

Business Meeting
March 16, 2004

Albuquerque, New Mexico

The meeting was called to order by President Ken Hawk at 3:10 p.m., with 344 members in attendance. Bob Tomme opened the meeting with an invocation.

President Ken spoke of the benefits of belonging to FCOC, thanked the members for their interest in the club and for their attendance. He then introduced the officers- Katherine Henley, Exec. Vice-Pres.; Chuck Belba, Vice-Pres. Membership; Ginny Belba, Secretary; Pete Palasota, Treasurer; Dorothy Casada, National FMCA Director. FMCA officers R.G. Wilson President and Max Durbin International V.P. were recognized but not present.

President Ken asked the membership for feedback on Freightliner Dealer Service experience. Specifically he asked "to let us know what kind of a job they did" and "how you were treated." These dealers need to keep up to the standards set so as to meet the Oasis requirements.

President Ken then introduced Jack Conlon, President of Freightliner Custom Chassis Corp. in Gaffney, S.C. Jack thanked club members for the warm welcome extended to himself and his family. He went on to state that 2003 was a tremendous year for Freightliner; Jack introduced Dean Schaper, Director of Sales and Marketing, and the other Freightliner staff members who made the trip from Gaffney. There was a large representation of technical and service people present. President Jack gave them all a special thanks for their efforts and dedication, and the membership added their round of applause. As Jack stated, "they are the best of the best," and keep Freightliner so successful with top quality chassis, and as "the engineering leader" in the motorhome market. One of the accomplishments was the innovative "formed rail" design chassis. This is now available in the Evolution series of Winnebago motorhomes. In addition, Fleetwood has contracted with Freightliner for a new modular designed chassis called Liberty chassis and is used on American Coach products. In addition to all the motorhome related achievements, Freightliner has designed and built a new Type-C school bus, and continues to supply FedEx with a newly designed electric power vehicle. Freightliner built their 100,000th chassis and celebrated appropriately in Gaffney. The market share figures are impressive moving from 45.8% in 2002 to a record 50.4% in 2003. According to data taken from the latest report by Statistical Surveys, Inc. the closest competitor is trailing by 20.5 %.

Jack went on to discuss the "OASIS" program, which has grown to 54 dealers by the end of 2003. Jack also reiterated the request for feedback from those members who have first hand experience with OASIS centers. The OASIS Dealer of the Year was awarded to Cunningham Commercial Vehicles in Phoenix, AZ. Jack suggested that any of us traveling along Route 10-in Tolleson stop in and check out their service center. Jack went on to share a new partnership between Freightliner and the local technical college, Spartanburg Tech. This will be a benefit not only to technicians but Rvers as well. Eventually in mid-2005, the plan is to move factory service center to the college campus.

Jack closed his presentation to the membership by emphasizing their commitment to superior quality and service, a thank you to his Gaffney team and to all of us for choosing Freightliner.

President Ken continued with the business at hand, asking Ginny Belba for the Secretary's report. Since the minutes were published in the last newsletter, Ginny made a motion to waive any further reading of the minutes and accept the minutes as published. This was seconded and passed by unanimous vote. Pete Palasota gave the Treasurer's report. There was a motion and second to accept the report as presented which passed by unanimous vote. Dorothy Cassada was called on for an FMCA report, which was brief stating that there really was no new items from FMCA.

New business requiring action by the membership is regarding the election of officers. A necessary By-Laws change was explained by President Ken since we have a situation with all officers coming up to election at the same time. The Board felt that it would be a much better transition if we had staggered terms of office. Therefore, on a one time only basis, we need to shift some officers to a 1 year re-election term. The National Director and Alternate would become a 2 year term as allowed by FMCA By-Laws. The President, Treasurer, Secretary, and the Vice-Pres. Of Membership would become 1 year terms. The notification of this change was done in the newsletter- and action to be taken at this meeting. Chuck Belba made the motion to approve the change – the 1-year officers would serve for 2005 and the 2-year officers would serve for 2005 & 2006. The motion received a second and was approved by unanimous vote.

Bob Reed, Chairman of the Nomination Committee was called upon for a report –The Nominating Committee nominated Priscilla Buck to fill the office of Secretary, vacated by Ginny Belba. There was a request for any other nominations from the floor. There were none and nominations were closed. The election for officers will take place by mail and at the Business Meeting in Redmond, Oregon in August, 2004.

President Ken called on Ron Sliger for a brief report regarding the post rally in Las Cruces. Ron stated that we had 150 sign-ups and would have only 100 full service sites, due to delays in work completion by the RV Park. Ron stated that 50 sites would not have a sewer connection, but the park would provide pumping of tanks at no charge. Ron gave directions to the Hacienda RV Park.

Katherine Henley gave a brief report on upcoming rallies; Charlie and Ruth Hoffstater were introduced and thanks for the great job they do organizing our caravans into the FMCA Rallies.

President Ken once again asked for help with articles for the newsletter, and reminded everyone that they can receive the newsletter on the website.

Subjects from the floor were “get well” wishes for our friends Irv Steele and Mr. Ed. Cards and wishes from the membership will be sent to them.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 with a reminder of the Pizza Party tomorrow at 3:00 at Section LL –4th Street.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Belba
Secretary