



Illinois Campers On Mission

May 2024

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President's Letter—

Hello COM family,

Another month is gone. It went by so fast!

It was great to see everyone at Lake Sallateeska last week. I want to thank everyone for the help in getting the list completed and we were even able to add a few more things. It was also very good to see Brock, Polly and Myles again. They are working hard at the camp making it look so much better, especially after some of the storms they have had down there. We worked as a good team! Yah!

Please continue to keep John and Francie in your prayers as they go through this time of grief.

I hope to see everyone in Streator next month. I know it is a long ways north but so worthwhile and they need the help like Lake Sallateeska does. We will have the project list soon.

Matthew 18:20

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Fred



COM Officers

President—Fred Riley, 618-508-3917, paulakriley45@hotmail.com
 Vice-President (Project Manager) - Richard Evans, 618-218-4546, akrlevans1@gmail.com
 Secretary—Karen Mowers, 309-945-3971, kcc61254@gmail.com
 Treasurer—Dick Mowers, 309-945-1477, 728 Cardinal Ct., Geneseo, IL 61254

Project report – Lake Sallateeska April 21 – 26**Present: 40**

Leroy & Irma Burnett , Jim & Marilyn Diercks, Aeris, James, Logan, Sky, Joanne, Ella and Eve, Richard & Anita Evans, Bryan & Terri Keller, Doug & Suzy Kingsbury, Don & Jan Kragness, Randy & Kay McClellan, Sondra McKenzie, George & Penny Meese, Cindy Minard, Dick & Karen Mowers, Emil Nattier, Pattie Noeth, Terry & Debbie Odum, Ken & Marty Ramsey, Fred & Paula Riley, Cathryn St. Dennis, Andy & Marilyn Thomson and Gary & Karen Watson.

Projects completed:

Build privacy fence around septic take at Inn
 Build privacy fence around entrance to public bathrooms
 Do repairs to the ramps at the Inn on both sides on the south end
 Finish trim work in the kitchen
 Finish baseboard molding in the kitchen and hallway
 Clean and seal concrete floors in Emlings
 Put down baseboard in Emling
 Fix trim on the windows and doors in Emling
 Fix door threshold in Emling
 Help remove old dock and put in new dock in the lake
 Help with plumbing for the new camper spots up front
 Take down, wash and put back all the curtains in the dorm rooms
 Help switch out bedding in Inn rooms. Wash all winter blankets.
 Trim some trees, pick up and haul away branches
 Repair a water line for the campers
 Fixed the ladies restroom door in the dining hall
 Fixed ladies toilet handle in the dining hall
 Help repair Pattie Noeth's camper water heater
 Fixed shed door by the pool dock
 Worked on quilt for Baptist Children's Home auction in the fall
 Cleaned flower beds
 Assembled one rocking chair for Inn deck
 Installed a washer/dryer vent at the Inn
 Sewed As You Go Bears
 Sewed drawstring backpack bags for children and adults for Morningstar Mission
 Sewed large drawstring bags for Morningstar Mission
 Served 193 meals
 Mowed grass

Chaplain's Chatter—

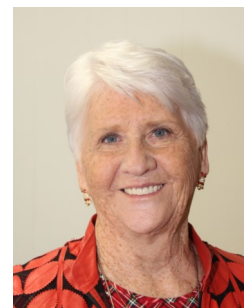
COM is in full swing for 2024 and the year has already been busy. So far this year we have had workers in Texas, Arkansas & Illinois.

There is no one more wise or compassionate to lead our group than the Lord. We are a group that loves the Lord & wants to be obedient to His will in our daily lives. We want to help where there is need & be able to profess our trust & faith in our Lord. We love telling others about our Savior and what He's done for us. We love you Lord in the good times as well as the trying times.

Psalm 96:3 **“Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples “**

Looking forward to the rest of the year.

Marilyn



General business meeting
Spring rally 2024

Present – Fred & Paula Riley, Richard & Anita Evans, Don & Jan Kragness, Andy & Marilyn Thomson, Gary & Karen Watson, George & Penny Meese, Terry & Debbie Odum, Leroy & Irma Burnett, Doug & Suzy Kingsbury, Dick & Karen Mowers, Bryan & Terri Keller, Randy McClellan, Cathryn St. Dennis, Marty Ramsey and Pattie Noeth.

Meeting opened at 7 pm by President Fred Riley. Marilyn Thomson lead in prayer.

The minutes of the fall combined meeting of the executive team and the general business meeting were read and approved. Don Kragness motion to accept, Randy McClellan second, motion passed.

Treasurers Report was given by Dick Mowers. He gave a Year End 2023 and YTD 2024 reports. Don Kragness motion to accept, George Meese second, motion passed.

Food report – nothing to report as COM year is just starting.

Project report was given by Richard Evans. He went over the list of projects for the 2024 COM season.

- A. April – being accomplished this week
Streator – Jacob is preparing a long list for us
June 3 – National Rally
June - Glen Ellyn
July – Morningstar
August – Baptist Children’s Home in Carmi. There is a new head maintenance man this year.
September – South Pekin – ceilings, shed painted, guttering, chair lift repair
Fall Fest – Baptist Children’s Home, date has been changed to Sept 21
October – Fall Rally
December – Christmas luncheon
- B. If anyone needs short term (one or two day) project work done, let Fred or him know so we can form some regional work teams for projects to get more done. There are several currently being done.

Chaplain’s report was given by Marilyn Thomson. She asked that anyone turn in any salvations or gospel presentations that we are part of if it is not being reported anywhere else. There were 16 last year.

Evangelism/sewing was presented by Anita Evans. COM ladies are busy, with several projects. Irma keeps track of the number of bears made but for praise reports, we were reminded that we need to individually write down the hours we spend at home buying fabric, sewing, getting materials delivered, etc. She also asked that COM members ask their churches for extra material they might have or flowers for use at the Passion Play. We have outreach places we are serving such as Morningstar Mission and several hospitals. Jan Kragness moved to accept, Don Kragness second, motion passed.

Regional Rep report was given by Don and Jan Kragness. Don and Jan have resigned the Regional Rep position for Region 4 but Tim and Gayle Jones have accepted the position. They are full time RV’ers but their home state is Michigan. Don and Jan will serve one more year to train them. Don also reported that last year at the National Rally, the Presidents voted to rewrite the COM manual. A committee has been involved in doing the review and the revisions. The manual has been updated and will be brought to the State Presidents at the National Rally. If it is adopted, it goes into effect immediately and if it is rejected, we will continue until a revision is accepted. Rick and Cindy Truesdail are currently the lead presidents from the 2023 National Rally and have been acting as Interim National Coordinators since the resignation of Jerry and Renee McGovern

Old Business –

Fair ministry – Jan was not able to get the research done at this time. This will be tabled for the future.

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2024 Tentative Schedule

- May 19—24 Streator Baptist Camp, Streator, IL
- June 3-7 COM National Rally, Elkhart, IN
- June 24—28 Community Baptist Church, Glen Ellyn, IL**
- July 21—26 Morningstar Mission, Joliet, IL
- Aug. 18—23 Baptist Children’s Home, Carmi, IL
- Sept. 21 Baptist Children’s Home Fall Rally (change of date on calendar)**
- Sept. 15 - 20 New Hope BC, South Pekin, 114 2nd St., Pekin
- Oct. 21-25 Fall Rally, Lake Sallateeska, Pinckneyville

Additional Dates at The Great Passion Play (See Don Kragness for info)

- Early November closing up the set, putting things away, doing repairs
- Jan. 2025 traveling to Piney Woods Camp, Texas



9	Dan	Golden
10	Harold	Booze
14	Don	Kragness
16	Larry & Pat	Boggs
21	Terry	Odum
23	James & Catherine	Rentfrow
28	Chloe	Page
31	Barb	Greaves



Continued from page 3

New business –

The 50th anniversary of Illinois COM will be next year. Leroy said two of the founding members are still alive.

The committee is asking for everyone to submit a photo of themselves in 1975.

Fred announced that COM needed a nominating committee for the 2025 officers. Anita Evans, Paula Riley and Karen Watson volunteered.

c. Fred read the IL COM Praise Report that he turned in to the Interim National Coordinator.

He felt a lot of the items were low because we did not turn in all of our work hours.

d. New membership applications have been put together with the revised application, the Statement of Faith and the Background Check papers.

COM clothing – Dick Mowers led a discussion about how to handle COM clothing. We are finding prices are raising quickly and many places we have used are either closed or require a minimum order or items. He asked members to bring any names to him that might be available to print clothes at a reasonable price. We will start ordering just 2 times per year unless it is an emergency and only shirts at this time unless we can find a good price.

Jan Kragness announced COM work week at the Passion Play this fall will start Nov 7 because of an extension of the play presentations this year. The spring work time will be March 30 – April 19, 2025 because of the date of Easter. She also announced that the Passion Play is so happy with our work with them that they are extending discounts for housing at the hotel, gifts and admission for all COM members at any time during the year.

Randy made motion to adjourn, Karen Watson second, motion passed. Marilyn Thomson closed in prayer.

SILVER SAINTS Overnight Camp June 7-8

FRIDAY 3:00 PM - SATURDAY 6:00 PM

LOCATION:

Streator Baptist Camp
1399 N 1659th Rd.
Streator, IL 61364

COST:

\$50
Per Person

This overnight adventure is designed for adults 55 and older to experience Church Camp for the first time, or for the first time in a long time. We will have old time worship, and Shannon Ford will bring the word. We plan to have great food, and lots of opportunities for fun and fellowship.

**To register and see the full schedule go to
IBSA.org/silversaints**

For questions and more info contact:

(815) 672-0084
TammyButler@IBSA.org
or
JacobKimbrough@IBSA.org



I know we work at the camps but how long has it been since you got to just go and relax and remember the fun you had as a child? Here is your opportunity to do just that. Jacob and Katie will be our hosts and it is conveniently scheduled so you can stop on your way home from National Rally.

WE DON'T HAVE TO WORK THIS WEEKEND but you will get to have a good time and see others enjoy the fruits of our labor! Please post this at your church, register with IBSA for yourself and encourage other Silver Saints to join you. (there is a \$5 convenience fee if you use a credit card on line) **[COME JOIN US AT Streator Baptist Camp!](#)***



**Campers on Mission
YTD Treasurers Report
March 31, 2024—end of first quarter**

Balance Savings 1-1-2024 **\$ 1506.74**
Balance Checking 1-1-2024 **\$ 2010.83**

Income:	YTD	Budget
Auction	\$ 0.00	\$3,000.00
Background Checks (income to have background checks done)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Christmas Luncheon	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Clothing	\$ 143.00	\$ 0.00
Donations	\$ 1,100.00	\$1,500.00
Misc.	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Total Income:	\$ 1,243.00	\$4,500.00

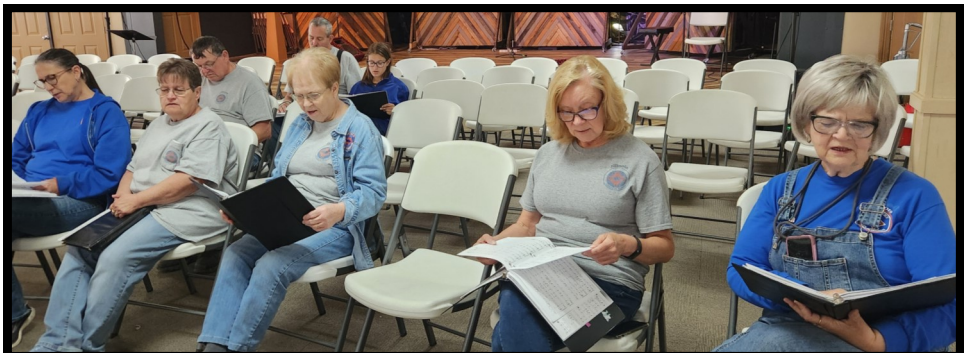
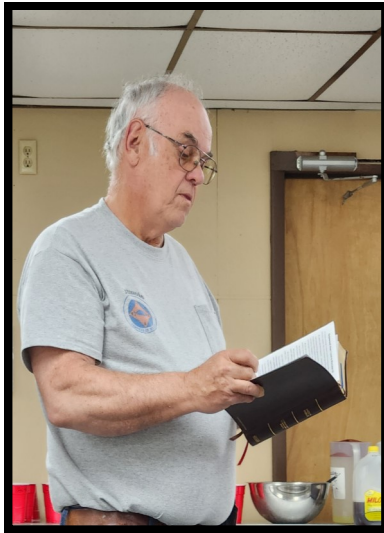
Expenses:	YTD	Budget
Background check expenses (processing fees with Christian Background Checks)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Clothing (purchase of magnets, clings, clothes)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
COM National Expenses donation - website & national coordinators	\$200.00	\$200.00
Entertainment	\$ 0.00	\$ 250.00
Evangelism supplies & materials (printing of evangelism cards, bear supplies)	\$ 0.00	\$ 500.00
Food (Spring Fling, Projects, Christmas Lunch, Fall Rally)	\$ 325.15	\$3,000.00
Memorials (5 memorial gifts of \$25 each)	\$ 125.00	\$ 0.00
Misc. (award plaques)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Postage	\$ 0.00	\$ 65.00
Region 4 support	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Work Project Expenses	\$ 0.00	\$ 500.00
Total Expenses	\$ 650.15	\$4,515.00

Balance Checking 3-31-2024 **\$ 2,099.59**

Balance Savings Account 3-31-2024 **\$ 2,010.83**

News Notes for National Rally

1. Registration closes on **May 1** so if you have not registered yet, do so ASAP. There are 83 adults registered at this time. Be watching for your registration receipt after May 1.
2. Indiana DR teams have volunteered to serve lunches at the rally for a donation. If you are planning to eat meals at noon, please let Jerry Miller, jdbcmil@yahoo.com know so they can plan.
3. Check the National COM website for the tentative rally schedule and information.



Illinois Campers on Mission
National Praise Report

Total Members in Chapter (Active): 50

Members involved in projects: 44

% of membership involved: 80%

Hours donated: 15,840 hours

Professions of Faith: 16

Rededications: 10

Other decisions: 0

Bibles/Scriptural tracts distributed: 1150

Personal Testimonies shared/devotions held: 1300

Total number of projects/events: 130

Bible studies/VBS held: 35

Churches built/repaired/maintained: 5

Church plants supported: 4

Christian Camps built/repaired/maintained: 6

Children's homes ministries: 3

Campground ministries: 4

College ministries: 4

Conference center ministries: 3

Fairs/festivals/other special events: 3

Convention or trade show booth: 2

Revivals, surveys: 0

Disaster Relief, recovery work: 63

Seamen's ministry: 0

Raceway ministries: 0

Sewing Ministry: 350

Food ministry: 70

Other types of projects/events: 720

Other types of projects/events: 180 dolls

Other types of projects/events: 65 Frisbees

Other types of projects/events: 20 pillowcases, 100 large drawstring bags for homeless

Speaking of celebrating birthdays and singing the very familiar Happy Birthday song, I have heard a slightly different version that touched my heart. It was sung by children in a restaurant at a birthday gathering:

**Happy birthday to you, only one will not do,
Take Christ as your Savior, and then you'll have two.**

WOW! What an opening for a salvation discussion by children or adults. Those seated around and serving the group looked at them—some with smiles, some with questions and all with the understanding these children knew something special. Try singing it sometime and see if it will open up an opportunity for you to have a conversation about Christ.



What does the Campers on Mission emblem mean?

The Campers on Mission emblem was designed to provide opportunities to witness about your faith in Jesus Christ.

The design:

- *A fish encircled by a compass, promotes conversation. The fish, an early Christian symbol, denotes personal acceptance of Jesus as Savior.
- *The compass star symbolizes the expanse of God's creation and reminds members that, wherever they roam, God is present as they seek Him.
- *The circle surrounding the design represents God's eternal existence and bountiful love for all people.
- *Another benefit of the distinctive emblem is that members displaying it are easily identified by one another so they can join together in Christian fellowship as they go.
- *Members are encouraged to wear the Campers on Mission shirt, vest, hat and/or jacket and to display the emblem on their vehicle during work projects and as they travel.

Be Encouraged as COM Members—God always has a job for you

James 12: 22—25 ²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if any one is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who observes his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer that forgets but a doer that acts, he shall be blessed in his doing.

Be workers, prayers, encouragers of others, write letters, give a blessing to others, be kind, be a good example—there is always a job no matter your age as a Christian.