

FRRS Election 2006-2007

- David Epling, FRRS 2006 Election Chairman

When Ed Wagner resigned last year as the Election Chairman and President McClure gave me his evil Popeye stare he is so good at, I knew I was doomed. I was shanghaied and tattooed as the new Election chairman before I knew it. The job looks and sounds intimidating, but to my surprise, the job really was not that difficult.

April 16, 2006, with the help of my wife Vicki and FRRS member Russell Johnson, we began stuffing the envelopes, sorta, Russ printed all the envelopes, Vicki decided to go visit our son and I stuffed the envelopes. 14 hours later, 856 envelopes were ready to go, 13 of them to our overseas members.

By the ballot deadline of 11AM, June 3rd, I had received 401 envelopes back from the mailing. This represents a 46.8% return, not bad for an organization such as ours. Likewise, I received 4 envelopes back as undeliverable. I was able to track down 2 of them and get those properly addressed. If you did not receive a ballot, please contact the museum and update your address.

At 11am, June 3rd, Myself, Vicki Epling, Russ Johnson, and Jay Sarno (Drafted in place of John Walker who was drafted to work passenger train service that day) locked the board room/crew lounge and began to count the ballots. At issue was 3 incumbent members of the FRRS Board of Directors and one By-Law change measure.

The By-Law measure passed by a vote of 410-19. Incumbent Director Steve Habeck received 406 votes and retained his seat. Incumbent Director Gail McClure received 409 votes and retained her seat. Incumbent Director Eugene Vicknair received 410 votes and retained his seat. John Walker received 4 write in votes. The following individuals each received one write in: Thom Anderson, Rick Edwards, Alan Hirasawa, Steve Milward, Mark Schultes, and Hank Stiles. (For those not aware, Hank was elected to the board last year). Oh, one joker wrote in Kerry's Dog.

The question may come to your mind as to how we can have 401 envelopes returned and have a total of 429 votes on the by-Laws. The explanation for that is because Family Life memberships get 2 votes, and those envelopes contained 2 ballots.

For 2007, ANY ONE of you can declare your intention to run for the three Board seats available. The seats currently held by directors Norman Holmes, Wayne Monger, and Kerry Cochran are up for election.

There are some dates that you as members need to be aware of. The first set of dates is January 1, to January 31, 2007. The month of January is open nominations. If you plan to run for one of the three seats, you must notify me by 11:59 pm January 31, 2007. The E-mail address for this is frsweb@sbcglobal.net or you can mail me your intent to David Epling, FRRS Election Chairman, 400 W. Winnie Ln. #9, Carson City, NV, 89703. I will not accept any mailed declaration postal stamped for after January 31, 2007. Anything after that day will be disregarded.

After you have declared yourself a candidate, you have until February 15th to get me your optional candidate statement. This date is so I can get it printed and ready to be mailed with your ballots.

The next date you will need to be aware of is March 1, 2007. If you have decided to run for the Board of Directors, and you change your mind, That is the deadline to remove your name from the ballot. If you miss that deadline, your name will still appear on the ballot.

Ballots will be mailed out to the membership no later than April 18, 2007. Ballots will need to be returned to the address on the return envelope that will be included with your ballot no later than 5pm May 25, 2007. Tellers (Ballot Counters) will be appointed at the May Board of Directors meeting. If you are interested in being a teller or you have any questions, please contact David Epling at the above addresses. Ballots will be counted and the final results reported at the Annual FRRS Membership Dinner and Meeting June 2, 2007.

Finally, I can't stress enough the importance of adhering to the instructions. Your ballot MUST be received by the date provided in your written instructions. I received 4 ballots on June 5, 2006, I received one ballot today June 28 postmarked June 26. These 5 ballots were not counted because they missed the posted deadline to return them. Please take into consideration that our fine postal system can at times run slower than the Pony Express. next, you can only cast

THREE TOTAL votes. This election you had the option of voting for the 3 incumbents OR writing in up to 3 different people OR some other combination adding up to 3. One ballot had votes for all 3 plus 3 write ins. That ballot had to be disqualified. Again, the instructions were clear on this.

In summary, now that I am aware of how the system works, it is not as intimidating as I initially thought. This coming year will be easier. Among the changes I intend to make for 2007 is to get the ballots out sooner and have the deadline to return them well before the day of counting to accommodate the stragglers. But more on that later.

ERIC'S BIG ADVENTURE

- Eugene John Vicknair

During late July-early August, some folks traveling around the West were treated to a bizarre sight. Rolling down the highway was a big Fleetwood RV with a nose painted in silver, orange and black and sporting some logos that are quite familiar to our members. Riding this rattling contraption were three FRRS members (and one non-member) set on fulfilling an old dream while trying to help others.

FRRS Life Member Eric Stephens has been battling an inoperable brain tumor for much of the past 2 years. A member since 1990, he helped repair a great deal of the wiring in the diesel shop, as well as the Office and Shower Cars. He worked on The Zephyr Project and was instrumental in the design and wiring of the Silver Debris volunteer lounge. Unfortunately, the symptoms of his battle with cancer have included paralysis of his left side and a loss of coordination and motor control, leaving him dependent on a walker and wheelchair.

In November, 2005, we began talking about replicating a trip we first took in 1990. We had traveled from California to Denver and back in one week to help a homeless friend, railfanning

all the way. With such a quick trip, much was missed. We had often talked about a repeat, but the time was never available. Now, we realized it would have to be sooner, rather than later.

As we planned the trip, the scope grew until we were covering ground in 8 states over 3 weeks. It also grew into something larger than just giving a friend a grand vacation. We realized that this trip could be used to speak for something larger. With help from Eric's mother, Julie Stephens, we made contact with the National Brain Tumor Foundation and Jennifer Neale, herself a brain cancer survivor. We decided to make the trip a benefit for both the NBTF and the FRRS. With help from friends and family, my girlfriend, Wendy Holtz, and I bought a broken down RV and renovated it, modifying it to accommodate Eric. FRRS members David Epling and Tom Carter pitched in, while other members donated to the cause. Tom's father Rick donated use of a powered scooter, easier to handle than Eric's bulky wheelchair. We painted the RV in WP silver and orange, while Express SignCraft of San Jose provided fantastic, full color decals for the body, including FRRS heralds and WP passenger wings for the nose.

A future article will fill in details of the trip and provide thanks to everyone who helped, but in the end we raised several thousand dollars for the NBTF and as well as receiving donations and providing publicity for the FRRS. Thanks to many fine people who helped out, donated or just cheered us on, as we set out to prove that life doesn't end in the face of such tragedy.

The Eric's Big Adventure team would like to acknowledge Ken Meeker, another FRRS member who is struggling with his own serious illness. Our thoughts are with you and your family, Ken.

Eric visiting with Durango and Silverton 482 in Silverton, CO.

- photo by Eugene John Vicknair

