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Region 7's "Around The World" Rally

Article and Photos By Doris & Jean Cabalka

Region 7 President Gail Harrower and her crew did an outstanding job in organizing and hosting the "Around the World" Region 7 Rally in connection with Winnipeg's 2014 Folklorama Festival. Winnipeg, with the support of the Province of Manitoba, has done an excellent job of preserving and promoting the various ethnic



cultures that settled the province and presently make up the community of nearly 780,000 residents. The 2014 festival was the 45th, making it the longest running multi-cultural event in the world. Forty-six different ethnic groups (half one week and half the next) were located at various sites around

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President's Message

Big changes have occurred at WBCCI Headquarters in the last three months. First, Cindy Reed resigned as corporate manager effective July 5, 2014. The IBT honoured her by declaring July 5th, 2014 Cindy Reed Day in recognition of her 33 years of service to the Club. Her expertise over these years will be greatly missed. Deb Mann took over as Interim Corporate Manager on July 5, 2014 and she resigned effective September 29, 2014. Deb has been with WBCCI for 6 ½ years. Both of them will be missed by WBCCI.

The position of Corporate Manager was posted. The Executive Committee reviewed the resumes, and narrowed them down to four candidates who were interviewed and Lori Plummer was selected. She has 13 years experience in managerial positions, a certified QuickBooks Pro adviser and has a background in data processing systems including FileMaker. Lori started at headquarters on September 23, 2014.

The membership has been asked to please refrain as much as possible from contacting Headquarters for the next while until they get their feet more firmly planted and familiarize themselves with the complexity of your Club. Thus, it has been requested that all members and units direct their questions to their Region Presidents instead of contacting Headquarters. Your Region officers contact information is listed in this newsletter. Thank You for your co-operation in this request.

Membership Directory Options

A very important email from WBCCI will be sent within the next few weeks regarding publication of a digital PDF (not online) membership directory, giving members an opportunity to have their name withheld. Instructions will also be published in the Blue Beret. If you are NOT receiving News and Views and did not receive an email survey, then the Central Office does not have a valid email address for you. We have almost 400 invalid email addresses. You don't want to miss this opt-out opportunity, so please email Julie Rethman jrethman@wbcci.org with a current email. If you got the survey email, then no action is required on your part.

If you are a gmail.com user, WBCCI emails will appear in the "promotions" side of your email. Also check your spam folder regularly.

Posted in WBCCI Facebook by Carolyn Beardshear

2014 WBCCI Survey of Members

On September 16, 2014, all members with a valid email address received a link to the online version of the survey. To those who completed the survey, THANKS! If you did not receive that email, your email address may need to be updated at Headquarters, so contact: jrethmann@wbcci.org.

If you have not yet completed the survey and would like to, send a request to survey@wbcci.net and they will send you the link. Please give your name and number in your request, just so we can verify your membership. Your responses will be anonymous. 

From the Membership Chairperson!

By Linda Agre, Past President

What a great year for Region 7. All Units gained new members. Awesome! A Big Thank You to our Unit Membership Chairs, Minnesota - Diana McHenry, North Dakota Peace Garden - Larry Ruebel, and Wisconsin - Heidi Manak for a job well done. I would like to highlight the members receiving stars for 20 or more years:

20 YEARS:

Judith Koester #6399 - NDPG
Don & Lillian Thomson #4304 - NDPG
Vern & Bev Zink #4114 - NDPG

25 YEARS:

Peter & Irene Buell #2403 - Wisc.
Annette Hooker #259 - Wisc.

30 YEARS:

Burt & June Brevik - MN
Shirley Rohrer #16458 - NDPG (formerly From the SD Unit)

45 YEARS:

Mary Anderson Shull #101 - MN
Congratulations to Mary Anderson Shull for 45 years of service to the membership and club. A big Thank You to these members for all their years of service. 

Region 7 Rally 2015

Region 7 is looking for a great place in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan for a 2015 rally site. If you know of such a location, please contact me asap at airstream4478@gmail.com.

Thanks!! Gail

Region 7 Second VP

by Gail Harrower

We are pleased to inform you that we have a 2nd Vice President for our Region. He is Don Thomson #4304, a member of the North Dakota Peace Garden Unit and has been a member of WBCCI for 20 years.

I was thrilled when Don step forward at the Region 7 National Event Rally "Around the World" with Folklorama.

Upon conferring with the Executive of Region 7 and in accordance with the Bylaws & Policy, ARTICLE IX REGION, SEC 2. BYLAWS, D, whereby "The office or offices of Vice President(s) shall be filled by a majority vote of the region board from nominees submitted by the Region Executive Committee", please be advised that NO OTHER CANDIDATES for this position have come forward to fill this vacancy. Upon conferring with each Unit representative and the Executive Committee of the Region 7 board, Mr. Thomson was duly installed as Region 7 2nd VP by Adolf Knopp at the Region 7 campfire Installation of Officers on Friday, August 8th, 2014. 

Folklorama, from Page 1

Winnipeg. At each “pavilion” host members dressed in their country’s native dress, prepared food and drink of their country and provided a program of the songs and dances passed down from their ancestors. And, what a job they did!

The rally hosts kept everyone busy during the six days, from the time the rally started until we all headed home on August 12th . The beginning evening activity was the first of two evenings where the rally attendees, via chartered bus, left the rally site at 5:00 PM and didn’t return until after 11:00, as three pavilions were visited each time. There were hors d’oeuvres with the Russians and the main course at the Africa-Caribbean pavilion, winding up for dessert with the Italians. At all three venues, we were treated to wonderful dancing. With the chartered bus and reserved tickets, we bypassed all lines and were led directly to our seats. That was great!

Among the other planned activities was a 40-mile round-trip train ride from Winnipeg to the small (population about 500) community of Grosse Isle. The name is French for “big island” and originally it was a large wooded tract of land surrounded by swamp. Now, the surrounding area is agricultural. The trip lasted about 4 hours and was made in a wooden passenger car dating back to the early 1900’s. A local historian was aboard to explain the area and answer questions and at Grosse Isle we had an opportunity to take a walk, with a guide, in a tall grass prairie.

Another planned activity was an all-day bus ride around Winnipeg, with stops at the provincial capitol building and Saint Boniface, the French quarter of the Winnipeg. The current cathedral at Saint Boniface was built inside the portion of the original cathedral walls left standing after a fire in 1968. Louis Riel, the founder of Manitoba, is buried in a grave on the cathedral grounds. From the banks of the Red River, near the cathedral, one got an excellent view of the Esplanade Riel pedestrian bridge which has become a landmark in Winnipeg. The area where the Red and Assiniboine Rivers join is called The Forks and it is the heart of the city’s historic district. This area has been a gathering place for local residents for more than 6,000 years - from prehistoric people to fur traders to present times. A multi-million dollar museum, the Museum of Human Rights, is scheduled to open this fall. Restaurants and shops abound at The Forks.

An evening at the Assiniboine Downs horse racing track provided an opportunity to “play the ponies” if one so desired, but, more importantly, included a fabulous prime rib buffet dinner with more food than one could imagine. And, the dessert table went on for miles! A day at the Assiniboine Zoo completed the daytime activities away from the rally site. There the group not only walked through a great butterfly garden and saw many of the zoo animals, but they also got to visit a recently opened 10-acre attraction entitled “Journey to Churchill” featuring the landscape and animals of extreme northern Manitoba. This exhibit included wolves, snowy owls, caribou, musk oxen and, of course, polar bears.

On the final night of the rally, the group again visited Folklorama (via bus) for an evening of dining and entertainment. This time the hors d’oeuvres were at the Philippine pavilion, the main course at the Andean pavilion and dessert was with the Irish. The variety of dancing was outstanding and, ending with the Irish and their river dancing, brought the rally to a resounding

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My Final Words

By Linda Agre, Past President

The results of the elections and votes on amending the constitution are:

Int. President-Joe Perryman

Int. 1st VP-Jim Schwerdfeger

Int. 2nd VP-Richard Girard

Int. 3rd VP-Jim Cocke

Two candidates for the position of International 3rd VP announced from the floor that they were running: June Ryan, former Region 8 President and currently the Chairman of the Budget Committee, and Barry Bell, the outgoing President of Region 5

The vote count was:

Jim Cocke-3578

June Ryan-910

Barry Bell-367

Of the three candidates for the two positions on the Nominating Committee, Jay Thompson and Tom Smithson were elected.

All three amendments to the constitution passed by large margins.

Amendment #1 to allow clubs in foreign countries to become members passed with 100% of the vote.

Amendment #2 to permit movement of the International Rally away from July 1 and July 4 passed 4779 “yes” to 29 “no”.

Amendment #3 to allow the optional payment of dues via electronic means passed 4562 “yes” to 234 “no”.

So what does this mean to Region 7? True democratic election was in place at this meeting. Jim Cocke was elected and I believe will do an excellent job in moving the club forward. I for one am excited at the new things coming up from Joe, Richard and the 2 Jim’s.

Amendment #2 to move the International Rally away from the first week in July means: Easier to find places to hold the rally. Less time spent on site. Lower rally fee. This will happen in 2017 where rumors are that we are going to the UP of Michigan.

Amendment #3 is not going to happen right away. The data base at headquarters first has to be finished and running correctly. Things are going to get better (please believe me Unit Treasurers).

The 2015 International Rally at Farmington, NM will be shorter and will have 2 do-nothing days so rally goers may explore the area around Farmington. Hopefully, the Perryman’s will have some bus tours that everyone can sign up for. Including yours truly as it is a pain to disconnect and take down everything I travel with to go sightseeing.

I have turned over ‘the reins’ to Gail Harrower. Gail has already been working with Richard Girard on the Life Membership account. Steve Piotrowski, Wisconsin Unit has been appointed to the Constitution and By-Laws Committee. The International Club has no idea just how lucky they are to have 2 of the most talented people on their team. Course I’m prejudice.

I would like to ‘Thank’ the members of Region 7 for letting me serve as your Region President. It has been a great honor and I have enjoyed almost every minute of it. Every club needs a little ‘politics’ to keep it running. It also needs Unit Presidents willing to help take on the ‘politics’ of this great club. It’s more than just planning a rally. 

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climax. The twenty Airstream units attending the rally, plus the three local members, had a very enjoyable and interesting time in Winnipeg. Again, congratulations to those who had any part in organizing and hosting the rally. Y'all done good! And to those who did not attend, you missed a great rally. 🗨️

REGION 7 ACTIVITIES

MINNESOTA UNIT ACTIVITIES

December 7, 2014: Christmas Party - Russell's on the Lake - Big Lake, MN Social@5pm, Dinner@6pm Hosted by Dick & Kathy Hedquist

NORTH DAKOTA PEACE GARDEN UNIT

May 2, 2015: 12:00 noon - Spring Luncheon & Business Meeting - Eagles Lodge - Valley City, North Dakota - Contact - Art Idso - 701-388-0615 - E-mail: aidso@wtc-mail.net

WISCONSIN UNIT ACTIVITIES

November 7—9, 2014: Birthday Bash Camp Out, Kohler-Andrae State Park, Sheboygan, Hosted by Don & Kay Stenz
November 8, 2014: Luncheon, 11:30AM Water Street Brewer, Grafton, WI 53024 Hosted by Don & Kay Stenz
December 13, 2014: Holiday Luncheon, 11:30AM Buck & Honey's Restaurant, Sun Prairie. Hosted by Dave Sherman & Vicki Engelstad

Region Photos

By Bob Manak

Photos from Region events and the International are available on the Region website photo page at <http://region7.wbcci.net/photos/>. The photos are located at Picasa, and they can be viewed, played as a slide show, downloaded, or printed by an outside company (including your local Walgreen's). If you have photos to contribute, please email them to me, and I will post them. If you have a web gallery (Flicker, Picasa or other) that has Region 7 content that you would like to share, please email me the link. 🗨️

Photos By Len Kroeker

