

General Membership Meeting
American Coach Chapter of FMCA
Valdosta/Lake Park KOA
Lake Park, Georgia
March 10, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by President Leslie Pettinger.

Those present were:

Leslie Pettinger – President
Mike Pettinger - Western Area Director

Charlie Adcock led the member in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The President introduced the Jim Graham - rally host; Doty Graham – Acting Secretary; and Charlie Adcock.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the last meeting as published in the newsletter.

Charlie Adcock gave the Treasurer's report. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report as read.

Charlie Adcock gave the Membership report. There are currently 479 member coaches.

New Business

Charlie Adcock made a motion to change the ACC bylaws to accept the Revolution as a part of the American Coach Chapter. The exact wording of the bylaw change would state that the Revolution or any eligible coach could be included in the American Coach Chapter. The President stated that Chip Aiken, the Immediate Past President, would provide the exact language to be used in the bylaws. The FMCA would then have to approve the language of the bylaw change. A motion was made and seconded to change the bylaws to include the Revolution.

The President said the next ACC rally would be at the Amana Colonies in Iowa on August 4 through August 7.

President Pettinger then recognized and welcomed the first timers.

Mary Corcoran, Secretary for the American Coach Association, then spoke to the group. She talked about the ACA national rally taking place in Memphis, TN in May. So far there are 162 coaches registered.

Ken Ware spoke and said he would be happy to help anyone with any computer issues or problems they may have. He also would discuss any American Coach issues or problems.

Charlie Adcock will give a seminar this afternoon on the problem of fogging windows.

Charlie also talked about volunteering in the ACC, or ACA. There is a need for people to step up and get involved in the clubs. Rallies don't just happen. People have to organize them.

Stew Macfarlane talked about the January Southeast ACA rally in Tampa, FL. He asked everyone to put it on their calendars to attend. In 2012, the American Coach group will have the rally to itself. In the past, other brands of coaches have been included in the rally event.

President Pettinger then introduced Justin Humphreys. Justin also talked about the importance of people getting involved in the clubs. He also stated that American Coach was there to help as well.

Justin then talked about the motorhome market. There were 5,492 coaches sold in 2010. There were 6,000 Class A diesel motorhomes sold in 2009; 9,000 in 2008; 15,000 in 2007; 16,000 in 2006 and 18,000 in 2005.

Class C motorhome sales were up 5 percent in 2010. In 2010, gas motorhomes outsold diesel by approximately 200 units for the first time in ten years.

American Coach has put the manufacture of the American Allegiance on hold.

The number of dealers for American coaches has dropped from 275 to 100. There is currently only the Decatur manufacturing plant. They are building 70 motorhomes per week currently. American Coach currently has 1,200 employees.

Justin then talked about the Revolution. The coach has been upgraded and that is one reason it was put in the American Coach line.

He stated there are probably only 30 dealers in the US handling the American Coach line. This is mostly due to financing. However, banks are starting to loosen up and this should help.

The market is down 9% but American Coach sales are up 17%. That represents a 30% gain in market share. Revolution is up by 50% and Heritage is up by 75%.

Justin stated that the American Coach plant is going "lean." One instance he was involved in was the wood used in the back of cabinets. That department has four employees. They were working 20 hours of overtime each week per person. A study was done and a new saw was purchased for cutting the wood. It resulted in an immediate stop of the overtime.

He also stated they had change the way of making the full wall slides.

Justin stated that American Coach was sending a mailout regarding the inclusion of the Revolution into the American Coach line to American Coach owners.

Justin talked about the rally support that American Coach provides. Currently they provide service at eight separate rallies per year. The labor is free and parts are at cost.

Justin stated that American Coach was now owned by Allied Specialty Vehicles. This is a combination of all the companies owned by AIP, the company who purchased American Coach previously. This gives them greater buying power for parts and materials. Randall Swift is the President of Allied Specialty Vehicles.

Justin stated they still had a few American Eagles with the older style engines but they have been put with the new chassis. The new changed chassis gives 30% more storage.

Justin then thanked everyone for their contributions to the Scholarship fund. He states that Jeanine's son, a recipient of one of the scholarships, had just graduated number one in his class at the Indiana Medical School.

President Pettinger then reminded everyone there would be a meeting regarding the caravan to Perry at 4:00 on Friday.

A motion was then made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Doty Graham
Acting Secretary