



Illinois Campers On Mission

April 2024

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President's Letter—

Hello, COM Family:

Hope everyone is doing well!! It has been busy months in March and April already.

We just got back from Eureka Springs, AR. We had 37 people representing 14 families. We had 3 state presidents, 2 regional reps, the Interim National coordinators, and 5 states represented. We helped with lots and lots of projects and what ever needed to be done. Hope more of you can join us next time.

I want to thank everyone for everything they have been doing in many different work projects around the state. We have a wonderful group.

Now, we look forward to the first work project of the year and the Spring Rally. See page 4 for information.

National Rally registration is due May 1 so please make sure to get yours in! There are hotels if you need them.

Verse 1 Peter 2:24 By his wounds you are healed.

Keep serving the Lord,

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



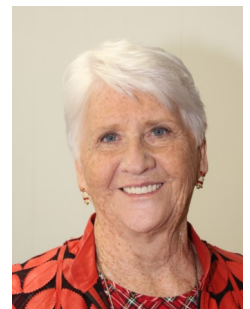
- 3 Marty Ramsey
- 4 Irma Burnett
- 4 Paul & Debbie Shelton
- 5 Paul Shelton
- 7 Leroy Burnett
- 12 James Diercks
- 18 Gary & Karen Watson
- 20 Bonnie Walden
- 21 Waymond Ledbetter



Chaplain's Chatter—

Hebrews 12:28 "Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe"

As we go about our lives as COM members, I see so many examples of our members offering God acceptable service—community ramp builds, serving in nursing homes, working at our churches, serving at food pantries and pregnancy resource centers, chaplains at hospitals, serving in DR, taking care of our families, serving on church leadership boards or volunteering for preparing for worship services, singing on worship teams, working in AWANA or children's ministry, assisting at church camps or VBS, working at Christian ministries serving homeless, volunteering time and money at evangelical ministries like the Passion Play, leading bible studies or mentoring young believers, teaching Sunday School, helping with Backyard Bible Clubs, spending time in deep prayer for the needs of friends, loved ones, the country, the world, our leaders, health needs, financial needs, salvation needs—and the list goes on and on in ways no one knows but God.



Thank you for being lights in the darkness wherever you are and for being servants in places you think people don't see or know about—but God knows. You are an encouragement to me and those around you.



WHERE WERE YOU IN 1975? What were you doing in life?

Illinois COM will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary in 2025 and we are starting to prepare. Please send us the answers to these questions and send them to Karen Mowers. We are also looking for a photo of you in 1975 so we can put together a photo montage and maybe a guessing game.

What ideas do you have to add to our celebration? Send them to Fred or Karen. If you are willing to volunteer to help with organizing it, let us know.

2024 Tentative Schedule

April 21—27	Lake Sallateeska Work Project, Pinckneyville Spring Rally & auction (April 26 & 27)
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

NEW



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



April is the fourth month of the year in the Gregorian and Julian calendars. Its length is 30 days. April is commonly associated with the season of spring in the Northern Hemisphere, and autumn in the Southern Hemisphere.

April 1 is often referred to as April Fool's Day. There are fools all around us, who reject the amazing love of God and the saving grace of Jesus.

On April 1st, people "stretch" the truth and then announce "April Fools." As Christians, we are to discern truth and know what the Bible says about fools. In Paul's final letter to Timothy, he wrote about a man named Demas. But sadly, Paul did not "stretch" the truth, nor was there an announcement of "April Fools."

On April Fools Day, and every day throughout the year, help foolish people to see the Lord our God, who is also their God. He "is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." ([2 Pet 3:9](#)) Help foolish people to become wise.



April Work Project & Spring Rally notes**Dates:** April 21—27**Location:** Lake Sallateeska, Pinckneyville**Those signed up to attend:**

Fred & Paula Riley	Leroy & Irma Burnett
Doug & Suzy Kingsbury	James & Catherine Rentfrow
Andy & Marilyn Thomson	Dick & Karen Mowers
Richard & Anita Evans	Emil & Lois Nattier
John & Francie Lindeman	Terry & Debbie Odum
George & Penny Meese	Karen & Gary Watson

If your name is not here and you plan to attend, please call Fred.**Project List:** Have not received it at this time. Bring general tools that you need for construction and repairs. Bring sewing machines and supplies for evangelism outreach projects. Bring favorite general cleaning supplies & rags for cleaning.**BRING AUCTION ITEMS FOR THE SILENT AUCTION & REGULAR****AUCTION DURING THE SPRING RALLY!** Take to worship center on Monday if possible so they can be sorted and organized during the week.**Schedule:**

Sunday—arrive and set up. General organizational meeting & prayer in dining hall at 7:30

Monday—Friday— 8 am Coffee & daily project review meeting

10 am—morning snack/rest period

12—lunch

2:30—afternoon snack/rest period

please bring snack items to share if you wish.*Spring Rally schedule (Tentative): Family & guests are invited****Thursday evening**—7 pm Executive meeting, 7 pm, Dining Room**Friday evening**—6 pm potluck supper, general membership meeting in dining room & silent auction open from 4—8 pm in worship center**Saturday**—9 am general auction & announcement of silent auction winners
Noon (or when auction finished) —closing prayer and songs



Campers on Mission National Rally Registration Form June 4-6, 2024

Elkhart Campground, 25608 Co. Rd. 4, Elkhart, IN

Deadline for Registration is May 1, 2024

Last Name _____ First _____ Spouse _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Phone (Cell) _____ (other) _____ Email _____
 Member of _____ COM State Chapter _____ Region No. _____
 Additional Guests: # of Adults _____ Names _____
 # of Children _____ Ages of Children _____
 Your Emergency Contact _____ Phone # _____

Registration Fee (per unit) \$ 40.00
The following fees are good from Sunday night 6/2 – Thursday night 6/6
 Camping Fee: \$45.00 per night # of nights _____ @ \$45.00 /night \$ _____
 Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____
 RV Type: MH Class C 5th Wheel TT
 RV length: _____ # Slides: _____
 What type of electricity do you need: 30 50
 I will need a handicap site: Yes No

Rally T-shirts: \$19.00 each
 How many each size: S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____ XXXL _____ \$ _____

Display Tables:
 Table(s) @ \$10.00 each # _____ \$ _____

TOTAL FEES FROM THIS SIDE: \$ _____
TOTAL FEES FROM OTHER SIDE: \$ _____
TOTAL OF ALL FEES: \$ _____

* Indiana COM has a list of hotel/motels in the area for those who would like to attend but need another option other than camping. There are additional hotels in the area to choose from not listed.

MARK YOUR FOOD PREFERENCES ON BACK

TUESDAY MEAL:

Boneless Grilled Pork Chop & Gravy

Fried Chicken Drumstick

Buttered Sweet Corn , Green Beans , Melon Sampler

Dinner Roll with Butter Lemonade, Tea, Water

Pie and Cake Bites

Tuesday Adult Evening Meal @ 5:30 p.m. \$20.00/ea. X _____ \$ _____

Tuesday Kids Meals @ 5:30 p.m. 12 and under are free X _____ \$ _____

Kids Meal:

Chicken Nuggets Meal

WEDNESDAY MEAL:

Roast Beef

Baked Italian Parmesan Chicken

Baked Potato/butter & sour cream , Baked Beans and Mixed Vegetables

Tossed Salad , Roll and Amish Peanut Butter

Iced Tea, Lemonade, Water

Assorted Pies

Wednesday Adult Evening Meal @ 5:30 p.m. \$20.00/ea. X _____ \$ _____

Wednesday Kids Meals @ 5:30 p.m. 12 and under are free X _____ \$ _____

Kids Meal:

Will be fed the same food as adults

President (Spouse) Business Meeting/Luncheon

Wednesday, June 5th @ 12:00

Check one: President VP Regional Rep Delegate

Attending _____ @ \$20.00/each \$ _____

THURSDAY MEAL:

Fried Chicken

Polish Sausage

Kluski Noodles

Red Skinned Potatoes/chicken gravy , Green Beans , Sweet and Sour Cabbage

Dinner Roll with Butter Fruit Parfait or Cheesecake Cups

Lemonade, Tea, Water

Thursday Adult Evening Meal @ 5:30 p.m. \$20.00/ea. X _____ \$ _____

Thursday Kids Meals @ 5:30 p.m. 12 and under are free X _____ \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Kids Meal:

Mac 'n Cheese Meal

Mail registration form and money to: Questions – please contact:

Indiana Campers on Mission Jerry Miller

ATTN: Annalisa Porter Email: jerrymiller645@gmail.com or incampersonmission@gmail.com

1890 W. Highland Lakes Camp N.

Martinsville, IN 46151 Phone: 812-890-1423



This is just a very small selection of photos. Check out Facebook for more!



News notes—

1. The **50th anniversary of Illinois COM** will happen next year. Please be thinking of ways we could celebrate and pray about being on the planning committee. You can serve COM even if you cannot physically do much work, you can help with sending out letters, praying for the event, coming up with ideas, etc. Let Fred know if you are willing to help or if you have an idea. Leroy has already started thinking about it (see page 2).
2. The **Glen Ellyn work project** has been added to the schedule this year. If you were with us last year, you know what a dear people they are and how much they need help to maintain their facility.
3. Some of you are actively seeking **speaking engagements** or doing presentations in local churches to tell them about COM and how they can get involved individually or as a church. Several years ago a power point presentation was created that you are welcome to use. It is being updated with recent photos so it is relevant. If you would like a copy of this presentation to use at your home church or other places you can speak about COM, please let Karen Mowers know and she can get you a copy of the power point to use if you would like.
4. A tip from our leadership, if you would like to have a sheet that you can fill out after EACH work project you do so the information can be reported on the state **praise reports**, just ask. There are easy forms available.
5. Check out the **National COM website** often as new things are being added that will help you to know more about what is happening in other states and at the National Level. The National COM Handbook has been greatly revised this year under the leadership of Don Kragness and a team of COM members. It is much easier to read and find things so check it out after the 2024 National Rally in June. You will also find an updated Praise Report form that should be easier to use and understand. You can find a listing of resources and hitching posts (free camping places across the country when you are traveling for COM projects) that may help to save you some camping fees.
6. As always, if you have **ideas for COM or questions about COM**, please don't hesitate to ask any of the COM leaders who will have the answer or find the answers for you. This organization is a wonderful group of people who need to have more help to keep responding to needs of those around us. If you have a lead on somewhere we can serve that shows the love of the Lord, please let Fred or Richard know so we can get them evaluated and on the schedule. They do not have to be churches as other ministries also need maintenance help.