

Hello, fellow Airstreamers! I hope that all of you are getting ready for a full season of camping and fellowship with the members of Unit 169. I have a lot of information to pass along to you, so let's get started.

It is my pleasure to welcome Malcolm and Gale Collins #6271 to our Unit! They live in Asheville, and have a 27' Airstream Trailer. Malcolm and Gale, we hope to meet you in person at our Spring Unit Luncheon on March 17, 2018. More on that later.

George III and I attended the International Board of Trustees Rally (IBT) in Sarasota, FL from January 8-12, 2018. It was my first IBT rally, and I will say that we had a good time. We had some great food, and wonderful entertainment. Sarasota, FL is the traditional wintertime home of many circus companies, and we were entertained on two evenings when the circus came to us! And I was volunteered one evening to 'assist' the band. When I was asked if I had any musical experience, the audience started to chuckle before I could answer. When the lead singer asked what instrument I played, many of the folks shouted, "All of them!" We had a good time in spite of confusing the lead singer. (For those who don't know, I was a band director for many years and regularly play in the concert and dance bands at the International Rallies. I also have a Celtic band and play guitar and sing.)

For those who aren't aware of what the IBT does, and why it is worth the effort to attend an IBT Rally at least once, here is a brief synopsis: The IBT votes to either approve or deny policies or policy changes that are presented by the various committees. These committees are charged with specific areas of concern (historical information, membership, caravans, etc.) and report any changes deemed necessary to the IBT. Each item is discussed and rationale is given for any recommended change. A vote is then taken, and the approved items are carried on to the next IBT meeting, and the International Rally for the Unit delegates to vote on. This includes Unit name change proposals, as well as changes to Unit logos and flag design. In spite of the meetings, the weather was cooperative and it was a challenge to head home, back to winter in the Mountains!

Our next Unit event is the Spring Luncheon, which will be held on Saturday, March 17, 2018 at Mills River Restaurant (4467 Boylston Hwy. Mills River, NC 28759). We will meet at 11:00am, and we will be discussing several items of importance for the Unit. One of these items will be voting on changing the name of the Unit. As you may know, the Wally Byam Caravan Club, International (WBCCI) name is now being called the Wally Byam Airstream Club. To be better understood as an Airstream club, we are considering changing our Unit name to the Western North Carolina Airstream Club, with a new URL of www.wncairstream.wbcci.net. To make this change happen, and to hear your comments and thoughts on this, we need to hear from you! If you have an opinion on this name change, either For or Against,

please let me know. You can e-mail your reply to georgejamesiv@yahoo.com. Please include your name and membership number (this will help me keep track of who has voted and who has not) and your vote. If you have other name change suggestions, please include those as well. You can also choose to send your vote via text to (830) 460-0628. Again, please include your name, membership number and your vote. If you prefer to send a note or letter, my home address is George James, IV 348 Iotla Street, Franklin, NC 29734. Every member has a vote, and your vote is important.

A second item that we will be voting on is the update to our Unit Constitution and By-Laws. The Unit has not made changes/updates to the Constitution and By-Laws since 2007, and these changes are necessary. These updates have been made, reviewed and approved by the Unit Executive Committee. We now need your votes on these changes/updates. We hope that you will be in attendance at the Spring Luncheon to vote to approve these changes/updates. If you are unable to attend the Spring Luncheon, you may again vote via e-mail, text, or "snail mail." Voting deadline will be March 17, 2018. Please include your name and membership number with your vote. To view our current Unit Constitution and By-Laws, please visit the Unit website at www.wnc.wbccci.net. If you would like a hard copy of the Unit Constitution and By-Laws, please contact me and I will send out a copy to you.

And probably the most important item for the Spring Luncheon, aside from good food and fellowship, is that we need a Unit Treasurer. If you would like to volunteer to be our Unit Treasurer, we would like to hear from you. Currently, our immediate Past President is acting treasurer and he would like to have someone with more experience take on this important position. You don't need to be present to volunteer for the Unit Treasurer's position, but it sure would help us if you could be there. Experience with on-line banking is preferred, but not necessary.

Lastly, please make your plans to attend the Region 3 Rally in Myrtle Beach, SC on April 25-29, 2018. You can call Ocean Lakes Family Campground at 800-722-1451 to reserve your site, and tell them you are with Region 3 Airstream Group. You can register for the rally by visiting Region 3's website at www.region3.wbccci.net.

Sincerely,

George D. James, IV #2879

President, WNC Airstream Club