

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

We have just returned from working at the RVIA Trade Show in Louisville, Kentucky and now it is time to get serious about the quickly approaching Christmas Season, as well as, the busy winter travels. The Northwest Area Team is working diligently on our upcoming Rally “BLAST FROM THE PAST” to be held at the Cowlitz County Event Center in Longview, WA from June 22 -25, 2017. Rally Master Andy Balogh, Assistant Rally Master Don Schleuse, all the Captains and Volunteers are working very hard to make this truly a blast! We are working on some *out of the box* ideas to make your rally experience a great one. Put us on your calendar and bring your friends & family along in any self-contained RV for a wonderful time.

For those of you that are considering attending FMCA’s 95<sup>th</sup> International Convention, “RALLY IN THE VALLEY” to be held in Chandler, AZ, March 7 to 10, 2017 and would like to volunteer to help put on this event, contact FMCA at the National Office (800-543-3622). The 96<sup>th</sup> International Convention, “CROSSROADS OF AMERICA” will be held in Indianapolis, IN from July 12 – 15, 2017. After the convention, I have reserved some of the RV spots at FMCA’s campground in Cincinnati for a small rally for those of us from the Northwest. Available on a first come, first served basis by emailing me.

I know many of you will be in Indio, California this year for the Western Area Rally; stop by the chapter fair tables and say Hi! We will be having a Northwest Area Gathering on Thursday, January 12, 2017, in the Queen’s Gallery immediately following the parade. Of course, there will be some snacks, just what the Northwest is famous for....food and friendship! We will also be heading over to Quartzite for the Big Tent and RV Show and doing some chapter visits in the area. Let us know if you are nearby and let’s plan on getting together.

Thank you for allowing me to represent you at the Area and National level. Send me any suggestions you may have and I will take your comments and ideas to the National Office. We all want to keep this great association on the right path to prosperity. Together we have accomplished so much over the past few years; with your continued support and suggestions, I know the Northwest Area will continue to lead at all levels of FMCA.

Take the time to remember in your thoughts and prayers those we have lost, those that are abroad and cannot be with their families. Give thanks to all those that have given up so much so that we can enjoy our freedom.

A big THANK YOU to your Northwest Area Team; Don & Barbara Schleuse, Bobbi Radford, Judie & Jerry Lehenbauer, Dennis & Martie Martin, Bill & Dana Chambers, and my husband, Andy, for continuing to support me by visiting chapters and most of all, keeping me on the straight and narrow. To all of you that I have spoken to during our visits, thank you for your kind words and support, **you** are what make the Northwest Area a great area. I want to once again thank our webmaster, Sandie Blakley, for making our website, <http://www.fmcanw.org/>, one of the best. Please visit it often for the latest information on rallies and other interesting items.

Andy and I hope your holidays are happy and safe no matter where you may be. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a very Happy New Year to all!

*Kathie*