

The meeting was called to order by President Ken Hawk at 5:10 p.m. with 344 members and 35 company representatives present. Bob Tomme opened the meeting with a word of prayer. Ken welcomed the members and introduced the Board of Directors; Katherine Henley, Exec. Vice-Pres.; Dorothy Casada FMCA National Director; Ginny Belba, Secretary; Pete Palasota, Treasurer; Chuck Belba, Vice-Pres. Membership.

President Ken then introduced Dean Shaper who introduced and discussed the new suspension system that Freightliner is building for the Liberty chassis. Dean also introduced his support group from Freightliner Corp. in Gaffney.

Secretary, Ginny Belba, asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the last meeting, which were published in the newsletter. Since there were none, she moved that reading of the minutes be waived since they were published in the newsletter. That motion was passed, and the minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Treasurer, Pete Palasota, gave a financial report, with a bottom line net worth of the club of \$39,105.27. There was a motion and second to approve the financial report as presented, which passes by unanimous vote.

The Executive Vice-President and Rally Chairperson, Katherine Henley, asked for a show of hands of first time attendees. She spoke about the upcoming Verona Rally, directions to the Park and stated that check-in would begin after 12 noon. The second day was scheduled for Tech Day, and a Red Hat Society tea was scheduled for the ladies. Katherine discussed the next FCOC Rally which will be held in Las Cruces, New Mexico in March 2004 and introduced the Rally masters Ron and Brenda Sliger, An Alaskan trip is being planned for next summer (2004) with a special price to Freightliner members.

Chuck Belba, Membership Vice-President, gave a brief report on membership growth and membership retention. FCOC now has in excess of 3500 members.

Dorothy Casada gave an FMCA Director's report; first on the election of officers which resulted in R.G. Wilson as President, Don Moore as Sr. Vice-President, Ginger Painter as Secretary, Connie Pool as Treasurer. The FMCA Board approved the budget deficit and has asked for a dues increase to \$110.00. FMC has acquired 625 new members this past year and currently has 127,179 members. This Rally has 3710 attendees.

President Ken discussed the newsletter, the advertising on the back page, and the difficulty in delivery with the bulk mail. The next two issues will be mailed first class with the hope that this will alleviate some of the mail forwarding problems. He requested that all members help us with current, updated addresses.

Ken then introduced Dennis Rostenbach, in charge of the dealer network for the Oasis Program. This is to recognize the Best of the Best Freightliner Dealers of which

there are currently 51. These dealers must maintain certain standards and customer feedback is crucial. The follow up to the surveys is very important and each dealer is required to have a display with these surveys available to all customers. Dennis can provide you with a list of these members, or they are also available on the website. Training is a big issue, clean work bays for R.V.'s, and the cost of working on R.V.'s vs. trucks is some of the issues Dennis is working on. Dennis mentioned that 98% of these dealers are engine certified to handle Cummins and Cat engines.

Scott, the Training Manager from Gaffney, discussed a new program, which will be a two-day class at the factory. Camping will be provided at a local campground. Classes at the factory will be limited to 10 per class and 1 owner per vehicle. Freightliner will host a cookout in the evening. Some of the topics will include storing your vehicle, and service after storage, weight distribution, visual inspections. The first four classes will be free. After that camping will be \$25/day at the Pine Cone Campground. The first pilot program will be held on Sept. 15 & 16, 18 & 19; Oct. 13 & 14, 16 & 17. Classes will be from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. You should plan to arrive the day prior to the day the class starts. Scott will be at the display tomorrow from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. and sign-ups will be on a first come-first serve basis. There will also be a waiting list for sign-ups.

The next item of business is the Election of Officers, and Pres. Ken introduced Bob Reed, Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Bob reported that we needed to elect both our National Director and Alternate National Director. Dorothy Casada asked that she be re-elected to serve as our National Director. It was moved and seconded that nominations for this position be closed and Dorothy was re-elected by unanimous vote. Nominations were then opened for the position of Alternate Director, and three were nominated- Roy Hopper, Pat Tomme, and Wanda Trash. There was a motion and second to close nominations. The vote was taken, and Roy Hopper was elected as our new Alternate Director.

President Ken mentioned that our previous Secretary, Sally Jones, was recovering from knee surgery. He said that he would have her address at the Pizza Party for anyone that wanted to send her a card.

Ken closed the meeting by saying that he was well rewarded by all the people participating in the club and enjoying themselves and meetings and rallies. He stated that "the volunteers make the difference." The Pizza Party will be held on Saturday at 4:00. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Belba  
Secretary