

H.H. Franklin Club
April 27, 2013 Board Meeting Notes

President Bob Harrison opened the meeting at 10:00 AM.

A moment of silence was observed for Bill Eby's Mom's recent passing.

Also noted was Brendan Hogan had recent cataract surgery.

Bob posted, for our observation, a map of the United States. He indicated how many members we have in each state. There are currently no members in Wyoming.

Roll Call

Present:

President Bob Harrison, Treasurer Mark Chaplin, Secretary Janet Kilmer, Past President Marv Gage, Board Members; Keith Kilmer, Karl Nippert, Randy Fusco, Tex Sorrell, and Mike Reeve. Attending via teleconference; Board Members Dave Roberts, Jim Stevenson and Dan Ferrara.

Absent: Vice President Bill Eby, Brendan Hogan, The Mid-west Regional Director, Board Members, Bill Fields, Dennis Egan and Chuck Steffensen.

President Harrison announced there is a quorum present.

Secretary's Report

A Motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting was made by Tex Sorrell, seconded by Keith Kilmer, and approved.

Treasurer's Report

By Mark Chaplin

The FACHC has benefited from the favorable stock market and year-end pledges received. As a result the FACHC fund balance had increased by 42k as of 3-31-2013. The general fund balanced has increased 17k since the end of the fiscal year due to the receipt of dues. As a result of the foregoing, we have had an increase in our assets since the end of the fiscal year of approximately 59k.

We have a balance of pledges receivable from donors \$87,425, which is down from \$118,150 on year ago. We continue to expect pledges to be paid according to the term of individual donor's pledges.

We need to begin to convert donated cars to cash. 2013 will be the first year where pledges will not cover the cost of FACHC operations. Additionally we are seeing annual increases in our payments due to the Gilmore of approximately \$500 per year, with the amount owing having increased from \$23.9k in 2011 to \$25.1k in 2013.

We had established a long term goal for our operating reserve of \$1.2 million, it is currently at \$916k up from \$748k in 2010, and given our annual operating costs of approximately \$35k and dwindling pledges receivable it is currently unlikely we will reach this goal in the near term.

Also attached are comparative Balance Sheets for the current fiscal year to date vs. the previous fiscal year to date at 3/31/2012. You will note that assets increased \$55k primarily a result of the investment income and the receipt of pledges for the Collection at Hickory Corners as noted above.

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

Merchandise Report

By Loretta Fusco

The kids t-shirts are ordered and will be done next week. The shirts will show the theme of our 60th anniversary. The store merchandise is ordered and will be delivered soon.

Loretta had some inquiries for Franklin decals for the car trailers. She has a source, but doesn't want to pursue if there isn't much interest. At the trek she will put a flier for level of interest before getting costs. She would need to know size of the desired lettering. The purchasers need to know it is self-installation and patience is required.

Keith Kilmer knows of a source and will get pricing and sizes. He will share the information with Loretta.

Loretta visited the storage unit while she was here for today's meeting and is sending 4 cartons of ACN's to Ann for new members packets.

Club Projects:

By Bob Harrison

A new project, FCP-32, the license plate lens for Series 11 is in the process of being made. Expect to have parts available at the Trek. He is also having some others made that he is out of.

We have 4 FCP-18; Aluminized Mandrel bent exhaust bent exhaust pipes for side drafts, now in stock.

We had (4) SS pipes made but they sold out right away

We also have the flanges for these exhaust pipes in stock now. This will make the turnaround for the exhaust pipes much quicker. Notes: A 7-degree bend has been added to the muffler end of these pipes to improve alignment with the muffler. The Stainless pipes are made with 400 series stainless steel. This material will discolor in use and look more like a used original exhaust pipe.

Club member, Glenn Short, is donating some side draft valve cover retaining springs and springs used on the hood front trunions for the club to sell with proceeds going to the Franklin Collection.

Other parts continue to sell throughout the year.

ACN

By Chuck Richardson & Brian McEntee

The ACN had a good response to the Spring Non-Franklin issue. They will begin preparing the summer issue next month.

FSS

By Scott Dwyer

Scott's first issue went out in March. His objective is to be sure everyone receives their issue in the month they are due. He did do some tracking and found out that the post office did delay delivery of some of the Franklin Service Stations.

The next issue will be delivered in June. The format will be similar to the March issue.

Scott printed the ACN index and sent 25 copies to Lloyd. There were lots of photographs in the original that he removed and put them line. He has the ability to update that rolling forward. The Library paid for the index.

Scott's first issue of the FSS cost was a bit less than it has been running.

Library:

By Lloyd Davis

No Report from Lloyd.

Scott reported he took the initiative and has been scanning and printing old Service Bulletins. 1921 through 1933 are scanned, and put on a flash drive for reproducing. He has also made an index. A lot of this information has never appeared in an ACN. 1918 thru 1921 Service Bulletins are in dreadful shape and would like to know if anyone has any that could be borrowed to reproduce. He is working with Lloyd to reproduce documents and save them on flash drives for our future.

Scott will plead in the FSS for copies to borrow of this old stuff to reproduce. Bob asked Scott to check with the web masters to see how much space these documents might take to be added to the website.

Club Historian:

By Sinclair Powell

Sinclair reported he has the material for a second edition of the Franklin book in good shape. Sue has organized about 90% of the pictures from the original book. He is certain they can obtain the remainder or substitute other acceptable pictures.

The book publishing business has undergone a revolution in the past three years. In the Ann Arbor area, there have been major consolidations of publishing firms. He is contacting the new firms to see if they are capable of producing books on demand. He

hopes to have some information in the next 3 to 4 weeks. If they are not, he will look outside the area, as he had been doing to some extent earlier. Sinclair wants to get this second edition into print in the next few months.

Also relating to Club history, he has been exchanging emails with a Cleveland architect who is working on the restoration of a building which once was the site of a Franklin dealership. Several auto historians in the Cleveland area have helped with this project.

Sinclair is also evaluating the possibility of a future book which would cover the dealership network of the Franklin firm across the country and even abroad. This would require a great deal of help from Franklin people everywhere. It would be lot of work, but would evolve into a very interesting book. He will keep the board updated on this.

Bob thanked Sinclair for his work.

Scholarships:

By Mark Chaplin

Mark reported he has one scholarship student coming. If you know of any candidates, please contact Mark.

Club Events:

The Midwest meet will be May 22, 2013, in Pontiac, IL. Alan Finkenbinder is hosting the event.

The Westrek will be held June 23-27, 2013, in Pendleton, OR, under the leadership of Chad and Carla Windham.

Melissa Ferrara reported they are still finalizing the details. The Brochure is ready to go to the printer except for the financial pages. There will be three meals eaten off campus. There are tours planned for every day. They have worked hard to keep costs down. She gave us a quick list of the itinerary of events for the week. Sounds like a fun filled week.

Melissa and Bob Harrison met with the college about the costs of the Trek. The College was shocked to hear about a rumor that they didn't want us here. They said that was totally untrue. They offered to try to help with cutting costs and have made some concessions on a few items for this year. The college also explained why some of the charges have to be charged in the ways that they are due. Some costs are due to insurance regulation and laws.

The Mid-West Fall Meet will be held in RI, hosted by Bob and Pat Harrison. Registration forms were sent out and many have responded already. He wants to limit the meet to 50 for ease of scheduling and going thru the tours. Registration will be on Wednesday, September 18, 2013, with the last day's events on Saturday, September 21st. Plenty of driving and sightseeing, a cruise and a clam bake in the back yard. More info will be on the website and in the FSS. If you are interested, and hadn't signed up previously, contact the Harrison's at 401-667-0214 or at hfranklin21@verizon.net.

Registrar:

By Chet & Marlene Zimmerman

The Registrars apologize for not getting the 2012 Update to the Register finalized in time for mailing with the first ACN issue of 2013, but it will be available for mailing with the next issue.

Membership:

By Ann Russell

Ann reported as of April 23rd, 2013, we have 758 current paid members and 14 gratis.

Preservation:

No information from Jeff Hasslen

Forum update by Bill Eby:

The forum committee reports that the new forum process is generally going smoothly. However, there are indications of dissatisfaction by some club members. Some of the committee feels that with some more promotion that it will be more successful. Instructions for using the Forum have been printed in the ACN and FSS.

There are a number of questions that are still sent to Tom, and to Paul, that in the past would have been put on the Q&A page. Paul raised several issues that he has with the forum process, and has declined to participate. He reports that he will answer questions sent to him from members, and happily contribute questions sent to him to Scott Dwyer for inclusion in the FSS as time and space permit. Club members' questions to Tom and Paul are getting answered. But if the questioner is reluctant to post the questions sent to Tom on the forum - as some questioners are - the advice is not as widely shared. So we may be losing some of the good Q&A's.

Some forum users are working to try and spark some conversations. But there is a feeling that the participation within the club is a little lacking. We are 6 months into the forum approach for technical advice, and we will be able to make better evaluations and make any needed changes as the club gets more experience with its use.

Since November 2012, when the Q&A process stopped and the forum was instituted, there have been 30 'threads' started in the technical sub-forum and 30 threads in the Buy/Sell sub-forum. The technical threads have received over 12,000 views, but only 23 replies to the threads. 18 of the 30 threads have a more mechanical theme, 12 are more of a newsy or social in nature.

One feature that is a concern to me but not necessarily to most members of the committee is that users of the forum have user names that are not their proper names, and therefore it may not be obvious to casual or occasional users how to evaluate the expertise of the answers if they want to know who is commenting.

Scott Dwyer said the Pierce Arrow website and Forum are password protected and maybe a better route to go than our current route.

Our last update to our website is April 11, 2013. Sarah usually removes things after 6 months.

Franklin Collection:

By Phil Weisenbarger

Winter is a quiet time at the Gilmore, but a good time to plan for the 3rd Air Cooled Gathering, June 15, 2013. Eric Macleod and I are excited with the prospects of an ever-growing weekend show. Registrations and checks are already being received, and several clubs have replied with their intent to participate.

Through the personal efforts of Art Einstein, the Air Cooled Gathering was a featured notice in the May issue of Hemmings Classic Car. It is also listed under the June events and in the regular Hemmings. It is on-line and in additional automotive publications. The registration is accessible from the Club's home page, the Gilmore web page, or in the gift shop at the museum. The Save the Date flyer was featured on the inside cover of the remarkable Air Cooled News issue #177. Thank you to all who have helped spreading the word of this unique automobile show.

The Grand Opening Ceremony of the Model A Ford Museum, will be held May 18, 2013. However, the Lincoln and Cadillac museums which were scheduled to have been underway by this date, still have to turn a shovel of dirt. By a similar date, the Franklin Collection was done with site prep and foundation and steel was up in June.

The green 1928 Franklin sedan which is to be sold this year was taken to the garage area of the Gilmore where the gas tank was removed and cleaned, and the engine started. It will be shown on the field at the gathering, publicized in The Service Station and sold soon after.

Sandy Bennett remarked on how this event has grown. It is evolving into something spectacular. We set a standard that was beyond what the Gilmore had seen, and the Gilmore has encouraged others to match or out do our vision.

Phil will be presenting at the Trek one evening to tell us all about the museum.

Bob will follow up with Phil to see about getting a copy of the DVD that is shown at the museum, to show at his various car clubs to generate interest in the Franklins.

Web-Master

By Sarah Hood & Paul Beckingham

With over two years of traffic statistics, we can report the following:

Website traffic has flattened or decreased. This is most likely due to the AACAF forum taking Q&A traffic away. Generally, all numbers are down - pages per visit, % of new visitors and visit duration.

Traffic to the Q&A pages is down to half what it was. This is expected, as the content there is not being updated.

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

The webmaster workload is reduced.

Since the club drawings became searchable online a year ago, there have been 16,485 searches performed. As a result of searches, there have been 41,360 downloads, of 13,017 distinct drawings. This means there are almost 3,400 drawings downloads per month. Currently 21% of the drawings documents have been seen. There has been one complaint about the searching.

Paul still has an outstanding item to put the drawings behind the login, there is no ETA at this point.

Old Business:

Scott Dwyer passed around copies of “The Essentials of Franklin History” booklet for us to browse through. He had sent a few copies to some of the board members for comments. He had 50 copies printed. He sent some of them to Lloyd for the library. Scott would like to be reimbursed \$181.00. This booklet is full of valuable information and could be sent to the membership and sold at the museum. Mark suggested putting them in the new member packets.

Keith Kilmer made a motion to reimburse Scott Dwyer for the \$181.00 for the “Essentials of Franklin History” booklet, Bob Metro seconded and the motion was approved.

Mark Chaplin made a motion to print 300-500 copies of the “Essentials of the Franklin History” booklet to be added to new member packets, for possible use for trek gifts and for sale in the library and at the collection. Tex seconded the motion. Motion approved.

New Business

Scott Dwyer began a discussion about Franklin Parts Storage. Marv Gage noted a committee looked into this subject a few years ago and found it was a huge undertaking.

Mark Chaplin suggested partnering with a for profit agency that may have some warehouse space that may work with us.

Lee Schopmeier thinks this can be done and it needs to start somewhere.

President Bob appointed Jim Stevenson to head up a committee and invite Richard Harry, Lee Webb, Otis and Brad Fansler to join him. Sandy Bennett offered to help also. This committee has been encouraged to find a way to preserve the possible disappearance of the stock of parts across the country. Sandy also suggested Bob Harrison contact Tom Rasmussen or Jeff Hasslen to start the conversation.

When arriving at the college for today’s meeting, we noticed several posters with the smiling face of Garry Grethel. You may remember Garry as our evening bar tender this past Trek. Unfortunately, Garry has cancer. He is undergoing treatment currently and does seem to be responding. If anyone would like to send a card, Garry’s address is:

Garry Grethel, 6142 Dawns Ridge, Cicero, NY 13039.

Closing

A motion was made to close the meeting at 11:49 by Tex Sorrell, seconded by Mike Reeve and the motion was approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Kilmer
Secretary