

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Hello Region 8, November has passed, the trailer is winterized and waiting for the warm weather of Florida.

Other travels will take us to the winter IBT in Casa Grande Arizona in January. For those who visit the southwest this winter come join us in Casa Grande for the Rally and business meeting January 16 - 21 2017, see old friends and meet someone new.

We would like to thank all the Units we visited this fall for the warm reception and great rallies, it is always a pleasure to travel around the region to meet with everyone. Every unit has a different slant on how they put on their rally, please make a point to visit another unit's rally in the coming years and don't forget the Vintage Rallies of Region 8. Help support all activities in the region.

The Region 8 Rally for 2017 is in Osceola Iowa, April 26 - 30 at the Clarke County Fairgrounds. This will be Region 8's 50th Rally. The Rally coupon is on the Region 8 website, or contact me for a copy at grush26209@msn.com. Come join us for Fun, Fellowship, and Adventure with some food added.

Welcome to all new members and we hope to see everyone at Winter IBT, Region 8 Rally, International Rally in Escanaba and unit rallies in the coming year.

Safe travels,

Gary & Linda

1ST VICE PRESIDENT MESSAGE:

Boy, December sure snuck up on me! It's been an interesting few months since our last newsletter. It was wonderful meeting many of you at the Region 8 Vintage Rally in Dundee, Iowa in September, and then at the St. Louis Rally in Osage Beach in October. In between those two rallies, you may or may not have heard that I had an interesting freak accident that left me in a sling and on pain killers while I was swearing in the new St. Louis Unit officers. On October 1st, a man at church had a stroke the split second I walked past him, and he fell into me, I hit the floor and then he fell on top of me! I have spent the last two months in and out of doctor's offices, x-ray and MRI facilities. I broke a bone in my elbow, tore my rotator cuff, hurt my neck and was bruised from shoulder to hip. I have one more MRI next week for ongoing headaches. My bishop did tell me that I got extra "brownie points" in heaven because I kept the man from hitting his head. To add insult to injury, I have surgery scheduled for Christmas week to remove two little "goobers" that have appeared next to my left eye. If anyone wants to know what to get me for Christmas ---- well, I would be happy just to be healthy again!

In the meantime though, since I have had a bunch of down time while unable to use my right arm, I have been working on the 2018 Rally plans. It is a deep dark secret; so you will have to wait until our 2017 rally to find out where it will be. Anyone who really knows me, knows that it will be different, interesting and maybe a bit weird. But it will be lots of fun! And just wait until 2019! You will wonder where you are! But then, I'm getting a bit ahead of myself.

I am looking for a volunteer to be 2nd Vice President during my "reign of terror". So if there is some brave soul out there would like to be the side kick to the strange kid on the block, I would like to hear from you. Dwight has said he will stick around and manage my mood swings.

Have a great holiday season, and I look forward to seeing all of you rocking and a rollin' at our spring rally!

Beth (and the guy I live with – what's his name – oh yeah, David!)

2ND VICE PRESIDENT MESSAGE:

Region 8 Units are in their new year, with new officers and a fresh agenda for the coming year. It was a pleasure for us to travel to several installation ceremonies, and get to know folks we had met only briefly. Everyone was so hospitable. Thank you all!

I was poking around in the atlas recently and made a rough calculation of the expanse of Region 8. It is amazing to find that it is about a thousand miles from Crawford, Nebraska to Hayti, Missouri. How neat it would be to have Region rallies in each of those places. How many would attend? Fuel prices are low these days. Maybe we should try it out. What an adventure that would be.

We (the Region Officers/the Board) are looking forward to the installation of the next Region 8 Second Vice President. Will it be you? Serving on the Board is a privilege and a worthwhile contribution to the WBCCI. Contact Gary Rush or any member of the Board if you have questions about this opportunity. Did I say it is also fun? It is!

Wishing you a Blessed Holiday Season, Dwight & Lana Olson

INTERNATIONAL RALLY INFORMATION

For those of you who may be on a “waiting list” for the International Rally at Escanaba, Michigan, some sites are opening up and Julie Rethman will be calling you, based on the order in which you registered. There is still the option of solar or generator spots at reduced rates, should you so desire to go that route.

As an alternative, a member of the St Louis Unit did some research and found that there is a city campground with lakeside sites, just about five miles north on the same highway. It is the Gladstone, Michigan City Park and their number is 906-428-9222. It’s right at \$20 per night. This might be an alternative for some of you. You would have to work out the rally fee without parking with the home office.

Be sure to watch the Blue Beret for further information, and also for those committees that need help this year. A volunteer organization doesn’t work without volunteers.