



Country Coach Texans

Spring 2016

In Special Memory of Michael Carnes



Country Coach Texans lost a very special member on April 12. Mike and Nancy Carnes were among the founding members of the Club, and Mike served as the first president, serving four years from 2001-2005. We will all remember Mike for his dedication to the Club and as the guy you could depend on if you had a coach issue, needed to track down parts, needed rally hosts, help with a rally or recruiting of new candidates for office. For numerous members who suffered an illness or lost a spouse, Mike was there for support.

We will never forget his infectious spirit and crazy antics that made our times together so much fun.

Our prayers are with Nancy and the Carnes family. Rest in peace, Mike. You will forever be missed.



Spring Rally Highlights

The Spring 2016 Rally of the Country Coach Texans was held April 20-24 at **Winstar World Casino & RV Park in Thackerville, OK**. We had 30 people registered for this event, with 14 coaches in attendance. We were delighted that our first Honorary Life-time Members, **Joe and Sandra Taylor** attended, staying in the Resort's hotel. It's so wonderful that they are able to attend rallies!



As registrants arrived, they received the rally bags with agenda, membership roster, Birthday list, previous meeting minutes, pamphlets from Gainesville's Chamber of Commerce, and a small gift.

We began our festivities with a "traditional" Margarita Party, followed by a delicious South of the Border dinner catered by the staff at Winstar.

After dinner, members gathered on the open pavilion for a celebration of the life of **Mike Carnes**, our club's founding president. Everyone lit a candle while **Joe Taylor** spoke about the wonderful memories we have of Mike and **RD Vanderslice** led us in prayer. We are all mourning Mike's



passing and this celebration of his life provided an uplifting spirit for us.

Thursday morning, we gathered for a delicious traditional breakfast of eggs, bacon, sausage, and fruit/pastries leading up to our General Membership Meeting. After the meeting (see the minutes of the meeting online), **Ginny Konrad, with Norwex Products** provided a fun demonstration of the Norwex cleaning system and provided door prizes and opportunities to purchase these great products. That afternoon, **Danielle McMillan**, representative from **Pilot/Flying J**, presented us with an update of the corporation's history and new initiatives related to RV customers. She gave a "memory retention quiz" with \$5 gift cards to those giving correct answers. Then, she had a raffle of ten \$100 Pilot/Flying J gift cards. The lucky winners are pictured below.



The new RV Plus credit card for Good Sam Club members was introduced and we all had an opportunity to apply for that card, which will enable us to "swipe & pay" at the pump, receiving discount prices associated with our Good Sam membership benefits.

Dinner Thursday night was a "Little Italy Buffet" served in candlelight. Food and catering service was again exemplary. After dinner, the room was rearranged with chairs and sofas for us to watch the movie "A Walk in the Woods" with Robert Redford and Nick Nolte. What a fun, relaxing evening!

Friday, we began the day with another delicious traditional breakfast. Several gathered after breakfast for round table discussions related to coach owner issues/opportunities/solutions. **Lonny Stevens** provided the group with a wiring issue he discovered, which applies to Country Coaches manufactured 2005-2007. He explained the issue and told us how to "fix" the problem.

During the rest of the day, we had time to explore the casino, travel up to the **Chickasaw Cultural Center** in Davis, OK, and many drove over to Muenster, TX for the Germanfest celebration.

Friday night, we regrouped for the resort's "Signature Meatloaf Dinner", followed by an evening of classic Country/Western music entertainment provided by **Byron Haynie** and his band **Faster Horses**. The Chicken Dance closed out the evening; however, **Jim Passe's** rendition of the Choctaw Stomp Dance was truly memorable!

On Saturday, we began the day with delicious blueberry and strawberry crepes. This was a perfect high-carb breakfast to fortify **Kevin Ford** and **RD Vanderslice** for their participation in the 60-mile bicycle race over in Muenster. Everyone else just enjoyed the extra 5 pounds.

This day was planned as a day "on your own;" everyone took advantage of the area opportunities. At the end of

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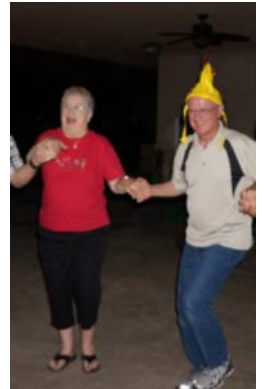
Spring Rally cont.

the day, many were still pretty full from eating German food in Muenster, but we gathered in the open pavilion for an evening of visiting, telling tall tales.

Sunday morning, we had our "traditional" continental breakfast; said our goodbyes; headed out to our respective destinations. Oklahoma winds were blowing, so depending upon which direction we were heading, we had plenty of head/tail winds.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Fall Rally in Mineola, TX October 5-9, 2016. Safe travels!

**Pat Turpin, Sandy & Len Nikolai,
Peggie Fink & Rod Reames,
Rally host and co-hosts**



**More photos are posted
on the CCT website!**



VP's Report

From Sue Houle



The Rally at Winstar Casino and RV Park was enjoyed by all attendees. Every rally gets better and better. We are looking forward to the fall rally in Mineola, TX at the Mineola Civic Center, October 5-9, with host **Pat Turpin**, and co-hosts **Kevin and Sheila Ford** and **RD and Lynn Vanderslice**. This will be another good rally. The Civic Center did a good job for us in 2014. The spring rally for 2017 will be hosted by **Jim and Ginny Passe** and **Jim and Brenda Payne**, May 3-7, 2017, at Catherine's Landing RV Resort in Hot Springs, Arkansas. We thank them for stepping up to host.

At the April rally, several Texas locations were discussed and suggested for future rallies such as Rockport, Fort Davis, Galveston and Havens Landing in Spring, TX. If anyone knows of other places or would like to host a rally of their choice, please let me know and we can get the plans and bookings underway.



From Our Secretary and Acting Treasurer

Pat Turpin

Secretary Report:

Our General Business Meeting Minutes are posted on the club [website](#). Since last report, **David Schnautz** and **Diane Moyer**, from La Porte TX applied for membership. Hopefully they will join us at our Mineola rally. In addition, **Janice Gould**, reported as a new member in the fall, is actually a returning member! **Lynne Potempa** contacted me just before the rally to let me know that she will be renewing her membership! The Membership Roster has a few changes of address and phone numbers. Copies of the latest Roster were distributed in the Rally bags at Winstar. I will

send the updated roster to include the newest members via email. The Birthday List has been maintained and will be sent to all via email. Since October, I have coordinated with **Charles McCaskill** to provide regular updates on **Pam's** very rocky road to health. I am VERY happy to report that Pam finally returned home on May 14 and is doing well.

I worked with **Sandy and Len Nikolai** to organize the rally for Spring 2016 at Winstar. It was a small rally, but still a great time. We were honored that **Joe and Sandra Taylor**, our first CCT Honorary Lifetime Members, were able to join us, staying at the Winstar Hotel.

Initial plans for the fall rally in Mineola have been made. The **Fords, Vanderslices**, and I are excited about returning to this fun community! Directory updates are due this spring; I will be sending revised pages prior to the fall rally.



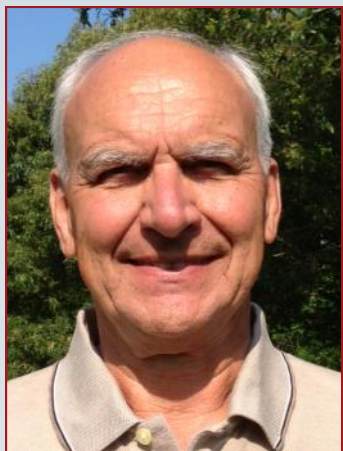
Treasurer Report:

I traveled to Kerrville in March for **Pam** to transfer the Treasurer's files to me, as I agreed to be acting treasurer. I audited the books with **Charles McCaskill** and all accounts

were balanced. Charles filed the requisite tax forms for CCT for 2015-2016, so my duties will be to maintain the active account for renewing memberships, rally registrations, and expenses for the rallies and other club activities.

We ended up making a profit at the Fall Buckhorn Rally of \$855.78 (includes reimbursing one person for over-payment of registration). Profit was largely due to the \$1800 we received from sponsors.

For the spring rally, we expected to experience a loss due to fewer registrations and higher fixed costs at the Casino Resort. We received \$500 cash from one sponsor, **Dave Miller at Texas Custom Coach** - thank you Dave! In addition, **Norwex Products** contributed three door prizes for a value of approximately \$150 and **Flying J/Pilot** contributed \$1,000 in the form of ten \$100 Flying J/Pilot gift cards. The Board authorized \$1,000 to be taken from the treasury ahead of time. At this time, we expect it will be necessary to spend another \$1,000 from the club account. Our current balance in the Chase Bank account is \$14,677.06; with expected rally expenses, the balance will be approximately \$8,400.



Jim Payne

National Director's FMCA Update

I hope all had a restful winter and are ready for some summer travel. FMCA just completed our 93rd Family rally in Perry, Ga. Attendance was good in spite of the rain. Our next family Reunion will be held at West Springfield, Mass. The dates are August 3 thru 6. If your plans include the east coast this year, you might consider attending.

Finances appear to be doing well and even show a surplus in the operating budget. There are a couple of changes to note. Our executive director Jerry Yeatts has resigned and a search committee has been formed to find a replacement. Also our South States Vice president Jim McCabe has resigned and Rod Sartwell of Oklahoma has been elected to replace him. I urge you to check out the magazine and the website (fmca.com) for updates as well as a complete list of benefits.

Future rallies are:

94 th FMCA Family Reunion	West Springfield, MA	August 3 thru 6, 2016
Six States Rally	Shawnee, OK	Sept. 12 thru 15, 2016
95 th FMCA Family Reunion	Chandler, AZ	Summer 2017
96 th FMCA Family Reunion	Indianapolis, IN	Winter 2017

Travel safe and have a great summer!!!

Welcome New Members



David Schnautz & Diane Moyer
La Porte, TX



**Mark your calendar
for our Fall Rally
October 5-9, 2016
at the
Mineola Civic Center & RV Park
Mineola, Texas**



Join your host, Pat Turpin
and cohosts: Kevin & Sheila Ford
and RD & Lynn Vanderslice
for a great time in the charming town
of Mineola, near Tyler, Texas.
The Mineola Civic Center has nice RV sites,
and a fantastic facility for our events.

**More details to be announced
as the date gets closer**