

The Headlight Magazine

- Kerry Cochran

While issue # 51 of the *Headlight* should be in your hands by now, if you are an active or above member, I want to look back to try to answer questions on why it is so long between issues.



Some of these answers are not easy to provide. However I am going to give you some information that should help. All of the articles in the *Headlight* need to be written by someone, meaning volunteers. In the past, the Headlight Staff had a large pool of volunteers to draw from. This meant the staff had several people to write, proof and review articles for the magazine.

Well, as with many organizations, as we all get older, the pool of volunteers diminishes and we have fewer and fewer people to draw from for this help.

There is a lot of work that goes into the production of the *Headlight*. Think about each article, who writes it, where does the information come from, who proof reads it and corrects it. Then there is the production of the draft before it gets final proof reading and sent off to the printer.

Where does the mailing list come from, who checks the mailing list, how does it get to the printer and the mailing house?

All these things go on behind the scenes.

One of the biggest issues right now is getting members and other people to step up and write articles and get them to the Headlight Staff.

When I speak about authors, some may be long time members of the FRRS and have very good knowledge of the Western Pacific. Others may be past employees and some may just be very fond of the WP and know a lot about the railroad.

One thing that I have been told is that some people miss the modeling aspect of some of the past articles in the *Headlight*. I have had several discussions with both the Headlight Staff and members of the FRRS Board of Directors on this subject (no final decision has been made at this time).

I know that all of us would like to see it published on a regular basis, but this requires we have enough material to print each copy.

I would like to hear from our membership on their thoughts about the magazine and what we might be able to accomplish with it.

Please let me know by writing to the Headlight Staff and myself. You can email us at headlight@wplives.org.

Should you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me thru the WPLives.org website.

Kerry Cochran

General Superintendent Historical/Archives Manager