

17 May 2024

Greetings Ohio Valley,

I wanted to update everyone on the last muster as well as news from HQ and the Central Region. I have attached the minutes of the meeting held at the last muster. Many thanks to Marian Groom for accepting the position of Secretary of the chapter and preparing the notes.

I have updated the roster on the chapter website and now only list members who are current with their dues or have contacted me about their dues. We also welcome the McAllisters who joined at the last muster. Thanks to Doug Foster inviting them. As stated in the minutes, the members present voted to increase dues for 2025 to \$15 per rig. This should provide us more funds to take actions the chapter decides on.

The muster had 11 rigs and 21 members in attendance. I want to thank Lee and Cindy Ramsey for joining us from South Carolina. They are members of the Tri-State Travelers and were especially interested in doing more with the Rocky Tops. The weather cooperated so most of the activities were conducted in a round gathering. The hosted trip was to the George Patton Museum located at Fort Knox. The museum is adapting to show more about the changes happening in the Army and Fort Knox's role as the only ROTC Summer Camp location. Leadership styles and history as the Army adopted to accept all races and women into the fold. A highlight was a facetime call to Gen Patton's grandson who works developing facilities and programs to help soldiers with PTSD. He gave each attendee in our group a copy of his book entitled "Growing Up Patton". Many then hit the base for supplies. Friday was a day to see the area on your own and everyone scattered to see the local history or to various bourbon sites in the area. Kathy Pate planned a menu and many thanks to everyone who helped finalize the meals and serve them. The meeting was held on Saturday morning following a pancake breakfast. That night we held a pot luck dinner with the chapter providing ham as a main course. After some donuts on Sunday morning, everyone departed for their next adventure.

Some of the major items discussed and voted on during the meeting included a motion to return \$150 to the newly formed Rocky Top Chapter to give them some initial operating money. When the chapter folded, their treasury was given to Ohio Valley as the majority of our activities had been joint. We certainly hope to keep doing many joint activities with the Rocky Tops. Jud Roush was elected VP of the chapter since Reese Burke, the old VP was now the president of the Rocky Tops. As mentioned, Marian agreed to fill in as secretary. We normally vote on officers in the fall or at National. After the muster and the funds to Rocky Tops, the chapter treasury is now \$590.97

We discussed the National this fall in Ladson, SC. Several of us will travel together, at least at the end, since those that arrive together will be parked together. We discussed the route and found there are major delays on I-40 east of Knoxville. According to the TDOT website, that work will be complete before the National in September so we will decide later as updates come in. Anyone traveling along that route, please let me know if conditions improve as the alternative is Atlanta. The latest Charleston Ragtime #4 says we can arrive after noon on the 11th and have more time to see the sights before the opening ceremony on the 16th. We had talked about the group arriving on the 13th and it has since been pointed out that is a Friday the 13th. So some of us will plan to arrive on the 11th. All sites are full hookup 50 amp but it was pointed out in the news letter that hookups may require extra hoses and cables. You can access the newsletters on the SMART website by looking at the section on the National Muster. The national website is also the place you can find the Travelers and E-News from HQ for the last year.

News from the Central Regional Director says the next regional will be hosted by the Cajuns and will be in Ponchatoula, LA at the Sun Outdoors New Orleans RV Resort. from 10-15 November. During our muster we discussed the possibility of being asked to host a future National or Regional

muster. Regional are normally conducted in the Spring and Nationals in September. The Regional Director has now said the Central Region will have to conduct a regional in 2025 and be the National Host in 2026 and is looking for a host chapter. I'm sure this will be a major topic at the National. The Rocky Tops and Ohio Valley (along with Michigan which has now closed) jointly conducted regionals at Lebanon Fairgrounds in 2011 and 2017 (dates are guesses on my part...sorry old age but approximately correct) as well as a National in Goshen IN in 2012. The region does not host a regional muster in the same year as a national. A regional is much easier to host than the National but SMART has an SOP-01 that provides a wealth of information on organizing and hosting a National or Regional.

That's about it for now. Read up on the national newsletters and try to join us at the National. The National staff is trying to get an idea on attendance so if you think you might attend. Let me know and I can give them a tentative headcount.

Ed Pate, President Ohio Valley SMARTs.