in July of 2022 FFCC became a nationally chartered chapter of FCRV. All the interested members of FFCC joined FCRV and are fully vested in their membership and can enjoy all the benefits that FCRV membership has to offer. They are not required to join local chapters but can join if they choose. Here in New York, there are 4 members of the FFCC chapter, the NY Bluebirds. They have all joined FCRV and are interested in joining us for campouts and events. We should make every effort to make them feel welcome with the hope that eventually they become dues paying members of the New York State Association. Just like our own members, they can camp alone if they choose, or they can join our activities. On the State level, they will be considered Independents until they elect to become affiliated with NYSA by paying \$2.00 per family.

[NYSA SCHOLARSHIPS](#)

NYSA of FCRV offers college scholarships to members, their children and legal dependents, and independent members; all of whom must pay NYSA dues and are current in their membership with FCRV. Must be a member for a minimum of one year. Scholarships are awarded for two and four year accredited institutions of higher learning. Scholarships are awarded at the annual state campout in May and may vary in amount of the award.

To apply, email me at kathkev@roadrunner.com with the subject of "NYSA scholarship application". Include: your name, your/family FCRV membership name and number, and the date you/they joined. Also include your email address, phone contact info, and mailing address. I will send you an application that you print and return by USPS mail, with supporting documents. Applications must be received by May 1. Mail early.

Sincerely, Kathy Collier

[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.

Important dates for 2023:

May 26-29: State Campout

Mar. 28 - Apr. 2: Retiree Rally
in Dothan, Alabama

July 9-14: National Campvention
in Richmond, Indiana

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:

Summer Issue – June 15 (Published in July)

Spring Issue – March 15 (Published in April)

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. SEND ARTICLES, UPDATED ADDRESSES AND INFORMATION TO:

Patricia Wittmeyer
50 Victory Avenue
Hamburg, NY 14075

Email: pwittmeyer175@gmail.com

GOT YOUR CAMPOUTS PLANNED FOR 2023??

Ken-Ton does....I know, we're annoying that way!

Here is our campout schedule. We would LOVE it if friends from across the State joined us at campouts! Reservations need to be made with each location, as we no longer have a Campout Chairman. If interested, reach out to me (pwittmeyer175@yahoo.com) and I will give you the details

The following campouts are planned. Ones with asterisks are with other groups. We are working to participate in the campouts of the NY Bluebirds chapter of the FFCC campers, and they will attend some of our campouts.

- May 12-14* Sleepy Hollow Campground (with FFCC Bluebirds)
- May 19-21* Finger Lakes District Campout
- May 26-29 Statewide rally, Herkimer County Fairgrounds (Memorial Day weekend)
- June 23-25* Sprague Brook County Park (with Fiddler's Green chapter)
- July 8-15 FCRV Campvention, Wayne County Fairgrounds, Richmond, Indiana
- July 21-23 Wellsville Balloon Rally
- Aug. 13-19 Gifford Pinchot State Park (PA) near Indian Echo Cave, Hershey park, near Hummelsville, PA (group weeklong vacation)
- Sept. 1-4* (Labor Day) Pope Haven (with FFCC Bluebirds)
- Sept. 8-10 Finger Lakes Fall Campout
- Sept. 15-17 Woodstream Campsite Halloween campout
- Oct. 6-9 Columbus Day Lake Erie Beach State Park

Some members have expressed interest in camping later into the fall; we can investigate those possibilities later on.

If you would like to have your chapter or District campouts published, send the list to me and I can do interim newsletters. It's now easier to distribute using the electronic newsletter format.

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

**“Where Strangers Become Friends,
and Friends Become Family”**

