

H.H. Franklin Club
February 1, 2014 Board Meeting Notes

President Bob Harrison opened the meeting at 10:01 AM.

A moment of silence was observed for the death of Al Kantner and for any past Franklin Members that have dedicated their life to the hobby.

During the January 26, 2014, conference call with the Franklin Automobile Collection committee, a few very important things came to light.

1. There are a lot of new HHFC members that do not know much, if anything, about the FACHC; and in some cases long-term members.
2. The FACHC is about a \$2 Million asset of the HHFC
3. It is important to have a FACHC Newsletter to keep the HHFC members up to date with the Museum

Therefore, Bob requests the editors of both the Air Cooled News and the Service Station to create adequate and prominent space in each publication for a FACHC Newsletter.

Arthur Einstein will provide the newsletter content. Bob is asking each Editor to contact Arthur in advance of each issue of their publication informing him on the date his material is due.

Arthur requested this be done for each and every issue as he works best with deadlines and reminders.

Bob is asking the editors and Arthur to get together and come up with an appropriate name for this newsletter; something that will draw the attention of the reader and give him or her something to look forward.

There are so many things about the Collection that the membership needs to know and be reminded of. For example:

- The Collection is a big \$2 Million asset of the club
- The Collection's ongoing expenses to operate are 100% dependent on donations, interest earned on its investment accounts, and the funds raised at the annual All Air Cooled car Show held on father's day weekend as well as that one weekend's admission to Gilmore. It does not get a share of the admission to the Gilmore Complex throughout the year.
- Like all antique car Clubs, we are concerned about the future of both our club and the Collection. Managed properly and actively the Collection is and has been a great recruiting tool.
- Everyone has heard of and knows Chevrolet, Model A, Model T, Duesenburgs, Packard's, etc. Not everyone knows what a Franklin is or who made it. The Collection exposes all aspects of the Franklin to thousands upon thousands of people every year. What a great opportunity.

- The FACHC is located at Gilmore, which is becoming the largest and biggest antique car museum and Exhibit in the USA.

-The Gilmore itself has many educational and outreach programs that we are at least indirectly part of.

Our FACHC Director sits on the Board of Gilmore, so we have a say.

So we, collectively, have a mission and a responsibility to make sure every member of the HHFC not only knows all about the Collection and how it operates but to become involved with its operation, funding, and its long-term goals.

Board Member Dennis Egan has submitted his resignation from the Board due to health reasons effective immediately. Vincent Fitch was an alternate in the election for the 2012-2014 term. President Bob Harrison made a motion for Vincent Fitch to be appointed to satisfy Dennis Egan's term for 2014. The motion was seconded by Bill Eby and approved by the board.

Roll Call

Present:

President Bob Harrison, Vice President Bill Eby, Secretary Janet Kilmer, Board Members; Vincent Fitch, Randy Fusco, Melissa Ferrara and Bill Woodcock. Board Members attending by phone were Treasurer Mark Chaplin, Past President Marv Gage, Tex Sorrell, Jim Stevenson, Dan Ferrara, Bob Metro, Bouvard Hosticka and Bill Joline.

Absent: The Mid-west Regional Director; Jeff Hasslen, Board Members Mike Reeve 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 Melissa Ferrara, seconded by Bill Woodcock and approved.

Treasurer's Report

By Mark Chaplin

The Club's long form IRS 990 tax return was completed and filed. It was reviewed by the executive committee, was made available to counsel, and has been filed. The tax return is available for review; please let me know if you'd like to receive a copy.

Mark included a Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet for the first two month's of the club's current fiscal year. There are no significant items, except that:

- dues revenue is behind last year by 6k as the renewal notices had not yet been mailed and were mailed earlier last year,
- pledges received by FACHC fund are less than last year a result of timing in the receipt of pledges and a reduction in unpaid pledges outstanding,

- performance of the FACHC fund was a positive 16k in realized & unrealized gains this year vs. 8k in realized & unrealized gains last year in the same period.

The Club's Assets at its fiscal year end (October 31, 2013) increased 104k to 1.740 million from the prior year, primarily a result of a 116k increase in the FACHC fund, and an 8k increases in the General Fund (which was reduced by 5k in November as a result of the transfer of 5k to the Mackey fund approved at the last Board meeting). These increases were offset by a reduction of 20k for the annual depreciation charge for the structure at the Gilmore.

After the receipt of year end pledges we have a balance of pledges receivable from donors (as of January 1, 2014, which is expected to be paid according to the term of individual donor's pledges, a reduction of approximately 20k from the prior year. Pledge statements were mailed to all donors in early January. *Note: We do not reflect these on our financial statements, as we are a cash basis taxpayer.*

Also shown in the comparative Income Statements for the end of the fiscal year at 10-31-2013, as well as a detail income statement detailing every categorized expenditure of the club for the fiscal year. The major changes were as follows:

- An increase in FACHC revenue contributions of 7k, comprised by declining contributions, increased vehicle sales of 10k, and increased revenue from the Gilmore gate.
- An increase in Mackey Fund revenue of 4k and an increase in Mackey fund expense of 2.5k primarily the result of project revenue and expense timing.
- An increase in dues revenue of 1.5k, a result of a timing in receipt of membership dues and increased membership.
- General Fund expenses increased by 2k primarily the result of legal fees associated with trade marking the Franklin script.
- An increase in Investment Funds expense of 3k a result of investment management fees on a larger operating fund balance.

Contact Mark if you have any questions about anything on his report.

A motion made to accept and file the Treasurer's Report for audit was made by Vincent Fitch, seconded by Randy Fusco and approved.

Thank you very much Mark for your complete reporting.

Club Historian:

By Mark Chaplin

Sinclair is vacationing in California and met with Mark last Saturday to discuss the book. They have planned to publish with a print on demand type. It will be available on Amazon electronically and hard cover. Sinclair & Mark have been working on this project since August 2013, and the most difficult part of this project is the photos. The complexities have exceeded Mark's technical expertise and need to outsource help with the photo shop. The sales of the book will benefit our club.

Mark made a motion to ask the board to authorize up to \$1,000.00 towards the book project completion. The motion was seconded by Bill Joline and approved.

A note of special interest: Sinclair received the award of Canadian Auto Historian of the Year this past summer. This award was given largely for his work on the Franklin book.

Merchandise Report

By Loretta Fusco

She has ordered the new 2014 catalog.

Mark Chaplin received a check from the Gilmore for \$451.97 for merchandise sold through December 26, 2013. The club has recouped the initial investment from the merchandise items purchased from Joel Braverman. Any remaining items that are sold will be considered surplus income.

Loretta doesn't like to have merchandise on hand that is over 2 years old. She recommended having a sale table at the trek. The board agreed with her and she will move forward with her discounted items sale. She wanted members to know she has (4) black & (6) gold trailer decals remaining at \$25 each. She doesn't plan to order more until those are sold.

She discussed the children's t-shirts for the trek, and if we should continue purchasing and providing them. They are a \$300-400 expense from her budget. She noted there haven't been organized events for the children the past few years and we don't have too many small children any more. Lloyd Davis suggested continuing with the t-shirts for the children as it makes them feel welcome and included. She will place an order for shirts this year.

Loretta brought pens that have a stylist on one end. She brought one sample to the last board meeting. She has 50 pens in stock and plans to give one with each \$50 sale in merchandise at the trek and sell the remainder.

Loretta has taken the merchandise department to new heights! She does a great job and Lloyd also thanked her for her help keeping the library sales balanced too.

Club Projects:

By Bob Harrison

We currently have 46 active projects.

Proposed new project:

#49606 Bumper Bolts for S 145-S147 made from 303SS cost will be \$15 each. It is being considered and will depend on the demand from club members.

Continue to sell existing projects at a slow but steady rate.

Paul Fitzpatrick sold Bob some special copper brake line and fittings a few years ago and they have sold well.

Bob asked for someone to take on project of 1928 Series 12 mufflers.

ACN

By Chuck Richardson & Brian McEntee

There will be pages available for Gilmore News and for calendar items in ACN.

We need to make sure to get word out for organizers of events to share information with Chuck & Brian for the information to be included in the ACN. They cannot print what they don't know about. Art Einstein has offered to report the Gilmore information.

The trek organizers were asked to write a story on planning and running the trek. Melissa and Dan can also add to the story from their experience from last year.

Chuck & Brian would like to post a pdf ACN behind the password. They could include more color than what they are able to print in the mailed version. Overseas members could have access to the ACN quicker than receiving through the mail system. This version would also provide a history in the website for a quick reference. Permission for this project was presented to the board and all were in favor.

FSS

By Scott Dwyer

The March Service Station is now at the printer with the goal to have it in the hands of membership before March 1.

The June and September issues are nearly written, with space saved for Want Ads and events.

In regard to increasing the pages of the Service Station to 10 pages in order to have two pages devoted to Club events and Gilmore news, the cost for printing would rise by \$164, from \$436 for current eight-page issues to \$600. Mailing cost was anticipated to remain the same (no extra cost for the additional weight). The last issue was mailed for \$286 but remember that the post office raised their first class rates by 3-cents. Scott isn't sure how that will affect us at this time.

Barring the postal increase, we are looking at roughly \$725 currently for eight pages, including postage, and increasing to \$900 for a ten-page Service Station.

Scott needs permission from the board for the increased printing costs for the additional 2 pages. A motion was made by Bob Harrison and seconded by Randy Fusco. The increased pages will include a newsletter for the Gilmore and the second page would be a calendar of events. Bob will be asking Art Einstein to supply different articles to the service station and the ACN, so that it wouldn't be duplicate information

Bill Woodcock amended the motion to authorize Scott Dwyer to increase the FSS number of pages from 8 to 10 for a period of 12 months, after which the success will be reviewed and extended or returned to the original 8 pages. These additional pages will include a calendar of events and the news of the Gilmore. The motion was seconded by Melissa Ferrara and it was approved.

Library:

By Lloyd Davis & Bouvard Hosticka

Lloyd reported the library moved to Virginia this past week. Bouvard and Trillian made the trip to Vermont to take possession of the items. Lloyd has forwarded received correspondence to them that he received this week and will continue to do so.

Lloyd has officially transferred the duties to Bouvard and Trillian. A standing ovation was given for Lloyd's outstanding service over the years.

Bouvard reported he has a 15 x 9 space allocated in his home and he thinks he will need to expand. He is still organizing and plans to digitize and put items behind the password on the website over time.

Scholarships:

By Mark Chaplin

No report

Club Events:

The Westrek will be held June 14-19, 2014, in Sonora, California, under the leadership of Sheldon and Tricia Ball. (A one-day tour to Yosemite Valley will be included.). Note: this is the same weekend as the Air Cooled event at the Gilmore.

The Midwest meet will be held at the Gilmore in conjunction with the Air Cooled Event on June 14, 2014. Details are on the website.

Jerry and Carol Weiler are requesting Board Approval for a Northwest Trek, August 24-28, 2014, in Port Angeles, Washington (3 days of tour around the Olympic Peninsula) Contact them for questions at 366 Weiler Rd, Port Angeles, WA 98362, (360) 452-3096

Approval for all events was given by the board.

Registrar:

By Chet & Marlene Zimmerman

Business is as usual.

Membership:

By Ann Russell

Currently as of 1/29/2014, there are 398 paid US members, 19 International and 12 gratis.

On October 19, 2013, a blast email was sent to remind people that dues were do. The renewal notices went out with the last issue of ACN.

Ann plans to send a reminder email at the end of February and a renewal postcard in March.

Preservation:

Forum Update:

By Bill Eby

HH Franklin Club Forum Statistics as of January 15, 2014.

The forum continues to show good usage. The frequency of posts to the forum that created new threads is trending. Usage peaked mid-year and has dropped over the holidays, as might be expected. The Forum has been the 'official' source of club Q&A's since November 2012, or about 14 months ago.

As of January 15, 2014, there are 361 threads, 358,500 views, 1,188 posted replies to the threads, not including the threads in the For Sale sub-forum (which has 61 threads). An interactive Help document has been drafted and should be posted to the club web site in the near future to make it easier for club members to use the new forum.

Franklin Collection: By Phil Weisenbarger

Plans are underway for the 4th Annual Air Cooled Gathering June 14, 2014. It will held in conjunction with the Spring Midwest Franklin meet. The previous participants have been sent reminders to save the date; will be provided early registration notices later. Response has been positive, with our date being placed on the calendars of local car clubs.

Severe winter weather in the Hickory Corners area has slowed construction of the Lincoln Museum. They are now planning to connect with the Franklin Collection in February. Arthur Einstein and the committee have plans in place for vehicle and poster relocation that will enhance the collections presentation and facilitate the new traffic flow.

The Gilmore has announced that a new structure will built across the street from the Franklin Collection and connect with the Ford Model A Museum. It being privately funded and endowed and will show a personal collection. Terence (Terry) E. Adderly from Detroit, MI, is the owner of these items.

Bill Joline suggested our events be printed in Hemmings. Phil will follow up on that.

Web-Master By Sarah Hood & Paul Beckingham

Traffic is consistent. December is the slowest month of the year. There were 3,700 visits in January, which is normal.

With almost four years of traffic statistics, which now includes half a million page views in total from over 60,000 unique visitors, they report the most popular pages are still the main page, for sale page and the pictures.

Despite the AACA forum taking some Q&A traffic away, people are still using the site to roughly the same extent.

Members are searching with very generic items to start with and then change their searches to include more descriptive words.

Paul did an update on the drawing searches. 20,011 drawings have been downloaded. Currently, 32% of the drawings have been seen. The top 10 searches are body, engine, carburetor, piston, frame, drawings, connecting rod, 1929, 1930 Victoria Brougham and the cylinder. President Bob Harrison decided in hindsight, this was a very good move on the clubs part to add the drawings to the website

The calendar information Bill Eby put together has been added to the website and more information is now on events page.

Old Business:

None

New Business

John Rendemonti was able to obtain titles for the remaining cars we did not have titles to. He will be mailing them to Janet Kilmer to keep with the other titles she currently has.

President Bob Harrison made a motion to reappoint Non-Voting Officers and members of the club.

A motion was made for the following appointments by Bill Joline, second by Bob Metro, and the motion approved.

Non Voting Officers were appointed as follows; ACN Editors – Brian McEntee & Chuck Richardson, Central NY Hosts – Dick McKnight & Hank Manwell, Club Historian – Sinclair Powell, Club Photographer – Andy Wittenborn, Club Projects – Bob Harrison, Franklin Service Station – Scott Dwyer, Legal Advisors – Sinclair Powell & John Rendemonti, Librarian – Bouvard & Trillian Hosticka, Membership Recruiting – Susan Roberts, Membership Services – Anne Russell, Merchandising – Loretta Fusco, Mid-West Region President – Dean Dorholt, Registrars of Franklins – Marlene & Chet Zimmerman, Trek Chairs – Dan Ferrara, Missy Brown and Andrew Sullivan, Trek Registrars – Sue & David Roberts, Trek Treasurer – Mark Chaplin, and Webmasters – Sarah Hood & Paul Beckingham.

The Drawing Manager position, previously held by Jeff Hasslen, has been eliminated as it is no longer needed.

Regarding HHFC Midwest Region Status and requirements according to HHFC Bylaws, Article 5, Midwest Region Secretary, Joan Hasslen, submitted a request for the board of directors to approve the active status of the Midwest Region for 2014. She submitted the following names as officers of the 2014 Midwest Region:

Dean Dorholt – President
 Bill Eby - Vice President
 Joan Hasslen - Secretary/Treasurer
 Jeff Hasslen - Regional Director
 Franklin Line Editor: TBD

A motion was made by Bill Eby to approve the active status. The motion was seconded Melissa Ferrara and approved.

Andre Audette submitted a request to hold a meet in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada in June 2015. A motion to table this request was made pending information on our liability insurance in Canada by Bob Harrison, seconded by Bouvard Hosticka and approved.

President Bob Harrison asked the membership what the long-term goals for the club are and at the goals for the future are of the Gilmore. We should be thinking proactively for

our future goals and achievements. Sandy Bennett recommended a committee for a parts search team be formed. He suggested when a member is looking for parts, this committee could be contacted and help the member find the item(s) in need.

Melissa suggested each of us think about this subject and contact Bob Harrison in the next 30 days with any ideas we have and he will compile the information for the April meeting.

The 2014 Trek, to be held in Cazenovia, NY will be held August 2-9. Missy Brown, Andrew Sullivan and Dan Ferrara are our Trek Chairs for this event.

Andrew reported plans are moving forward. Dietary issues have been discussed with the college and they have a meeting with the college on Monday. They announced we will be going somewhere we have never been before. Dan noted they have put together a busy week with a good blend of relaxation. There will be a trip off the green every day. The plan is to use the cars and have fun. They hope to set the tone to get people excited to attend and return in the following years.

The Trek Chair Team was asked for some information to spark our interest and they shared that a friend of everyone is helping out this year. The featured Series is to be determined. They will share some teaser tips in the ACN. Chuck suggested the team put together a document, by March 1, for them to include in the next ACN. They would insert it near the front of the publication.

Closing

A motion was made by Vincent Fitch to close the meeting at 11:42, seconded by Melissa Ferrara and the motion was approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Kilmer
Secretary

Next meeting: April 26, 2014