

THE CHALLENGERS' NEWS

September-December, 2024



A message from President Bounds

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As another busy Holiday Season comes to an end and we celebrate a new year; I look forward to new adventures, new friends and good health for us all. This last year sure flew by us like a strong wind or was that the multiple Hurricanes?

It's been awhile since I've sent out a Newsletter. Life sometimes gets in the way. It has been a very challenging few months for many of us, but we all remain strong.

We continually keep our members going through health issues close and wish them all a speedy recovery. We miss them and look forward to seeing them all back with us soon. With sadness we are saying good-bye to a few of our friends as they embark on new adventures.

Below we explore a few of our past adventures. We have had some good rallies and along the way we are making new friends.

Our September Rally to Wekiva Falls RV Resort had to be cancelled due to severe flooding from the storms we experienced during that time.

The October Rally was held at Walkabout Camp and RV Park in St. Marys, GA. Everyone had a good time with ten coaches in attendance. New members Kevin and Cyndi McAdams hosted the Rally. (See an article later in the Newsletter with rally details.) Due to the majority of the Board being unable to attend, we were unable to have a meeting.

The November Rally was held at Clerbrook Golf and RV Resort, Clermont, FL. New members Rudy and Kate Canfield co-hosted with Paul and Lucy Levine.

The Bounds hosted us at their site. We had pot lucks, toured the Presidents' Museum and The Citrus Tower in Clermont. We toured the Lakeridge Winery and enjoyed listening to music outside afterwards while enjoying food and beverages. Some even ate some ice cream. We also found a new donut shop, Donut King, yum, yum. Due to illness, and homes flooded; we were not able to have a business meeting. We had eight coaches attend. Bounds, Canfield, Connolly, Corbett, Knight, Riedy/Wiegert, and Stiver.

We had a visit from Bill and Carolyn Dees on Friday night. They stayed and enjoyed our Pot Luck. Bill brought the Chapter up to date on changes to FMCA and explained the reason for the Dues increase. Thank you Bill and Carolyn.

The December Rally was held at Sunshine Travel Vero Beach, Vero Beach, FL. We had absolutely wonderful weather. The Bounds hosted us at their site. We had a grill night, pot luck night, tour of McKee Botanical Gardens, and Christmas brunch at Captain Hiram's/Blackfin's Riverfront Grill. We had our first Ugly Sweater Contest. Congratulations to our winners, first place: Cyndi McAdams and second place: Dave Connolly.

We played a Christmas Trivia game, provided by Cyndi McAdams. Brenda Cassada won. Brenda sure knew her Trivia! We also played card BINGO and Christmas BINGO with various winners. Brenda Knight won the 50/50 and we also celebrated her birthday.

Mike and Linda Bounds donated all the prizes awarded throughout the week to the lucky winners. We enjoyed a lot of laughs and good times. Congratulations to all the winners.

The Bounds and McAdams decorated their sites with Christmas Lights, table settings and a tent. We had plenty of lights to guide us throughout the rally. Thank you Cyndi and Kevin for all your help!

The Bounds, Corbett's, Huntington and McAdams put together Baskets and items for a silent auction to collect money to be donated to a worthy group. The Chapter members will decide at the January meeting where they would like to send the money. We had a Comfort Basket, Coffee Basket, Patron Basket, Christmas Flower arrangement, and a homemade necklace donated by Michele Huntington.

We had tickets to attend the Riverside Theatre, Comedy Club. However there was a Christmas Parade going on at the same time. We sat deadlocked on the bridge for one and one-half hours.

Riverside refunded all our money. Our thanks to Riverside for that. We were only ½ miles from the Theatre. Many were disappointed. After the bridge reopened a few of us went to dinner at a Mexican Restaurant. All was not lost.

We had thirteen coaches and two visitors attend. Chaney's, Nancy Ragland drove over and had lunch with us. Bounds, Canfield, Cassada, Connolly, Corbett, Hoyos/Mestre, Knight, Kucharczyk, Levine, McAdams, Riedy/Wiegert, and Sindon/Krna,

2024 was a fantastic year for The Challengers. We picked up some new members, but we are also losing friends for various reasons. They will be missed and we hope they come back to visit us from time to time. We wish them well in their future endeavors and they will be missed.

We said a final good-bye to Roger Bentson the first of the year. He is so missed! We are saying good-bye to the following members who are moving on. Bob and Kat Collaro, Leona Kent, Joel and Jane Kruse, Angelo and Phyllis Liantonio, Matt and Pauline Kucharczyk, Nancy Ragland, and Brian Sindon/Barb Krna.

Hosts are needed for our monthly Rallies. I have a guideline sheet to assist in planning. We have many members who are available to assist and guide you. Hosting doesn't have to be hard. However, we need more members to step up and pick a month. The same members are hosting month after month. The signup sheet will be out at the January rally. I can't Thank the current Board members enough for their dedication and support of The Challengers. They are amazing and I appreciate everything they do. Pick a month and sign up!

We try hard to schedule the rallies during the second week of the month, however, sometimes we have to adjust to meet the needs of the Campgrounds we are trying to schedule with.

We are still seeking a new Vice President, Secretary, Wagon Master, Newsletter Editor, and Photographer. These positions have been available for quite some time. If you are interested in finding out more, please let me know. Also, if there is a position on the Board you are interested in, please consider putting your name in. The current Vice President and Secretary agreed to remain at this time until we can find a replacement.

Our 2025 Rally Schedule is exciting! Please look it over and plan your appointments accordingly.

A Message from Our October Hosts: Kevin and Cyndi McAdams

The Challengers October 2024 rally was a real success. The Walkabout Camp & RV Park in Woodbine, Georgia, could not have been more accommodating. Woodbine, Georgia is close to St. Mary's and Kingsland, Georgia.

We had 20 members/10 campers to participate in the rally with Angelo and Phyllis Liantonio from Palm Coast driving over to join us for Friday night dinner.

The clubhouse was decorated for the fall season to give everybody that good, warm ambience and Autumn feeling. Thursday started the day with coffee at the clubhouse followed by trips to St. Marys, Kingsland and other local areas.

Everyone showed up for happy hour where we all enjoyed our spirits of choice, lots of treats and great stories.

Thursday night was potluck dinner with meat on the grill and plenty of sides to share. Each table had a centerpiece built by crafty Cyndi to be given away to five unsuspecting lucky members.

Our rally hosts, Cyndi and Kevin, started Friday off with a pumpkin pancake breakfast with all the trimmings including bacon, sausage, coffee and juice. Assisting Cyndi and Kevin were Cyndi's brother and sister-in-law, Tom and Kathy Caig, from Charlotte, North Carolina. Tom and Kathy had a great time and plan to catch up to FMCA in the Charlotte area and investigate a local chapter to join.

Happy hours are enjoyed by all as evidenced by everyone showing back up at the clubhouse on Friday evening for more libations, treats, and good friends.

Again, everybody enjoyed the local areas or simply lounging by the pool.

Our rally hosts, Cyndi and Kevin, treated everyone to a homemade chili dinner with cornbread (and jalapeño cornbread) on the side. There was certainly no shortage of desserts and treats provided by many of the members. Each table was refitted with new crafty Cyndi centerpiece which were again given to five unsuspecting members.

Saturday was kicked off with coffee at the clubhouse in concert with good camaraderie ahead of embarking on another day of short travels investigating the local area.

and getting ready to head home or to alternative safe shelters.

On Saturday night, everybody met at a local seafood restaurant, Southern River Walk, by the river in St. Marys, Georgia. Your hosts each ordered the shrimp alfredo which was superb. At the end of our meal, the 50-50 drawing took place with a total pot of \$80. The winners were none other than Cyndi and Kevin where their winnings were donated back to the Challengers.

With hurricane Milton getting ready to come across the gulf, everybody was packing up with on and off rain and getting ready to head home or to alternative safe shelters.

We are sure everyone will chalk this rally up to a memorable experience and look forward to possibly returning another day.

Kevin McAdams



16905 NW Hwy. 225, Reddick, FL 32686

The January Rally is fast approaching. If you haven't made your reservations, please do so ASAP!

Hosts: Mike and Linda Bounds

Contact Tina at 352-579-7585 to make your reservations today!

This will be our first visit to this campground.

Don't forget to let Linda know your arrival and departure dates. Thank you!



- ✓ To make changes to your FMCA Account go to membership@fmca.com. This also includes your *new address* and your new *email address*.
- ✓ Please NOTE: If you change motor homes, please contact FMCA and let them know.
- ✓ Challengers' has a Facebook page. The FMCA Challengers. Check it out!
- ✓ Check the Facebook page for pictures of the Rallies



We continue to keep our Challenger Members' in our prayers.

Marianne Bittner, Jim Costa, Pete Hoyos, and Brenda Knight



Birthday Wishes to our September-December Birthdays':

SEPTEMBER

Nancy Ragland 9-3

OCTOBER

Mike Bounds 10-6
Homer Corbett 10-12
Brian Sindon 10-22
Terry L'Heureux 10-28
Marianne Bittner 10-29

NOVEMBER

Dave Connolly 11-9

DECEMBER

Brenda Knight 12-4
Joel Kruse 12-11



Happy Anniversary to our September-December Couples

SEPTEMBER

Sam & Brenda Knight 9-2
Paul & Lucy Levine 9-15

OCTOBER

Matt & Pauline Kucharczyk 10-5
Mike & Linda Bounds 10-20

NOVEMBER

Al & Terry Boulais 11/24

DECEMBER

Kevin & Cyndi McAdams 12-29
Ray & Barbara Stiver 12-31



Welcome Visitors
Welcome Visitors

November – Richard & Lynn Chaney

Welcome New Members
Welcome New Members

None this month



Upcoming Challenger Rallys'

2025

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| ❖ Jan. 9-12 | Ocala North RV Resort | Bounds |
| ❖ Feb. 4-9 | Santa Fe Palms RV Resort | Stiver |
| ❖ March 12-15 | FMCA International, Perry, GA | Bounds |
| ❖ April 8-13 | Paradise Oaks RV Resort | Need Hosts |
| ❖ April 10-14 | Cajun Festival, Iberia, LA | Bounds |
| ❖ May 6-11 | Hickory Point RV Resort | Need Hosts |

PLEASE CHECK SCHEDULE FOR SCHEDULING



List your items here. Contact Linda
Bounds. boundsld@gmail.com



Chef's Corner

Butternut Squash Pie

Roz Mestre

8 oz creamer, 2 boxes frozen squash, 3 eggs, $\frac{3}{4}$ stick sweet butter, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup flour, cinnamon in batter and top, optional.

Cook squash in microwave according to box directions. Mix all ingredients and add squash last. Pour into pie shell (deep dish or regular). Use tartlets for any extra batter. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.