

# THE CHALLENGERS' NEWSLETTER

## February, 2024



### A message from President Bounds

**Linda D. Bounds**  
President  
941-376-4588  
[boundslid@gmail.com](mailto:boundslid@gmail.com)

**Wayne Bittner**  
Vice President  
924-868-2129  
[wbittner@comcast.net](mailto:wbittner@comcast.net)

**Patty Corbett**  
Secretary  
321-863-7577  
[Pjc0156@att.net](mailto:Pjc0156@att.net)

**Lucy Levine**  
Treasurer  
352-592-6370  
[Plevine3@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:Plevine3@tampabay.rr.com)

**Cyndi McAdams**  
Sunshine  
941-914-0798  
[cyndikevin@aol.com](mailto:cyndikevin@aol.com)

**Mike Bounds**  
National Director  
941-321-4588  
[boundsemb@gmail.com](mailto:boundsemb@gmail.com)

**Ray Stiver**  
Alt. National Director  
407-437-10668  
[Coach32765@yahoo.com](mailto:Coach32765@yahoo.com)

**Martha Costa**  
Facebook Page  
941-366-8894  
[Costampa66@gmail.com](mailto:Costampa66@gmail.com)

**Barb Krna**  
Wagon Master  
407-965-9865  
[bkrna@cfl.rr.com](mailto:bkrna@cfl.rr.com)

**Dick Schauland**  
Chapter Chaplain  
386-328-4800  
[Schauland@live.com](mailto:Schauland@live.com)

The SEA Regional Rally was another success. There were only 396 coaches-5<sup>th</sup> Wheels in attendance. Many of those were first timers.

Nancy Ragland was Captain of Donuts and Coffee with the help of Linda (Mike) Bounds as Co-Captain. We had nine members from the Challengers help with Donuts and Coffee. (Bittner, Bounds, Canfield, Cassada, Corbett, Kruse, McAdams, Ragland and Stiver). There were several non-members from previous years join us volunteering as well. New members, Dave and Laurie Connolly hung out with us during the Rally and had a great time. We had three members stop in on day passes to enjoy the Rally, Kucharczyk, Levine and Riedy/Wiegert. It was great seeing everyone.

Nancy had shirts made for all the Donut and Coffee volunteers with the pirate theme printed on the front. Thank You Nancy!

Nancy also gave Wayne Cassada a Thank you card and gift card for taking good care of the Challengers; getting us parked and settled together. Thank You Wayne for always looking out for the Challengers at the SEA Rally! Your hard work never goes unnoticed.

The Chapter Fair was well attended. We handed out 50 Brochures and 2024 Rally Schedules. We had two potential members pick up Applications to join The Challengers. So far we haven't received them back.

I want to Thank both Barb Krna and Brenda Knight for helping me getting things started on the Picture Board for the Chapter Fair and to Mike for helping me getting things on the Board. This was my first time creating one and I needed some guidance.

At the Block Party, we only had about 8 rally attendees stop by and talk to us. One was someone interested from the Chapter Fair.

Since we had a lot of Root Beer leftover, we all enjoyed Root Beer Floats over the next couple of days! Yum!! Thank you Patty and Homer for supplying the Ice Cream. A BIG Thanks go to Patty Corbett and Jane Kruse for helping me with food preparation and set up for our Block Party. Your help was greatly appreciated.

I would like to recognize and Thank our Past President, Nancy Ragland, for her outstanding leadership in Captaining our Coffee and Donuts venue at the FMCA Rallies these past few years. She has decided to step down and pursue other adventures. Thank You Nancy!  
*Continued on page 2*

## President's Message Continued from Page 1

Unfortunately our Coffee serving tables saw their last year because of termite damage and age. They were taken apart after the rally and discarded. New tables are being built by Wayne Cassada for 2026. Thank You Wayne! The tables were used when we were in Brooksville so they served the Challengers well.

SEA offered roundtables for Officers this year. There was one each for Treasurer, Secretary, President and National Director. Some roundtables were very helpful with information; however, others were a great disappointment and did not cover material we had hoped to learn.

I also attended a round table on recruiting new members and picked up some good ideas to try. I also picked up a stack of FMCA membership applications. If anyone would like to pick some up, I will have them available at the meeting. I ran into Dave and Laurie Connolly there (New Members).

The entertainment this year was very good. The first night we were entertained by Steve Greer whom was an Elvis impersonator among other things. The next night we were entertained by a group, Tony Knight. They were very good and sang some oldies. Their lead singer was outstanding with her rendition of "I will always Love You" by, Whitney Houston. We all had goose bumps. Lastly, we enjoyed, laughed until we cried with the group called "Them Sweeney Boys".

The Pirate Parade held on Friday afternoon had large a participation and was well attended by attendees along the route. Even with the smaller crowd, everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves.

On Saturday afternoon, we enjoyed a box lunch out at the Areospace Pavillion. Once again we enjoyed the group, "The Rogues" as we ate our lunch and enjoyed spending time with people in attendance. As always, "The Rogues" music was outstanding and enjoyed by all. The weather couldn't have been more perfect.

So until next time I hope you will consider joining us for loads of FUN and Fellowship at the next FMCA Regional Rally!

I want to give a **HUGE THANK YOU** to **Diane Hoover** who visited us at the January Rally in Ruskin. Diane brought a few items to give back to the Challengers to be passed on for those who may be able to use them. She donated a few shirts, card holders, a Rand McNally GPS to try to sell, a dash bean bag for holding GPS and miscellaneous items. Thank You Diane for your generosity. You are so missed! It was great catching up with her.

Also at our January Rally, we had a surprise visit from Mike and Felicia Fitzgerald (past members) who happen to drop in for a visit at the same time Diane came for a visit. What a wonderful time we all had visiting with them and Diane catching up on what's been happening with them these past months. We're hoping Mike and Felicia may reconsider and rejoin the Challengers now that they have both retired. Wouldn't that be great news?

Linda Bounds  
2023-24 Challengers Chapter President

On Friday of the SEA Regional Rally, I attended a seminar by "Byrna Tech" on the 10 Tips for Personal Protection and Deterring Crime While Traveling in an RV. Please refer to the list on page 3.

## Ten (10) Travel Safety Tips and How NOT to Become a Victim of Crime

1. Trust your Gut
  - Neuropeptide Signaling is real
  - Knowing things before we know them, even if we can't explain how
  - We are "wired" for self-protection
  - Trust your inner voice
2. NEVER Walk Alone in the Dark
3. Always Make Eye Contact with Those You Pass Along the Way
  - One with evil intent may be dissuaded if they know you've seen them
  - Make note of height, weight, hair color/style, scars or tattoos
4. Inform Family/Friends of Your Plans
  - Share trip detail
  - Check in with them ofte
  - NOT on social media
5. Social Media Posts
  - CAUTION: Posting timely and accurately can alert others to when you're away from your RV
  - Keep social media shares vague
  - Avoid using exact locations
  - Share photos and videos after you've left that area
6. Carry Identification
  - Campground details/know your site #
  - Health Information
  - Labels for pets and children's clothing
7. Keep Your keys with You
  - Keys can be weapons
  - Key FOB's are personal alarms
  - On your person or by your bed
  - Don't leave spare keys behind in RV
8. Tricks to Deter
9. Keep Your Phone Close  
Take It EVERYWHERE
  - If you Fall
  - If you get lost
  - If you need emergency help
  - Take photos of anything out of place

- Law enforcement can track your location

#### 10. Be Aware of Your Surroundings

- Note where you park
- Take photos with your phone
- Notice things that don't look right
- Be aware of odd behavior
- Stay alert at rest stops and gas stations

#### Three Options for Person Protection

- Personal Alarms
  - Battery Operated
  - Scares off human predators
  - Works on wild animals too
  - Can even alert someone if you've fallen
- Firearms
  - Know the state laws where you live/travel
  - Nonlethal Weapons
  - Pepper gas-filled balls
  - Plastic or rubber slugs
  - No Permit needed
  - No recoil or loud bang
  - Allowed in check bags



**SOLD OUT** – Sorry you missed your opportunity to purchase these handmade tables by Joel Kruse.

Thank you Joel for your contribution to the Challengers in making these tables these past years. All proceeds of sale went to the Challengers!!

*Thank you Joel!*



- ✓ To make changes to your FMCA Account go to [membership@fmca.com](mailto: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, Brenda Cassada, Bob Collaro, Kat Collaro, Jim Costa, Pete Hoyos, Terry L' Heureux, and Kevin McAdams



**Challengers to host a Memorial for Roger Bentsen following the Business Meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup>; at approximately 11:15 am in the Hall. Pot Luck lunch to follow at 12:30 pm for those whom wish to stay.**

*Birthday Wishes to our February Birthdays':*

**February**

Barbara Stiver	2/2
Norma Connors	2/8
John Weigert	2/11
Phyllis Liantonio	2/28



*Happy Anniversary to our February Couples*

None this month



<p>Welcome Visitors</p> <p><b>Welcome Visitors</b></p>
<p>Previous Members – January</p> <p>Mike and Felicia FitzGerald</p> <p>Diane Hoover</p>

<p>Welcome New Members</p> <p><b>Welcome New Members</b></p>
<p>Dave and Laurie Connolly</p>

SAVE THE DATE

COMING  
UP

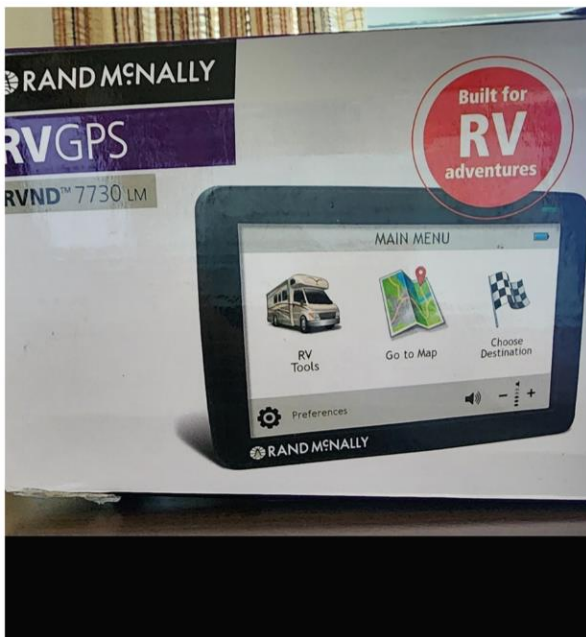
### Upcoming Challenger Rallys'

#### 2024

❖ March 5—10	Sherwood Forest RV Resort	Sindon/Krna
❖ April 14-21	Hickory Point RV Resort	Need Hosts
❖ May 7-12	Frog Creek RV Resort & Campground	Bounds
❖ Sept. 10-15	Wekiva Fall RV Resort	Need Hosts
❖ Oct. 10-15	Sunkissed Village RV Resort	Need Hosts
❖ Nov. 7-12	Clerbrook Golf & RV Resort	Need Hosts
❖ Dec. 3-8	Sunshine Travel Vero Beach RV Resort	Need Hosts



List your items here. Contact Linda Bounds. [boundsld@gmail.com](mailto:boundsld@gmail.com)



Rand McNally RV GPS; RVND 7730<sub>LM</sub>. Along with instruction booklet and Magellan bean bag for dash.

Donated to the Challengers by Diane Hoover.

Any and All proceeds to be donated to the Challengers.

Available at March Rally