

# ALABAMA CAMPERS ON MISSION FALL/WINTER 2019 NEWSLETTER



## THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

How is the weather where you are? It is hot, hot around Jackson in lower Alabama. By the time you get this newsletter, the temperature should be cooling down some with a touch of fall in the air. My favorite time of the year is when the temps start dropping, the leaves start their forward march to yellows, oranges, and reds, and the smell of burning oak in fireplaces permeates the air. Wow! I can hardly wait!

The Kansas/Nebraska Chapter did a fantastic job with the National Rally in June. They had worked hard and planned for a great rally and that is what we got. The facilities were great, the food delicious, the worship outstanding, and the seminars enlightening. Make plans now to be in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, May 12-15, 2020, at Ocean Lakes Family Campground. Note that the National Rally is a little earlier next year in order to cash in on the lower rates.

Don't forget the Christmas Party on December 6 at Shocco Springs. It is such a joy to visit with dear friends, some that we don't get to see very often. The gift cards this year will go to Raleigh's Place.

As you should already know, there will be a change in the rally this spring. We are camping at Gunter Hill Corp of Engineers Campground just west of Montgomery, April 2-3, 2020. Plans are being made for a great rally, bring your fishing poles and bait, come early or stay late. Reservations are to be made individually and can be made 180 days in advance.

**Our project leaders are gearing up for a new year of projects in 2020. The calendar is filling up fast. Make your plans and call the leaders to get your name on the lists.**

**On page 6 in the latest National Newsletter, there is information about a recommendation to change the National Awards Program. The recommendation came from the North Carolina president that there be only one Lifetime Achievement Award and only one Camper of the Year Award given at the National Rally. We will discuss this at the rally in April and you will decide how you want your president to vote at the National Rally in May, 2020.**

**In a recent edition of Our Daily Bread, the story is told of a young boy who came home from church very excited because the lesson was about a boy who “loafed and fished all day.” Of course, he was talking about the little boy who offered his loaves and fish to Jesus. The disciples had suggested that Jesus send the crowd to the village to buy bread. Jesus told them, “You give them something to eat.” (Matt. 14:16) You know the story of the boy who gave his lunch of 5 loaves and 2 fish and with it Jesus fed over 5000 people. There are people all around us with needs. Should we send them away? Not always. Whatever we have – a hug, a kind word, a listening ear, a prayer – give it to Jesus and see what He can do.**

**Blessings, AS WE GO,**

**Nora Thompson**

## **V P NOTES**

**A FEW GOOD MEN ... AND LADIES.**

**I had a good career in the Army, but my best career did not start until after I retired. I blame it all on the influence of a few good men and ladies.**

There were two couples in my Sunday School class who seemed to be doing something interesting and special. John & Mary Garner and Glenn & Jeanette Whiddon kept talking about things they were doing and places they were going. John and Glenn were both successful in their working careers and both had retired. John was a retired Army pilot who then worked as a civilian in Flight Safety. Glenn was a manager in a wood pulp processing plant. Their backgrounds could not have been more different.

John and Glenn kept talking about building church buildings all over the country, and they were doing it as volunteers. They were working for free. They bought their own tools. They owned RVs and even paid all their own travel expenses. Most guys look forward to relaxing after they retire to play golf, or go fishing, or do nothing, but these guys were excited about working! Why would anybody want to retire and then go back to work and give away their time and labor to somebody somewhere they didn't even know? It didn't make much sense.

I had finished by 20 years as an Army helicopter pilot, and then I had a decent job working for the Army as a civilian in Army Aviation. I still had several years to go before my normal retirement. But I kept listening to the stories that John and Glenn told. John was getting ready to go to Fenton, Michigan to work on a small church. John asked if I would like to go with him. I had heard enough of John's tales that I thought I would give it a try.

The project at that little church in Michigan is where I met Jake Carrol and Marvin Gober. Here were two more guys who had nothing in common before they retired. Jake made a good living as a salesman for Honeywell and Marvin had been a master welder who had been seriously injured falling from a huge water tank at Cape Canaveral. Both of Marvin's feet and ankles were so fused that he might as well have had wooden feet and ankles. Nothing below his knees would bend, but that didn't keep him off ladders and scaffolds.

I spent a lot of time working and talking with Jake high up in the roof structure of that partially built church building. It was plain to see that Jake, Marvin, John, and Glenn were all different, but they were also all very much alike. The bond that held them together was a powerful energy source that was clearly theirs, but it was also not just for them. I began to see where my wife and I might fit

into the group. I had been a Christian just about all my life, but I was also a bit selfish. I wanted what I wanted for me and my family, but I began to see that the plans I had for the future were shallow and lacking. That's when I caught the volunteer bug.

That project in Michigan was in 1995 or 1996. By 2000, my wife, Breezy, and I managed to pay off the house and all our debts, and buy a diesel dually truck and a used fifth wheel camper. Then we retired a few years early to hit the road. We joined Alabama Campers on Mission. As they say, "The rest is history."

It all began because of the influence of a few good men and ladies. In the 20 years since then, we have had some very good times and some not so good times in our lives, but the involvement with COM has been priceless. Your experiences are probably a lot like ours in this great organization called Alabama Campers on Mission. Look around you. It is very likely that you can find someone who is now just like we were 20 or so years ago. You'll no doubt see someone who needs a better plan for their future. Keep talking to them. Invite them to go along with you on a project.

Walt Miller

## **PROJECT HAPPENINGS**

### **SHOCCO PROJECT – September 9 – 20, 2019 – Danny & Vickie Stevens, Leaders**

The Shocco Project got underway with extremely hot weather. We have 43 members working this project. We welcome new members, Tim Alexander and Mike and Lisa Springfield, working their first COM project. The men are building benches, replacing ramps and railing, installing tin in ceilings, installing an AC unit and tearing out complete inside of a staff house. Several ladies made walker bags for nursing homes and rehab centers and repaired sheets. Some ladies cleaned chairs and lounge seats at Bagley Center and sanded outside furniture for painting. One team of ladies organized lost and found items to be auctioned for mission funds. Three ladies worked in the Administration Office and several more worked in snack bar area.





## NOTE FROM DANA MORTON

If you are planning to work at the National Peanut Festival this year, don't forget to bring candy for the goody bags for the tent. This year Halloween is on Thursday and I will be going to Walmart first thing on Friday for the half-off sale. If you plan to arrive after Thursday and you don't mind, stop somewhere along the way and grab a few bags of candy. Remember: It's hot the first part of the festival and chocolate melts!!! Thanks for your support.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mike and Tammy Story (256) 996-3685 or (256) 996-1002  
1903 Spring Drive NW  
Ft. Payne, AL 35968  
[storyrm@gmail.com](mailto:storyrm@gmail.com) or [tkbstory@gmail.com](mailto:tkbstory@gmail.com)

Mike and Lisa Springfield (256) 506-3652 or (256) 506-4515  
2114 Pine St.  
Albertville, AL 35950  
[springfieldm@bellsouth.net](mailto:springfieldm@bellsouth.net)

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## HOW WE DISCOVERED CAMPERS ON MISSION

Wilton and Kathy Whigham discovered Campers on Mission in 1970 while attending a conference at Ridgecrest, North Carolina. The Southern Baptist Convention was just beginning to organize it. At that time, they decided to volunteer when they retired and planned their life to be able to do this. When Wilton retired, they could not find Campers on Mission so they volunteered through Habitat for Humanity. One day, Wilton saw a small notice in The Alabama Baptist that Campers on Mission would be meeting at Guntersville State Park and they called to see if they could attend. They joined and served almost thirty years and worked on over 170 projects!

**ALABAMA CAMPERS ON MISSION**

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**SHOCCO SPRINGS CONFERENCE CENTER – TALLADEGA, ALABAMA**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2019**

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**RESERVATION DEADLINE – NOVEMBER 25, 2019**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Dinner ----- \$18.00 each Total \_\_\_\_\_

Breakfast -- \$ 8.50 each Total \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Room ----- \$25.00 per room Total \_\_\_\_\_ Total Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

RV Camp Site: \$25.00 per night Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Limited number of sites, no assigned sites. First come/first served basis. Need a count for Shocco.

**PLEASE WEAR YOUR ALABAMA CAMPERS ON MISSION BADGE.**  
**WE WILL NOT BE PRINTING BADGES THIS YEAR.**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ALABAMA CAMPERS ON MISSION**

**MAIL TO: Joyce Herman, 203 DeFuniak Loop, Lillian, AL 36549**

**Telephone: 251/504-1704**

**A SHORT CALLED BUSINESS MEETING FOR THE PURPOSE OF VOTING ON PROPOSED NEW BYLAWS WILL FOLLOW THE DINNER.**