August 20, 2012

--- IFMR-NA President’s Newsletter ---

**COMING EVENTS**

- **September 7-8:** No Polio! Rally, Sacramento-Folsom-Roseville, CA. Contact Bob Mutchler, Rpmutchler@aol.com for more details, or go to www.bestbits.org/no-polio/.
- **September 8:** Rotary Ride for Ronald McDonald House, Olds, Alberta. Contact Jim Prizeman, oldscomm@telusplanet.net for details or go to www.rotaryrideforronald.com.
- **September 13-16:** Outer Banks Ride, Manteo, NC. For more details contact Carlton Pernell, carltonpernell@aol.com.
- **October 12-14:** IFMR Fall Get-Together, Townsend, TN, Smoky Mountains and Tail of the Dragon’ (Rt 129). See flyer attached. For more details contact Tom Kale, tskale@epbfi.com.


---Looking Back, Looking Ahead---

While the US and global economies both continue to struggle, IFMR-NA has made real and significant progress in the past year (2011-12). Membership director Jean Dores tells me that membership has increased from 150 at the start of July 2011 to 210 at the end of July 2012. That includes 14 new members who have joined since the beginning of January 2012. (See a list of the newest members later in this newsletter.)

Jean attributes much of the increase to greater awareness of IFMR among Rotarians due to exposure at the annual RI conventions in Montreal and New Orleans where we had booths in the House of Friendship in 2010 and 2011, as well as increased word-of-mouth promotion by existing members around the country. I’m particularly pleased to see that we have attracted a growing number of new members from various parts of Canada. However, there are still several areas of the US and Canada where we don’t have a single member yet, so we still have more work to do.

IFMR Treasurer Hal James also reports that our financial position has continued to improve. His annual financial report, which is attached, shows that our fund balance has risen from $4,027 on 1 July 2011 to $7,182 on 30 June 2012. Total expenses for the year were only $635, mostly in web hosting and credit card fees. Since our inventory of pins, patches, and decals

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had been purchased previously, we did not need to make additional purchases this year; and postage expenses were negligible because most communications was done by phone and internet, or donated by those involved.

The steady improvement in our overall financial situation made it possible for us to make significant improvements in our website and implement on-line credit card payment for dues, which in turn improved the renewal and dues payment rates still further. That would not have been possible if it hadn't been for the efforts of Membership Director Jean Dores and Treasurer Hal James to complete the task of cleaning up and reorganizing our membership records and dues processing practices. It's also improved our ability to communicate with ALL our members, though we still have some difficulties staying in contact with those who don't use email regularly.

The improvement in our financial position has also made it possible for us to begin moving forward with plans to offer a few items of IFMR-branded merchandise beyond pins, patches, and decals. Long-time IFMR-NA Secretary Ken Brandt agreed to take on a new assignment as our Merchandise Director and will be announcing plans for a few new items that we've received repeated requests for. Stay tuned for that! You can also send your suggestions and requests for specific items to Ken at keystnken@aol.com.

This year we've also begun the process of creating a cadre of state- and district-level regional 'Ride Guides' to help spread the word about IFMR, organize and lead local rides, and work with the IFMR-NA Executive Council to continue building and strengthening the organization and provide a group of future leaders for the organization.

While all this work has been getting done, we've also had plenty of opportunities for the most important part of our Rotary fellowship – getting together to enjoy some great riding and getting acquainted with other Rotarians who share our interest in motorcycling. I've personally had the pleasure of participating in four IFMR rides since July 2011 – in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Arkansas – and I have two others on my calendar in September (the Outer Banks of North Carolina) and October (the Great Smoky Mountains and Tail of the Dragon in Tennessee), both listed on the “COMING EVENTS” calendar on page 1 of this newsletter. I'll hope to see you at one of these, if you can make it. Better yet, I urge you to organize a ride or get-together in your area; and I'll help you publicize it then do my best to attend, if it's at all possible.

New Members Added to IFMR Roster Since Start of 2012

Since January 1 IFMR-NA has added a total of 14 new members. Here are their names and home towns.

Michael Atkins, Meaford, ON (Canada))
Noel Beard, Jacksonville, IL
Curt Dennison, Washington, MO
Don Flowers, Dahlonega, GA
Myron Fox, Rochester, NY
Michelle Gascoigne, Zumbrota, MN
Art Lyons, Onalaska, WI
Lawrence Neill, Jefferson City, MO
Patrick Oltmanns, Charlotte, NC
Clarke Paynter, East Preston, NS (Canada)
Clifford Ridilla, Latrobe, PA
Jack Shimko, Cornelius, NC
David Wahl, Brentwood, CA
Michael Wright, Rockwell, NC

Contact the ones in your area to say “Welcome” and get acquainted. If you haven't yet paid your 2012-13 dues and received your updated membership roster, go on-line and pay your dues and Membership Director Jean Dores will email you the latest IFMR roster.

Part of IFMR group on ‘Ozarks Adventure Ride’ organized by Raymond Plue & Hal James in mid-July