



# Region Niner



WALLY BYAM CARAVAN CLUB INTERNATIONAL

*The Airstream RV Association*

**FUN, FELLOWSHIP AND ADVENTURE**

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**Region 9 Officers and  
Chairman  
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**President**

**Linda Knezek**

[harlinknezek@yahoo.com](mailto:harlinknezek@yahoo.com)

Cell 361-571-3140 Texting  
OK

**1st VP**

**Joan Ermis**

[joanermis@hotmail.com](mailto:joanermis@hotmail.com)

Cell 830-534-8837

**2nd VP**

**Vacant**

**Secretary**

**Sammie Musselman**

[smusselman2003@yahoo.com](mailto:smusselman2003@yahoo.com)

Cell 940-329-9922

**Treasurer**

**David Thompson**

[David@Highsiesta.com](mailto:David@Highsiesta.com)

Cell 806-679-8337

**Membership Chairman**

**Doug Wylie**

[dew50@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dew50@sbcglobal.net)

Cell 210-602-5700

**Caravan Chairman**

**Harvey Craig**

[eharv@msn.com](mailto:eharv@msn.com)



The International Rally had a lot of excitement with the election of Jim Schwerdfeger as the new International 3<sup>rd</sup> VP, which made yours truly the new Region 9 President. This picture was taken at the Inaugural Ball after the installation ceremony with Jim and his first lady Raisin.



# Delegates Vote On Two Issues

Two main issues faced the delegates Saturday June 30. One was the issue of allowing life members the ability to use a non-Airstream motorhome as they attend functions and WBCCI caravans. The majority voted to send it to the Constitution and By-Laws Committee for further study. At the present time it looks like the Delegates will take it up next year.

The largest and most talked about issue was the proposed constitution change. All units were asked to read and understand all the many article changes and replacements. The goal was to vote on each article, one by one, making any amendments along the way. After all articles were voted, a final vote was to be taken. If the whole constitution was accepted, it became our constitution immediately. That did not happen. As soon as consideration began, someone called for the question, which means vote now...no debate, no amendments...just vote. The question was voted and approved. Reconsideration was voted down. The new constitution was voted down.



## 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

Region 9 is privileged to have two Airstream Parks in Texas, one in Zavalla and the other in Hillsboro. All airstream owners are invited to come and visit.

The Airstream Park in Hillsboro is having their 1<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE, Monday and Tuesday; with free three points hook ups for two days, September 24 & 25. It starts with a welcome social time Monday evening followed by a breakfast Tuesday morning, no host lunch at Hill College, and a Pot Luck Dinner by the great NTAC lady cooks.

There is still time to make reservations by

## Generations Presented by Don Shafer at International Rally

**The Greatest Generation** – Born before 1928 – Weathered the Great Depression, fought WW II and Korea

**The Silent Generation** – Born 1928-1945 – A small cohort born during the Great Depression and WW II

**The Baby Boom** – Born 1946-1964 – Products of the Cold War, Vietnam and affluence

**Generation X** – Born 1965-1980 – The Baby Bust, first generation after the pill became widely available

**Generation Y** – Born 1981-1999

Note a dramatic change in the age profile of America, shifting from a pyramid (more at bottom to less at top), to a more or less a rectangle with 10 year spans starting a 0-9, 10-19, etc., through 50-59 being about equal (0 to 25 million each mean and women). The pyramid starts with ages 60-69 through 90+, or the upper end of the baby boomers.

Secondly, note that the WBCCI has thus far always been an organization primarily made up of members near or after retirement (50 to 80+). The 2004 questionnaire had nearly 9 out of 10 members in this category. Using 65 as the base retirement date the WBCCI was formed in 1955 with members born in about 1890. By subtracting 65 from the selected year, you have about the birth year of the major range of Club membership, and an indication of the “generation”.

The result gives an indication of the trends concerning our organization. For example, the large membership of WBCCI during the 1970s and 80s was due to the Greatest Generation reaching retirement (they had served during WW II, were joiners and were experiencing a well deserved retirement). Not as many babies were born during the Silent Generation, which results in a reduced Club membership. The Baby Boomers are noted for not being joiners, which continues this reduced membership.

Thirdly, note that reduced membership in our organization is not specific to just us. It is a trend throughout all RV organizations, service clubs and all associated organizations including most churches. Also, since 1955 there are now many RV organizations that have formed since our founding The Club was initially incorporated in 1957 with annual get-togethers in 1958 for the conducting of Club Business.

Further note that WBCCI is the ONLY known single manufacturer RV organization that is owned by the organization itself. The others are “departments” of the manufacturer. This makes us extremely unique and really not comparable to other RV clubs such as FMCA and Good Sam.

The WBCCI is in a continual state of change due to its membership, their number and desires of their generation. As long as the majority of membership in a free and open organization manages it, it can continue. Violations of any of these three concepts breeds’ problems.

There are still a few members of WBCCI that are from the “Greatest Generation”. The bulk today is the “Silent Generation” which is now near the cusp of transition to the “Baby Boomers”. Giving attention to the generation category of the membership provides a valid background to analyzing issues before the Club today.

Some other changes that have taken place in the last roughly 50 years:

1. Membership was by “invitation” and a new member had to be accepted, usually by attending several rallies and/or being visited at home by a membership committee.
2. The first ten years of Club formation was a “US National” organization. It became “International” with the forming of Canadian Units. Previously, it was SBCC, and then the name was expanded to WBCCI.
3. During the first ten years there were no “Regions”, the rules for running the Club were on two (2) pages of monograph paper, and there was no IBT.
4. The “Constitution and Bylaws” were an outgrowth of an increase of the Club organization and “growing pains”.