

VOL STATE FALL 2023 CAMPOUT AND REPORT

I am sorry that my report about last fall's meetup is late. After the campout we took a long trip to New England. When we got back my back was aching so I finally had surgery in December to fix a herniated disc in my thoracic spine. As I continue to recover, I think of all our great friends in the Vol State Winnies.

Our fall meetup at the end of September with 8 coaches and 16 people was held at the Ward Agricultural Center/Wilson County Fairgrounds in Lebanon, Tennessee.

Our main event was a tour of the National Indoor RV Center in Lebanon by Service Manager, Aaron Bonillo. Lifestyle Specialist, Dutchess DuChesne, talked to us about choosing an RV and new trends in the industry. The staff pulled a new Winnebago Adventurer into the Indoor RV Storage Facility so that we could inspect it inside and out. We also asked Aaron a lot of service and maintenance related questions. Most of us agreed that we would consider them for service and maintenance of our coaches in the future.

Winnies guys cooked pancakes and eggs for two breakfasts. The other event the same weekend was Ultimate Air Games so we enjoyed watching athletic dogs of all sizes jumping into swimming pools. Some of them caught a rope toy in the air before landing in the water. Los Compadres Mexican Restaurant allowed us to use their private dining room for dinner on Thursday evening.

Our seminars included a video presentation of two trips by Dwight Clayton, Smart Phone Apps and AARP Benefits by Gail Tate and craft time with Pam Clayton.

We have booked Spring Lake RV Resort in Crossville, Tennessee for our spring 2024 meetup from April 25 – 28. You may make your reservations now if you would like to. We seem to all like this campground because of the clubhouse, beautiful lake and spacious, full hookup campsites. Our club is no longer restricted to only Winnebago products so you may invite your friends to our future outings.

Our fall meetup will be at the Ward Agricultural Center October 17 – 20, 2024 and we have signed a contract for Education Building C.

At the business meeting on Saturday, September 30, 2023, several things were decided or discussed.

- 1) We voted to suspend membership fees for 2024 due to the club's generous bank balance.
- 2) Winnebago News was presented by Cliff Klein. There is no longer a WIT club and the group name has changed to the Go Life Community. Go Life Perks replaces the WIT club membership and the cost for it will be \$40.00 per year which gives members discounts. You do not need to be a Go Life Perks

member or a Winnebago product owner to be in the Vol State Winnies. There are no longer Winnebago Bylaws or guidelines because they were replaced by “community standards” which ask us to be inclusive, welcoming and nice. As a result of the Winnebago change, Vol State Winnies no longer has bylaws. This means our club can do what we choose to. Community Engagement Manager, Lindsey Quick, was hired by Winnebago to be a contact between the Go Life Community (formerly Winnebago clubs) and Winnebago. Winnebago has chosen the word “meetup” to replace the word campout and “state event” to replace rally.

3) The Winnebago Grand National Rally will now be called “Camp Winnebago” and will be held July 15 – 18, 2024 at Forest City, Iowa. The theme is Disco Fever and the pre-rally is July 10 – 14. The trend at Camp Winnebago is product owner groups instead of regional or state groups.

I hope that you all have a happy and healthy new year along with safe and exciting travels this year.

Linda Rogers

Vol State Winnies, Secretary