

May—June, 2017



The Tennessee State Club of Winnebago International Travelers

VOL State Winnies News

Rock ‘N Roll Reunion!

It’s coming like a freight train, folks! It will be October all too quickly. Jan is working on lining up pre-rally tours and VSW members to take various work areas of responsibility. If you have not heard from her, do not despair or celebrate. She will get you! I am busy trying to get blood from the turnips at Chilhowee RV and Buddy Gregg.

Please mark your calendars to arrive at Ward Agricultural Center as early in the week as you can fit it into your schedule. We are booked for our rally location from Sunday to Sunday. There are many tables, chairs and the stage to set up. Also, decorating under the direction of Aggie King. If you have a letter jacket, sweater or just a high school letter, please bring to enhance the decorations. All will be returned unharmed.

Nominations Remain Open

Come October 29, 2017, no officers means no Vol State Winnies going forward. What a shame it would be to see this 40 year group disband.

Our club is required to have the following officers:

President: The primary duties are to organize and lead the activities of VSW. My wife sees this as the easiest position of all our offices.

Vice President: Primary duties are to plan Spring outing and assist president. It would be ideal to have this person succeed each president.

Secretary: Primary duties are communications with WIT, VSW Newsletters and maintain club records although Joe Moore has done this since he collects our dues.

Treasurer: Current treasurer, Joe Moore, has graciously suggested that he remain in this office for another term. He knows the ropes and is quite organized. THANK YOU, JOE!



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Time flies when your having fun! I am not sure about the fun part, but we are too quickly approaching time for GNR and then our 2017 State Rally. In spite of the heavy-travel year that prevents many of our members from their normal, active participation, we are making progress on both events. With the help of Glenn Craig and Steve Pacheco row decorations are progressing and will be complete well before GNR. There will not be many of us in Forest City this year but we will endeavor to uphold our VOLUNTEER STATE reputation.

Jan has been busy making arrangements for entertainment, meals and pre-rally events for our October rally. She has signed up two nights of live entertainment followed by a 1950's theme sock hop on Saturday night with our favorite DJ, Glenn Craig. We encourage all attending to get out their bobby socks and saddle ox-fords to dance the night away. There will be catered dinners on Friday and Saturday nights with VSW members preparing/serving heavy finger foods on Thursday evening. I have been working on the dealers and vendors for contributions, door prizes and sponsorship. Camping World, Chattanooga and Nashville, will provide free coach driving lesson (Thursday—Saturday) as well as a free hot dog and chips lunch. Cullum & Maxey has made a significant cash donation and we are still working on Chilhowie and Buddy Gregg. I have also sent an invitation to all state WIT clubs and individual chapters where no state club exists. All have been acknowledge and we can expect many of them will attend. We need to be READY for them!

In my search for a new slate of officers for VSW, I made a startling discovery—our club demographics have changed significantly since October 2015. We have lost 49 members (24 coaches), many of them the backbone of the club, e.g. Fitts, Surlles, Grahams, etc. who volunteered for everything. In the same period, we have gained 34 new members (17 coaches) and now have a total of 96 members (49 coaches). This has shifted composition to about 1/3 new members, 1/3 members approaching the end of their traveling days and the balance in between. The second startling statistic—less than 20% of our membership participated in at least one VSW activity in 2016 and assuming 20 coaches attend the October rally only 12% will participate in at least one event in 2017. Rocky Top Travelers make up 49% of VSW membership; 42% are not members of any Chapter; and Music City and West Tennessee Travelers combined are about 10% of VSW membership.

Where do you fit into the distribution? If you are a new member, we need your active participation helping to continue the history and volunteer spirit. From our long-term members we need you to provide your expertise and wisdom as we reshape the club. For the rest, we really need you to step up and help us bridge this atypical period in our club's history. We enjoyed VSW's 40th Anniversary last October. Let's continue to carry the torch forward into new eras for us and for Winnebago Industries!

GNR 2017

At last count, 10 VSW coaches, including 3 new members, plan to attend GNR—with 3 or 4 parking on the Tennessee Row. After much consideration, we are going ahead with state row decorations, including Lynchburg Lemonade and we will participate in Row Night Decorations competition.

Because of the low VSW attendance, we are going to create a 3.5 ft. x 4 ft. display of the "Welcome To Fabulous Winnebago" logo as the centerpiece of our interpretation of the theme. Glenn Craig and Steve Pacheco are creating a border around the tent with photos of the various Winnebago products—illustrating the wide variety in their product line. To complete the display, we will mount photographs of the many, many places that VSW has been. Our logic is that the "fabulous" world of Winnebago is the breath of its product line and the ability it affords its owners to travel wherever and whenever they please.



Please send us electronic pictures of your favorite travel experiences; they can be places, friends you met along the way or anything you feel expresses, The Fabulous World



Making Friends

Early on in our time in Vol State Winnies, we became friends with a lovely, very knowledgeable couple, Lynn and Jimmy Fitts. Lynn became my 'go to' person (in addition to Aggie King) as I attempted to sort out the task of planning our campouts. We were surprised and disheartened to learn late in 2016 that they had sold their coach. Each have camped in one vehicle or another almost their entire lives. Still, it seemed too soon for them to leave us. Not only have they worked their chapter events but they have held several VSW offices, as well. They are well known by the GNR staff as they took care of many duties during GNR. Lynn was responsible for balancing all the day's receipts for registrations as coaches arrived. And Jimmy seemed to have the answer to any GNR question. They will be difficult to replace on every level.

At our April Campout, it was our honor to designate the Fitts as Honorary Members of VSW. We hope they will continue to attend our campouts since Lebanon is not that far from Crossville. Not to be outdone and being a very generous couple, the Fitts then presented a monetary donation to President Keith Mobley to be put towards the group's GNR expenses....so like Jimmy and Lynn.



Memorial Day Origins

Now observed on the last Monday of May, Memorial Day honors the men and women who have died while serving in the U.S. Military. It originated after the Civil War and was known as Decoration Day. It became an official, federal holiday in 1971.

Everyone reading this has known someone who has lost their life defending our freedom. We are proud to have quite a few military veterans in VSW. May you each have a safe, good holiday which includes time out to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation.

April Campout Recap

Sadly, our April Campout was not well attended. A calendar conflict 18 months ago kept us from having this event later in April. We came away feeling the first weekend of April is much too early for our April get-together. We hope to avoid this in the future.

As we did not have a quorum of our membership present, we were not able to have a business meeting. However, we did meet to map out plans for GNR and, of course, THE RALLY! These preparations are continuing and will do so until the last minute, we feel certain. It is a lot to pull together but provides great fellowship as we work toward a common goal.

WINNEBAGO NEWS

Winnebago reports revenue rose 64.2% in 2nd Quarter of 2017 due to higher shipments of 3.6% in motorized units and 467.2% in towables.

- Motorized revenue dropped 3% to \$198.94M.
- Towable revenue grew 735.6% to \$171.6M.
- Gross margin improved 210 bps to 13.3% driven by the favorable inclusion of Grand Design products within the overall sales mix.
- Operating margin rate increased 170 bps to 7.7%.
- Total motor homes deliveries +3.6% Y/Y to 2,107.
- Total towable deliveries +467.2% Y/Y to 5,411.

All is not perfect at Winnebago:

- Moving their diesel-pushers, except for the Forza line, has caused significant delivery delays.
- The move is also causing concerns and issues for existing owners needing repairs or warranty work.
- All Winnebago motorhomes continue to exhibit quality problems ranging from minor to total systemic failures.
- Rumor has it that we may lose two Tennessee dealers. Elimination of the Itasca line could be a contributing factor but chronic warranty problems are also a part of the decision.

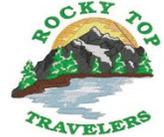


MUSIC CITY WINNIES

We met last week at the Corner Pub in Mt. Juliet with 4 units represented.

Our next campout is June 16th-18th at Lillydale Campground on Dale Hollow Lake in Allons, TN. This is a Friendship Outing; bring your friends and family. They do not have to be in a Winnebago product.

I am saddened to say we have lost yet another member. Bobby and Joyce McCall have sold their motorhome. They will be greatly missed.



ROCKY TOP TRAVELERS

We had six coaches at our May Campout near Memphis. We all enjoyed the Memphis gardens, Sun Studio, the Pyramid plus some great eateries. We thank the Wiggers for all their planning for this campout. Take the leisurely route to GNR and join us at the Amana Colonies, Iowa June 12-14. It is an interesting community with many opportunities for shopping and sightseeing.



WEST TENNESSEE TRAVELERS

Six WTT coaches camped from 5/21-5/25 at Natchez Trace SP. We enjoyed a potluck meal on Monday and traveled to Paddies' in Parkers Crossroads for dinner on Tuesday. It was great to get caught up with those we had not seen over the winter. Some days were rainy but we enjoyed cool days and nights.

We discussed future travel plans and campouts. New officers for the coming year were also elected. They are: President-Larry Bolding; VP-Mark Bolding; Secretary-Ken Dixon; Treasurer-Judy Doyle.

SUNSHINE CORNER

Our Sunshine Lady, Yvonne Potts, sent a get well card to Diana Logan who continues to recover from neck surgery. It has not been a totally smooth road for Diana but she has now made a good recovery.



A sympathy card has been sent to Ed and Teresa Herbert following the death of Ed's mother earlier this week. Although they are no longer with us due to their heavy work-related travel schedule, while they were a part of Rocky Top and VSW, they pitched right in on anything that needed to be done. They are a lovely couple.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Judy Doyle who lost her beloved Bassett, Jazzy, to cancer 5/26. We all know what it is like to make that difficult decision. Judy gave Jazzy a wonderful, enjoyable life

Critical Information—Rally Update!



As with any large endeavor, it takes ALL OF US! Even though you see names assigned to most areas, it does not mean they can handle EVERY detail. It takes many hands to fill the goody bags which each coach receives upon arrival. It takes several hands to put cloths on all the tables and set up the chairs. It certainly takes ALL VSW to provide heavy finger foods for our Thursday evening meal.

Check out these work areas and be prepared to step up to make this rally a resounding success.

Task	Coordinators/Volunteers
Arts & Crafts Competition	Brent & Francine Nickels
Dealer Participation	Club Presidents & Keith Mobley
Decorations	Aggie King, Pat Bates, additional, as needed
Door Prizes	Ed & Yvonne Potts/Keith Mobley
Entertainment	Jan & Keith Mobley/Glenn Craig
Food Preparation	Jan Mobley, State Chapters
Games (Inside)	Glenn Craig, Dave Franke
Games (Outside)	Open
Goody Bags	Pat Bates/ need more hands here
Greeters	EVERY VSW MEMBER IS A GREETER!
Hospitality Table (Thurs evening)	Ralph & Virginia Wiggers/all VSW attending
Opening/Closing Ceremony	Bob and Susan Entner
Parking	Dave Franke, Joe Moore, additional
Photography	Joe Moore, Brock Brinkerhoff (?)
Pre-Rally Activities	Jan Mobley, Michael Logan
Programs & Name Badges	Keith Mobley
Registration	Joe Moore/additional, as needed
Seminars & Vendors	Open/ Keith Mobley, Jan Mobley
Set-up/Tear down	Everyone!
Silent Auction	Ralph & Virginia Wiggers, Irene Craig

MEETINGS, OUTINGS & RALLY SCHEDULES



Apr 6-9 Apr 9-13	VSW Spring Campout, Lebanon, TN April Campout—CANCELLED	ALL WTT
May 14-18 May 19-24 May 21-25	EZ Daze RV Park, Southaven, MS Lock A Campground, Ashland City, TN Natchez Trace State Pk, Clarksburg, TN	RTT MCW WTT
June 12-14 June 16-18	Amana Colonies RV Park, Amana, IA Lillydale Campground, Allons, TN Friendship Outing	RTT MCW
June 18-22	Columbus/Belmont St Pk, Columbus, KY	WTT
July 17-22 July 28-30	GNR, Forest City, IA Cedar Creek Campground, Mt. Juliet, TN	ALL MCW
Aug TBD Aug 18-20 Aug 20-24	Luncheon (show), Crossville, TN Salt Lick Creek Campground, Gainesboro Cages Bend COE, Gallatin, TN	RTT MCW WTT
Sept 16-18 Sept 24-28 Sept TBD	Long Branch Cmpgrd., Lancaster, TN Canal COE Campground, Lake Barkley, KY TBD	MCW WTT RTT
Oct 26-Nov 5	TBD	WTT
Oct 26-29	VSW Fall Rally, Lebanon, TN	ALL
Nov 12 Nov TBD	Corner Pub, Mt. Juliet, TN 11 a.m. TBD	MCW RTT
Dec 5 Dec 9	Dinner Meeting, TBD Christmas Party/The Evetts Home Old Hickory, TN	WTT MCW
Dec TBD	Christmas Luncheon-TBD	RTT

Music City Winnies
Rocky Top Travelers
West TN Travelers
ALL—Vol State Winnies



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