



Illinois Campers On Mission

March 2025

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President's Letter—

Hello COM Family,

Hope everyone had a Happy Valentines day!!! The year is flying fast as March approaches.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at Lake Sallateeska on March 14 & 15. We need to have some fun and talk through the coming year and plan the 50th Celebration. Remember to give me or Karen a call, text or email if you are coming so we can plan for food and have enough hotel rooms available.

This has been a hard winter with so many illnesses, deaths, health crisis situations and weather challenges for us all in some way. Thank you for your faithful prayer for our brothers and sisters and their families. Please continue to lift them in prayer and our COM year as we begin again.

I hope you are all starting to dream about getting out your camper and getting it ready to be used by the Lord this year. With all the RV and camping shows that are happening, it makes me ready to get out our rigs and at least start checking them over for the spring and summer.

I also want to make a final plea to you all—if you have not submitted your Praise Report, please do it immediately. Time is rapidly running out to get the information to National COM so we can be included in the report at National Rally.

1 Thessalonians 5-11

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Fred



COM Officers

President—Fred Riley, 618-508-3917, paulakriley45@hotmail.com

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Historian - Irma Burnett, 309-253-8557

National Coordinators—Rick & Cindy Truesdail, campersonmission72@gmail.com

National website: campersonmission.org

2005 Tentative Schedule

March 14 & 15

Winter Fling, Lake Sallateeska

March 30 – April 19

The Great Passion Play (see Don & Jan)

April 21 – 25

Lake Sallateeska & Spring Business meeting & Auction

*Easter is April 20 so we will come in on Monday

May 18 – 23

Streator Baptist Camp

June 3-5, 2025

National Rally, Aiken, South Carolina

July 20 – 25

MorningStar Mission, Joliet

August 17 – 22

Baptist Children's Home at Carmi

September 14-19

SICC, Makanda, IL & Fall Business Meeting

September 20

Baptist Children's Home Fall Fest

October 4

IL COM 50th Anniversary Celebration, IBSA Building,
Springfield—11 am gathering reception, noon lunch, 1 pm program

Dec. 6

Christmas Luncheon, Farina FBC



2	Harold Mills
11	Pattie Noeth
23	Richard & Anita Evans
24	Linda Riley
26	Allexys Bonnell
27	Betty Riley
30	Glen & Eileen Ansley



**YEAH! Camping season
is almost here!**

Housing Options for National Rally 2025

The SC COM president's advice on where would be a good area to stay for either hotel or B&B for the National Rally.

1. Hotels closest to the fairgrounds are on I 20. There are only 2 hotels and the reviews are not very good for either of them but he has not seen them personally. There are some hotels at the next exit on I 20 past the Aiken exit that might be better and they are not far. He said Whiskey Road is a good area and fairly close to the fairgrounds.
2. There are no cabins or any accommodations at the fairgrounds other than for campers. He said the camper sites are not really great but should work ok for our week. The camper spots are very narrow and were designed for small trailers like would be used by people who work the fair. There is a state park campground that is pretty close and you might want to check into it.
3. Aiken is a fairly small town and it is about 15 – 20 minutes from the fairgrounds. There are not many hotels there but you can check into it.
4. There seem to be quite a few Vrbo and B&B listings available fairly reasonably priced and some large enough to share with other couples if you want to split costs. He said they often fill up because of all the events in the area in the summer. They are not necessarily cheaper than staying in a hotel but it is a little more comfortable and private. His strongest advice was make sure you check the reviews and check the dates on the reviews.

**If you have questions, you can call Art Zawislak at
803-645-5906.**



A Season of Lent

This year, in 2025, Ash Wednesday is recognized on Wednesday, March 5. The day also marks the beginning of Lent, which lasts 40 days, and ends on another Christian observance, Holy Thursday.

Holy Thursday is on April 17 in 2025 and Lent officially ends at sundown. Good Friday is April 18 and Easter is observed on Sunday, April 20.

Prepare your hearts for this blessed season as we remember the sacrifice that Jesus made for us to bring us salvation.

Campers On Mission National Rally Registration Form
Western Carolina State Fairgrounds, Aiken, SC June 3-5, 2025

Last Name _____ First _____ Spouse _____
Address _____ Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Phone _____ Spouse Phone _____
Member of _____ State COM Chapter _____ Region _____ Email _____

Additional Guests Children _____ Ages _____ Adults _____ Names _____
Children ages 4-12 are welcome to join the great program planned just for them.

Emergency Contact Name _____ **Phone** _____

Registration Fee (per unit) \$40.00 **\$ 40.00** _____

Registration should be mailed prior to April 1, 2025

After April 1, 2025, register at the gate upon arrival.

Camping Space is limited, register early to secure a site. **Numerous hotels in the area.**

Camping Fee: \$40 per night 30 amp _____ nights @ \$40/night \$ _____
\$45 per night 50 amp _____ nights @ \$45/night \$ _____

Dates Arrival _____ Departure _____

RV Type: MH _____ Class C _____ TT _____ 5th wheel _____ RV length _____

Early arrivals welcome, add to nights above. To stay longer, contact Arthur Zawislak

President's Luncheon: President & Spouse Business Meeting/Luncheon

Circle one President VP Regional Rep Delegate
Moloney Building Wednesday, June 4, 2025 12 noon # @ \$18 per plate \$ _____

Evening Meal Tuesday – Thursday @ 5 pm \$18 per adult & \$9 per child

Tuesday # Adults _____ # Children _____ \$ _____

BBQ Pork and Fried Chicken

Wednesday # Adults _____ # Children _____ \$ _____

Meatloaf and Grilled Chicken Tenders

Thursday # Adults _____ # Children _____ \$ _____

Country Fried Steak and Fried Chicken

No refunds on meals after May 1, 2025

Rally T-Shirts \$18 each S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____ XXXL _____
Total T-shirt cost \$ _____

No refunds on T-shirts No T-shirt purchase after April 15

TOTAL OF ALL FEES \$ _____

You will receive a confirmation receipt.

COM CHAPTERS: Table for display of information

If Table needed contact Arthur Zawislak

In case of illness or emergency, requests for refunds must be made to Arthur Zawislak no later than May 15.

QUESTIONS?: Arthur Zawislak, 803-645-5906 or arteryz@yahoo.com

MAIL registration form and money:

Arthur Zawislak, PO BOX 4293, Leesville, SC 29070

Make checks payable to: SCCOM

From Don Kragness

I'M WRITING TO LET YOU KNOW THE TIME IS DRAWING NEAR TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SPRING WEEKS AT THE PASSION PLAY IN EUREKA SPRINGS.

WE USUALLY TAKE CARE OF THIS AT "SPRING FLING: AT SALLATEESKA BUT OUR SPRING FLING AT SALLATEESKA IS ONLY 2 WEEKS BEFORE THE PROJECT STARTS.

CINDY TRUESDAIL AND KENT BUTLER NEED TO KNOW HOW MANY WILL BE THERE, WHEN YOU ARE COMING AND LEAVING AND IF YOU ARE NEEDING CAMPER SPACE. CAMPER SPACE IS LIMITED AS ARE ROOMS ON SET. WE HAVE TO KNOW IF YOU WILL BE IN YOUR CAMPER OR THE STATUE ROAD IN OR WONDERLUST CAMPGROUND.

OUR WEEKS COINCIDE WITH THE NATIONAL COM WEEKS THIS YEAR COMERS FROM OTHER STATES WILL BE JOINING US.

THE PASSION PLAY IS SUPPOSED TO BE PROVIDING NOON MEALS MONDAY-FRIDAY. THEY NEED TO KNOW HOW MANY TO FEED.

ILLINOIS WEEKS ARE MARCH 30 TO APRIL 19.

NATIONAL WEEKS ARE MARCH 30 TO APRIL 26

SOME ARE COMING FOR 1 WEEK AND SOME ARE STAYING THE WHOLE TIME. YOU DECIDE WHEN YOU CAN COME AND HOW LONG YOU STAY THEN LET ME KNOW.

SO FAR THESE ARE PEOPLE COMING WITH DATES AND ARRANGEMENTS:

DON & JAN KRAGNESS	MARCH 30-APRIL 19	MOTORHOME
ANDY & MARILYN THOMPSON	APRIL 5-12	MOTEL
CHET WHYERS	APRIL 1-19	ROOM ON SET
RICK & SARAH MOTT (IA COM)	MARCH 30-APRIL 4	CAMPER
ANDY SUTTON (IA COM)	MARCH 30- APRIL 5	CLASS C
RANDY & SANDY THEDFORD	APRIL 6-12	WONDERLUST
RICK & CINDY TRUESDAIL	MARCH 30- APRIL 26	MOTORHOME
DICK & KAREN MOWERS	MARCH 31-APRIL 8	CAMPER
JIM & MARILYN DIERCKS	MARCH 21-APRIL 19	DORM ON GROUNDS
FRED & PAULA RILEY	APRIL 6-11	MOTEL
CATHRYN ST. DENNIS	APRIL 1-?	CAMPER

PLEASE LET ME ASAP IF YOU PLAN TO COME WITH YOUR DATES AND CAMPER / MOTEL PREFERENCE. WE NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET.

MAIN PROJECTS AS ALWAYS: CLEAN AND DECORATE SET AND FIX WHAT NEEDS TO BE FIXED.

THE FIRST PERFORMANCE IS GOOD FRIDAY (APRIL 18) SO IF YOU WANT TO SEE IT YOU WILL NEED TO BE THERE THAT WEEK. THERE IS A NEW MUSICAL SCORE AND DIALOG THIS YEAR. COME HELP US GET READY FOR THE 2025 SEASON.

Faith Focus— When we worry, our minds get an unnecessary workout. We **RUN** through possible outcomes and we **JUMP** to conclusions. Worrying is an exercise in futility. It leads to fear and stress instead of faith and rest.

God knows what's going on in your life. He cares about your situation. He loves you. Worry steals your peace and joy, but the Lord gives peace and joy abundantly.

Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough troubles of its own. Matthew 6:34

You also can pursue these scriptures about worry: Psalm 34:4-5, Phil 4:19, Isaiah 41:10, Psalm 94:19, Psalm 119:143, Psalm 56:3, I Peter 5:7, Phil 4:6-7

Lord Jesus, thank you for loving me, and for caring about me. Since you know everything, you know the strong sense of worry I have felt. Thank you for understanding my worry and forgiving me when I am struggling to avoid your wisdom, and seek to control things through worry. Right now, I release all of my worry to you. I trust you with my situation, my future, and myself.

In Jesus' name, AMEN

Jim and Marilyn Diercks, Chaplains

618-965-9748 or 618-317-2353 inchristwithu@yahoo.com marilyndiercks@yahoo.com

NOTES FOR SPRING FLING

March 14-15 at Lake Sallateeska. Start **Friday for evening meal at 5:30** and **finish Saturday by noon**. You are welcome to come anytime Friday afternoon.

1. Friday evening will be an Italian Beef/ pulled chicken supper and we bring side dishes or desserts followed by fellowship time. You may also bring snacks for the evening if you would like. We always have lots and lots of food! We may also have some discussion about the Anniversary Celebration.
2. There will not be a set charge for the hotel rooms this time but a donation is welcome. Normal room charge for us has been \$35 per night per room.
3. **Saturday, Francie and her team will provide 8:30 am breakfast.** You are welcome to bring coffee cake or a breakfast pastry to share. We will talk about the 2025 schedule and sign up for projects, have devotions and prayer time.
4. Coffee, hot tea and cocoa will be provided as well as plates and silverware. If you want something other than these beverages, feel free to bring to bring them.
5. **Please RSVP to Fred Riley or Karen Mowers soon so that we know how many rooms need to be reserved.** Some have already called us for rooms.



Don't forget the auction at Spring Rally!!!!

April 21—25

Be gathering up your treasures that you can part with for the benefit of IL COM projects and activities.

DID YOU KNOW- - -

Our sewing project is expanding and adding several churches that want to help us spread God's love???

First Baptist Marion has established a sewing group that meets every Monday at a room in the church designated for sewing bears. They have purchased two used Brother sewing machines and have been given lots of fabric and thread, some ribbon and lots of fiber fill. There are approximately 15 women who are helping sew and some are taking bears home to work on them. As of Wednesday, February 19, they had 16 bears completed. Thanks Marilyn Thomson, Sondra McKenzie and Jan Kragness for getting this project going.

New Beginnings Baptist Church, Streator, is having a sewing day out at Streator Baptist Camp on Saturday, March 1. We have been given almost enough fabric to make 100 bags which is what MorningStar Mission would like to have this year.

God has been gracious to us and people in our churches are hearing our story of what we are doing, why we are doing it and what a blessing it is to the people that receive the items that are made. Thanks to them for all for their generosity of prayer and materials. With the sad closing of JoAnn Fabrics in many of our local locations, please keep an eye out for great bargains or if you like to garage sale, we often find fabric there, too. God's work is not done yet and neither is ours.

Note from the editor IL COM is so excited to send out so many email newsletters each month and pray that they are being read, used to guide prayers, and provide a platform for discussion at your churches and with your friends as you tell them about what we are doing, how they can get involved and invite them to come with you.

Having said that, there are many on our mailing list that I don't know and I want to make sure that you want to continue to receive the newsletter each month. It is not a problem to get them to you by email or postal mail but some of you may not be interested in receiving them any more. Please let me know if that is the case and I will make sure to remove your name from our list. We don't want to bother you if you are not interested.

I have heard from many of you that you do enjoy receiving it and staying connected with IL COM. We appreciate your prayers, notes that you send and the memories you share with us. Many of you were members when COM was just starting and you helped create a great group with a heritage of Godly service. Thanks for what you did then and how you still support IL COM with your prayers. Our Illinois SBC camps and the Children's Home are still doing mighty works of God that you helped to support many years ago. Other small churches or other places are still standing because of what you did for them.

Please respond to Karen Mowers at kcc61254@gmail.com or 309-945-3971 if you would like to have your name removed. I hope you all want to stay on our mailing list but let me know if you do not.

Karen Mowers

