

2004 Western Pacific Historical Society Convention Report

The "2004 Convention" was held April 16th and 17th at the Holiday Inn in Reno, Nevada.

Attendance: There were 135 registered attendees. It appears there were 115 paid registrations, the difference being the ones Frank admitted with no charge, which is allowed in the guidelines.

Facilities: In my opinion, this may have been the best overall facility that we have used so far. The 2 rooms we needed were more than adequate for our needs. The Hotel staff appeared to be there to provide whatever was needed in a fairly timely manner. Having the Banquet upstairs in a separate room was great. The Hotel even provided us with a gift certificate for 2 free rooms to put in the raffle! The small restaurant was adequate for breakfast and there was a neat sandwich shop in the Casino. The only complaint I heard was the smoke throughout the Hotel, but then this was Nevada!

Raffle: 20 manufactures and businesses plus individuals provided ample material for the raffle. As we have noticed in the past, the outside providers are responding less and less each year, even with the thank you notes we have the recipients sign and we mail back. But we appear to keep it going and as the accounting below shows, the raffle does make us good money. Having a separate raffle for a picture and a locomotive is really working. Together with the impromptu auction, Norma sold the WP locomotive for \$465.00. You will note in the accounting, I withheld funds for and purchased three more locomotives for future conventions based on these figures.

Clinics: The clinics sort of got off to a bad start and there were more no shows than we have had in the past. Frank was able to do some quick readjusting and it came off fine. I think we will always have this problem and by having back ups we can control it.

Modeling Contest: The modeling contest continues to get smaller and smaller. It has been suggested that we discontinue it, but I feel it is an important part of the convention. Maybe we need to make it a display your models only. I will get with Thom Anderson and we will come up with some ideas as to how to make this work better.

Sales: The sales room continues to grow and is well received! The folks that were there to sell appeared to be happy. We allowed them to donate material to the raffle instead of paying for their tables. This proved to be a mistake in many cases. Prizes they donated appeared to just things they wanted to get rid of. I question if this was a good move on our part. Sales are the main use of this room and should help pay for it, at least a big part of it.

Advertisement: As usual this is an area where we are not sure what is going on. Many past attendees said they never received a flyer for the convention. Frank was not clear as to whom he sent them out to. We paid for a lot of stamps and his attendance was the largest of any convention so I am surely not complaining. With that said, we need to make sure that all past attendees are contacted. I will continue to work on this. We update the list each year as to who has attended.

Handling of Monies: This was not the first year that the Convention Coordinator handled all the money but the first since the Board asked that we do it this way. It appeared to work fine but I need to fine tune the procedures.

When the Chairman needs additional funds prior to the convention, I am going to have to question what it is needed for! Also in the future no one will be allowed access to the onsite cash at the convention. We can not allow the Convention Chairman or anyone else to just take money out of the till for any reason, even with receipts. This will be added to the guidelines. We have a checkbook for this reason.

Future Conventions: At this point we have a chairmen for 2005, Tracy ? and 2006, Chico... We held off on signing up the site for Tracy as to cost. I wanted to see how the higher registration cost was received at Reno (no complaints) before I committed us to a facility. This appears to have been a good idea due to the big jump in attendance. We have moved beyond the smaller facilities and I am now having trouble finding something large enough in Tracy or the surrounding area.

It may be time to select a site and use that each year as our semi permanent site. This way we can draw our Chairmen from anywhere and the site work would be taken care of for them. Moving along the right of way was a cool idea but I think we are outgrowing the concept. Each year we can look at what is or is not available in the area that the Chairman comes from and then place the convention accordingly falling back on a preset site if needed. 2008 could be the first that would be looked at in this way, as I am looking at Sacramento for 2007 and I'm sure we will be able to find the facilities we need there. Thom and I will continue to look into this.

In conclusion: The only major problem we had this year was the selling of late dinner tickets. The Hotel allowed us to sell tickets right up to the last minute and this did cause problems. We had people just showing up and sitting down, even with someone checking tickets at the door! I even tried to throw our Union Pacific guests out! **Sorry** We do not make any money off the dinner tickets. We have to pay for dinners that are not paid for out of our registrations. It appears to be the same people every year causing this confusion about dinners. The Hotel felt we had an extra 10 dinners and that would have been almost \$300 out of our profit!

I was able to meet with the Hotel and they agreed to just charge us for the count we had given them at 5 pm. This is covered in the guidelines but just got out of hand. I will go over this as a red flag item with future Chairs.

Our 8th Convention was successful both in a financial sense and most of all, for the attendees.

Please find enclosed check in the amount of \$ 4,247.17.

Respectfully submitted on May 24, 2004

Stephen M. Hayes
Convention Coordinator

Income and Expense Statement for Convention 2004 Reno

Description	Income	Expenses	Net Profit
Holiday Inn Projector & Screen		\$400.00	
Printing Flyers & Registration forms--Frank		\$124.24	
Postage--Frank		\$93.79	
Hotel Room--Frank		\$154.56	
Long Distance Phone Calls--Frank		\$75.00	
Gas for 12 trips to Reno--Frank		\$87.00	
Plastic Pipe for Table Extensions--Frank		\$15.08	
Nametags--Lawler		\$30.22	
Holiday Inn Banquet		\$3,130.94	
Check to Frank	\$200.00		
Cash to Frank Beaver at Reno, Apr 17, 2004,(Lois)	\$200.00		
Convention 2004 Reno startup money	\$500.00		
Registration, Banquet, Vendor Receipts	\$7,071.00		
Raffle Income	\$1,162.00		
Three Locomotives for future Raffles--Steve		\$275.00	
TOTALS "Convention 2004 Reno"	\$9,133.00	\$4,385.83	\$4,747.17
Startup "Convention 2005"		\$500.00	
Check to FRRS from "Convention 2004 Reno"			\$4,247.17