

Region 5
Wally Byam Caravan Club International, Inc.
Annual Board of Trustees Meeting
September 15, 2023 9:15 A.M. EDT/8:15 A.M. CDT
Kentucky Horse Park Campground Pavilion
4089 Iron Works Pike
Lexington, Kentucky 40511

Region 5 President Artie Martin, Kentucky Airstream Club, called the meeting to order at 9:29 A.M. EDT/8:29 A.M. CDT

Recording Secretary Susan Swearingen, Illinois Lincolnland Airstream Club, read the names of five (5) members who had died since the 2022 Region 5 Rally. This was followed by the invocation given by Region 5 First Vice President John Deegan, Central Indiana Airstream Club.

Region 5 Second Vice President Susan Bishop, Central Indiana Airstream Club, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Recording Secretary Susan Swearingen called the roll of board members:

Board Members:

President	Artie Martin	Present
1 st Vice President	John Deegan	Present
2 nd Vice President	Susan Bishop	Present
Recording Secretary	Susan Swearingen	Present
Treasurer	John Swearingen	Present
Immediate Past Region President	Christopher Seplak	Present
Parliamentarian	Steve Broering	Present
President Central Indiana Airstream Club	Tammy Price	Present
President IL Lincolnland Airstream Club	Christine Majers	Present
President Indiana Airstream Club	Mark Kruer	Present
President Kentucky Airstream Club	Alan Billips	Present
President Northern IL Airstream Club	Keith Enstrom	Present

President Martin stated there is a quorum.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the September 16, 2022, Region 5 Annual Board Meeting and the minutes of the July 28, 2023, Region 5 Board Meeting have been posted on the website and have been distributed to each member of the board and should be before the members of the board at this time. There were no corrections/additions.

Reports of Officers and Committees

President's Report: (oral report) President Martin advised members that due to financial restrictions, the International Board of Trustees voted to now print the Blue Beret magazine on a quarterly basis, with issues to be printed February, May, August, and November. In addition to the printed quarterly issues, there will now be a Blue Beret Bulletin, which will be electronic and will be distributed monthly. We will still have the ability to post articles in the Blue Beret magazine, as well as in the new Blue Beret Bulletin. President Martin's articles will still be printed in the Blue Beret magazine. The costs of printing the Blue Beret magazine have nearly doubled over the past 5 years. The Blue Beret Bulletin is in its infancy and will develop as we go along. The Region 5 newsletter is being revived and will be sent electronically, also on a quarterly basis, February, May, August, and November. Some of the items to be included in the newsletter are Region 5 Rally information, local clubs' rallies/events, recipes, etc. The yearly printed International Directory will now be sent electronically. When this will start and if a printed directory will be available is yet to be determined.

Treasurer's Report: John Swearingen, Illinois Lincolnland Airstream Club, reported the checking account balance, as of July 1, 2023, the first day of Region 5's fiscal year, was \$11,297.47. The Federal Tax Return for July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, has been filed and accepted by the IRS. The Treasurer's report has been posted on the Region 5 website. If you wish to review this year's report in detail, as well as several past years' reports, go to the website. As I have explained in the past, even though we operate on a fiscal year, July 1-June 30, our actual activities tend to be on a calendar year. So, reports are sometimes misleading. There is much more money in the checkbook right now than what shows in this report, because we have not paid the expenses for this rally yet. After this rally is over, I will gather all expenses, all income, pay all the bills etc. and then I will be able to prepare a report for this rally. Artie will review the report and then Damon will post the report on the website, and you will be able to review how this rally went. As of last night, we had 62 rigs on the grounds, which is really good. There were no questions. The treasurer's report was accepted and filed. A copy of the written report is attached to the Secretary's minutes.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

Standing Committee Reports

Rally Report: There was no rally report.

Membership: President Martin stated he recently appointed himself to be Region 5 Membership Chairman. I did this simply because I found out what information it allowed the Membership Chairperson of a region to have. No longer does a Region President or Local Club President have to call Headquarters to ask for reports, for example, about members' dues, who is outstanding and who is paid up. As Membership Chairman, I can produce these reports quickly, based on the International website and in real time. Access to this information is invaluable to Presidents of Regions and Local Clubs. Many Local Club Treasurers have had to set up their own spreadsheets to keep track of members' information. I can send them a report that is Excel compatible and they can then data sort the information any way they want. And the information is updated on an hourly basis with new members. So no longer do we have people who might slip through the cracks. I can produce a report in 30 seconds and have it in your email inbox. As Region 5 Membership Chairman, I have access to this information for all of our region. If you have a local club membership chairperson, they can access this information for their local club. I challenge all of you to utilize this valuable information. As a membership chairperson, you will get new membership reports on a weekly basis. Recently, the International Club initiated a new welcome letter to be delivered to new Members at Large (MALs). These welcome letters are designed to encourage new MALs to come to a local rally and join a local club. This data is being compiled and tracked to measure its success, with the Headquarters Membership Chairperson. This is in response to a new joint venture between Airstream, Inc. and WBCCI. For every new Airstream sold, Airstream, Inc. will pay for a one-year MAL membership in WBCCI, if the new owner wishes to participate. That's why these letters are being sent and these letters are starting to increase in number. With every new Airstream sold, the new owners are an automatic MAL, for free the first year, if they choose to join as a MAL. After that first year as a MAL, it is up to us, the local clubs, to retain their membership. These welcome letters introduce new MALs to our local clubs. Then we can initiate conversations with the new MAL members, invite them to a rally, and encourage them to join our local clubs. That's what this is all about—increasing membership. In relation to this, it is important for the local clubs to keep their websites updated with current information. President Martin addressed questions/comments from the board. A copy of the written report is attached to the Secretary's minutes.

Caravans: Currently, Region 5 does not have a Caravan Chairperson. If anyone is interested in this position, please see President Martin.

Contributing Editor to the Blue Beret: Artie Martin, Contributing Editor, Region 5 President stated we have had an article in all 10 issues of the Blue Beret during the past year. I am always asking for members to submit articles for inclusion in the magazine, and once again encourage members to participate. I have already spoken about the significant changes in the Blue Beret magazine, the reduction to quarterly issues and creation of the new electronic version, The Blue Beret Bulletin. President Martin plans to continue being the editor through this change process to add continuity for Region 5's communication to its members, as these processes develop and move forward. President Martin addressed questions/comments from the board. A copy of the written report is attached to the Secretary's minutes.

Community Service: Region 5 does not currently have a Community Service Chairperson. In the absence of a Community Service Chairperson, Artie & Pam Martin have co-chaired this activity for last year's 2022 Region 5 rally and for this year's 2023 Region 5 rally. Region 5 needs a Chairperson for this incredibly important function. If you are interested in this position, please see President Martin. This year we selected Tunnel to Towers as the recipient of our fundraising efforts. We look forward to supporting Tunnel to Towers and all the magnificent help they extend to our Military, Gold Star Families, and first responders such as Police and Fire Departments. Please join us in support of this great organization. There were no questions. A copy of the written report is attached to the Secretary's minutes.

Legislative: Region 5 does not currently have a Legislative Chairperson. At this time, does any board member know of any legislative changes in Region 5 related to RVing? Indiana has a cell phone "no hands" law, beginning 2 years ago. Kentucky instituted a 7% bed tax, which directly affects rally costs. This is a 7% increase in rally expenses every night we stay here. Beyond Region 5 boundaries, State of Tennessee has a "no straw" law, meaning you cannot drink from a straw while driving. We need a volunteer to fill this position. If you are interested in this position, please see President Martin.

Newsletter Editor: President Martin introduced Region 5's new newsletter editor Jenn Reinshagen. Jenn was recently recruited and has volunteered her services as our newsletter editor. The inaugural edition of the Region 5 newsletter was just released August 2023. Jenn and her husband, Robb, were members of the Cincinnati Airstream Club. But life events moved them to Versailles, IN, in Region 5, and they are now members of the Central Indiana Airstream Club. Jenn stated the Region 5 quarterly newsletter will be published in February, May, August, and November. I am an avid photographer and also enjoy writing and the position of newsletter editor allows me to combine these hobbies with my second love – Airstreams! I am also the monthly newsletter editor for Central Indiana Airstream Club. I grew up with Airstreams and convinced by husband Robb (my first love!) to help me rehab a 1980 30' International. We look forward to meeting more of our new Region members and continuing to create life-long friendships rooted in our shiny silver trailers. Please contact me if you have articles or photos to share for the newsletter. My email address is [wbcci4447@gmail.com](mailto:wbcc4447@gmail.com) and my cell phone number is 513-919-0229. Jenn then posed the question to the board for selecting a name for the Region 5 quarterly newsletter. We now have suggestions for the name for the newsletter, so how do we select the name? After discussion, it was determined that suggestions received to date, along with suggestions received at this rally, will be listed in the November newsletter, with a link where all members will have the opportunity to vote on the name. A copy of the written report is attached to the Secretary's minutes.

Religious Services: Region 5 does not currently have a Religious Services Coordinator. In the absence of a Religious Services Coordinator, the report will be read by Recording Secretary Susan Swearingen. The worship service last year was held on Sunday, September 18, 2022, at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in Madison, Indiana. Worship leader was Jennifer Reinshagen and Usher Chairperson was John Swearingen. The offering of \$373.21 was given to Rykers

Ridge Elementary School, in Madison, Indiana, which was also the Community Service Project for this rally. The total amount given to Rykers Ridge Elementary School was \$1,845.21 (\$373.21 offering + \$1,472.00 charitable donations). There were no questions. If anyone is interested in this position, please see President Martin. A copy of the written report is attached to the Secretary's minutes.

Vintage Airstream Club (VAC) Representative: Damon Beals, Central Indiana Airstream Club, is the current VAC Region 5 Representative. The Vintage Airstream Club (VAC) currently has over 700 members. Here in Region 5, we currently have 31 paid members in VAC. To be a member of VAC, your Airstream must be at least 25 years old. You may have an affiliate membership in VAC if your Airstream is less than 25 years old. Due to the move of the International Rally to the Fall of 2024, VAC is going to try doing the Rendezvous in Spring 2024. Right now, the VAC president is in Jackson Center planning a Spring 2024 Caravan & Rally. Tentative plans are for either the last week of May or first week of June. The current plans have the caravan starting in Elkhart, Indiana, at the RV Museum & Hall of Fame, then a stop in Peru, Indiana, at Dan Piper's Vintage Trailer shop. Final stop will be somewhere close to Jackson Center, Ohio. The rally will include tours of the Airstream Factory and the Heritage Center, and the VAC annual meeting will be conducted. Once details are finalized, I will notify the board so information may be sent to the members of Region 5. Tonight, VAC is sponsoring an Ice Cream Social here at the rally. As a first, VAC will present a "Best of Vintage" Airstream trophy tonight. We want to recognize the hard work that VAC members put into restoring and preserving their Airstreams. We hope to make this an annual event at future Region 5 rallies. Damon addressed all questions from the board. If anyone in Region 5 would like to become the next Region 5 representative, please contact me. A written copy of the report is attached to the Secretary's minutes.

Webmaster: Webmaster Damon Beals, Central Indiana Airstream Club, stated he has continued to update and add content to the Region 5 website as it is provided. The updates have included the 2023 Region 5 Rally, the return of the Region 5 newsletter, and updates for the Region 5 board meetings. New this year was the creation of a Jotform.com account for Region 5 so we can collect registrations and fees for events. Jotform was used for this rally's registration and for the upcoming Eclipse Rally. Jotform costs Region 5 \$17 a month. The board may wish to consider offering the Region 5 Jotform to all 5 of the local clubs in Region 5. The International Club is moving club email accounts from wbcci.net and airstreamclub.net to airstreamclub.org. Region 5 has a new email address (region5@airstreamclub.org) and it is used for Jotforms and for Region 5 communications. The International Club will also be contacting all the local clubs asking if they want a club email account. I would encourage each club in Region 5 to use this email, as it can be passed from President to Incoming President and not tie services to a personal email account. The International Club has mandated that all clubs now need to use the new International website (airstreamclub.org) to input events for inclusion in the Blue Beret magazine and online calendar. I will continue to help the local clubs get access and help them learn about the new site, but the individual clubs will need to input their clubs' event data. He stressed the importance of the local clubs putting their information on the International calendar and keeping it updated, as this is how new members will see your club. All 5 local clubs of Region 5 have now moved content over to the new International website at airstreamclub.org and I will

continue to work with any club in Region 5 to help them improve their website and events. The International Club has added new features to the website: you can now do user searches, find your club members, a member can join and renew for Intraclubs, it is one-stop shopping for joins and renewals, and membership chairpersons can now generate reports to get all the information on members of their club. In addition, the International Club is doing a review of the website to make it more user friendly. Important reminders: If there is an Officer change of any kind (including webmasters and assistant webmasters), the information needs to go to info@airstreamclub.org. The President or Vice President can email the change to info@airstreamclub.org or fill out the online Officer Reporting Form (<https://airstreamclub.org/form/officer-reporting-form>). If there is a change in the communication list for new members, renewals, etc. that change needs to go to membership@airstreamclub.org. To ensure your club event gets published in the Blue Beret, the event must be posted to airstreamclub.org website by the closing date of each issue. There are new closing/due dates for the Blue Beret, due to changing the publication to quarterly format. February Issue has Closing/Due Date of December 15; May Issue has Closing/Due Date of March 15; August Issue has Closing/Due Date of June 15; and November Issue has Closing/Due Date of September 15. The Blue Beret will NOT publish TBD events or events with incomplete information (i.e. no contact person, or location, etc.) For Blue Beret additional information, contact blueberet@airstreamclub.org or contact Corey Maxwell at 937-596-5211. Damon addressed all questions from the board. A copy of the written report is attached to the Secretary's minutes.

Unfinished Business: There are two items of Unfinished Business.

2023 Motion #1 – This is a housekeeping item, as we, the board, had not previously/formally approved the date and location for the Region 5 Special Eclipse Rally. President Martin read the motion, as he is the motion maker. I move that The Region 5 Board approve the date and location of The Eclipse Rally, scheduled for April 5-9, 2024, at the Bartholomew County Fairgrounds, Columbus, Indiana. Motion was seconded by Mark Kruer, President of the Indiana Airstream Club. After brief discussion, President Martin called for a vote. Without objection, this motion is approved.

2023 Motion #2 – This is another housekeeping item, as we, the board, had not previously/formally approved the Budget pricing for The Eclipse Rally. President Martin read the motion, as he is the motion maker. I move that The Region 5 Board approve the following pricing for The Eclipse Rally April 5-9, 2024. The Rally Price is \$275.00 for 1 Airstream and 2 people, \$206.00 for 1 Airstream and 1 person. Extra adults will be \$56.00 per person. There was a question. Is there a price for children? The answer is no. The motion will be amended for pricing for children. The price for children, age 12 and under, is \$20.00. President Martin read the amended motion. I move that The Region 5 Board approve the following pricing for The Eclipse Rally April 5-9, 2024. The Rally Price is \$275.00 for 1 Airstream and 2 people, \$206.00 for 1 Airstream and 1 person. Extra adults will be \$56.00 per person. Children, age 12 and under, will be \$20.00. After brief discussion, President Martin asked for a second on the

amended motion. Christopher Seplak, Immediate Past Region President, seconded the amended motion. There was no further discussion. President Martin called for a vote. Without objection, this motion as amended is passed.

There was no additional Unfinished Business

Second Vice President's Report: (oral report) Susan Bishop, Region 5 2nd Vice President, stated her report is an update on the Eclipse Rally. You just heard the dates and fees for the rally. We started planning early for this rally and the Bartholomew County Fairgrounds originally said we could have all 102 full-hookup sites. The fairgrounds is learning many people will be in Columbus and the county-wide area for the eclipse, so they are wanting to know a definite number of campsites we wish to rent. Currently, we have 60 sites rented, but may be able to get more. The fairgrounds is even renting out the open field areas to other RVs and tent campers. So, if you wish to attend, don't delay in registering. We will be viewing the movie "Alumination" by Eric Bricker, at the YES Theater, in downtown Columbus. The theater is owned by the Lincoln-Central Neighborhood Family Center. One of the ways the Center raises funds is renting out the theater. The Center will be our Community Service project for this rally. After the movie, we will have a buffet lunch at the historic Zaharakos Ice Cream Parlor & Museum. We have sole use of the facility for our buffet. We will have a tour at Cummins, of the main engine plant, on 2 separate days. Please register early for this rally.

New Business:

(oral report) Airstream Club International (ACI) Region Bylaws as they relate to Nomination, Election, and Installation of Region Officers (see attached copy). President Martin stated since our Region 5 Rally is in May next year, our election process will take place prior to May 2024 and the new officers will take office on August 1, 2024. Under previous Region Bylaws, elected Region officers were installed at the International Rally. Newly elected officers can still be installed at the International Rally, but under current Region Bylaws, newly elected officers take office on August 1, regardless of when the election takes place. So, we will plan our election starting in January 2024. Immediate Past Region President Christopher Seplak is our Nominating Chairman. President Martin then read the current ACI Bylaws. Item D 3 says Nominating Committee will submit written report to Executive Council not later than July 1 of the ensuing year. July 1 of the ensuing year is too late, as our Region 5 Rally is in May. We need to have our election process completed by the end of April 2024. President Martin then read Item E 1 and following. He purposely omitted the dates indicated, as those dates will change due to our process. Each local club will vote and then each local club president will cast one vote for the candidate that won the local club vote. We currently have two members who are interested in running for the Region 5 2nd Vice President position. Christopher Seplak is our Nominating Chairman, and he will select two members to be on his committee. The resumes of interested candidates will be sent to him in January, to be reviewed by the committee. Then the election process will take place. Because we have two interested members in the position, I

wanted to state these facts so they know we are aware of their interest, and we will follow the Region 5 policy for the election. In the absence of a Recording Secretary, the Region 5 Executive Board will have the responsibility for counting the ballots. The Region 5 Executive Board members are: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, and Immediate Past Region President. In a moment, I will be sharing we will soon be needing a Recording Secretary as soon as possible. After brief discussion, President Martin reiterated each individual member of each local club will vote. The results of that vote will be a winner. The winner will receive 1 vote from the local club. The end result is we will have 5 votes and whoever that candidate is was elected by the membership by the local clubs and one vote will come forward from each local club.

First Vice President's Report (oral report) John Deegan, Region 5 First Vice President, announced the 2024 Region 5 Rally will have the theme "America's Home Town", as we will be in Hannibal, Missouri. Dates for the rally are May 15-May 19, 2024. At this time, we are anticipating the cost of the rally will be \$350.00 for 2 people in 1 Airstream. This is for 4 nights camping with full hookups with 20/30/50-amp service. We will visit Mark Twain's boyhood home, meet Tom Sawyer and Becky Thatcher, and have the opportunity to partake in a host of other fun-filled activities during our 4-day stay. I do have a slide presentation we can view later, if you wish. Christopher Seplak, Immediate Past Region 5 President, asked we have voted on the rally dates and location, correct? John Deegan, Region 5 1st Vice President, replied yes (both items were approved at the July 28, 2023, ZOOM meeting originating from the International Rally in Rock Springs, Wyoming). Christopher Seplak then asked if we have voted on the budget? John Deegan, Region 5 1st Vice President, replied no, we have not, as we are still in the process of revising/finalizing the budget. The reason for that, we are finding we are able to negotiate our pricing with the campground complex, as well as with the various vendors in the City of Hannibal. Christopher Seplak then asked if we can put this on Unfinished Business, and then if we must, we can hold an emergency ZOOM meeting to approve the budget. He said this board is responsible for voting for the budget of the region rallies. President Martin stated we have had this kind of discussion already because there are facts and figures we are quite sure about. I have watched the power point presentation that John Deegan has put together and for \$350.00 he has created a rally very similar to this one. It includes breakfasts, camping, entertainment, a meeting. It may even include a building. In the spirit of not having another ZOOM meeting, I thought we could discuss, as a board, approving the rally budget at \$350.00 or less. A lengthy discussion followed. Then President Martin asked if a member of the region board would like to make a motion to accept what had just been discussed—the rally budget would be \$350.00 or less and any additional items would be additional fees. Mark Kruer, President Indiana Airstream Club, made a motion that we approve the \$350.00 for the budget for the rally in May. Motion was seconded by Christopher Seplak, Immediate Past Region 5 President. There was no further discussion. President Martin called for a vote. Without any objections, a budget of \$350.00 or less is approved.

There was no additional New Business.

Announcements: President Martin stated he wants to thank the woman sitting next to him, Susan Swearingen, for serving 13 years, to 7 Region Presidents, as Region 5 Recording Secretary. Susan was asked by 3 different International Presidents to be the International Recording Secretary, quite the resume'. Thank you so much Susan for your service.

President Martin invited all officers, who wished, to make announcements and each officer is limited to 2 minutes. Region 5 1st Vice President John Deegan thanked everyone for coming today and he is looking forward to seeing you in Hannibal. Next, Region 5 2nd Vice President Susan Bishop stated she is responsible for the Region 5 Rally in 2026. She has not decided on a location, but it will obviously be in Kentucky, as we rotate among our three states. The three places I am thinking about are Louisville, Bardstown, and Bowling Green. Next, Region 5 Treasurer John Swearingen requested that everyone please display their membership numbers (BRNs) where they can clearly be seen on the front of their rigs. This makes it much easier for the Parking Crew and for me, who must do a nightly census of the number of rigs that are here, so we don't overpay or underpay the venue. Next, Recording Secretary Susan Swearingen thanked Artie & Pam Martin for this rally. They have put in a lot of work, and I think we can see the result of their efforts in everything we see and are doing here. Lastly, I want to thank my husband John for his technical support and for supporting me through this 13-year journey on which we have been. Without his help, I could not have done it. Next, Immediate Past Region 5 President Christopher Seplak thanked everyone for letting him serve as our Region 5 President and Immediate Past President. I tried my best to follow what you wanted. I have had so many comments that this is an old region, but I am proud to be part of Region 5. Thanks to Susan and John for all their help through the years. To Nancy, my wife, we are done! Thank you everyone and God bless. Next, Region 5 Parliamentarian Steve Broering thanked everyone for their hard work and taking time to volunteer to keep this great club going. It doesn't go without volunteers and taking time out of our personal lives to do it. Keep up the great work.

Next, Local Club Presidents made announcements/comments pertaining to their Local Clubs. Central Indiana Airstream Club President Tammy Price thanked Artie and Pam. You have done a wonderful job, and we are so excited to be here for our first Region rally. We are blessed to be a part of it. Next, Illinois Lincolnland Airstream Club President Christine Majers thanked Artie and Pam, and everyone involved in all the aspects of this rally, as well as all the unit rallies. It takes a lot of work and preparation and I appreciate and am grateful for all of you. Next, Indiana Airstream Club President Mark Kruer said I'll keep it short—we'll be in touch. Next, Kentucky Airstream Club President Alan Billips thanked Artie and Pam and all the people they recruited to help put on this rally. And I'm proud to say you are a part of the Kentucky Airstream Club. Next, Northern Illinois Airstream Club President Keith Enstrom thanked everyone for coming and helping. He reported their club has been growing, due in part to the International website showing what is happening and when, and an increase in affiliate memberships. They use Constant Contact to notify members and for feedback and it has worked well for them. And we are proud to be a part of Region 5.

President Martin thanked everyone for their participation and hard work and that of their local clubs. I hope you have had fun at this rally and will continue to have fun. Thank you for all the support you give Pam and me. And I must thank Debbie Kyle and Jenn Reinshagen for the excellent job they did at this rally, with parking and the set-up. They performed with efficiency and without complaint. Thank you.

Adjournment: There being no other business, President Martin stated without objection, this meeting is adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M. EDT/10:30 A.M. CDT.

Susan M. Swearingen, WBAC #4482
Recording Secretary 2023
Region 5 of WBAC