

FRVA SOUTHEAST AREA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL MEETING

MARCH 15, 2025, 3:30PM AT PERRY, GA

Call to order by Bill Dees, President. Invocation by Jim Hollis. Pledge of Allegiance led by Domingo Soto.

Establishment of a quorum:

Quorum requirement according to the Bylaws of the Southeast Area Motor Coach Association, Inc. Article VII - Voting. #1. A quorum for the purpose of transacting business at any duly called meeting shall be a simple majority of the Executive board and one-quarter (1/4) of the Board of Directors. Eight of the nine members of the Executive Board are present. Seventeen of the 34 National Directors were in attendance.

To allow our National President, Paul Mitchell, to swear in our Executive Board Officers, this item of business was moved up from New Business. Bob Nebel, Chairman of the Nominating Committee presented the Candidate Consent Forms (attached) for the slate of officers for SEA 2025-2027: Senior Vice President, Domingo Soto, Secretary, Gaye Young, Treasurer, Randal Caruthers, Alabama VP, Jim Duncan, North Florida VP, Kimberly Farrell, Central Florida VP, Laurie Wilson, South Florida VP, Rosie Deffinbaugh, Georgia VP Jan Hollis and Mississippi VP, Rhonda Kleinpeter. There were no nominations from the floor. As such, these nominees were elected by acclamation. Bill Dees thanked Bob Nevel and his committee, Kathie Bruhn, Jim Mattern, Brenford Mickey and Pam Caruthers for serving on the nominating committee for the 2025-2027 term.

Minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed and were approved and filed as submitted.

Treasurer's Report by Randal Caruthers, SEA Treasurer. SEA Area is doing very well. The checking account has a balance of \$179,901.05. Our CD balance is \$207,636.17 and will be rolled over to a current rate of 4.0% this month.

President's Report by Bill Dees, SEA President. Presented a summary of his activities from February 2024 to March 2025. A copy is attached to these minutes.

Report of the Vice Presidents:

Alabama – Jim Duncan: The Carolina Gamecocks are represented but their National Director and Alternate National Director are not here. He thanked everyone for attending this convention. There are 13 members from the N. Alabama RV'ers here. They signed up three new members at the chapter fair. Coaches for Christ have a rally scheduled soon. The Magnolia Travelers had a conflict with their local chapter rally and are not here.

Central Florida – Laurie Wilson: Introduced herself.

South Florida – Rosie Defenbaugh: Introduced herself and thanked all the volunteers who work the seminars.

North Florida – Kimberly Farrell: Introduced herself and shared that she has visited a couple of her chapters.

Georgia – Jan Hollis: Is new to this position and introduced herself.

Mississippi – Ronda Kleinpeter: Introduced herself.

Senior VP – Domingo Soto: Introduced himself.

Immediate Past President – Patricia Voyna: Was recognized by Bill Dees

Old Business:

By Laws committee: Carolyn Dees, Betty Duncan and Gary Smith. Bill asked the committee to wait until the re-branding and name change has been completed before submitting proposed updates to include the correct names.

Audit Committee: Kimberly Farrell and her committee, Robin Slabe and Fred Deffenbaugh completed the audit on March 15, 2025, for fiscal year October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024. It is their opinion that revenues and expenses reviewed appear to be in order and the financial position of the association is accurately reported. Their report is on file.

New Business:

Bill Dees paid tribute to three past officers who took their final trip this past year:

- Tom Eller passed away September 10, 2024. He was SEA President 2009-2011
- George Schipper passed away September 20, 2024. He was SEA President 2003-2007
- Marvin Voyna passed away November 21, 2024. He was Georgia Regional VP 2021-2024

Bill asked for our prayers to the following members who are experiencing major health challenges:

Jim Hollis, National & SEA Chaplain, Jim Duncan, Alabama VP, Gary Milner, Past National President and Gary Hill, husband of our past SEA Secretary, Sue Hill, and Webmaster/Registration/Information Captain and computer expert for SEA

Bill Dees presented anniversary certificates to the following chapters:

- First Responders – 5 years
- Frost-Tees – 10 years
- Gulf Coast Pelicans - 30 years
- Suwannee Valley Vagabonds – 35 years
- Roamin' Rigs- 35 years (Recognized but not present)
- The Challengers – 35 years
- Gulf Coasters – 40 years
- Florida Sun Coasters - 40 years

Future FRVA international rallies are in Gillette, WY in July. We will be back in Perry, GA in March of 2026 and in Sedalia, MO in July. We will be returning to Perry, GA in March of 2027 and again in Gillette, WY in July of 2027.

Our SEA rally will be held February 4-7, 2026

Closing Remarks/Comments from the floor:

Bill Dees encouraged everyone to join a chapter and become involved with FRVA. He shared some information related to FRVA business. In July our CEO, Chris Smith, left the organization. Per the By-Laws, the organization will be run by a Management Committee consisting of Bill Dees, James McDaniel, Charlie Adcock, Paul Mitchell and Bob Weithofer until an Executive Director can be hired. Bill Dees is also serving on another committee designed to evaluate staff responsibilities at corporate.

Our Marketing Director also resigned and has been replaced by Meagan Butler, bringing in a younger generation of new ideas and enthusiasm. Jim Hollis commented "Connection comes before commitment."

Joining us here in Perry are the stars of RV There Yet, Kevin and Patrice McCabe. They have 11 million viewers of the Discovery Channel's 88 million households and are filming an episode of their show right here at our convention. We are excited to be partnering with them. Watch the show on May 10th, you may be on TV.

We are dropping our association with Harvest Hosts and are now partnering with RV Overnights. Look for their booth in the vendor hall.

The dues increase has not affected our retention or bottom line.

Comments from the floor included a question of why we are still having two International Conventions a year when we are losing money on them. The Governing Board voted to keep having a convention in the East area and West area each year. A comment was made that we need more personal contact. Bob Nevel commented that many of our members are "aging out" and are enjoying local travel only

Meeting adjourned at 4:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Dees

Carolyn Dees, Acting SEA Secretary