

From the Chairman

By Andy Anderson

Greetings to all of the members of our Society and Museum.

As the opening of the season draws near, thoughts of preparation are no doubt swirling in the minds of our department heads and the many loyal and hard working members who dedicate themselves to making it successful and enjoyable every year.

Much thought has been given to how more of the membership can be encouraged to participate in the various aspects and activities at the museum such as Operations, Mechanical Maintenance and in general house and grounds maintenance. I surmise the plan of action would be to make certain that volunteers would have specific areas of interest to them that they can assist in. Hopefully these plans will be in place at the outset of the coming season. I believe various members of the staff will have some rather interesting and informative items relating to progress at the museum throughout the year.

As one who is anticipating a great season, I am hoping for an influx of eager members ready to enhance the appearance of the property and equipment plus any other activities that may appeal to them. This will, hopefully, get us headed in the right direction.

With the recent grant from the City of Portola and Plumas County we are proceeding with the roof replacement project. This was identified as a high priority project and if things go as planned; the existing roof will be removed and replaced during the coming summer months. Also, a great deal of consideration is being given to a Visitors Center and restoration of various pieces of equipment. A visitors center has been discussed for many years as has the need to begin and finish restoration work on much of the collection. In order to fulfill these goals we look to the membership for assistance. Not just with monetary donations but to become part of the workforce that will help plan, guide, and see these projects to conclusion.

The library car is nearly complete with only a few finish items needing attention. I anticipate activity throughout the season as our historical collection is separated, categorized, and cataloged. This will make retrieval of items much easier for our members.

In closing this article; may I encourage any and all members to offer comments and suggestions that may be of benefit to the Museum staff as we endeavor to make this great piece of history an even more inviting place to visit and enjoy, not just for ourselves but for generations to follow. Again, only the membership can make things happen and hopefully you as members will do just that.

It is my fervent hope that I will be afforded the opportunity to meet the many members that I have yet to encounter, what a privilege that will be for me.

Elections and Bylaws

By Frank Brehm

In the last few months questions have been raised concerning the process we, as a society, have in place to elect directors and make bylaw changes. In reading the current bylaws contradictions were found and after discussions among the Board of Directors and with the bylaw committee it was found there were no clear-cut answers due to the conflicting sections in the bylaws.

On May 2 your Board of Directors held a special meeting via conference call. This meeting was requested by Directors Brehm and Morgan and called by Chairman Anderson. The purpose of this meeting was to make a determination as to how to proceed with the election and bylaw amendment process.

The meeting was convened by Chairman Anderson with Directors Brehm, Englert, Holmes, Monger, Morgan, Neves, Stiles, Vicknair and Wagner present. Also in attendance was Bylaw Committee Chair Kerry Cochran. Director Brehm presented a motion, seconded by Morgan that states the Society shall hold in abeyance the current bylaw amendment election process, seek written legal opinion from an attorney with regards to the election process for directors and how bylaw amendments may be made to the current bylaws. It also requests an opinion as to the adherence of our present bylaws to current law and whether the current bylaws should be further amended or replaced in total. Further that a "White Ballot" may be declared for the currently open Directors positions.

Before unanimous adoption of the motion a discussion was held amongst the Directors with feedback and committee action insight being provided by Committee Chair Cochran. The Board was unanimous in its appreciation of the work done by the Bylaw Committee and looks forward to their continued work after this legal opinion is received. Although this action delays the bylaw amendment process, it is prudent for the Society to ensure the legality of its actions before proceeding.

Communications

A complaint often heard concerns the lack of communication among members and between the membership and the Board of Directors. In an effort to alleviate this concern and promote better communications among the membership, a mailing list has been created on the internet that is open only to FRRS members. This list is located at www.onelist.com/group/FRRS. The url must be typed exactly as shown. If you are not a member of onelist you will have to sign up for the service. This is a no cost service and sign-up is fast and easy. All applicants to the mail list are checked against the current FRRS membership list. If the url above does not work go to www.onelist.com and you can find the list under Recreation, Trains and Railroads. I look forward to seeing many members on the list with positive discussions concerning the FRRS and the future of our Society.