Feather River Rail Society
Board of Directors Meeting – December 13, 2025 – 1:00 PM
Western Pacific Railroad Museum Meeting Room – WPRM, Portola, CA

President Greg Elems called the meeting to order at 1:21 PM.

Attendance

The following Directors were present:

Kerry Cochran - phone	Michael Coen	Tom Hervey
Greg Elems - phone	Charlie Spikes	Janet Steeper - phone
Matt Elems	Bob Sims – phone	Eugene Vicknair - phone

9 directors present at meeting start – Quorum achieved.

Visitors:

Ethan Doty	Matt Shuman – Elections Chair - phone
Gus Paoli	Nick Manos – CMO – phone

Correspondence

G. Elems

- Received a letter from Wayne Monger. Acknowledges donation of ONW caboose 300 to the city of Hines. We are proceeding with helping Hines with movement.
- Received letter from Feather River College. They are doing the 25 ticket buy for Santa Train. We already have had 4 redeemed at first run. Getting paperwork ironed out for purchase. Want to do same for Pumpkin Train next year.

Cochran

- Received email back from Budd, who donated grandfather's Keddie diorama. Very impressed with Ethan and Gus. Wants to donate for putting up some plexiglass to protect the diorama. Current protected with steel barricade. Greg thanks all the volunteers who were present to received this donation.

Consent Calendar

Minutes of the November 2025 BOD Regular Meetings.

Motion 25-12-01
Approve the minutes for the November 2025 Regular Meetings as presented.
Vicknair / Coen. Aye – 8, Nay – 0, Abstain – 1. Motion carries.

New Business

2026 Budget

Review and approve 2026 Operations Budget.

- Bob Sims noted remove Life Membership income
- Revise telephone down and separate from internet
- Discussion about battery and radio charges
- Question about 65600 Payroll Services under Restoration. Used for short time contracted workers for Restoration work.

Motion 25-12-02
Approve the budget with changes noted.
Cochran / Vicknair. Aye – 8, Nay – 0, Abstain – 1. Motion carries.

Policy Reviews

Review policies due for updates / checks.

- Policies provided with changes noted in red.

PRELIMINARY

Motion 25-12-03
Approve the revised policies as presented.
Vicknair / Spikes. Aye – 8, Nay – 0, Abstain – 1. Motion carries.

Kalmbach / FireCrown Advertising

Discuss advertising / promotion with Kalmbach / FireCrown.

- Info provided.
- FireCrown asking for renewal of advertising. Greg notes subscription base shrinking. Feels we can use this money better elsewhere. Too expensive for what we are getting.
- Noted we are now advertising with TSG Multimedia for 1/10th the price FireCrown is asking for double the reach.
- Consensus is to not take the advertising.

Old Business

2026 Event Calendar Modification

Discuss closing Thursday and / or Friday after close of operating season and other calendar items.

- We will stay open on Thursday - Friday during Operating Season
- Discussion about Thursday and Friday being open outside of ops season.
- Noted this will not affect RAL bookings.
- Noted Thursday are dead. Suggested to leave Fridays for now.
- Change May Board Meeting to 4:30 PM
- Opening day Friday, May 1
- July 4th extended hours were suggested (opening 9:30 AM) to capture extra visitors that were experienced this year due to cooler temps in the morning.
- Question about convention dates. We are still working on dates. Fall back will be Feather Falls Casino in Oroville.

Motion 25-12-04
Modify the 2026 Calendar as follows:
- Closed on Thursdays outside of operating season
- May BOD Meeting to 4:30 PM
- Confrm July 4th hours
- Changing opening day to May 1, Friday

Vicknair / Cochran. Aye – 9, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

Good of the Order

President's Report

- Verbal report given.
- Thank you for all the increase in volunteers for our events this year. They have been a big help. Big bonus for Society. Think we might be turning the corner on volunteer help. Looking for more volunteers.
- Would like to officially form the Event Coordination Committee. This committee would then take on the forming of event specific committees. Want some non-Board members being approached about joining these committees.
- Events include Big Boy, Pumpkin Patch, Santa Train, Railroad Days, etc. Committees would take on all details including sanitation, security, food service, etc.

Kerry Cochran adds by motion the Election report to Good of the Order and asks it be moved ahead of Financials. Vicknair seconds.
Aye - 9, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0. Motion carries.

PRELIMINARY

Committee Reports

- *Election* – written report provided.
    - Election committee requesting the election info be posted on our media sites within the next week. Train Sheet has an item, going out first week of January.

Financial Reports

- Financial reports provided.
- Bob Sims asked about Plumas County tax payments in transactions.

Director's Reports

- *Vicknair* – Update on Great Train Show. Greg Elems and Kerry Cochran suggested giving Christopher Kapreilian a gift Active membership in thanks for all his assistance. Board concurs.

Event Reports

- *2025 WP / DRGW Convention* – written report provided.
- *2026 WP / DRGW Convention* – discussed, trying to settle location
- *Pumpkin Patch Express* – written report provided
    - Need to review remote credit card machine and dailies. Income from event was good.
- *Santa Trains 2025*
    - Everything going well. Stove in Rock Island caboose burped last night. 54 cars Friday night. No complaints or major issues. Train draws 711-717 watts. Brian Waller brought in solar charger to help top off batteries. Ethan going to work with Brian on getting something similar set up. Have had enough cookies. Trains running well. Crews doing a good job. Locomotive fuel holding up. Ethan has preliminary list of who helped and will be checking to catch everyone.

Department Reports

- *General Superintendent* – written report provided.
- *Historical / Archives* – written report provided. Gus Paoli looking at UNR internship options to assist us.
- *Webmaster* – written report provided.
- *Train Sheet* – written report provided. Need articles.
- *Mechanical* – written report provided.
- *Facilities*
    - Greg Elems has received a request from a movie production company. Want to rent our lot for 1-3 nights toward end of January for parking their equipment. $1,000 a day. Will provide security. Working with Plumas Sanitation on portos. WIll have insurance provided. We just need to let them in day 1 and lock up after they leave. They will also handle any snow handling / plowing.
- *Museum Store* – written report provided

Legal / Insurance Report

- BofA credit card issue. Reviewed the status and issues involved.

Safety Committee - none.

Notices

- Santa Trains closing out

Public Comments

- Nick Manos - question about plan for switching out the shop.
    - Greg plan is to switch out the shop on the week of Jan. 19. Will give time to clear our baggage car and shop. WP 1503 will be in the shop until then. Tentative date is Wednesday, Jan 21. Nick concerned about cold. Greg and Ethan have been discussing this and have plans to protect the engine. Nick is comfortable with this.

Closed Session – none requested

PRELIMINARY

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:46 PM

Next Meeting: February 14, 2026 – 1:00 PM
Location: WPRM Meeting Room, Portola

Respectfully Submitted – Eugene Vicknair - Secretary

PRELIMINARY