



International Fellowship of Motorcycling Rotarians

North American Chapter (IFMR-NA)

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-- IFMR-NA President's Newsletter --

Chapter President

Robert D. Shriner
7347 Stuart Circle
Warrenton, VA 20187
540-349-8193
bob@shriner.com

Preparing for New Orleans 2011

Planning for IFMR participation in the 2011 RI convention in New Orleans is moving ahead briskly. In early October I named an IFMR-NA Convention Planning Team headed by IFMR-NA **Secretary Ken Brandt**, to plan, organize, and coordinate arrangements and activities, including possible rides before, during, and after the convention.

Other members of the team include IFMR-NA Membership Registrar **Jean Dores**; **Bill Fee**, from Tucson, AZ; **Allen Leggett**, from Berkeley, CA.; **Bob Mutchler**, from Folsom, CA; and **David Phelps**, from Chicago, IL, I have also recruited **Herb Brickson**, a past district governor of District 6840 and past member of the New Orleans Rotary Club to assist the team in making local contacts.

A major part of our plan for the 2011 convention will be rides to New Orleans that raise awareness and promote contributions to Rotary's POLIO PLUS campaign by riders who pledge amounts per mile for their ride to New Orleans and also raise pledges from their local clubs, club members, and friends, all payable to the Rotary Foundation POLIO PLUS fund.

Three different ride groups – funneling riders from the west and northwest, from the central region, and from the east and northeast – are in the works. Imagine the publicity value of all three groups of motorcycles arriving in New Orleans at the same time!

These and other plans are being discussed with RI leaders and 2011 RI Convention Promotion Committee chair Carolyn Jones, all of whom have offered their strong encouragement and support to help make this IFMR effort for POLIO Plus a big success. You'll hear more about it as details are worked out. Meanwhile, **mark your calendar and plan to ride to New Orleans.**

Membership Update & Dues Collection

For the past several months, Membership Registrar **Jean Dores** has been working steadily to consolidate the various lists of IFMR-NA members from the IFMR-NA.org website, the IFMR-NA Yahoo Groups registry, and the list of previous dues-paying members. That proved to be a far more difficult task than originally envisioned since many listings on the website and Yahoo Groups registry contained only an alias and an email address, many of which were no longer valid addresses. In some cases, matches could be found between the various lists; but often it was impossible, so that she was left only with an alias and a no-longer-valid email address but no real name or mailing address. And only a small fraction of those whom she could identify had paid dues in the past two years.

Using the information she was able to compile, Jean began in August sending out letters and emails to everyone she could identify, asking them to update their membership information and pay annual dues for 2010-11, and promising to send copies of an updated directory to those who paid their dues. As of the end of October she had received dues payments and membership information forms from about one-third of the people for whom she had valid email or postal addresses, and had compiled a directory that includes both 'active' (ie, have paid 2010-11 dues) and 'inactive' IFMR-NA members.

If you have paid your dues and updated your membership information, you'll soon be receiving a copy of the updated directory by mail or email. If you haven't yet paid your dues and updated your membership information, use the attached form to do so and you will then receive the updated directory.

International website

www.IFMR.org

North American Chapter

www.IFMR-NA.org

IFMR-NA 2009-10 Financial Report

IFMR-NA Treasurer **Hal James** recently provided officers and advisory board members with the IFMR-NA financial report for 2009-10. It shows that the organization is solvent and prudent, not over-spending with its limited resources.

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Financial Report
7/1/09 to 6/30/10

Starting Balance	7/1/2009	\$2,657.22
Dues		\$1,368.50
Interest Income		\$1.88
Deposits		\$0.00
Total Income		\$1,370.38
1016 Copy Shop - Newsletter		\$506.51
1017 Postage - pins to members		\$48.11
1018 Identity Custom Emblems		\$1,517.04
1019 Copy Shop - Newsletter		\$214.12
Total Expenses		\$2,285.78
Ending Balance	6/30/2010	\$1,741.82

It also shows that IFMR-NA needs to do a better job of collecting dues from its members in order to sustain its basic level of service and activities. Reported expenses have been exclusively for the printing of the newsletter, IFMR-NA lapel pins given to new members, and related postage. Club officers and advisors have voluntarily paid any other expenses out of their personal funds, such as other postage, telephone charges, printing of photos and other promotional materials used in the IFMR-NA booth at the Montreal convention, etc.

An effort to update the membership roster and collect dues from members more systematically has been implemented and is starting to show results; but more needs to be done in order for IFMR-NA to have the funds needed to support an updated website, more printed promotional material, etc. Largely to help meet this need, annual dues have been increased from \$15 to \$20 per year as of mid-September 2010.

“Fall Foliage” Get-Together



Twenty-two IFMR-NA riders from six eastern and mid-Atlantic states, along with their passengers, had a great weekend get-together and fall foliage ride at Hazleton, PA, October 22-24. The event was organized and hosted by **Bill Genetti** and his fellow motorcycling members of the Hazleton Rotary Club. Using the facilities of Bill's Genetti Best Western Inn & Suites as the home base of the event, it included a welcoming reception and 'Happy Hour' buffet on Friday evening, a 250 mile loop ride thru the nearby Susquehanna River valley and the Endless Mountain region on Saturday, with a luxurious fellowship dinner on Saturday evening at the "Top of the 80s" Restaurant overlooking the lights of the beautiful Conyngham valley.

While the weather was a sunny but nippy 33° when the group assembled at 8:15 AM for a riders meeting, it soon warmed up and was a balmy 75° soon after lunch time. The roads were great, the weather was great, the fall foliage was near its peak and absolutely spectacular, and the fellowship was fabulous to boot. "Great!", "Wonderful!" "Fantastic!" "Best Ever!" were probably the most often heard words at the Saturday evening dinner and the Sunday morning brunch at Genetti's as riders prepared to head for home, vowing to return for the next regional get-together set for Altoona, PA, next May, which will be organized and hosted by Altoona Honda dealer **Steve Selzer** and his Rotary colleagues.

Below is a photo taken at one of the 'high points' of the Saturday ride – Hyner View – 1300 feet above the floor of the Susquehanna River valley below.

