

~~ **HAPPY HOLIDAYS** ~~

The Official Newsletter of the Coach House Owners' Club

# CHOCTALK

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www.coachhouserv.com

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings from Illinois.

Since this is my first letter as your president, I would like to tell you how Bill and I got involved in CHOC. We bought our Coach House in 2004 and did not join CHOC for several years. We took a few trips and then felt that to get the most from buying a Coach House we needed to become club members. Our first rally was Gettysburg and we had a wonderful time and felt very welcome. We have been attending as many rallies as possible since then and have found each of them to be a lot of fun and very interesting. By joining CHOC we have travelled to many places we probably would not have visited on our own, made many new and dear friends and learned so much from so many owners. It is a privilege to now be serving as your president.

One of the first things I want to do is to thank Carole for her leadership as president the last four years. When you see her at the next rally, please take a moment and personally thank her for her service.

I can hardly believe that it has been nearly a month since the rally in Mystic. As always, it was planned and organized so well by Phyllis. Mystic Seaport was a wonderful autumn location and we had perfect weather the whole time! Each of the venues we went to were interesting and you always learn something about the local culture and history, but the best part of any rally is the camaraderie and the chance to see old friends and meet new friends. If you have not taken the opportunity to attend a rally please consider doing so and I know, from my own experience, that you will have a wonderful time and will come back as often as possible.

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We hope to see you at our Spring rally in Nashville, Tennessee. Phyllis will let us all know the details as soon as she has them finalized.

As the holidays draw near I hope you are able to spend time with family and friends and cherish that time together. Also, please keep those less fortunate in your thoughts. Maybe, as you are buying food, purchase a little extra for a donation to a local food pantry or shelter.

Remember to "Find joy in the ordinary" – Max Lucado

We'll talk again soon,

Melody



## Get to Know Our New CHOC President, Melody Thompson

CHOC's new president, Melody Thompson was born in New Orleans, LA and moved to Wisconsin when she was four. She attended the University of Wisconsin at Lacrosse where she majored in Psychology. After college she moved to Illinois and began working in Computer Operations for ATT Bell Laboratories.

Melody married her husband, Bill, in 1970. They have one daughter, Jennifer. After the birth of her daughter, Melody worked as a mother and homemaker until her daughter was a junior in high school. At that time she began a 20 year career with The Girl Scouts where her job titles included Director of Membership, Director of Innovations, Director of Adult Development, and Director of Council Diversity. All positions were in support of the Girl Scouts of DuPage County Council.

Melody and Bill have been Rving for about 8 years. They had been avid tent campers for many years, a love that their daughter still shares today. Melody and Bill's first RV was the one that they are still driving: a 2004 Platinum 232XL. Most of their travels have been in the Eastern states. Recently, one of the focuses of the Thompsons' travels has been a search for an area in which to relocate. They have narrowed their search to the New Hampshire area, where they headed after the Mystic rally. Melody says that they are not in a hurry. They'll keep looking until they find the perfect place.

Melody and Bill joined CHOC in 2007 at the Gettysburg Rally. Since then they have attended many CHOC rallies. Melody says that she loves that the rallies have taken them to places that they wouldn't normally go. Her favorite rallies were the ones at Gettysburg and Mystic. "Each rally brings out the unique offerings of the area, and that's what makes each one special," she says. Her favorite activity is the Pot Luck dinners when she has the opportunity to "greet old friends, meet new friends, and enjoy great food and conversation."



Sally Grissom– Secretary

## Former CHOC President Carole Berry

I want to use this opportunity to thank everyone for allowing me to serve as your president for the last four years. It was a positive learning experience in so many ways. Being president was a big step for me and because of your kind comments and encouragement I was able to get up in front of everyone at each rally. CHOC truly is my extended family. I know everyone will show that same support to Melody Thompson as she starts her term as president. She is a very positive person and will serve the club well. I also want to thank all of our board members for not only helping me but for all the wonderful work they do for all of you. I wish everyone had the opportunity to serve on the board at least once to see all the work that goes into putting on a rally. Most of us take it for granted. Thanks to all the folks who volunteer to help out and keep things running smoothly at the start and the end of each rally. I look forward to seeing everyone at future rallies and events for many years.



Carole Berry



## From the CHOC National Director...

You may or may not be aware that FMCA is divided into 10 Areas. CHOC is in the International (INTO) Area. Aside from the two annual rallies conducted by FMCA, each Area also holds a rally. Next year INTO will meet in Lebanon, TN from May 2-6. There will be seminars, vendor booths, vendor coaches, food and entertainment. Registration is expected to be \$195.

Our spring 2014 rally will also be in the Nashville area just prior to INTO's (April 26-30). I'm encouraging you to consider registering and attending both. I have been asked to coordinate volunteers to assist during the seminars held during the INTO Rally and I'd love to see some CHOC folk help me out. Registration for INTO will be on the FMCA website soon. If you'd be interested in helping or have questions, please contact me via email at [cmj3417@yahoo.com](mailto:cmj3417@yahoo.com). Either way, I hope you consider attending the CHOC and INTO rallies.

Chuck Johnson



## RALLY NEWS

The Spring Rally in Mystic, CT was attended by 26 coaches with 50 people. We enjoyed many of the activities that New England has to offer. One of the highlights was a sail on the Argia schooner. Even those who were a little apprehensive about being out on the water said it was the highlight of the rally for them.



The 2014 Spring Rally will be held in Nashville, TN. Reserve the dates of April 26-30. The decision was made to move the dates to the end of April for two reasons: 1) May dates seem to be in conflict with graduations and other family activities 2) These dates are just prior to the INTO rally. See the National Director article for more details about the INTO rally. Hopefully many of you will be able to attend both of these rallies. Once more details are available, the registration forms will be sent. These forms will come via email unless you do not have an email address on the CHOC roster. Those without emails will receive their registration forms via regular mail.

Thank you for your confidence in me as shown by electing me for another term as 2<sup>nd</sup> VP/Rally Coordinator. Once this term (2 years) is finished, I will be term limited and **will not** be agreeable to accepting the position if no one else steps forward. I do believe that 4 years as secretary and 5 years as rally coordinator will be enough for now. That being said, I encourage you to thoughtfully consider stepping up and putting your name forward as rally coordinator. I will be more than willing during my term these next two years to work with you and help you become comfortable with coordinating a rally. Please feel free to contact me any time to discuss rally coordinator duties.

See you in Nashville!! Phyllis Johnson, [paj0414@yahoo.com](mailto:paj0414@yahoo.com) 850-866-8735



## CHOC Treasurer

Well, another year has flown by and that means it's time again to pay our annual CHOC membership dues. I want to remind everyone that they are due in January and, per CHOC bylaws, must be paid by April 15th to avoid being dropped from membership. Dues are \$25 per coach and checks should be made payable to CHOC.

Please mail your checks to:

Terry Berry 4244 Powderhorn Court Middleburg, FL 32068

For those who were not at the Mystic, CT., Rally I brought along an example of a CHOC plaque for your coach. I had told our badge supplier what I had in mind and asked her what she could do and what a ballpark price might be. She went beyond that and actually sent me one with my CHOC number. It is the same size as the FMCA plaque, but not as thick, and is patterned after our CHOC badges. They are \$28 plus \$3 shipping. Although Platinums do not have ladders, with a little ingenuity you should be able to find a way to mount one. If you are interested, I can order one for you. Just send a check made, payable to CHOC, to me at the address shown above. Be sure to include your CHOC member number and the address you want it sent to.



CHOC Plaque

It had been decided at the Natchez Rally in the spring that when the CHOC charity fund reached \$500 the club would make a charitable contribution to either the Shriners Hospitals for Children or Steppin' Stone Farm (for at-risk teenage girls) and that the CHOC officers would decide which one and present their decision at the Mystic Rally. The decision was to donate \$500 to Steppin' Stone Farm and a check was mailed on November 15th. When the club charity fund again reaches \$500 a donation will be made to Shriners Hospitals for Children. For those who were not at either rally, or who did not have a chance to read the literature we had, the web site for information about Steppin' Stone Farm is [www.steppinestonefarm.com](http://www.steppinestonefarm.com).

Finally, once again, don't forget your 2014 dues! Happy Holidays to all. Carole and I look forward to seeing you at the Nashville rally in the spring.

Terry Berry





## **Happy Holiday's from Coach House to all our wonderful CHOC members!!!**

My Dad always told us how fast time flies. He would remind us that the older we get the faster it goes. This was something as a kid I could not understand, but certainly looking back I can honestly say, where did the time go? I was looking around my garage the other day and noticed some Christmas decorations that were never put away in the attic from last year and thought what the heck, why put them away now, I'll be putting them back up in just a couple weeks. Time does go by quickly, too quickly. I have a son that is now a senior in high school and two that are in middle school. It's truly hard to believe. As the Holiday's get closer and as time marches on, it becomes more important to remind ourselves what is truly important in our lives. To me it's family, business, employees and all of the wonderful people we have met over the past 29 years.

This year has been the best year ever for Coach House, Inc. Our facilities are running at near capacity and we are considering expanding. We have made many improvements to our products, employ a wonderful workforce, have excellent customers and in our opinion build the best motor homes available in the Industry. In college I learned, in sales and marketing, you need at least 4 things in business to be successful; you need the right product, in the right place, at the right time, for the right price. Maybe some could argue these points, but we are convinced these principals work. As we look toward 2014 we are excited about our progress and what the future holds. They say you can't buy a reputation it must be earned and although we have our problems, we stand behind our products not only in a professional but in a personal way.

Our factory rally is set for January 10th- 12th just prior to the Tampa RV Supershow. We are getting close to our goal of selling out but there are still a few spots left. Although this event is a lot of work it also gives us great pleasure in seeing our dear friends, meeting new ones and showing off our new creations.

If we can't see you during the rally, please keep in touch with us. We really love your stories, your travels and especially your pictures. We hope you have a wonderful Holiday Season and enjoy your family and friends.

Sincerely,

Steve Gerzeny

Vice President

Coach House, Inc.

Coach House Owner' Club Chapter FMCA  
Coach House, Inc.  
3480 Technology Drive  
Nokomis, FL 34275

## Welcome New Members

The President and Board Of Directors welcome our newest members: Jim and Jackie Forbes– FL, Bob and Claudia Silverman– FL, We invite them to attend our rallies, participate in activities and meet our members .

Membership Officer– Karon Millonzi

