

H.H. Franklin Club
August 7, 2012 Board Meeting Notes

President Marv Gage opened the meeting at 3:03 PM

Roll Call

Present:

President Marv Gage, Vice President Bob Harrison, Treasurer Mark Chaplin, Secretary Janet Kilmer, Board Members Bill Eby, Loretta Fusco, Bill Joline, Bill Woodcock, Keith Kilmer, Dave Roberts, Karl Nippert, Dennis Egan, Randy Fusco, Tex Sorrell and Jim Stevenson.

Absent: Past President, Bob Amon, Board Member Bill Fields and Brendan Hogan, The Mid-west Regional Director.

President Marv announced there is a quorum present.

Secretary's Report

An Amendment to add Dennis Egan as present at the April 28, 2012 Board of Directors Meeting was made by Bob Harrison. A motion to accept with the adjustment was made by Bill Joline, seconded by Dennis Egan, and passed.

Treasurer's Report

By Mark Chaplin

This is the time of the fiscal year when we don't receive many revenues and expenses are high. As a result we had a decrease in our assets since the end of the last quarter of 35k, a result of reductions in the general fund of 6k (primarily from the printing of publications, in the FACHC fund of 26k (primarily a result of annual payment to Gilmore offset by pledges/gifts received and unrealized investment losses in our FACHC investment accounts), and reductions in the Trek Fund for payments made for this years Trek of 3k.

In the next quarter we will continue to see seasonal declines in the operating fund for normal expenses.

We have a balance of pledges receivable from donors of \$108,000 which is expected to be paid according to the term of individual donor's pledges with the exception of probably \$5-7k due from deceased donors and pledge attrition. *Note: We do not reflect these on our financial statements as we are a cash basis taxpayer.*

Also attached are comparative Balance Sheets for the current fiscal year to date vs. the previous fiscal year to date, previous quarter, and last year. You will note that assets

increased \$42k primarily a result of increases in the FACHC Investment Funds and receipt of pledges.

Attached also are an analysis of General Fund revenue and expenses and proposed 2012 Budget. You will note that we continue to manage our expenses and maintain our income at typical historical levels.

Attached as well is an analysis of FACHC income and expenses and proposed 2012 Budget. You will note that we are slowly building our operating fund. In 2013 we will see the first year that pledges will not exceed expected operating costs, causing us to tap our investment funds prior to reaching our operating fund goal of \$1.2 million. It is expected at the current rate of operating fund growth and expected pledges we will not reach the goal without bequests, or additional gifts.

Mark went over the budget for 2013. Many have fulfilled their pledges and it is time to start to sell donated cars planned for sale to increase revenue.

A motion made to accept and file the Treasurer's Report for audit was made by Randy Fusco and seconded by Bill Woodcock. The motion was approved.

Merchandise Report

By Loretta Fusco

Sales have been very good. Loretta has deposited over \$2,000.00, as of this date. The blankets that we received as gifts will be for sale tomorrow in the merchandise room. The tool rolls have been on display in merchandise. They are selling on a prepay basis. Only one person has shown an interest so far and we cannot order just one.

Loretta is sending a box of items to the Gilmore for the gift shop when she packs up from the merchandise on Thursday night.

Loretta sent items to Eric Macleod for the air cooled show.

Loretta did purchase Joel Braverman's inventory and has been selling it with our regular merchandise. She will send some of those items to the Gilmore too. Joel was pleased to receive our offer and to sell the items to the club for resale.

Club Projects:

By Bob Harrison

There are 33 current projects. Parts continue to sell throughout the year.

FCP-2 Red Plastic Inner Lens is out of stock. There are 2 on back order. We need to find new supplier.

FCP-4 Windshield hinge cover: Two in stock. Need to find a new supplier.

FCP-5 Escutcheons: Two sets in stock. He will have to get more made when there is one set left.

FCP-6 Side Draft Push Rod Sets: Three sets in stock. He will order more when inventory gets down to one set.

FCP-7 12" Twilight Lens is currently out of stock.

FCP-17 Copper Washers are out of stock and he is currently trying to find a new supplier. There are several on back order.

FCP-18 and 18-1 Exhaust Pipes are out of stock. He needs to order more; two on back order. He is waiting for flanges being made.

FCP-23 Gemmer Rebuild Kits were sold out; he just received 10 more kits.

FCP-24 and 24-1 Mufflers, there are only a few left. He will try to order more for delivery in the fall to save on freight. The supplier will deliver to PA free when he goes to the Studebaker Swap Meet.

FCP-27 Venturi for Stromberg U-3, he is currently having new parts made that will match originals. They should be available by September 2012.

There is a board in parts department showing the current projects. There are currently 33 ongoing projects.

ACN

By Chuck Richardson & Brian McEntee

The Cover sample is here and it is at the printer now. It should be out later this month. They have had a good response to the previous issues.

The spring issue will be a non-Franklin issue. It will contain articles on pre-war autos. If you have an article or some photos for this issue, please submit them now.

The new section added for the Franklin Spirit has had good response.

Any suggestions are always welcome. They are always looking for donations of items or tidbits to share.

FSS

Tim Miller is not here and there is no report.

Possible 3rd Publication

By Bill Eby

After the last board meeting, it was decided not to issue a 3rd publication. The Webmasters have added a FB link to the website, so that covers the social information some were looking for. Tim Miller asked in the last FSS if anyone wanted the FSS electronically as it would save some postage expense. He will share the response.

Library:

By Lloyd Davis

The Library is going on about its normal business. The printer has gone out of business and Lloyd has found another. He expects samples at the end of the month. Ron Boothroyd gave Lloyd a brochure on trucks.

Lloyd has been getting acid free boxes for the 1904-1906 scrapbooks, in preparation for sending them to MI.

Club Historian:

By Marv Gage

Sinclair Powell was unable to attend the meeting. He has only been able to secure 75% of the photos from his original book. The others were returned to the original owners. He is having trouble getting comparable quotes for the printing of the book. He thinks the electronic books may be the same cost as traditional printing; however there won't be storage costs with the electronic book. Sinclair hopes to have more information at the next meeting.

Scholarships:

By Mark Chaplin

We have 4 students here this year. It is time to work on next year's trek students. We have one returning student this year. He is currently working for Hagerty. He brought his fiancé and she has offered to help with the kids programs.

This year's students are Aaron & Andrew Butcher, Christopher Komarony and Adam Prince.

He would like to have 6 students each year. They don't have to be McPherson college students. They can be from any school if they fit the criteria. No Gilmore Docents showed any interest in coming.

Club Events:

The 2012 Trek has been going well. We had a little rain, but good weather is expected the rest of the week. Darla thanked the members for donating to the local food bank during the parade on Monday. There is a freelance writer here today and we are getting some publicity. YNN stopped at the parade and interviewed Bob Metro. That was shown on TV the other day. There have been a few minor problems, but nothing major.

David Roberts said after everyone was finished donating, a photo was taken of the food and will be in the Press Republican next week.

Chet & Marlene Zimmerman reported the 2012 Westrek in Kanab, Utah was a great success. Jeff Hasslen reported that Bill Eby drove the farthest to UT. A full report will be published in the ACN.

Bob Harrison announced he & Pat will hold a NE Meet in Rhode Island next September. He will announce the dates at a later time. There is a sign up sheet in the dining hall.

September 12-16, 2012 Meet. The Bennetts and Fuscus are co-hosting this event. Thursday and Friday will be spent in New Castle & Pittsburgh with lots of driving. A bus tour in Pittsburgh is planned for Saturday. The tour is limited to 50 because of the bus capacity. She has posted information in the dining hall.

Registrar: By Chet & Marlene Zimmerman

Marlene & Chet were unable to attend the trek this year, but did submit a report. There will be a one-page update for 2012 to be included with the first issue of the ACN in 2013.

Membership: By Ann Russell

The total Membership as of 7/24/12 is 740.

There are 13 Gratis, 25 International with email addresses, 6 International without email addresses, 558 Domestic with email addresses and 138 Domestic without email addresses. There are 14 New Members since the April 2012 report.

Membership cards will be included with the next ACN.

Note: A renewal box was set up at the Trek Registration Desk and then moved the dining hall. This may cut back on the number of late renewal notices that have to be sent out. This box was intended for the 2013 renewals.

Marv reported membership is working with the webmasters to post emails on the website, secure, with a password.

Preservation

Jeff Hasslen noted the board approved the purchase of the Dealer Sales Literature. Jeff's son is helping with the project. Tex Sorrell is going to send Jeff a sample of what was already done. There are some that we don't have, that he is trying to get a hold of too. It is hoped to add it to the drawing file once it is all compiled. Jeff wants to finish one project at a time. Maybe he'll do the Service Stations next time.

Franklin Collection: By Bob Harrison

Franklin Automobile Collection at Hickory Corners report as of July 29, 2012. The new Visitors Center at Gilmore up and running. Art Einstein did see the facility and the card file.

The proceeds for our weekend this year were Gate; \$6,531.00, Staff Expenses of \$1,603.00, and our profit is \$4,928.00. This is up \$1,563.00 from than last year. Our gate weekend is Father's Day weekend.

The 2nd Annual All Air Cooled Car show was a big success thanks to the efforts of Eric Macleod and Phil Weisenbarger. Attendance was up 80% over last year. We received several positive comments about the event. Eric and Phil have agreed to host the event again next year. Gilmore sent out the Press Release on the event.

The Model A Ford Foundation building is about half completed. Plans are to open this fall.

We have one car, a 1928 Franklin, eligible to be sold this year. This car is being prepped prior to being advertised by Phil Weisenbarger.

We have received another donation. It is a 1930 four door sedan, donated by Keith Knowlton. Bob will make sure it is running before it goes to MI. Bob thinks this car could be driven around at the Gilmore. It is a very nice car.

We are looking for ideas on how and where to set up our computer so that it will be available for visitors to use at the Gilmore.

All drawings previously stored at Jeff Hasslen's home are now in the Archive vault at the Gilmore. We are waiting for a contract from Gilmore on this arrangement.

In anticipation of taking over as Chairmen of the Advisory Committee next year, Phil Weisenbarger has stepped up to the plate and gotten fully involved with the Collection and is doing an excellent job.

Art Einstein stopped by the museum on his way to the Trek. He mentioned it is hard to describe what is there. It is very impressive facility and atmosphere. It is now open 12 months a year and that is so much more exposure.

Bob said we have about 200,000 visitors going through the museum at Gilmore. Look at how many people we have exposed to Franklins!

Sandy Bennett mentioned it being heavenly place to visit. Try to make it there.

Melissa Ferrara will take some of the brochures to the Saratoga Museum.

Web-Master

By Sarah Hood & Paul Beckingham

The website traffic continues to rise, and is up 33% over the last 18 months. There is elevated traffic around membership renewal and trek dates. The last 12 months has brought us over 18,193 unique visitors.

People are now looking at an average of 3.19 pages per visit, which is up from 3.04 in the winter. 33% of visitors have never been to the site before. While these numbers are fairly meaningless in isolation, it is the trends that are interesting. The trends have been consistently upwards since we started gathering data.

The most popular pages are still (1) the main page, (2) for sale and (3) pictures.

Since the club drawings became searchable online in March, there have been 7,076 visits to the search page, resulting in 5,623 searches being performed. Jeff will be happy to hear that over 50% of the searches are by card number. As a result of searches, there have been 18,655 downloads, of 7,584 distinct drawings. This means there are over 3,500 drawings downloads per month. Currently, only 12.4% of the drawings documents have been seen.

Sarah said they are updating the FAC Contact for the museum. Art has provided this information and they will get it updated.

Mark Chaplin asked for a donation form to be added to the website. Bill Eby has already had them add FB link. More updates to make to the search section for the drawings. They will ask for feedback to help them make this easier to access. There is a hidden email list on the website but it isn't updated. Ann Russell is the current contact for updated email addresses. She will share the information with the webmasters.

Art Einstein wanted to make note that the Webmasters are doing a fabulous job and are a joy to work with. Paul Fitzpatrick suggested searching with Franklin Terminology. You will have better results. Try to use the drawing number from the parts books.

Old Business:

Please look through your things and see if you have books or mugs etc. If you took these for an event and didn't sell them or return them, this would be considered inventory. We need this information for year-end closing of the books. Please send these reports to Janet Kilmer.

New Business

Joan Hasslen is now the Secretary / Treasurer of the Midwest Region as of 7/14/12.

Marlene & Chet Zimmerman is requesting that the club sanction the next Westrek to be held June 23-27, 2013, in Pendleton, OR, under the leadership of Chad and Carla Windham. Mark Chaplin approved the request, Bill Joline seconded and it was approved.

It was discussed that the drawings should be password protected on the website. It may encourage someone to join the club if they cannot get everything on line.

A motion was made to password protect the drawings and the email addresses by Bill Joline, seconded by Jim Stevenson.

A modification was made to make the members only section by Bill Eby and Bill Joline seconded the motion modification. The motion was approved.

Marv appointed a committee for a Franklin Forum. Jeff Hasslen will join the committee along with Bill Eby, as co-chairs. Sarah Hood and Chuck Richardson will help. A Forum will get discussion to get to the final answer.

Bob Harrison discussed his Trek Philosophy. He has been approached with questions on how the Trek runs. He didn't have any answers and felt the board should have a better understanding of the process. The trek has been in successful operation for the past 59 years, however Bob is not aware of any procedures or guidelines in writing.

Mark Chaplin did report in November 2011 on the income or expenses of the trek.

Bob read his document (attached). There was much discussion. Mark Chaplin advised children, who stay with their parents, are subsidized by other trekkers in excess of \$100 each. The registrars, trek chairman, scholarship students, and special guests are allowed to attend the trek at no charge. Melissa Ferrara suggested publishing some of the items the trek chairman has as guidelines. Mark Chaplin agreed we need a document. It was suggested no alcohol be served during driving events. This document would need to be refined by a suggested committee of 50% of ex-trek chairs and 50% others. There should be an annual report each year for record of anyone to see.

Bill Eby made a motion to table this discussion to the November meeting. The motion was seconded by Dennis Egan and it was approved with one opposition.

Marv announced the new Board Members; Mike Reeve, Dan Ferrara, Bob Metro, Sandy Bennett, and alternate Chuck Steffensen. The alternate steps up to serve in the event someone is unable to finish his or her term.

Closing

A motion was made by to close the meeting at 5:14 PM by Bill Jolene, seconded by David Roberts and the motion was approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Kilmer
Secretary

Banquet Essentials:

The annual auction led by Sandy Bennett, netted \$286.00.

Dot & Arnie have completed their 26th year as Registrars

2013/14 President will be Bob Harrison and VP will be Bill Eby.

Our Outstanding Club Member this year is Loretta Fusco.

2013 Trek Chairs: Melissa and Daniel Ferrara.

Gordon Howard has attended 54 Treks.

There were 27 first time trekkers, 22 children, 9 infants (0-6 yrs), total 270 attendees.

Boyer Report: 73 Cars and 1 Air Cooled Motorcycle.