

## Heartland of America Rally, August, 2012

The Heartland of America rally returned to Springfield, Ohio in August, and it was a rousing success! Two hundred and thirty one member coaches were in attendance along with eight non-member coaches, making a grand total of two hundred and thirty nine. Interestingly, fifty one of those attending were first timers. The attendees came from forty of the fifty states; including one from Hawaii—think on that! Since we also had Canadians attending, this was a very diverse crowd!

Traditionally, each rally chooses a local charity to support, and this year because of our patriotic theme, we chose to support the “Wounded Warrior Regiment.” Our members not only heard the call for donations; they exceeded the goal set by the club! A combination of website donations and donations at the rally netted more than \$11,000. Monaco International Club matched up to the challenge amount of \$10,000 for a total contribution to this worthwhile cause of over \$21,000! Master Gunny Sargent Terrell Jones flew in from Quantico to accept the funds. In his talk with the group, he revealed how the funds go directly to deserving veterans, and he expressed their gratitude for the generous gift.

Alliance Coach, Paul Evert’s RV Country, McMahon RV, and Lazy Days comprised the dealers that were in attendance, and they were most generous in their sponsorships. The preview party and social hours all benefited from their financial contributions. Hearthside RV Resort, North Texas RV, and Creative Coach also participated in sponsoring events for our members. As you know, their participation and financial contributions certainly help to reduce the cost to our members for the rallies. So if you happen to be at one of these businesses, be sure to give them a big “thank you.”

Navistar RV attended in full force with technicians and sales managers. The members were pleased that Navistar also brought their parts truck. Additionally, members were able to have tires installed on site by a local Michelin dealer, and two Aqua Hot service techs were available to perform service. Having these services and other for our attendees makes coming to the rally a productive vacation!

As always, the meals were great as was the entertainment. The meals were provided by a local caterer and were some of the best we have enjoyed. Each afternoon, Tommy Johnson played keyboard in the coach display area. Evenings started with happy hour, salad bar, dinner and entertainment. The evening entertainment featured Tommy Johnson on keyboards, Phil Dirt and the Dozers, and Hickory Wind. Based on the number of people who stayed for the night entertainment, the acts were a success.

Of course, no rally can function without the Committee Chairs and the many volunteers who willingly donated their time and skills. Thanks to all of you who worked so hard to ensure that the Heartland of America rally was successful.

*Jack and Terri Brewster*  
*Rallymasters*