

A Deeper Experience

By Debbie Conover



My husband Geary and I joined the RV Fellowship of Rotarians. There were many fellowships to choose from but after camping for years this fellowship seemed like the right fit. The concept and practice of fellowships has moved our Rotary experience to a deeper level. Our first experience was in Chicago for the Centennial Convention. While there I also joined the Scouting Fellowship. What next... Would it be the beer, wine, social media or website or would it be the ham operators or Global History of Rotary?

We immediately found new Rotary friends with a likeness of travel, adventure and camping. The RV Fellowship started in 1974 and meets in different parts of Canada and USA for rallies that stay in one place or rolling rallies which tour throughout a geographical area. The fellowship has traveled as far as Australia with plans for Europe.



At every Rotary International convention in North America and some abroad, the RV fellowship has a rally meeting place with accommodation (spots to park your home on wheels). This year in Toronto the CNE grounds will be our home both before and during the convention. Some years – over

100 units have made the trek to the convention. After the convention there is a rolling rally that you can join as well. Any Rotarian is invited to join us this year. Before the 2017 convention in Atlanta, 30 units from USA, Canada, Australia and England traveled together in their own units or rentals for 3 weeks starting and ending in Atlanta. Along the way Rotarians joined and left the caravan as their schedules allowed. We visited Alabama, Tennessee, North Carolina. Some of the sights we saw along the way included the Smokey Mountains, the Grand Ole Opry, President Andrew Jackson's home – The Hermitage, Biltmore Estates, a railways tour with a bourbon tasting, and so much more. Rotary clubs along the way entertained us, either at a regular meeting or a social they planned for us. But the most fun we had was at the nightly happy hour which quickly

became happy evenings, with discussion about the day's events, The Rotary Foundation, lots of fundraising ideas as well as sharing of our personal lives.

A bonus of this fellowship is that, unlike commercial rallies, we run on a non-profit, so the price is very realizable. At the end of every annual rally, we donate to something in the area that is highway related since we are on the highways so much.

We ended up at the Atlanta RI Convention. The House of Friendship had many more and new Fellowships that were right up our alley. The RV Fellowship booth saw many new members join and that added to our convention experience. Incoming President Ian Riseley attended The Rotary Foundation party, and our new Australia friend insisted we meet him and took us over to him to be introduced personally. What a blast! Ian will be sorely missed.



I am sure the many other fellowships also have same or similar uplifting and fun experiences. I know the beer and wine fellowships also met at the convention for special outings related to beer and wine.

So, what are you waiting for? Look at the Rotary Fellowship [webpage](#) and find a fellowship to enhance your Rotary experience. For more information on the RV Fellowship of Rotarians, please check our websites at rvfrna.org and rvfrinternational.com.

