

MIDWEST PRAIRIE SCHOONERS
Minutes of Meeting
Great Escape RV & Camp Resort, Higginsville MO
April 14, 2018

President Ted Snell called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM with a quorum present, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary Michele Shields called the roll, with 12 Active RVs present: Cooper, Darling, Della Jacono, Fryer, Gyles, McCarthy, Meyers, Miller, Perry, Pfeiffer, Shields, Snell. No Associates and No Guests.

Secretary Shields reported that the Minutes of the October 14, 2017 meeting were sent to members on 10/18/2017. Upon motion by Ed Miller and second by Al Gyles, it was VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to approve the Minutes as presented and place on file.

Michele further reported that current Chapter membership includes 19 Active, 5 Associates, & 6 Schooner Friends. She explained that if the Chapter declines to 15 members, it becomes an Associate FMCA chapter with no rights until membership increases. She reported that the Secretary receives monthly lists of new FMCA members to whom she sends a letter telling about our Chapter and inviting them to come to a rally; a rally schedule included. In the past it was all done by e-mail, but now FMCA finds it is illegal for them to give a third party a member's e-mail address, so we are left with printing and mailing the letter and schedule. The list is pared down to those realistically within travel distance to most of the rallies, but that is still 9-15 per month. She shared that few respond at all; and many just are not joining chapters. She encouraged members to make an effort to reach out and invite others to a rally and make an effort to increase our membership for more income, more hosts, and new people to participate and run for office.

Michele reported that five MWPS red jackets with old style & no lining were given to a couple of our members who planned to remove our logo before donating them to charity.

Treasurer Kay Pfeiffer reported on the transactions for October 1, 2017 thru December 31, 2017, with an ending balance in the Chapter checking account of \$2,091.39 and the balance in the CD of \$4,810.61 to expire 2/26/2018. She reported on the transactions for January 1, 2018 to March 31, 2018, with an ending balance in the Chapter checking account of \$2,691.39 and the balance in the CD of \$4,264.92, after interest earned and the transfer of \$600.00 to the checking account. The new renewal date for the CD is May 26, 2019, a 15-month term at higher interest rate. Upon motion by Kevin McCarthy and second by Nancy Snell, it was VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to accept the Treasurer's Report and place on file.

Kay announced that she will be sending in an order for Chapter apparel after the May rally, and requested members to contact her if they wish to place an order.

Wagon Master John Della Jacono reviewed the 2018 rally schedule. He noted that the July Rally at Cedar Oaks in Cedar Grove OK needed a co-host for Ted & Nancy Snell; for which Ed & Jane Miller volunteered. He reported that a notice was sent on 4/10/2018 to members telling them that reservations may be made online at reservations.gov 6 months in advance of their arrival date for the October rally at Melvern Lake KS. It is a great COE park and sites fill up early.

National Director Jerry Ayres was absent. President Snell summarized his report, noting that the National Director attended the winter FMCA convention in Perry GA in March. Attendance increased to 2,904, including 70 "towables." He stated that he personally feels that FMCA has turned the corner, with active membership increasing for 13 straight months, to a current total of over 86,000. He strongly recommended attending the FMCA convention in July in Gillette WY. His full report will be on file as part of the minutes.

Web Master Richard Shields reported that the website (mwpschooners.com) is up and accessible. The Home page, rally schedule, and other documents are up; and he is in the process of updating the photos. The amended By-laws and Standing Rules will also be put up. He also reminded everyone that he is looking for an Assistant Web Master for 2018 if anyone is interested. Since Cecil Gray is no longer a member, and Secretary Michele Shields has been editing and typing info for the web, he will list her for the interim.

Under Old Business,

President Snell reported that the Executive Board met prior to the December 2, 2017, Chapter Luncheon at Big Whiskey American Restaurant, Lee's Summit, MO, and reviewed the responses solicited from our Active members re allowing FMCA qualified self-contained recreational vehicles into our Chapter. Replies by active coaches were 14 in favor, 4 against, and 2 abstained. Most of the comments reflected that it is the people not the rig that counts. The Executive Board voted to instruct the Secretary to draft amendments to the By-laws reflecting the majority view and requiring the RV to also be hard-sided.

President Snell reported that the proposed amendments to the Chapter By-laws were sent to the Active Members for 30-day advance review. He noted that the proposed amendments are primarily required changes from FMCA, which are mandatory, that change motor coach to recreational vehicle (RV) defined as "a self-contained wheeled vehicle that includes permanently installed cooking, sleeping, and sanitary facilities."

Areas left for the Chapter to decide include:

Article III – Members, Paragraph 1. Eligibility, C: "This Chapter is open to FMCA members who own qoualifying recreational vehicles, as defined in Article II, 2.D., however, they must be hard-sided." After much discussion on what that really would apply to, upon motion by John Della Jacono and second by Billie Fryer, it was VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to delete the reference to "hard-sided."

Article III – Members, Paragraph 4. Dues and Fees, E. Arrears: "Any member whose dues remain unpaid for more than 90 days after due shall be considered delinquent; after 120 days membership shall be cancelled." Following discussion on a reasonable length of time and why, motion was made by Jane Miller and seconded by Kay Pfeiffer, and it was VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to change the number of days to 30 and 60 respectively.

Upon motion by Kathy Gyles and second by Jane Miller, it was VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to approve the By-laws, as amended, with the voted changes.

President Snell reported that the proposed amendments to the Chapter Standing Rules were sent to the Active Members for 30-day advance review. He noted that several of the changes were in reference to the change to recreational vehicle. In Article I, Paragraph 1. Definition of Members, reference to "hard-sided" will be deleted as it was in the By-laws. The major addition is Article VI – Retention of Records.

Upon motion by Richard Shields and second by John Della Jacono, it was VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to approve the Standing Rules, as amended.

Under New Business,

Secretary Shields reported that there was no correspondence received or sent.

President Snell reminded 1st Vice President Ed Miller, in consultation with Wagon Master John Della Jacono, to review and revise as necessary the Rally Guidelines (last revised August 2015) as set out in the Standing Rules, Article fIII, Paragraph 2, as amended, as one of the duties of the 1st Vice President.

President Snell appointed Bob Perry, Jim Fryer, and Kevin McCarthy as the Audit Committee to perform the annual audit of the 2016 and 2017 Chapter bank accounts and records, as maintained by the Treasurer, and give their report to the President to report to the membership at the following meeting.

President Snell reported those with April birthdays were Trudy Meyers (4th), Kevin McCarthy (9th), and Tonda Smith (15th), to whom the members sang happy birthday..

President Snell announced that the May 18-20 rally will be held at Lazy Day Campground in Danville MO. Co-hosts are Daryl & Sue Darling and Richard & Michele Shields. Notice that the deadline for reservations at the park is April 20 was sent out 4/4/2018. A sign-up sheet was passed around.

Kay Pfeiffer, one of the co-hosts for the June rally in Nevada MO, announced that the deadline for reservations at Osage Prairie RV Park is May 23 in order for our group to park together.

President Snell thanked the April hosts, Al & Kathy Gyles and John & Mary Della Jacono, for putting together the rally and making it fun despite the weather. Kathy announced that due to the cold weather, the club house would be open for visiting and games by 2PM.

President Snell reported that for the last few years, and especially as our chapter continues to decrease in membership, our expenses have exceeded our income. He referred to the balances in the checking and CD accounts. He gave examples of expenditures, including the website, office supplies, postage, but especially for rallies, amounting to \$1400 per year, an average of \$7.85 per person attending. We no longer receive funds for volunteering at 6-State Rallies. Dues of \$20/year when there are less than 20 active members amounts to only \$400/year. He stressed that there needs to be a stop to the outflow of Chapter funds. He threw out for discussion the assessment of a rally fee for those attending a rally of \$7.50/person or \$15/RV. Discussion followed. Suggestions included raising the annual dues from \$20 to \$25 or \$30 per RV plus a rally fee, raising dues to \$50 in lieu of a rally fee, and points in between. We were reminded that to retain our not-for-profit status, we may not exceed the IRS Cap of \$50,000 in assets. [Note: In a previous meeting, a suggestion was made to charge the rally fee based on the cost of each rally divided by the number attending that rally.]

President Snell requested that the members continue the discussion on this issue among themselves, and that an e-mail will go out to all Active members asking for their ideas, so that this issue may be raised and discussed again at a future meeting.

President Snell raised another issue for discussion, Membership designations, especially Associate. FMCA defines Associate FMCA members as those without an RV but they pay the same dues as Active FMCA members with all of the rights and benefits. Our Chapter definition of Associate requires FMCA membership and an RV, but is not required to attend a minimum of one rally, cannot vote, cannot hold office, but may host but only a couple ever have); and they pay half the amount in dues (\$10). In the past we have had 12-15 Associates and only 20 Active. We need more participation. Discussion followed that one could be an Associate for only a limited time for specific reasons, such as health or family issues. Some felt that if you were a member of FMCA and owned an RV, you should pay full dues and participate in all areas or should not be a member. If you no longer have an RV but want to receive the newsletter and luncheon notices, then be a Schooner Friend, but the annual dues should increase to cover the cost and time. There should be no "in between" except for extenuating circumstances, which would allow for the Associate status.

Upon motion by Al Gyles and second by Jane Miller, a vote was taken on limiting a member to be an Associate for only 2 years, with 10 in favor, 9 opposed, and 2 abstaining. The vote was so close that everyone agreed to further discussion. Upon motion by Kay Pfeiffer and second by Jane Miller, it was VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to TABLE further discussion of the Associate membership category.

Upon motion by Richard Shields (*in the name of John Sinnett*) and second by Ed Miller, it was VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to adjourn at 10:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Shields
MWPS Secretary