

**Feather River Rail Society**  
**Membership Meeting – June 1, 2019 – 7:00 PM**  
**WPRM Diesel Shop – Portola, CA**

President Steve Habeck called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

**The following Directors were present:**

Kerry Cochran  
Steve Habeck  
Charlie Spikes  
Janet Steeper

**Attendance:**

Paul Finnegan	David Epling	Debbie Shuman
Ellen Spikes	Victoria Epling	Matthew Shuman
David Elems	Sierra Epling	Ethan Doty
Catherine Bonfiglio	Eric McKay	Philip J. Schmierer
Vince Bonfiglio	Fred Elenbaas	Alexandria Doty
Susan L. Hansen	Ed Powell	Mary Habeck
David Hansen III	Lew Barnard	
Bart Hansen	Ann Morningstar	

1. Steve Habeck thanked Janet Steeper, Charlie Spikes and Bart Hansen for setting up the dinner.
2. Steve made sure everyone had signed the attendance sheet.
3. Election Report by Matt Shuman, Election Committee Chairman  
This year we had a white ballot, no one except the three incumbents were nominated for the three open seats.  
We carefully followed the society by-laws.  
Sent out white ballot to members and reported to the board that we had a white ballot.  
The final committee report is available.  
The current incumbents will be reelected.  
David Epling reported that he received no information from the election committee. No one else reported not receiving the notices. Then Ed Powell stated he also has delivery issues for FRRS materials because he had trouble with his email and changed it. Paul Finnegan pointed out that the election information was in the recent *Train Sheets* that mailed in early January and early April. Dave Epling stated he had received the *Train Sheets* but they apparently were delayed in the mail.  
Kerry Cochran stated the society had made special efforts to keep the membership informed in a timely manner about the election.  
Paul Finnegan reminded the members that the best way to update a member's contact information (address, phone, email) was to use the link on the Membership web page on the society website. It sends the information to Susan Scarlet who maintains the membership lists, other appropriate people and creates an electronic record of the update.

- Kerry Cochran thanked the election committee for their excellent service.
4. President Steve Habeck gave his report to the membership about WP 165:  
WP 165 is making significant progress.  
All the boiler tubes are now in place. It was recently filled with water to look for (and they found) expected water leaks. The leaks found will be addressed.  
The next steam work session will be in July.  
It is *possible* that the 165 will run this year.  
Steve stressed that the work is being done correctly. Steve Lee continues to act as consultant and that Steve Lee is a recognized expert for steam locomotive restoration. Steve Lee has been coming on-site for the work sessions.  
We did an FRA inspection four years ago.  
Roger Stabler is now our steam lead and is also recognized and experienced.  
This will be a safe engine.  
Cab and tender have been painted and most of the boiler work has been done.
  5. Weather this year has been cold and wet.  
SP 2873 is currently the only locomotive in service.  
WP 2001 has an electrical glitch that is being investigated.  
QRR 1100 may need to have its batteries replaced. We have cleaned out the battery box and will charge the batteries and try to start the engine again. If we have to replace the batteries, it would cost about \$8,000.  
WP 707 needs injector work.  
WP 1503 has the orange paint again. New lettering stencils will be made and the green paint applied in July. It has a radiator issue that is getting resolved.  
We may have several locos in service soon.
  6. RR Days 2019  
The RR Days committee resigned with two years notice, but no one stepped up to assume the role so currently there are no plans for Portola RR Days this year.  
There is a local person who has indicated he want to resurrect RR Days, Steve stated he needs to start soon if there is any chance of this being successful.  
WPRM is discussing an early August event since there are no current plans for a citywide RR Days event this year. Steve pointed out that the FRRS/WPRM was at every committee meeting last year for RR Days and the committee was about 25 people – WPRM can not do RR Days alone.
  7. We have immediate goals to focus on some safety issue and to get our locomotives back in service.
  8. Steve invited questions from the floor. No one raised any.
  9. Steve stated he was proud to serve on our board. The board is working together. Janet pulled this event together, Kerry has taken on the Archives and everyone on the board has a list of things they are addressing. Steve shared this board is very focused on advancing the society.
  10. Kerry Cochran, General Superintendent, acknowledged all volunteers, including Janet Steeper, Charlie Spikes, Bart Hansen for putting the dinner together.  
David Epling is back.  
A new member, Vince Bonfiglio, has been volunteering two days a week since he joined.

Phil Schmierer has been at the museum for a couple weeks in a row and has done a lot of work around the museum. He may have retired from the UP, but he has certainly not retired from railroading.

Paul Finnegan has been helping with the website and working with the archives.

The archives is a big job – we really need a full-time archivist. We are answering questions typically in about 72 hours if the information is available. Some other questions have taken about three weeks if more research is required.

Archive donations have significantly increased in the last three years.

11. Janet Steeper shared she is also proud to be part of the organization. We work together.

12. Charlie Spikes made a special effort to recognize and thank people who have been helping him with projects at the museum.

- Duane Vander Veen for his work on the M23 Model T Motorcar
- Matt Shuman and Ann Morningstar for their support of the M23
- Fred Elenbaas for help painting
- His wife for her support of his devotion to the museum

“I don’t know what I’d do without this place, I appreciate everyone!”

13. Special applause for Mary Habeck for letting Steve spend so much time at the museum. He is either here or at work.

14. Ethan Doty – Has a better solution for Santa Trains power connections in the baggage car that will make the Santa Trains much easier to put together. Steve recognized Ethan’s diligence at the museum. It takes a village to run this place.

15. Special recognition expressed for Eugene Vicknair, AKA “Heywood”. He tries to do too many things, but gets quite a lot of them done. He does a lot of work from his office in Fremont and home in the Bay Area.

16. Update on the *Silver Hostel*. We are still in litigation but *may* be close to a resolution. We won the judgment, but the issue is still not resolved.

17. Ed Powel reported on the new HVAC project for the office and archive car. Ed plans to donate ~ \$1,000 in labor for each car. The condenser we need is in Las Vegas, which will save us about \$300 in shipping charges. He expects to start work soon.

18. David Elems reports he expects to get a lot of mechanical work done this season. He stated Ethan Doty has been a help. The weather has not been. David also thanked Kerry Cochran and Paul Finnegan for help on some safety issues. David added that Charlie Spikes has been an especially helpful volunteer and expressed thanks to everyone who comes up and volunteers – “Thank you all”

**Adjourned:** 7:42 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Paul Finnegan – Family Life Member, FRRS