

FRRS Annual Meeting and Election Results

By Steve Habeck

The 1996 FRRS Annual Membership Meeting was held in the Flannery Room at the Museum on June 22, 1996 with a rather sparse group of members present. The meeting was preceded by an excellent dinner of steaks and chicken, salads, and beans put on by Beanery Manager and Director Sue Cooper, ably assisted by husband and Director Bruce Cooper at the grill, with Lolli Bryan, Judy McGrath, Melissa McGrath, and others also assisting.

While everyone was letting dinner settle, Election Judge (and Life Member) Tom Graham assembled the competent team of Judy McGrath, Melissa McGrath (both also Life Members), Kerry Cochran, and Ken Iverson to tally the ballots for the election of five Directors and the fate of two Bylaws change proposals. With the results tallied and verified, I opened the meeting with a welcome, and a thank you to Bruce and Sue for the dinner. Tom then announced the results of the election:

Both Bylaws change proposals, 1) to create a Western Pacific Railroad Historical Society as a subsidiary of the FRRS, with a new membership class, Historical, and 2) to place the nine elected Directors on three-year terms, with three terms expiring each year, were overwhelmingly approved. Thus, with the Bylaws change approved, the top three vote-getters, Gordon Wollesen, Steve Habeck, and Hank Stiles, were re-elected, to three year terms. The remaining two seats, for two-year terms, were won by incumbent Vic Neves and Doug Morgan, who edged out the other candidate, Marty Anderson. At the July Directors meeting, the Board will address the establishing of the Historical Society, and consider naming people to administer this organization, as well as elect the FRRS Officers for the 1996-1997 term.

Both Bylaws change proposals, WP Historical Society, and 3-year Directors terms, passed. For the Directors election, the top 5 vote getters were: Gordon Wollesen, Steve Habeck, Hank Stiles, Vic Neves and Doug Morgan.

The meeting continued with presentations from Steve Habeck and Norm Holmes on highlights of the previous year, and a report from CMO and Director Hank Stiles on the status of the locomotive fleet. Trainmaster Jim Gidley, Sr. then spoke briefly about the revisions to the Operating Department's training program, and presented qualification cards to Bob Carr (brakeman) and Don Borden (fireman; Don is already a qualified brakeman and conductor).

Next came the awards presentations. In 1992, the FRRS established the Glad Hand Award, in recognition of outstanding service to the FRRS, with the first award being presented to FRRS Treasurer, Operations Superintendent, and Facilities Manager Gordon Wollesen. The 1993 award was presented to Jim Gidley, Sr., in recognition of his work to establish and document the Operating Department training program. No awards were presented in 1994 or 1995, largely due to not having them made up in advance of the annual meeting. This year, the Board of Directors established a committee, to be made up of previous Glad Hand Award recipients, to nominate candidates for the 1994 and 1995 awards, and all future awards. Materials were acquired to make three award plaques for this year's meeting, and the committee (Gordon

and Jim) made their selections. Gordon and Jim took over the meeting at this point, and presented the 1994 Glad Hand Award to Steve Habeck (I am very honored), and the 1995 Award to Sue Cooper, for making the Beanery a top-notch facility. Then, an undated Special Glad Hand Award was presented to Executive Director and Founder Norman Holmes, in recognition of his tireless effort on behalf of the FRRS and the Portola Railroad Museum. The award recipients and their spouses were asked to take seats in the front with their awards for recognition and photos.

The highlight of the evening was saved for last. In recognition of his tireless support of the FRRS and the Portola Railroad Museum, his undying loyalty to the Western Pacific, and his 80th birthday, the one and only Hap Manitt was presented with a Special Award and a birthday cake. After many photos of Hap, the award, and the cake, the meeting was adjourned for cake and ice cream.

The evening was topped off with an excellent slide show by Chris Skow, showing scenes taken all across the WP of the Sperry Rail Cars that were used to inspect the rail, a job that Chris bid in on regularly.

Winner Drawn On Our 8th Annual Railroad Trip Opportunity

By Chris Skow

The winner of this year's drawing and free trip offered by Trains Unlimited, Tours is John L. Stein of Kirkwood, MO. John has won two free spaces on any domestic USA/Canada tour offered by Trains Unlimited, Tours. John has informed us that he would like to use his two free spaces on a tour during 1997 and we have agreed to this.

We want to thank everyone who bought these tickets and has helped the Portola Railroad Museum and Feather River Rail Society with our fund raising drive. Tickets for the 9th annual railroad trip opportunity will be mailed out to everyone in the next couple of months. Again, Trains Unlimited, Tours will offer two free spaces on any USA/Canada tour. Over \$3,600 was raised for our building fund.

FRRS Member Benefit

All FRRS members in good standing receive a 10% discount on all items purchased in person or by mail from the FRRS Gift Shop. You must ask for this discount when making the purchase.

Attention FRRS Life Members

A new class of membership now exists called Family Life. This allows a maximum of two people and two votes.

Everyone who was a Life Member prior to October 1, 1995 may upgrade to Family Life AT NO CHARGE and AT ANY TIME simply by writing a letter requesting the upgrade, and listing the second person, and by sending the letter to: FRRS Membership Chairman, P. O. Box 608, Portola, CA 96122.

This effectively means that no spouse of a life member requires their own separate membership any more.