

Date ??????
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Awards
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Subject: Robert L. Richter Award Nomination

Dear Sirs:

In the tradition and spirit of our Founder, I nominate Ted Barrett, F276268, for the Robert L. Richter award. Ted and his wife Martha have been members of FMCA since March 2000, and joined the Georgia Mountaineers Chapter in 2004. Ted currently serves as our Newsletter Editor, but has been involved in almost every aspect of our Chapter, the Georgia Mountaineers, over the past 15 years.

Since this award is based mainly on newsletters, this is where this nomination begins. Enclosure (1) is a copy of our November 2019 newsletter, *The Mountaineer*. This newsletter is published monthly following our last local rally. The current format and content of our newsletters go back to 2007, when Ted became Chapter President for the first time. Since supporting materials are limited to 10 pages, this is the only newsletter enclosed, as it is eight pages long. You will find older newsletters on our website, but those prior to 2007 were usually just in email text format. When our website was established in 2010, Ted went back and retrieved all the older newsletters he could find, put *The Mountaineer* header on them, and reformatted them for posting to the website. But beginning in 2007, under Ted's leadership, our monthly newsletters were created in a more formal format with *The Mountaineer* header; converted to a PDF document, and either emailed to our members as an attachment, or for those not using email, a hardcopy was printed and mailed. In September 2009, Ted substituted for the newsletter editor that month and added photos to *The Mountaineer* for the very first time. The addition of photos became a standard after that and Ted assisted all the future newsletter editors and wrote guidelines to make the addition of photos an easy task. Examples of other newsletters that he wrote are on the *Newsletters* page our website, under June through October 2018.

As for publications, the very first task accomplished by Ted upon assuming duties as Chapter President in November 2006, was to write and get approved the very first set of Standing Rules to augment the Chapter By-Laws. While these Standing Rules have been amended over the years, they have stood the test of time and are key in the operation of

our Chapter. Later in 2008, Ted began writing Guidelines for each officer position in the Chapter. These Guidelines augment the responsibilities outlined by FMCA Chapter documents and are tailored for our specific chapter. Many of these Guidelines have been amended or updated over the years and all of them are published and posted on the password protected *Members Area* of our website. The Audit Committee Guidelines, enclosure (2), is an example of these guidelines and is the only one consisting of just one page, which is why it was selected for enclosure to this nomination.

Another example of Ted's skills in communications and keeping our chapter up-to-date, is our chapter website, <http://www.georgiamountaineers.org>. Ted first proposed having a website for our chapter in 2008, but the membership voted it down. However, he did not give up and proposed it again in 2010. This time the membership agreed and voted to have a chapter website. After approval, it took Ted only three days for the first two pages of the website to be up and running. He is the designer and creator of our website and serves as our WebMaster. See a screen print, enclosure (3) for part of the first page of our website. The top part of the first page is really designed for nonmembers, who are interested and looking for a chapter. It has a Message from our President, a Chapter Introduction, information about why to join a chapter, making reservations information, and a Guest Book. Lower down the page are links to all of our annual Rally Schedules going back to 2006. There is also a link to the Rally Agenda of our next rally. At the bottom of the page is a random photo gallery of photos over the past years. Today our website consists of five pages, *Chapter & Rally Info*, *Newsletters*, *RV Parks & Links*, *Members Area*, and *Photo Gallery*. In addition to the photos on the *Photo Gallery* page is a link to a photo management website that has 67 Photo Albums, one for each rally going back to around 2012. Both the *Members Area* and *Photo Gallery* pages are password protected, so the general public does not have access to those two pages.

On the second page of our website, *Newsletters*, is a listing of our newsletters and a Message Board for posting of our Rally Attendees lists, Rally Agendas, and other information. One is a document Ted wrote with feedback about Alaska and the ALCAN Highway. If you are interested in going to Alaska, this is an interesting read. On the third page of our website, *RV Parks & Links*, are links to all the RV parks where we normally have rallies. There is also a list of service centers where we have had satisfactory service work performed. Additionally, there is list of technical publications, some of which Ted wrote; plus some others with RV related information.

As stated earlier, the *Members Area* of our website, is password protected for just our members. On this page are links to many FMCA documents, our local Chapter documents (including all the Guidelines), a copy of our Executive Board and Business Meeting Minutes, Treasurer Reports, and other pertinent documents available for all of our members to read. Plus there is an unofficial Roster of chapter members and a member Directory that are maintained by Ted. The Directory has a page per membership that includes a photo of the member(s) and all necessary contact information.

In addition to all the chapter involvement, chapter publications, and chapter communications, Ted has been our FMCA Chapter Contact since 2007, when he first

became Chapter President. At that time our chapter membership had dwindled down to almost the minimum for maintaining our Charter. Rally attendance was down to six or seven coaches and the chapter was dying. Ted began a recruitment effort at that time and has continued to serve as our Chapter Recruiter all through these past years. When he receives the New Member Reports, he contacts almost all of the new members. He provides them a Chapter Introduction document and invites them to come and visit with our chapter at our rallies, with the following prospect of joining our chapter. He has over 750 contacts in his Address Book of possible new member prospects. Included in that number are non-FMCA member RV'ers he has come in contact with. He not only recruits for our chapter, but also for FMCA. Besides the initial contact, he usually contacts them bi-annually and provides copies of new Rally Schedules and occasionally newsletters to keep them informed about our chapter. These contacts stay active for about five years before being retired. When a prospective new member contacts Ted, he provides them a Visitor Rally Information document that he wrote, which contains information as to what to expect when they arrive and during the rally. Also provided are copies of the Rally Attendees list and the Rally Agenda. Plus he answers any questions they may have. At the height of his recruitment effort, our chapter membership increased to over 60 coaches. For the past few years, our membership has been around the 45 member coach mark, with an average rally attendance of 18 to 22 coaches per rally. Without Ted's recruitment effort, our chapter would probably have lost its charter and ceased to exist back around 2009 or 2010.

In summary and based on all the above, I strongly recommend Ted Barrett for the Robert L. Richter Award. His involvement in our newsletters, the creation of our website, the publication of many chapter documents, and his communications within and outside our chapter make him highly qualified for this award. He has been very instrumental in the operation and life of our chapter for almost 15 years. No one could be more deserving.

Respectfully,

Raymond Birt -- F424542
Georgia Mountaineers Chapter President

Enclosures: (1) Newsletter - 2019 November Coastal Georgia RV Resort Brunswick
(2) Guidelines Audit Committee 17Nov2014
(3) Website Screen Print