

A Region 9 Update – Newsletter for November 2022

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Change. That's the topic for this communication. Change in local club leadership is happening. Congratulations and thank you to the outgoing leaders and welcome to the new leadership stepping forward across our Region 9. We are still waiting for our 2nd VP to step forward and serve on the Region leadership team! And Tracy Elkins would love to talk to you about serving as a Special or Standing Committee member. What is your skill? Organizing? Technical? Social Media? Photography? Fund Raising? Why not be a part of the changes that are sweeping across our Airstream Clubs at all levels?

Change is happening with the way we secure future leadership potential at the International level. We all know about the changes from this summer and moving from Executive Committee to Executive Council and increasing the years of service from one to two. The IBT voted November 17 to develop a Recruitment Oversight Standing Committee in partnership with Club Headquarters to develop an ongoing leadership recruitment process for Executive Council candidates. The process should be an engaging, repeatable, and consistent multi-media marketing plan inviting any WBCCI member to become a candidate for potential election to the Council. What this means is we will have many candidates to choose from for leadership roles and not a slate of officers presented via a Nominating Committee. The priority is on skills and talents and not necessarily length of service at local then regional levels before being considered viable candidates at the International level. Think of all our Region 9 leaders of caravans, rallies, and events who have not served at the Region leadership level or possibly even the local level, yet their wealth of work experience more than qualifies them to serve on the Executive Council. That is a shift in thinking about the leadership skills needed for WBCCI. Executive Council is a two-year commitment. Many members may want to share talents and skills for shorter periods of time as well.

How do you feel about the change for 2024 International Rally dates? We have long suffered in summer heat, and the IBT voted to host the 2024 Rally in Sedalia MO in early October instead of traditional summer months. But the 66th Airstream Rally, Rolling to Rock Springs WY will be in the summer. It is June 24-30, 2023, and will be separated from the IBT meetings. This means no business and more fun. That's another change for WBCCI. Quarterly Zoom meetings have taken the place of the annual IBT meetings held during the International Rally.

Have you taken advantage of the Campfire Chats that President Eric McHenry and Corporate Manager, Lori Plummer are hosting quarterly? These series of informal Zoom-based chats offer all members updates about Club activities and initiatives, questions and answers to inquiries from members, and a forum for suggestions and ideas for the Club. It is easy to access via the airstreamclub.org site under Events link. The next Campfire Chat is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at 7 pm EST.

Finally, as of November, headquarters tells us there are 9,218 memberships - a 21-year high. We are maintaining an average of almost 50 new members per week. New members bring change and a rapidly spreading age range of Airstreamers will demand change. Perhaps that's why our Intra-Clubs have expanded, and new Interest Clubs are popping up as we look for what brings us together and not what separates us. It is an exciting time to be an Airstreamer, especially in Region 9.

Don't forget to save the date – Region Rally in Gonzales TX March 28-April 2, 2023, at JB Wells Expo Center – “Come and Stream It!”