

## **Freightliner Chassis Owners Club Business Meeting Pomona, California – February 27, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 pm by President Bill Buck. There were approximately one hundred and fifty members present. After general announcements were made, John Andrews gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bill then mentioned that Ken and Dorothy Hawk were sorry that they were unable to be in Pomona but were planning to attend the post-rally in Tucson. Ken wanted everyone to know how thankful both he and Dorothy were for all of the cards, emails and prayers.

Bill introduced the FCOC officers present; Chuck Belba – VP of Membership, Tom James – Treasurer, Priscilla Buck – Secretary, Ron Sliger – Executive VP, Dorothy Casada – National Director, Bob Smellie – VP Newsletter and Ginny Belba – Nominating Committee Chairman. Next Charlie and Ruth Hoffstatter were recognized. Charlie and Ruth have been FCOC's caravan leader's for many years but are retiring and are looking for a replacement. Ron and Arlene Griffith, the FCOC Historians, were also introduced.

Jay Blumenthal, the FMCA International Area Vice President, was recognized. Jay invited everyone to attend the INTO Rally in Oshkosh, WI to be held June 12-15, 2008. Jay reminded everyone that the FCOC will be providing security at the INTO Rally. If you plan to attend the INTO rally and are willing to help with security please contact Bill Buck at [billb01@comcast.net](mailto:billb01@comcast.net).

Bill recognized and thanked all of the veterans present, first timers, and past Rally Masters and Assistant Rally Masters. Also recognized were those who volunteered at the Freightliner booth, assisted at the business meeting, and at the social gathering.

Sonny Gillespie, the Vice President of Security for the International Area, was introduced. Sonny stated that he plans to run for Jay Blumenthal's position as Jay cannot run for a third term. He asked for FCOC's support.

Tony Sippel, Freightliner Custom Chassis Corporation's RV Product Manager introduced the FCCC support team and other vendor personnel.

Bill asked that the reading of the minutes from the business meeting in Redmond, Oregon be waived as they were previously published in the newsletter and on the club's web site. A motion was made and seconded to waive the reading. There was no discussion and the motion passed. Bill asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. There were none. The minutes were accepted as published.

Next the Treasurer's report was given by Tom James. Bill asked if there were any questions. There were none so the Treasurer's Report was filed as read. See elsewhere in this newsletter for the Treasurer's report.

The National Director's report was given by Dorothy Casada. FMCA stated that membership and revenues are declining. FMCA requested that everyone make an effort to recruit new members.

Ginny Belba, the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, spoke about the upcoming elections in Saint Paul, Minnesota this summer (July 14-17, 2008). The positions for election are Executive Vice President, Treasurer, Vice President Webmaster, Vice President Newsletter, National Director and Alternate National Director. These two-year positions will take effect January 1, 2009. If you are interested, or you know of any club member interested, in running for one of these offices please contact Ginny Belba at [xmayors@msn.com](mailto:xmayors@msn.com). Ginny thanked the current members of the Nominating Committee; Bud Trash, Hal Croyts, Gerry DeHeer, Ted Lokenberg, Al Moore, Bob Reed and Bobby Tomme. In addition to nominations for officers, she asked for volunteers to run for a position on the Nominating Committee.

Ron Sliger talked about the need for Rally Masters and Assistant Rally Masters. He described how the Rally Master's Handbook will be invaluable when planning a rally. He volunteered his help to anyone who runs a rally. Ron then talked about the upcoming FCOC Rally, to be held in Tucson, Arizona. He also talked about future FMCA and FCOC rallies. (Please visit [www.freightlinerchassisownersclub.org](http://www.freightlinerchassisownersclub.org) for details on upcoming rallies.)

Bill talked about the nine FCOC areas. The purpose of these areas is to provide more rallies, closer to where members live. Currently six of the nine areas have coordinators. Coordinators are still needed for the Western, Great Lakes and Rocky Mountain Areas. If you are interested in being an Area Coordinator please contact Bill ([billb01@comcast.net](mailto:billb01@comcast.net)) or Ron Sliger ([rsliger@cfl.rr.com](mailto:rsliger@cfl.rr.com)). Information about area activities is available on the club's web site.

Future enhancements planned for the web site and database include the ability to pay dues on-line, register and pay for rallies on-line and receive the Freightliner Flyer newsletter electronically.

President Bill introduced Jonathan Randall, Marketing Manager for FCCC. Jonathan thanked everyone for their patronage and advocacy of FCCC. Jonathan updated everyone on Gaffney's progress. During 2007 FCCC introduced the EPA mandated engines. Production targets for commercial business were met. RV production, however, was slightly below expectation. In spite of a soft RV market, FCCC held an almost 52% share of the diesel chassis market. Tiffen introduced tag-axle chassis on both the Phaeton and Allegro Bus lines. Gulf Stream introduced the tag-axle chassis on their Tour Master. Four Winds also used that chassis. Damon and Newmar introduced new products on the FRED chassis. FCCC is also introducing higher capacity chassis to support larger coaches.

Jonathan spoke about the organizational changes within North America. Daimler-Chrysler is now Daimler. FCCC is a division of Daimler Trucks North America (DTNA). Freightliner Trucks, Sterling Trucks, Western Star Trucks and Thomas Built Bus are other divisions of DTNA. Daimler still owns 19.2% of Chrysler. For the time-being, the Affiliate Rewards car purchase program will continue.

Lastly Jonathan talked about a survey done by FCCC to determine what was important when choosing a chassis. About five hundred FCOC members responded and the results

were; first was quality and durability, second was ride and handling and finally service. FCCC has set goals to satisfy these demands.

Tony Sippel then spoke about FCCC's need for additional Ambassadors. Currently FCCC has two couples – one couple covering the east coast and the other couple covering the west coast. These Ambassadors represent FCCC at shows and rallies. If you would like more information please contact Tony by telephone at (864) 206-8588 or email ([anthonysippel@freightliner.com](mailto:anthonysippel@freightliner.com)).

Bill reminded the members about the FCOC cook-out the following afternoon and then asked if there was any additional business. There was no further business. Bill asked for a motion to adjourn the business meeting. A motion was made and seconded. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Secretary,  
Priscilla Buck