

Freightliner Chassis Owners Club Business Meeting – March 22, 2005

The business meeting was called to order at 3:40 pm on March 22, 2005 by President Ken Hawk. Four hundred and twenty-six members were in attendance. President Ken asked Bobby Tomme to open the meeting with a prayer.

Ken spoke of the personal loss of Chris Patterson, the Freightliner Vice President of Service and Parts in Portland, Oregon, and his family. The Pattersons tragically lost their fourteen year old son Scott. The club contributed to a scholarship fund in Scott's name.

President Ken then thanked everyone for their support when he suffered a severe heart attack. Ken said that he was overwhelmed with all of the cards he received and the prayers for his recovery. He said "Prayer definitely works."

President Ken introduced the club officers present: Katherine Henley - Executive Vice President, Priscilla Buck - Secretary, Chuck Belba - Membership Vice President, Pete Palasota - Treasurer, Dorothy Casada - National Director, and Roy Hopper - Alternate National Director.

Katherine Henley asked for a show of hands by "first timers". It appeared as though nearly half of the attendees were there for the first time. Katherine then spoke about FCOC rallies. She asked for a show of hands for those going to the rally at Myrtle Beach. Then she talked about the up-coming rally in Gillette, WY scheduled for August 20th to the 23rd, 2005. The rally will be held at the Cam-Plex Facility in Gillette and the cost is \$250 per coach. Katherine and her husband Larry are the Rally Masters. Pete and Martha Palasota are the Assistant Rally Masters.

Ken introduced Dean Schaper, the FCCC Sales and Marketing Manager. Dean encouraged club members to "work" at the Freightliner booth. He stated that 12,700 chassis were produced in 2004 which represents 58% of the diesel pusher chassis market. Dean also talked about the management change at Fleetwood and the recent negotiations regarding the use of Freightliner chassis to again be under Excursions and Providences for 2006 models. There are also on-going negotiations regarding the Revolution as well as other Fleetwood products.

Dean spoke about changes at the Gaffney service center. The new center will be adjacent to I85, six service bays, and parking for twelve coaches. It is planned to be operational early next year. Dean also spoke about Camp Freightliner, a two day seminar that teaches owners important information about their chassis. The cost of the seminar is \$100. If interested in attending call Mike Cody at (864) 206-8738 to make reservations. Mike is also the instructor for the seminar. Lastly, Dean introduced Gary Poole.

Gary is the FCCC Product Manager for RV Products. Gary spoke about some of the up-coming product changes. A new solid front axle with a wheel cut of 55 degrees, instead of 50 degrees, will soon be available. In addition to the improved wheel cut, front disc brakes will be an option. An electrically controlled fan clutch has been field tested and

will enter production on rear radiator chassis. The fan will only operate at full speed when the engine temperature reaches a pre-set limit. This will result in reduced noise and, depending on driving conditions and habits, improved fuel economy. Gary also talked about the introduction of the Mercedes diesel engine into FCCC chassis. Gary closed by stating that FCOC is high on his list of priorities and he appreciates how hard all of the members work to improve the club.

President Ken asked for a motion to waive the reading of the minutes from the last business meeting as those minutes had been published in the newsletter. A motion was made and seconded. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

There was a discussion regarding the length of time from when new member registrations or renewals are sent and membership cards are received. Ken talked about the fact that since all renewals are due on January first of each year the workload is very high at that time. Changes are being discussed, such as Pay-Pal and online renewals, to reduce the high workload and long delays.

Ken then spoke about a new link on the club's web site to the Happy Camping web site (www.camphalfprice.com). Happy Camping provides half-price camping at about 1,000 campgrounds. As an FCOC member you will receive a ten dollar discount when you join Happy Camping.

President Ken recognized that there are a number of club members who go out of their way to promote FCOC. He has designated these members as Ambassadors. Every Ambassador will receive business cards and tri-folds to pass out to prospective members. If any member would like to nominate someone for their extra effort, please give their name to any of the club's officers.

The Nominating Committee was discussed next. Currently there are six names on the list for election at the business meeting in Minot, ND. The six are Bob Tomme, Ginny Belba, Jerry DeHeer, Ted Lokenberg, Al Moore, and Hal Croyts. Ken asked for additional nominations from the floor. There were none. Ken asked for a motion that the six names be accepted. A motion was made and seconded. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

A discussion to change the membership eligibility section of the club's by-laws was lead by President Ken. The current eligibility requirement is "an RV on a Freightliner chassis". Ken discussed the fact that this "loose" requirement would allow, for example, owners of Class B RV's built on a Freightliner Sprinter Van platform or owners of Class C's built on a Freightliner Columbia truck chassis to join FCOC. Since there is a lack of commonality among these the various chassis, it would be difficult to provide across the board support and programs to support members with chassis other than those manufactured by FCCC in Gaffney, SC. It was discussed that the proposed change should also state that motor homes on chassis manufactured by Oskosh and John Deere are also eligible as is the case today. After further discussion it was decided that the proposed by-

law change will be published in the FCOC Newsletter and voted upon at the next business meeting which will be held at the FMCA Convention in Minot, ND.

Jay Blumenthal, standing in for Max Durbin who is the FMCA International Area Vice President, presented the club with our ten year anniversary award. Jay congratulated the club for doing such a great job. He also invited everyone to attend the upcoming FMCA International Rally.

The Treasurer, Pete Palasota, gave his report for the period from August 1, 2004 through February 28, 2005. Pete presented the balance sheet and finished by saying that the club is doing well financially. Ken asked for a motion to accept the report. A gentleman made a comment from the audience that he belonged to many organizations, had heard many treasurer's reports, and that Pete's report was the most professional report he had ever heard. A motion was made and seconded. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

Chuck Belba, Membership Vice President, gave a report. He said that the club had about 5,200 (coach) members and about 4,000 members have paid through December of 2005. Chuck stated that he spent a week at Gaffney working with Kathy Kyzer to process membership dues. While the backlog was significantly reduced, there were still almost 700 members to process. Roy Hopper spoke about the success at the FMCA Chapter Fair. He said that there were many visitors. A number of former club members stopped by to renew their membership.

Dorothy Casada, our FMCA National Director, gave a brief report. The slate of FMCA National Officers has not yet been finalized. Dorothy encouraged club members to contact her when the slate of officers is published in the Family Motor Coaching magazine if they have strong opinions about any of the candidates. The National Directors will vote for National Officers in Minot, ND. Convention revenues are up 6.4%. The MEDEX PLUS program is still a member benefit despite rumors to the contrary.

Bill Buck, one of the Myrtle Beach Rally Masters, spoke briefly about the upcoming rally. He gave directions to the campground and asked for volunteers for greeters, parkers, and social hours.

President Ken asked if there was any other business to discuss. As there was none, he asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made and seconded. Without any discussion the motion carried and the meeting ended at 4:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Priscilla Buck
FCOC Secretary