

All campaign statements and bylaw arguments and rebuttals will be combined with the ballot and election instructions into one consolidated mailing with costs paid by the Society. Members are permitted to mail their own election material at their own expense.

- 1.** — Nominating and Election Process confirmed by the Board Nov14, 1998.
- 2.** — Nominating Committee post notice in *Train Sheet* Dec 1998.
- 3.** — Petitions of Nomination and all candidates statements received at Election Committee's address Jan30, 1999.
- 4.** — All proposed Bylaw changes and Bylaw proposal statements to be received at the Bylaw Committee's address Jan30, 1999.
- 5.** — All proposals for amending or repealing Bylaws with arguments are available to members with a self-addressed stamped envelope on request Feb20, 1999.
- 6.** — All candidates names and statements and All Bylaw change and arguments presented to the Board Feb20, 1999.
- 7.** — All statements requested to be revised must be received at the Election Committee's address by Mar01, 1999.
- 8.** — Consolidated mailing (ballot, statements, and arguments) Apr01, 1999.
- 9.** — Ballots received by 5:00 P.M. at P.O. Box 608 Portola CA 96122-0608 May07, 1999.
- 10.** — Election Committee meets to conduct vote counting on May14, 1999.

—FRRS 1999 DATES—

- Jan16** Board Meeting.
Feb20 Board Meeting.
Mar20 Board Meeting.
Apr03 Locomotive Maintenance Workday.
Apr10 Board Meeting.
Apr16-17 Historical Convention.
Apr24 Crew Training.
Apr25 Workday.
May01 Locomotive Maintenance Workday.
May02 Crew Training.
May15 Board Meeting, Annual Meeting, Election.
May29 Memorial Weekend, Opening Weekend
Jun05 Locomotive Maintenance Workday.
Jun19 Board Meeting.
Jul03 Locomotive Maintenance Workday, Independence Day Weekend.
Jul17 Board Meeting.
Aug07 Locomotive Maintenance Workday.
Aug14 Board Meeting.
Aug21 Railroad Days.
Sep04 Locomotive Maintenance Workday, Labor Day Weekend.
Sep11 Board Meeting.
Sep18 Railfan Day.
Oct02-03 Locomotive Maintenance Work Weekend.
Oct16 Board Meeting.
Oct16-17 Work Weekend.
Nov13 Board Meeting.
Dec04 Operate one Santa Train.
Dec11 Board Meeting, operate two Santa Trains.

Report to the membership of the FRRS Attendance at the 1998 Association of Railway Museums Annual Convention.

By Wayne Monger

The 1998 version of the Association of Railway Museums Annual Convention was hosted by the Orange Empire Railway Museum (OERM) of Perris, CA. The convention itself ran from Nov04 through Nov08 and was based out of the historic Mission Inn at Riverside, CA. Over 100

different railroad museums/railroad historical groups from around North America were represented, with all of the major California railroad museums well represented. Your Society was represented this year at the ARM Convention by FRRS Board of Directors members Wayne Monger and Doug Morgan, plus Chairman of the FRRS Acquisition and Deacquisition Committee, Dr. Peter Lyman.

Wednesday, Nov04 was a travel day for most but may turn out to have been quite important to the future of the FRRS. Wayne Monger happened to have the same flight out of Sacramento to Ontario as CSRM Foundation Executive Director Cathy Taylor, which gave them a chance to talk about the details of the formal California State Railroad Museum invitation to the FRRS to bring GP-20 Western Pacific 2001 (as an operating locomotive) to Railfair '99 in June '99, as well as participation by the WP 2001 in the planned Grand Opening of Union Pacific's new Roseville Yard on May10, 1999. The CSRM Foundation is estimating that 200,000 to 400,000 people will be attending Railfair '99 during June.

Thursday, Nov05 was a day for seminars at the Mission Inn. Much of what is learned and exchanged at these seminars can have long ranging positive effects upon not only our organization but all other railroad historical groups. The first seminar Wayne Monger attended was led by Lois Tait of OERM, titled "Hosts and Docents". The focus was upon her experiences at OERM setting up a very effective volunteer hosts and docents program. Several of the important points brought out is that a hosts/docents program at any museum is highly valuable but that hosts/docents must not be isolated from operating crews and restoration teams. A host/docent's

first job is the "comfort" and "bonding" with the visitors so they feel good about the place they are visiting.

The second job is the safety of the visitors as well as the museum (i.e. liability). There was also a strong suggestion that at all large and small railroad museums, there should be a formalized training of operating crews as "informed hosts" so that these volunteers can have the tools to give educated answers to all ranges of questions from visitors when docents are not on hand. In conclusion, she reminded everyone in attendance that "a museum is many interest groups under one umbrella, which brings up many conflicts — but are good for an organization in the long run as long as all groups put out the effort to reach solutions where everyone involved feels they have a stake in the success of the organization."

In the meantime, Doug Morgan attended the "Relationships with Railroads and Agencies" hosted by the BNSF while Dr. Lyman attended the National Transportation Safety Board's "Accident Experience and Risk Management" seminar.

The second seminar attended by Wayne, Doug and Dr. Lyman was the "Recommended Practices for Railway Museums". Wayne had been the FRRS representative to the ARM committee which developed the highly important "Recommended Practices for Railway Museums" document, which will help focus and lead this newly emerging non-profit "railway museum industry" into the next century. This seminar was to discuss any changes to this document but instead evolved into a discussion upon the importance and pitfalls of Mission Statement development. As several of the Bay Area Electric Ry. Assoc. directors were also in attendance, their

recent experience with development of a new mission statement was explored. Our current "unique" membership input from the FRRS membership on development of a new FRRS mission statement was also discussed among the delegates. The conclusions are that all organizations need tightly focused mission statements in order to "sell" concepts to the larger community, tell one story which everyone involved can "buy into" and correct inaccurate reporting by the media that railroad museums are "only for rail buffs".

The third seminar attended by Wayne Monger was "Oral History: Its Importance to Your Museum", presented by two people that had done oral history projects for their Master's Degree at CSU Fullerton. This seminar not only dealt with the "nuts and bolts" of setting up and preserving oral histories, but also looked at the legal aspects of recorded oral histories, costs, and the objectives that oral histories should augment and complement other forms of historical documentation.

The fourth seminar attended by both Wayne and Doug was "Site Planning for Your Museum", presented by current members of the Site Planning Committee for OERM. Utilizing the 40 years of site evolution at OERM's site at Perris as the focus, this seminar ran through the years of site planning evolution, the problems encountered by different expectations of members over time and how the current semi-independent status of the OERM Site Development Committee apart from the Board of Directors and the general membership evolved. Much was learned by all, with emphasis that any site development plan is a fluid document which is always changing.

Activities on Friday, Nov06 was a full day

group tour for all in attendance. This included a trip on a Metrolink commuter train from San Bernardino to downtown L.A., a complete guided tour through the modern Metrolink shop facilities at what used to be SP's Taylor Yard, private charter train over both the L.A. Metro Blue Line and Green Line plus tour through the Green Line shop in El Segundo, a catered dinner in the old Harvey House restaurant at LAUPT then taking the last Metrolink train of the evening back to San Bernardino.

Saturday, Nov07 found all activities focused upon OERM's museum site at Perris, with shuttle busses taking people between the Mission Inn and Perris every hour. On site seminars given by various OERM volunteers during parts of the day included the topics of Track, Parts, Signals/Electrical, Air Brakes, Steam, Diesel and Conservation. OERM volunteers were out in force this day, operating not only a wide variety of electric railway equipment but also diesel equipment for the enjoyment and education of all.

That evening back at the Mission Inn, the highlight for many in attendance was held. The ARM annual banquet was held in the Mission Inn Music Room, and had as the guest speakers Michael Broggie (author of "Walt Disney's Railroad Story") plus original Disney animator and owner of the Grizzly Flats Railroad, Ward Kimball.

The ARM Convention concluded on Sunday, Nov08 with the ARM Annual General Meeting to vote on new ARM Board of Directors members and see a presentation by West Coast Railway Museum on the plans for the 1999 ARM Convention they are hosting in Vancouver, B.C.

—**Wayne Monger**