

# The Hillbilly



Publication of Watchung NJ Airstream Club

[www.airstreamclub.org/watchung-nj](http://www.airstreamclub.org/watchung-nj) January 2024

## President's Message



Well, here it is. My first President's Message - Again. What a wonderful 2024 Installation with most of the officers present to light their candles! It was exciting to see many newer members and of course members who have my 26 years beat.

A little about your new President. I have been a member of WBCCI and the Watchung NJ Airstream Club for 26 years (as you can tell from the Blue Beret picture). Back then, you could not jump online and research a local club that was the 'right fit' for you. After we brought our 1976 Globetrotter home, we called Jackson Center. At the time, we were in North Jersey, so Headquarters gave us the name of the president of the club that was geographically close to us. We called and joined right away - Boy, did we luck out with such a welcoming club. The Globetrotter has since been replaced with a 2019 SPORT, I am now in South Jersey, and I am still getting out 'with a little help from my friends'. During my time in the club, I have held the majority of the Executive offices, and several Standing Committees. Things have changed a lot; I feel some for the good.

For members whose membership expires on January 1<sup>st</sup>, if you have not renewed yet, please do not delay. All members, can set up an automatic renewal:

- log on to the [AirstreamClub.org](http://AirstreamClub.org) website
- go to your name in the upper right of the page. Choose 'Membership Information' from the dropdown menu
- scroll down to see 'auto renew' (this will renew your WBCCI membership, Home Club membership and any Intra clubs you belong to)

You will receive a reminder email before your credit card is charged.



*Thank you note from the Stafford Township PBA for the club's Christmas toy donation. Photo Lea Plant.*

Last year under George's administration, Watchung raised \$1,318.00 for St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Since this seems to be an attractive charity for our Watchung members, I have decided to keep St. Jude's for our 2024 charity.

Although it is great to see some different names as hosts and cohosts, as of this writing, we do not have a full schedule for our 2024 rally season. This includes luncheons for February and March. Please contact Leslie DeHerde or me to sign up.

"It takes a village..."

Lea #2256

## Welcome New Members!

Betty Schwarz  
Blaine Schwarz

From Lewes, Delaware

Brian Cullen  
Heidi Cullen

From Ocean City, NJ

## Region 2 President's Message

*Gary Russo writes*



As the end of the camping season winds down the North, it was time to put MaryAnn II into winter storage. It was a sad time for Suzanne and me. This year we made several lasting memories, being on the road for 3 plus months, and my installation as Region 2 President. I would also like to introduce the other Region 2 team members:

- 1st VP Patti Galupo
  - Patti is from the Washington DC Unit.
- 2nd VP Matt Moore
  - Matt is from the AL-MON-O Pennsylvania Airstream Club
- Corresponding Secretary Suzanne Russo
  - Suzanne is from the New York Finger Lakes Unit
- Recording Secretary Judy Cahall
  - Judy is from the Watchung New Jersey Airstream Club
- Treasurer Will Kushto
  - Will is from the Keystone Pennsylvania Airstream Club
- Membership Chair Colleen Ahlers
  - Colleen is from the Metropolitan New York Airstream Club
- Newsletter Editor Cody Klingler
  - Cody is from the AL-MON-O Pennsylvania Airstream Club
- Webmaster Ronald Silco
  - Ron is from the New York Finger Lakes Unit

As President, I would like to say thank you to them for stepping up to fill these positions.

As we move forward, people are either thinking of, or are on the road to, warmer climates, but the business of Region 2 continues. During this time of year, Unit officers are changing, plans for next year's Rallies are either in the books or are in the planning stages. Unit Presidents, please remember to send to WBCCI your Officer's Reporting form.

It has come to my attention that some Units are having joint rallies. I want to encourage this type of activity because there is synergism when a rally event gets to a certain size. Cost factors are distributed over a larger number, allowing for additional activities, friendships from different Units are developed and the volunteer workload is spread over more people. One example is the Rally that the New York Finger Lakes Airstream unit had in August of 2023. They

partnered with the Ontario unit. That rally had over 60 trailers. The rally had a rig from as far away as Texas. The 3 NYS units are partnering for a rally in 2024. As you can see, these rallies are not limited to their local units.

Your Region 2 officers have not been 'asleep at the switch'. Plans for the Region 2 Rally are taking shape. So, save the DATE May 2 to May 5, 2024. The location is the Centre County Grange Encampment & Fair. The status is that we are finalizing the contract. What I can tell you at this point is the following:

- Location: 169 Homan Lane, Centre Hall PA 16828
- Sites will have 30AMP hookups and water (dump station is available).
  - Note Grange Park has HIGH water pressure. Please bring water pressure reducers to avoid water hookup issues!
- We will have access to a building with tables and chairs.
- We are looking at Catering services and Entertainment options for the Rally.
- Pricing/Registration information to follow in the next President newsletters and will be posted on the WBCCI website along with the Grange Encampment & Fair Guidelines.

We will be using JotForm and PayPal for registration and payment.

On the JotForm for the rally there will be an area to volunteer, identify if you have any food limitations/requests, and other inputs for the rally.

We plan to have online registration open for the rally by Jan 1st of 2024.

*Gary Russo*

## Installation Luncheon

*Linda Kiesel writes:*

On Saturday, December 9, 2023, 41 Airstream friends gathered at the American Legion Post 284 in Whitehouse NJ for the Installation Ceremony of Watchung NJ Airstream Club President Lea Plant. The weather cooperated for everyone's travel plans, as heavy rain was forecast for the following day, and all 21 counties were under a flood watch. Coming from the Pocono area, which has already had a couple of minor snow events, we were relieved! We were all there to support Lea and to be a part of the beautiful candlelight installation, as Lea guides us through 2024. This is Lea's second time as President of our club, and we thank her for stepping up again! Lea reminds us that as Watchung members, we have a common goal of cultivating the friendships we have formed, and enjoying this adventure we are all on together.



*2023 President George Kiesel passes the gavel to 2024 President Lea Plant. Photo Matthew Wilson.*

The Legion was decorated for Christmas, and the many toys donated by our members looked awesome underneath the Christmas tree. The toy collection is a long-standing Watchung tradition, which we are all proud to be a part of. The toys are being donated to the Stafford Police Benevolent Association and will be distributed to children in the area.

Since the Legion does not provide food, Sorella's Pizza and Pasta out of Whitehouse catered the meal. Our buffet included a garden salad, antipasto, penne vodka, cavatelli with broccoli, meatballs, chicken parmigiano, eggplant rollatini, and brownies, cookies and cannolis for dessert. There was plenty left over for most of us to take home for a snack.





*George Kiesel, 2023 president; Cathy McCarthy, director; Lea Plant, 2024 president; Laura Riley, second vice president; Rich Short, recording secretary; Kathi Short, director; Leslie DeHerde, first vice president; Lois Wagner, treasurer; Stayla Elacqua, director. Photo Fred Brugmans.*

Outgoing President George Kiesel welcomed everyone to the Installation Ceremony and recognized the Past Presidents in attendance. Rich Short conducted the Candlelight Installation, which is a Watchung tradition. A memorial candle was lit to recognize our members who have passed through the years. The colors of the candles represent the values of the leadership roles of the Executive Board. Pins, badges, flags, and most importantly, the gavel, mug and necklace were presented to Lea. In attendance were Lea's special guests—her daughter Terry, the original Badge Sheriff, and son-in-law Matthew—Fred Brugmans' son Erik, and Marian Wooding's friend Bill. Lea presented Fred Brugmans with a plaque for his service to the Watchung Unit through the years, including Past President, conducting installations, and photographer. Lea also gave credit to the standing committee members of the club, including Hillbilly editor, auditor, historical, membership, sunshine, webmaster and assistant webmaster, all valuable roles that help our club run smoothly.

Lea thanked everyone for coming, for their support, and she looks forward to a successful year of camping with us all. Thank you to everyone who helped set up and break down the room. Many hands make for quick work, another example of how our club works so well together. As a reminder, there are several luncheons and rallies that still need hosts and co-hosts, so have a look at the schedule.

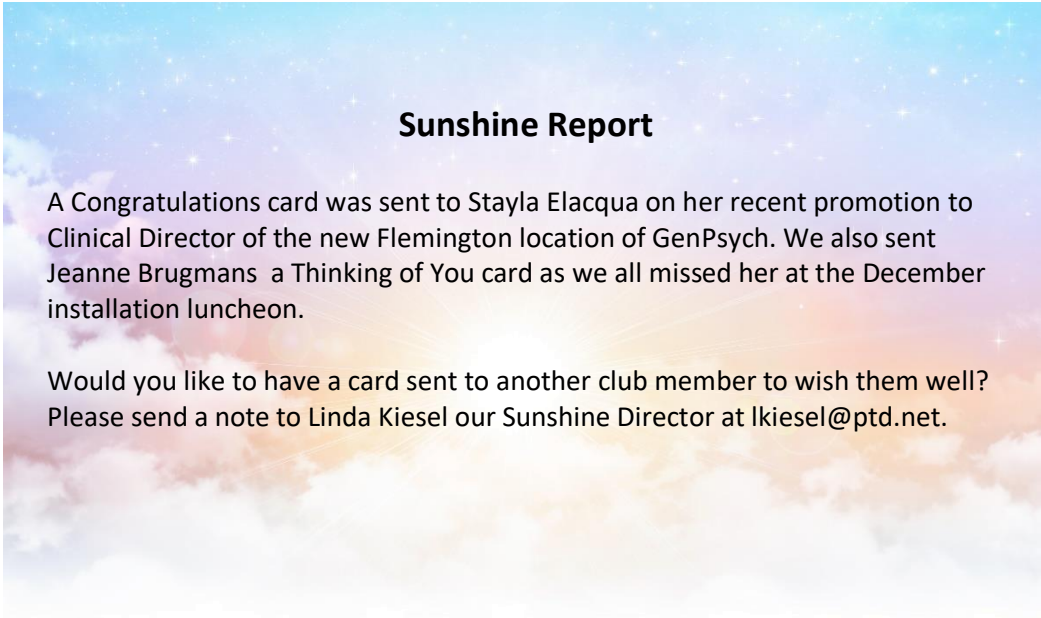
Best wishes for a successful year Lea from all of your Watchung friends!

Linda Kiesel



*Fred Brugmans points to the plaque presented by the club in commemoration of his past service. In addition to being a past president of the club Fred also led the annual installation ceremony for many years. Photo Matthew Wilson.*

# Announcements



**Sunshine Report**

A Congratulations card was sent to Stayla Elacqua on her recent promotion to Clinical Director of the new Flemington location of GenPsych. We also sent Jeanne Brugmans a Thinking of You card as we all missed her at the December installation luncheon.

Would you like to have a card sent to another club member to wish them well? Please send a note to Linda Kiesel our Sunshine Director at lkiesel@ptd.net.



**January Birthdays**

Linda Ward                      Robert Hagman

Elisabeth Reiss

**Belated December Birthday**

Sam Kessel

# 2024 Watchung Airstream Club Luncheon and Rally Schedule

<b>DATE</b>	<b>WHAT/WHEN</b>	<b>HOSTS</b>	<b>COHOSTS</b>	<b>VENUE</b>
January 2024	Luncheon January 20, noon	Ken and Nancy Egan		Cryan's Tavern 2 Beaver Avenue, Annandale, NJ
February 2024	Luncheon			
March 2024	Luncheon			
April 2024	Unbutton Rally/Business Meeting/April 25-28	Frank and Leslie DeHerde	Joanne Elacqua and Stayla Elacqua	Camp Carr, 1 Camp Buck Rd. Annandale, NJ 08801
May 2024	Region 2 Rally May 2-5	NA	NA	Centre County Grange Encampment & Fair, 169 Homan Lane, Centre Hall PA 16828
June 2024	Club Rally			
July 2024	Club Rally/July 19-21	Chris and Joanne Forster	Lois Wagner Derek Conley	Mt. Greylock Campsite Park, Lanesborough, MA
August 2024	Club Rally/TBD	George and Linda Kiesel	Jay and Cathy McCarthy	Lake Glory Campground 96 Eisenhower Rd., Catawissa, PA
September 2024	Club Rally/TBD	Meg and Laura Riley	Mark and Angie Ratliff	TBD
October 2024	International Rally/October 5-10	WBCCI	NA	MO State Fairgrounds, Sedalia, MO
October 2024	Club Rally/Business Meeting	Host needed	Patty Ciak and Sam Kessel	
November 2024	Luncheon/TBD	Michael Koczwar and Barbara Taylor	Cohost needed	TBD
December 2024	Luncheon/Officer Installation/TBD	Leslie DeHerde	Lea Plant	TBD



## How to Sign Up and Pay for an Event Online

*Our Treasurer writes:*

So, I have to admit that when I first tried to register for an event online I had difficulty navigating to the online event forms. For that reason I thought I would share this information just in case others have had the same experience as me.

1. First, log on to <https://airstreamclub.org/>
2. Click on the **EVENTS** tab
3. A map of the US will be displayed containing pins for all the events for all the Airstream clubs. Just above the map on the right side of the screen is the **Clubs** box. Click on the down arrow to display the list of clubs then scroll down to **Watchung NJ Club**. Clicking on this will cause the map to display only Watchung club events.
4. Find the event you wish to sign up for and click on the associated pin.
5. A text box giving a brief description of the event will be displayed. Click on the arrow in the orange box that says **More**.
6. A new page will be displayed. If a registration form has been created for the event this page will give you two options: online registration or mail-in registration using a download of the form. The online form allows payment via PayPal. If you prefer to pay via check download and print the form, which includes payment instructions. If there is no registration form available yet one will be at a later date.

Hope this helps 😊 Lois



*Trunkful of toys collected at the installation luncheon. Photo Lea Plant.*



# January Luncheon Announcement

Date: Saturday January 20, 2024

Time: Noon

Place: Cryan's Tavern 2 Beaver Avenue, Annandale, NJ

Hosts: Nancy and Ken Egan ([Steamenrr@comcast.net](mailto:Steamenrr@comcast.net)) / 908-720-8073

## Menu

Please select one each per person from the appetizer and entrée choices below. Soda, coffee, and tea are included. Cash bar.

### Appetizers

Potato skins \_\_\_\_\_ Bacon Bombs \_\_\_\_\_ Fried Pickles \_\_\_\_\_ Irish Pretzels \_\_\_\_\_

### Entrees

Fish n Chips \_\_\_\_\_ Shepherds Pie \_\_\_\_\_ Grilled chicken breast \_\_\_\_\_ Penne Vodka \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form and mail to

Kenneth M. Egan, 95 W. Kelly Street, Metuchen, NJ 08840

You may also email the form to [NHE815@Comcast.net](mailto:NHE815@Comcast.net). Be sure to indicate food preferences.

Make checks payable to Watchung NJ Airstream Club.

**Maximum of 30 attendees.** Please sign up early!!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ WBCCI #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Guests \_\_\_\_\_ X \$35 per person Total \$: \_\_\_\_\_

## August Rally Information

### August at Lake Glory Campground—Buddy Rally

96 Eisenhower Rd. Catawissa PA 17820

570-356-7329

**When:** Friday August 16<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Hosted by Linda and George Kiesel, cohosts Jay and Cathy McCarthy.

**Where:** Knoebels Lake Glory Campground 96 Eisenhower Rd. Catawissa PA 17820. 570-356-7392. [Knoebels.com](http://Knoebels.com)

Come join us for a relaxing fun-filled weekend. The campground runs a no-cost shuttle to Knoebels amusement park which is dog-friendly. Other attractions in the area include the Pioneer Tunnel Coal Mine tour in Ashland PA, Geyser Big Mine Run, and several covered bridges in the area.

Twenty sites have been reserved for the club. Lake Glory will hold this block of sites for us for 90 days (till 3/13/24) so please call them soon and reserve your spot. The cancellation fee is only \$5.00 if you cancel more than seven days prior to your arrival date. Please do not delay. The campground will sell out before summer.

We have reserved the following sites (see link below for the campground map): Sites KD116 through KD136; Site LC02 through LC12.

All sites are full hookup, 30-amp electric. There are a limited number of 50-amp sites in the LC group available.

To reserve, please call [570-356-7392](tel:570-356-7392) and tell them you are with the Airstream Club. This number is direct to Lake Glory.

<https://www.knoebels.com/download/?id=3370> - site map

<https://www.knoebels.com/stay/lake-glory-campground> - website

Please let Cathy McCarthy know what site you have booked so she can keep a tally of who is where: [cathylmcc@msn.com](mailto:cathylmcc@msn.com).

**FIVE RIVET DEALER**  
SINCE INCEPTION

**Colonial AIRSTREAM**

**AIRSTREAM TRAVEL TRAILERS**

**MASTER Sales**  
TO ANSWER ALL OF YOUR QUESTIONS

**AIRSTREAM FACTORY CERTIFIED SERVICE**

- SOLAR UPGRADES
- ACCESSORIES INSTALL
- AIRSTREAM BODY REPAIR
- DE-WINTERIZATION & MORE

**FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED**

595 NJ 33, MILLSTONE TWP, NJ 08535

**11-TIME RV BUSINESS TOP 50 DEALER**

**LITHIUM UPGRADES!**

**CALL US TODAY! 800-265-9019**  
[WWW.COLONIALAIRSTREAM.COM](http://WWW.COLONIALAIRSTREAM.COM)

**HUGE INVENTORY!**

**Items for the newsletter?**

Send them by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month to: ([dconley1810@gmail.com](mailto:dconley1810@gmail.com))

**Interested in joining the Watchung NJ Airstream club?**

Contact:

Membership: George Kiesel ([gkiesel861@gmail.com](mailto:gkiesel861@gmail.com))

President: Lea Plant ([tenlea@aol.com](mailto:tenlea@aol.com))

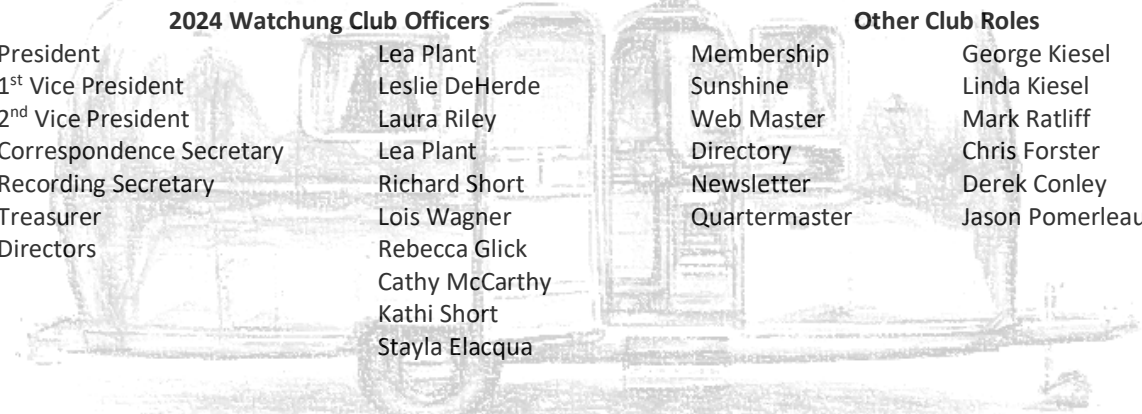
**Request for information:**

Before the April rally we would like to publish in the Hillbilly a pre-departure safety checklist that members could print. Do you have something like this? Please send to [dconley1810@gmail.com](mailto:dconley1810@gmail.com).



*Photo Pat Attanasio.*





2024 Watchung Club Officers		Other Club Roles	
President	Lea Plant	Membership	George Kiesel
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Leslie DeHerde	Sunshine	Linda Kiesel
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Laura Riley	Web Master	Mark Ratliff
Correspondence Secretary	Lea Plant	Directory	Chris Forster
Recording Secretary	Richard Short	Newsletter	Derek Conley
Treasurer	Lois Wagner	Quartermaster	Jason Pomerleau
Directors	Rebecca Glick		
	Cathy McCarthy		
	Kathi Short		
	Stayla Elacqua		

