

Vol State Winnies Business Meeting 10/29/22

President Steve Rogers opened the meeting at 8:36 a.m. at the Ward Agricultural Center Building D in Lebanon, Tennessee and led the pledge of allegiance.

Attendees included 21 people. Steve & Linda Rogers, Cliff & Kay Klein, Mike & Diana Logan, Brent & Francine Nickles, Dwight & Pam Clayton, Jerry & Linda Merryman, Gary & Karen Swaim, John & Jody Barr, John & Anne Wharton, Stuart & Lynn Blue and Ed Potts.

Secretary Linda Rogers distributed the new Winnebago International Travelers (WIT) guidelines, which replace the WIT By-Laws and a list of offices recommended by a Winnies committee, led by Dwight Clayton. (see attached 3 files). Secretary Rogers noted that we have 34 official members. Since we have 21 members present, we have a quorum and can vote on decisions

The President made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting on April 30, 2022. Ed Potts approved, Brent Nickels seconded and the motion carried.

The President reviewed the Treasurer's report, provided by Joe Moore, who was unable to attend the meeting. The 2022 Spring Campout was treasury neutral and the bank balance at Regions Bank is \$4764.40. Joe filed the IRS form 990-N to preserve the club's tax-exempt status. There were no club expenses for the 2022 Winnebago Grand National Rally (GNR). The bank statement and check register are available for inspection with the President or Joe. Ed Potts said that it is time for an audit of club finances and that he would take care of it. Mike Logan made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Cliff Klein seconded and the motion carried.

The President introduced four new members who were present – Stuart & Lynn Blue, and John & Anne Wharton, and five new members who were not present – John & Deborah Bookas, Landy & Robin Peluso, and Eddie Bradburn.

Secretary Linda Rogers announced that the Vol State Winnies Facebook page now has 37 members and it was revitalized in October 2021 with the

help of Gary Swaim. All members can post photos or comments on this social media. The Vol State Winnies web page is www.tnvolstatewinnies.org and the Webmaster is Joe Moore. Past President Keith Mobley set up the web page and the Winnies club pays a fee once every two years for this website.

President Rogers reviewed the new WIT guidelines that were created to simplify the structure of clubs. Winnebago clubs must have a "Group Leader" or point of contact and if there is a treasury, it must also have a Treasurer. WIT will no longer provide a Certificate of Insurance, but will reimburse 50% of the cost of a Certificate of Insurance up to \$750.00 in the form of a VISA credit card for any expenditure. A Certificate of Insurance is required by campgrounds for State rallies. WIT stated that groups are free to adopt their own guidelines.

Dwight Clayton presented the results of his committee's suggestion for officers as a Point of Contact and a Treasurer. Optional positions included:

- 1) Public Relations/Activities Coordinator/Secretary
- 2) Wagon Masters (minimum 2 people)
- 3) State Rally Masters (minimum 4 people)
- 4) Organizational Support (fill in for President, host virtual meetings)

Cliff Klein reported on the July GNR Presidents' Club meeting.

- 1) WIT suggests that clubs go to a social club format with meet-ups
- 2) WIT eliminated their By-Laws
- 3) WIT has a concierge team running the WIT club
- 4) WIT contact is by e-mail (no phone)
- 5) WIT retired all area reps about 2 years ago
- 6) WIT no longer pays fully for certificates of insurance for rallies
- 7) WIT now prefers the term "Group Leader" over Point of Contact
- 8) WIT is working on additional revisions to guidelines

Cliff Klein reported on the July 2022 Grand National Rally (GNR) in Forest City, Iowa. Five Winnies members attended GNR and only one RV was in the Tennessee Row.

- 1) The new Winnebago Head of Strategy, Business Development and Marketing is Mr. Kunal Mehta
- 2) 75% of attendees were there for the first time
- 3) Attendance was 575 units and was down compared to last year

- 4) There were very few families with youth
- 5) All information was posted electronically or by Facebook (no signs)
- 6) Winnie Bs did the largest group events
- 7) Not much state row presence and those that were there were widely scattered
- 8) Daily happy hours were highly attended
- 9) Winnebago is focusing on class B, class C and all electric motorhomes

Gary Swaim questioned why Winnies members need to be WIT members. Cliff Klein stated that we have a State charter and need to be WIT members to be a Winnebago club. The new WIT guidelines state that meetups, events and rallies should be limited to WIT members except that non-WIT member owners are allowed to attend up to two meetings with a WIT group before deciding whether to become a WIT national member.

Mike Logan reported that the West Tennessee Travelers chapter has voted to become a social club with no officers and only a group leader. They plan to vote on what to do with their treasury to zero it out.

Anne Wharton noted that the club needs a Secretary and Dwight Clayton pointed out that this falls under Other Optional Officers as Public Relations/Activities Coordinator. Anne made a motion to change to the simplified club structure with a 1) Point of Contact 2) Treasurer 3) Other Optional officers. Kay Klein seconded. The motion carried unanimously by raise of hands of all members present.

Brent Nickles was asked what the Music City Winnies group had decided and he responded that they had not decided, but would probably go to the simplified club structure.

The question was raised about should we have a Tennessee State Rally in September 2023. Several members pointed out that a State Rally requires a lot of work from over a dozen people. Secretary Rogers noted that we do not have enough members in our club to plan and carry out a State Rally and made a motion to not have a State Rally next year. Anne Wharton seconded. The motion carried by vote of members.

It was then noted that Joe Moore should change the existing contract with the Ward Agricultural Center for September 28 – October 1, 2023 to be only for building D since the number of attendees will be much smaller than for a State Rally. The current contract is for buildings D, E, and Education.

Secretary Rogers announced that the Spring Campout will be April 27 – 30, 2023 at Spring Lake RV Resort in Crossville, Tennessee and that members should call and reserve their sites near clubhouse #2.

Group Leader Steve Rogers adjourned the meeting at 9:59 a.m.

Notation: Group Leader Steve Rogers and Secretary Linda Rogers agreed to maintain their officer positions for 2023.

Future Outings Announced after dinner on 10/29/2022:

Tampa SuperShow by FRVTA, Tampa, Florida
January 18 - 22, 2023

FMCA International Convention & RV Expo, Perry, Georgia
March 15 – 18, 2023

Vol State Winnies Spring Campout
Spring Lake RV Resort, Crossville, Tennessee
April 27 – 30, Clubhouse #2

Winnebago Grand National Rally, Forest City, Iowa
July 16 – 21, 2023
Pre-rally parking begins July 12

FMCA International Convention & RV Expo, Gillette, Wyoming
August 23 – 26, 2023
Along the route is Mount Rushmore & Devils Tower

Submitted by Linda Rogers, Secretary 11/1/2022