

**FHWA RETIREES
REUNION HISTORY and POLICIES**

1988 - 2020

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Revised and Updated 2020**

At the Request of the Executive Board

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INTRODUCTION

During The 18th Reunion in Austin, Texas, in 2005 the members of the Executive Board realized there was no documented history of reunions except for reunion minutes that were started with the Reno, Nevada, meeting in 1999.

Accordingly, the members of the Executive Board agreed that a history of the FHWA Region 6 Plus Reunion should be written. The members believed this historical document would be of interest to all reunion attendees and a valuable tool for the Executive Board members.

REUNION BACKGROUND

In 1987, the original idea for a Region 6 Retiree Reunion came from E. A. (Jack) Sparks, Retired Division Administrator in Oklahoma, and Retired Region 6 Regional Administrator A. C. (Clason) Taylor. Clason had always been known as a man of wisdom with a reputation as a consummate manager and leader. He was legendary for always selecting just the right people for key positions in Region 6. Clason immediately thought of Jack Wilkes as the man to organize the first FHWA Retiree Reunion. Jack was the highly respected retired Director of Engineering in Headquarters, and Jack had worked for Clason in the Philippines after World War II (the Bureau of Public Roads had an office there to assist the Philippine government in restoring its roads after the war).

Clason called the then current Region 6 Administrator W. S. (Wes) Mendenhall to make the contact with Jack Wilkes in Austin. At that time, Jack was working for the Figg Engineering Group in Austin. Wes asked Jack and his wife, Gay, if they would be willing to host the first reunion in Austin. They willingly agreed and a wonderful tradition was born.

Wes suggested to Jack that he enlist Morris Reinhardt to help him. Morris had retired as Regional Administrator in Denver and was living in Austin. Wes also volunteered Red Lindsay, the unofficial social coordinator in the Region office, to assist them.

At that time Region 6 was comprised of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. The originators agreed that the purpose of the reunions would be to further fellowship among FHWA Region 6 Retirees.

In 1987, a memo was sent out to Region 6 Retirees seeking input for organizing the first reunion. In early 1988, a follow-up letter was sent out announcing the dates, place, and agenda. A request was also made for biographical information to be provided from all retirees including those unable to attend. Seventy-six responses were bound and given to those attending the first reunion.

FIRST REUNION, AUSTIN, TX – 1988

Originally called the 3R program (Region 6 Retiree Reunion), the first reunion was held March 11-13, 1988, at the Woodfin Suite Hotel on Northcross Drive, Austin, Texas. There were 84 attendees, including spouses. The format for the first reunion consisted of a golf game on the first day, a reception on one evening, a general meeting on one morning, and a dinner on the final evening.

Those attending the first reunion were:

Alpha Autry	Vern & Helen Harvey	Ralph & Carolyn Rich
Bernie Babb	Carl & Mary Izzard	Lorene Scott
Bill & Fran Barbour	Juanita Johnson	Helen Simpson
Ray & Jackie Barnhart	Jim & Mary Lacy	Jack & Pat Sparks
Herman & Alice Marie Berg	Tony & Angie Leone	Marcella Spiller
George & Blanche Beck	Rex & Luke Leathers	Clason & Virginia Taylor
Henry & Nell Bremmer	Red & Dorothy Lindsay	Don & Thelma Trull
Dean & Carolyn Carlson	Flo Lowrey	Dan & Irma Ann Watt
Jud Cary	Jim & LaVern McDonald	George & Betty Weisser
John & Althea Conrado	Wes & Karen Mendenhall	Dottie Whetsell
Gwen Couch	Ed & Barbara Muse	Jack & Gay Wilkes
Jewell Courtney	Merrill & Elizabeth Nelson	Tom Willett
Geneva Early	Doug & Ila Nettleton	Wes & Virginia Williams
Nelson & Beverly Evans	Gordon & Barbara Penney	Woodrow Gavenda
Bill & Norma Perry	Ralph & Betty Glover	Tom & Cleta Powell
Ted & Rita Hawley	Morris & Tommie Reinhardt	

The golfers arrived early for a day on the links. 14 men and 4 women golfers played at the Berry Creek Country Club north of Georgetown on Friday. Jack Wilkes was low man. The women's scores were kept secret, no doubt to keep from embarrassing the men golfers!

Friday evening, the women retirees and folks from the Texas Division Office hosted the first night's hospitality room. The hors d'oeuvres served that evening first introduced many of those attending to Mexican food.

Saturday morning after a continental breakfast, a general business meeting got underway with Jack Wilkes as Master of Ceremonies. Clason Taylor addressed the group setting the tone for the day by telling of his early days and how he got started in the agency. Ray Barnhart, then Federal Highway Administrator, also spoke to the group. Wes Mendenhall recognized the alumni of Region 6 who subsequently became Regional Administrators: Dean Carlson, Jim Lacy, Morris Reinhardt, Rex Leathers, Don Trull, Ted Hawley and Dan Watt.

Then, individual retirees reminisced about their careers and gave up-to-date information on their activities. It was a busy morning!

The meeting recessed for lunch allowing the participants to visit, shop or tour the beautiful city of Austin during the afternoon. The group reconvened at 5:00 p.m. for a happy hour and a catered barbecue dinner by the pool.

The group was asked to vote on having a second reunion in 1989. The vote was unanimous to hold a second reunion! Possible locations were discussed, and volunteers were solicited. The decision was made to have the second reunion in Arlington, Texas. Red and Dorothy Lindsay volunteered as hosts. This method of selecting subsequent reunion sites continues to this day. Prior to adjourning for the evening, Wes Mendenhall presented a Waterford Crystal clock to Gay and Jack from the group in appreciation for their outstanding work in planning and executing the first ever FHWA Retiree Reunion.

The original format at the 1988 reunion remains with sightseeing trips added at subsequent meetings. Over the next eight years (1989-1996), the reunions continued to be held in Region 6 including locations in four of its five states:

SUMMARY OF REUNIONS

A listing of all Reunions held to date is included as Addendum 1 to this document and a Summary of Actions at Each Reunion Since 2005 is included as Addendum 2.

All of our reunions have been special, but for the sake of history, we would highlight these:

6th Annual Reunion—March 1993 Just before this reunion, our beloved Clason Taylor died on February 7. At the reunion, Gay and Jack Wilkes and others made tributes to Clason. It was at this reunion that we initiated the tradition of ending all of business meetings with, "And, yes, Clason, we still love you."

8th Annual Reunion—April 1995 The bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building in Oklahoma City on April 19, 1995, had a sobering effect on this reunion held in Granbury, TX, April 20-22. Eleven members of the FHWA family, including the Federal-aid Division and Office of Motor Carrier Safety, lost their lives while performing their duties as public servants. Many of us attending the reunion knew those who died. We remembered in our prayers these fallen employees:

Lucio Aleman, Jr.
Mark A. Bolte
Michael J. Carrillo
Larry J. Jones

James K. Martin
Jerry Parker
Michelle A. Reeder
Rick Tomlin

Johnny Wade
Ronota A Woodbridge
John Youngblood

Other FHWA employees narrowly escaped death, and they with Regional employees, were dealing with the aftermath of the tragedy. Ed Wueste, who was the Regional Administrator at the time, missed the reunion because he was in Oklahoma City attending funerals, comforting survivors and family members, and helping with arrangements for an alternate office location. Jack Wilkes initiated a monetary collection to be sent to the FHWA fund in memorial for those who died. Region 6 had always seemed like a special “family,” but the death of those young FHWA employees served to reinforce the bonding of our entire FHWA organization.

This incident made all of us realize the need to include all FHWA retirees rather than keep it localized to Region 6. Following this we voted to make the reunion nationwide and renamed it Region 6 Plus. Some of the retirees asked if they could invite friends or family to accompany them to the reunions, and the answer was yes. From that time on, we usually had several retirees who brought friends and family with them.

10th Annual Reunion—April 1997, Colorado Springs, CO At the 1996 reunion in Baton Rouge, "The Arm" (in the form of Jack Wilkes) was used on Herb and Tilly Teets to host the 1997 reunion in Colorado Springs, CO, in collaboration with Fay Kastelic, Gay Wilkes' twin sister, who would host the golf tournament in Pueblo.

Even with a 25-inch snowfall in Colorado the day before the meeting, 90 hearty FHWA retirees and their spouses made it to the first FHWA Region 6 Plus Reunion held outside of Region 6. The heavy snow caused the cancellation of the planned annual golf tournament in Pueblo as well as a planned evening group outing to a nearby working cattle and horse ranch for a cowboy style meal and stage show. To help compensate for the canceled activities, last minute arrangements were made for a bus trip to the historic mining town of Cripple Creek, located in the high country west of Colorado Springs, for a little gambling at the casinos and sightseeing of the historic areas.

The host facility, with its large suite format for its occupants and a spacious atrium provided a great space for the attendees to congregate. In spite of the unfavorable weather conditions, the many compliments received supported that this first ever FHWA reunion outside of Region 6 was highly successful.

12th Annual Reunion—April 1999, Reno, NV This reunion marked the beginning of a more formal organization. The Executive Board was established by resolution to consist of one permanent member, Red Lindsay plus the last three hosts. Flo Lowrey agreed to serve as secretary. Minutes were kept of the business meeting for the first time. Morris Reinhardt agreed to serve as permanent moderator. A “Helpful Hints Manual” for those planning future Region 6 Plus Reunions prepared by Don Trull was entered into our permanent records.

The 18th Annual Reunion—April 2005, Austin, TX was dedicated to the memory of W. Jack Wilkes who passed away on December 7, 2004. A plaque was presented to Gay Wilkes with the following inscription:

FHWA REGION 6 PLUS REUNION

W. JACK WILKES

This 18th meeting of the FHWA Region 6 Plus Reunion is hereby dedicated to the memory of W. Jack Wilkes. Jack was not only one of the founders but was also the recognized leader of the Reunion for the past 18 years. His invaluable service and leadership were instrumental in the growth of the Reunion from only Region 6 to one of National status.

Jack will be missed by all, but never forgotten!!

A policy statement, proposed by Jack Wilkes before his passing, was presented and approved. Highlights are:

- Purpose of the reunion is to renew friendships and enjoy association with each other.
- Membership of the reunions to include all active or retired employees.
- Executive Board to consist of Jack Wilkes, Morris Reinhardt, and Red Lindsay, plus the hosts of the last three meetings. Flo Lowrey to serve as Secretary.
- Policy Statement changes and additions or proposed resolutions will be considered at business meetings.

REUNION FUNDING

The reunions are self-supporting with the attendees paying for everything. The registration fee covers the advance mailings for notification and eventual registration, and appropriate amounts are charged for meals, tours, or other items as determined by the hosts. The objective is to assure that the hosts do not have out-of-pocket expenses. Leftover funds are applied to the next reunion.

REUNION ORGANIZATION, GUIDELINES AND DIRECTION

The history of the reunion is divided into two eras of Organization, Guidelines, and Direction (OGD)—The first era begins with first reunion in Austin, Texas, in 1988 and runs through the 11th Reunion, also in Austin in 1999. The second era starts with the 12th Reunion in Reno, NV in 1999 and continues to the present.

First Era

We can refer to the 1st era as the period of the “Old Hands.” This was when the OGD of the reunions was taken care of unofficially by Jack Wilkes, A. C. Taylor, Red Lindsay, Morris Reinhardt, Wes Mendenhall, etc. Jack was the leader of the “Old Hands” group and asked for help when needed. Red Lindsay served as Jack's “right hand man.” During this period any issues that arose were directed to Jack for resolution. This method of OGD worked well during the formative and early growth periods of the reunion.

However, positive things were happening, and the news was spreading. The reunions were growing in attendance and activities. By the end of 1996, the decision had been made to expand the reunions to be nationwide events thus creating significantly more complex administration and planning demands. The “Old Hands” group recognized that the OGD for the reunions had to be changed to meet the new demands and formalized. This led to the second era.

Second Era

At the Reno, NV, reunion in 1999, members of the “Old Hands” group plus some other members met to discuss OGD for the future of the reunions.

Following those discussions the following actions were presented and approved by the reunion members present.

1. An Executive Board was approved consisting of one permanent member, Red Lindsay, and the hosts of the three previous reunions as rotating members—these being Jack Wilkes, Herb Teets and Cal Berge.
2. Morris Reinhardt was approved as the permanent moderator.
3. Flo Lowrey was approved as Recording Secretary.

This OGD group remained in effect until the 2001 Reunion in San Antonio, TX. At the San Antonio meeting, the Executive Board concluded there was a need for more permanent members on the Board, and a proposal was approved by members present that increased the number of permanent members of the Executive Board from one to three. The two established vacancies were filled by Jack Wilkes and Morris Reinhardt.

This OGD group remained in effect until the 2005 Reunion in Austin, Texas. By then it was obvious that the popularity, growth in attendance, and expanding reunion activities demanded more formal policies and directives and a further expanded Executive Board. Also, the passing of Jack Wilkes, our unofficial leader since 1988, had created a great void. Over the years, everyone had come to rely on Jack to take care of any issues that arose and make sure that things ran smoothly. He made this look so easy.

Following extensive discussions, the Executive Board presented to the membership for approval the following proposals:

1. The permanent members of the Executive Board were increased from three to four. Those approved to fill the two vacancies were Gary Hamby and Jerry Reihsen.
2. Gary Hamby offered to take over Red Lindsay's job of maintaining the membership database that Red had been keeping for 18 years. Red happily accepted Gary's offer. Gary is now the "contact" person for anyone wishing to join the group. He will also forward information by email concerning meeting notices or other general information.
3. The Executive Board also:
 - a. Defined the qualifications one must have to serve on the Executive Board.
 - b. Defined how a reunion host is to be selected to be on the Executive Board.
 - c. Set forth the order of scheduled meetings for the Executive Board.
 - d. Set in motion actions that would produce a "Reunion History Document" that would be ready by the 2006 Reunion.
 - e. Set in motion actions necessary to establish a permanent records system for reunion documents, etc.

The proposals were voted on and accepted in Austin.

Effective April 2005, the OGD reunion group consists of the following:

Executive Board Permanent Members:

Red Lindsay	Morris Reinhardt
Gary Hamby	Jerry Reihsen

Rotating Members:

Frank Mayer (Texas—2005)
Dan Dake and Jim Craig (Utah—2004)
Bill Boydston (Alabama—2004)

Recording Secretary: Flo Lowrey

Permanent Moderator: Morris Reinhardt

Thus, perhaps a third era has begun. The "Old Hands" group has passed the leadership to a "New Hands" group; however, there are still a few "Old Hands" involved so as to assure that the "New Hands" don't go astray. Leadership and continuity for the future is in "Good Hands."

There is now a designated Reunion Reporter, Retired Regional Administrator Ted Hawley. Ted, with some help, is doing a good job in keeping all, including the FHWA News Staff in Headquarters, in tune with reunion activities, schedules, etc.

FHWA 6 PLUS REUNION – Looking back and looking forward in 2005

Starting with some visionary thinking in 1987, a wonderful tradition was born. Due to the creativity, dedication and work of a handful of people from old Region 6, the FHWA Reunions have now grown into popular nationwide events keeping old friends in touch with each other and causing new friendships to be formed. Over the years, the leadership and guidelines have changed to meet expanding demands, but the concept and essence remain the same—fellowship and enjoyment for all.

In looking back, we have a strong basis for recording the history of these wonderful events. Even though we didn't have a recording secretary to take reunion meeting minutes until the 1999 Reunion in Reno, NV, we do have members of the “Old Hands” group who have been able to fill in a lot of the information gaps.

We must never forget our beloved Regional Administrator, Clason Taylor, who put the wheels in motion for the 1988 Reunion in Austin, TX. The incredible success of the reunions could be ascribed to many individual acts, but really it boils down to people—the visionary founders, the terrific hosts over the years, and of course, the wonderful FHWA people who have attended and carried on the family tradition of our magnificent agency.

Say what you like about the past reunions, but they have been successful, they have been fun, and they have been more than worth all the resources and work so freely given by those involved. With the “past” behind us, we now find ourselves looking “forward.”

What does the future hold? The Reunion Executive Board members have discussed the subject many times and see continuing popularity and growth both in attendance and geographical coverage. Naturally, this places increasing demands on the hosts. The days of carrying in some sodas, beers, and snacks are probably gone. The scope of the logistics causes us to rely on the host facilities more. However, the objective of making this an intimate and fun event is always there, and the Board and hosts will devote all the effort it takes to assure this.

After the Executive Board's discussion of the “future,” the members concluded:

“We like the direction the reunions are heading even though we may miss, in some ways, the smaller group that we have known throughout the years. We must not be selfish and keep these reunion treasures to ourselves. It is obvious that others think Region 6 had a magnificent idea in starting the reunions and are grateful that we expanded it outside the

confines of Region 6. We suggest that we simply continue as we have done in the past, adjust as necessary, and keep moving in a positive manner and direction.”

The first reunion in 1988 was in good hands, and they remain so today. Our reunion attendees are among the best people in the world. They care deeply for the people they worked with and have come to love and support these events that reunite them each year. Our future looks very bright indeed!

ADDENDUM 1 - ALL FHWA RETIREE REUNIONS HELD TO DATE

	Year	Dates	Location	Hosts	Attendees	Hotel
1	1988	3/10-12	Austin, TX	Jack & Gay Wilkes	67	Woodfin Suite Hotel
2	1989	4/27-29	Arlington, TX	Red & Dorothy Lindsay	98	Six Flags Hotel
3	1990	4/19-21	Austin, TX	Jack & Gay Wilkes	96	Woodfin Suite Hotel
4	1991	4/11-13	Arlington, TX	Nelson & Beverly Evans	52	Wyndham Hotel
5	1992	4/19-21	Fairfield, AR	Dan & Irma Watt	45	Fairfield Inn
6	1993	3/18-20	Austin, TX	Jack & Gay Wilkes	65	Woodpark Inn
7	1994	4/16-18	Sante Fe, NM	Cliff & Jerre Fox	47	Hotel Sante Fe
8	1995	4/20-22	Granbury, TX	Red & Dorothy Lindsay	45	The Lodge Resort
9	1996	4/25-27	Baton Rouge, LA	Glen & Diane Franklin	96	Holiday Inn South
10	1997	4/24-26	Colorado Springs, CO	Herb & Tillie Teets	75	Embassy Suites
11	1998	3/26-28	Austin, TX	Jack & Gay Wilkes	95	LaQuinta Inn
12	1999	4/29-5/1	Reno, NV	Cal & Elaine Berge	131	Reno Hilton
13	2000	4/26-29	Springdale, AR	Dennis & Angie Remboldt	109	Holiday Inn
14	2001	3/19-23	San Antonio, TX	Don & Thelma Trull	133	Menger Hotel
15	2002	4/10-13	Tucson, AZ	Mendenhalls & Willetts	125	Ramada Inn
16	2003	4/22-25	Mobile, AL	Bill & Nell Boydston	121	Admiral Semms Hotel
17	2004	4/20-23	St. George, UT	Craigs and Dakes	185	Ramada Inn
18	2005	4/6-9	Austin, TX	Wilkes, Mayer, Hall, Reihsen, Conrado	177	Holiday Inn NW
19	2006	5/16-19	Olympia, WA	Gregsons & Renzs	208	Red Lion Hotel
20	2007	5/15-17	South Lake Tahoe, NV	Prices, Woods, Kappus, & Hamby	181	Mont Bleu Casino and Resort
21	2008	9/22-26	Hyannis, MA	Bestgens, Elinskys, & Larsens	230	Sheraton Hyannis
22	2010	5/3-6	Baton Rouge, LA	Perrets, Sussmans & Melancons	151	Belle Hotel and Casino
23	2011	5/2-5	Orlando, FL	Ostensens, Snyders & Matzkes	135	Wyndam Orlando Resort

24	2012	4/16-19	Tempe, AZ	Mittelsteds, Benders, Hills, Millers, Jensens, Nelsons, Hollis	152	Embassy Suites
25	2013	4/21-25	Myrtle Beach, SC	Schimmollers, Grafs, Wests, Carmichaels, Banks, & Torbiks	149	Bay Watch Resort
26	2014	5/28-31	Denver, CO	Witmans, Steinkes, Kamnikars, Delaneys, Lorenzs, & Stegers	135	Westin Westminster Hotel
27	2015	4/13-17	Williamsburg, VA	Heanues, Fleets, Halladays, Marings, Myers, & Starons	150	Fort Magruder Inn
28	2016	5/3-5	Branson, MO	Wilkins, Nemmers, Ostensens	135	Clarion Hotel at the Palace
29	2017	4/5-4/9	Folsom, CA	Ritchies, Scovilles, Lake, Gallardo, Clinton	122	Lake Natoma Inn
30	2018	5/31-6/2	St. Petersburg, FL	Callans, Daves, Hambys, Ostensen's	106	Hilton St. Petersburg Waterfront
31	2019	5/30-6/1	Schaumburg, IL	Whites, Masuda, Monahans, Rosenstiehl	80	Hyatt Regency
32	2020	Postponed until 2021	Boise, ID	Morenos, Heimbucks, Chappels, Coes		Riverside

ADDENDUM 2 – SUMMARY OF ACTIONS AT ANNUAL REUNIONS

SINCE 2005

19th Reunion - 2006 Olympia, WA: The document, ‘FHWA REGION 6 PLUS REUNION HISTORY, 1988-2005’ was presented to the attendees. The golf tournament was played at the Tumwater Valley golf course. There was a Bus Tour to Seattle (Space Needle and Pike Place Market) then to Pier 55 with a Boat to Blake Island for the Tillicum Island Salmon Feast. The Family Dinner was in the Forest Ballroom at the Red Lion Hotel. There were two optional events, a bus tour to Mt. St. Helens and a 7-day Cruise to Alaska which was attended by 68 people. Lyle Renz joined the Board as the host representative.

20th Reunion - 2007 Tahoe, NV: This was the second reunion in Nevada, the first being in Reno in 1999. The golf tournament was played at the Silver Oak Golf Club in Carson City and the Bus Tour went to Virginia City (including a silver mine tour) with stops in Carson City (Nevada State Museum and Nevada State Railroad Museum). The Family night Dinner was a dinner cruise on Lake Tahoe aboard the Tahoe Queen. Gerry Reihsen and Morris Reinhardt resigned from the Board. Three new permanent members (Flo Lowrey, Jim Craig and Dale Wilken) were appointed. Gary Hamby and Red Lindsay remain on the Board as permanent members and Gary will be the new permanent Moderator. Lyle Renz and John Price will be temporary members until the next reunion. The name of the reunion was changed to **FHWA Retirees Reunion**. The “How To Manual” and the “Reunion Policy Statement” will be updated.

21st Reunion - 2008 Hyannis on Cape Cod, MA: This was the first FHWA Retirees Reunion held in Massachusetts. The golf tournament was held at the Hyannis Golf Course. A day long tour of Cape Cod including “Kennedy Country” (JFK Memorial and St. Francis Church) was done by Bus. The Family night dinner was a good old “New England Lobsterbake” with music by the “Society by the Sea” combo at the Sheraton Resort at Hyannis.

After many years of service Red Lindsay left the Executive Board to serve in an advisory capacity and was replaced by George Ostensen who will also serve as the permanent moderator. George will be joining current Executive Board members Gary Hamby, Jim Craig, Flo Lowrey and Dale Wilken along with Board Advisor Morris Reinhardt. Diane Franklin, who has been doing the reunion albums for several years, will continue through the next reunion but will be seeking a replacement at that time. The Executive Board members presented Morris Reinhardt with a plaque honoring his 20 years of leadership and 9 years as outstanding moderator for the reunion. It was decided there would be no reunion in 2009, since this reunion was held in the fall, and a proposal to hold the next reunion in Baton Rouge, LA was for the spring of 2010.

22nd Reunion – 2010 Baton Rouge, LA: This was the second FHWA Retirees Reunion held in Baton Rouge. The golf tournament was held at the LSU Campus Golf Course and

the Bus Tour was to the Rural Life Museum at the Houmas House Plantation. A Family Night Dinner was held at the Sheraton Hotel. The Executive Board members presented Red Lindsay with a gift honoring his many years of leadership through service on the Executive Board and particularly his development and maintenance of the membership records for many years. Red was also recognized as being the only person to have attended every reunion (22).

A proposal from the Executive Board was presented for maintenance and display of the reunion photos currently in albums brought to each reunion. The photos would be scanned and digitized and displayed in the future in photo frames or some similar device. In response to a request for volunteers to do the scanning and conversion to digital, Rita Steinke volunteered to serve as team leader. The intent is that the work will be completed in time for next year's reunion. Appreciation was expressed to the Franklins and the Wilkes for the leadership in collecting the photos and maintaining the albums over the years.

Bruce Matzke presented a plan, endorsed by the Executive Board, for migrating the FHWA Retiree organization's communication with the members to a new website replacing the current email. Bruce described the website as invitation only with log in and password protection. In addition to information currently provided by email, the site could eventually include upcoming events, news items and a photo album. Invitation to join will likely be sent out in May. FHWA retirees who wish to join the organization and the website can do so through contact by email or otherwise with Gary, after which an invitation will be issued.

23rd Reunion – 2011, Orlando, FL: This was the first FHWA Retirees Reunion held in Florida. The golf tournament was held at the Royal St. Cloud Golf Links. All golfers received an FHWA Retirees Reunion souvenir golf shirt. The Kennedy Space Center was the venue for the once in a lifetime all day tour. A family night dinner was held at the award winning Samba Room a short distance from the hotel with entertainment by a live Latin Band.

At the Business Meeting, thanks were expressed to Rita Steinke and a group she headed up that digitized and placed on a flash drive all photo albums of the reunions from the beginning up to the present. A power point presentation is available on a frame and is being well received by viewers in the hospitality room. The hard copy albums were offered to individuals who may want them, particularly the hosts of past reunions. The Board proposed the frequency of reunions should be flexible-1 year to 18 months and concluded that a 2 year interval is too long. The host committee should have flexibility as to whether the reunion is held in the spring or fall. The How To Manual will be reviewed by recent hosts and updated. Resignations were accepted from Board members Jim Craig and Flo Lowrey. Bob Callan and Lyle Renz were appointed to fill their positions.

24th Reunion – 2012, Tempe, AZ: This was the second Retirees Reunion held in Arizona, the first being in Tucson, in 2002. The speaker at the Business Meeting was Karla Snyder

Petty, Division Administrator in Arizona, who was introduced by her father, Karle Snyder who was present and a retiree from the FHWA. This was a “first happening” at one of our reunions.

The golf tournament was held at the Foothills Golf Club and the grand all-day Motor Coach tour was to the very colorful Sedona. The family dinner was an Arizona Wrangler Buffett held at the Embassy Suites Grand Ballroom with entertainment also provided.

A special presentation was made consisting of a plaque recognizing Flo Lowery’s outstanding dedication and many years of service to the FHWA Retirees Executive Board. She was not present at the reunion, so Red Lindsey accepted it and agreed to present it to her. The Board has revised and distributed the “How To Manual” which will provide new reunion hosts with guidance on preparing for and hosting a Reunion.

25th Reunion – 2013, Myrtle Beach, SC: This reunion carried the special significance of being the 25th anniversary reunion. Red Lindsey is the only person who has attended all 25 of the reunions and he was given special recognition for his early work in making them a success as well as for his stellar support and attendance. The golf tournament was played at the Panthers Run Course on the Ocean Ridge Plantation in nearby Sunset Beach while the nongolfers toured historic Charleston. The main tour was to the Brookgreen Gardens, a National Historic Landmark developed on a 9000-acre former rice plantation. After the tour the group spent an evening at the Carolina Opry Show. The family night dinner was held at the “Low Country Buffet” with entertainment provided for a “Trip Down Memory Lane” by Milton Bullock a former member of the Platters and Mary Tate.

Gary Hamby resigned from the Board but agreed to continue to handle email notices. Dale Wilken was elected by the Board to be the Chairman and Dave Bender was selected as the new Board member.

26th Reunion – 2014, Denver, CO: This was the second reunion held in Colorado with the first being the one held in Colorado Springs in 1997. The golf tournament was held at the Hyland Hills Golf Course while nongolfers toured the Red Rocks Park and City of Golden. The day tour was to Rocky Mountain National Park and Estes Park. The closing Family Dinner was at the Westin Westminster Hotel with entertainment by the Dakota Blonde Group.

The FHWA Retirees Reunion Policies were revisited, revised, and will be included in a Revised HISTORY AND POLICIES document as an Addendum. The “How To Manual” will also be revised and provided to prospective persons or groups who may be willing to host future reunions. The FHWA Retirees website has been discontinued due its difficulty to use and lack of use.

27th Reunion – 2015, Williamsburg, VA: This was the first FHWA Retirees Reunion held in Virginia. The golf tournament was held at the Williamsburg National Golf Course while

nongolfers were offered carpool options for visiting Colonia Williamsburg. For Tour Day there was a Choice of three tours: a History Tour, a Plantation Tour, or a Norfolk Navy Tour. The Family Dinner was held in the Richmond Hall at the Fort Magruder Conference Center.

The FHWA Retirees Reunion History and Policies Document was revised, adopted, and issued on February 15, 2015. The “How to Manual” was also updated in 2015. Kevin Heanue was brought on as a new Board Member and Leon Witman will be stepping down. Phil Miller also agreed to be the permanent Treasurer and Chris Fleet, who handled reservations in 2015 agreed to handle reservations another year. A special message was sent out soliciting reunion hosts for the next couple of years, but unfortunately there were no volunteers. It was the first time in 27 years where there was no commitment for a host for the next year’s reunion. Dale Wilken, Chairman of the Board, expressed the Board’s desire to hold an annual Retirees Reunion moving from the East Coast to Midwest to West Coast for variety. He also mentioned that we would be looking to hosting a reunion in Branson, MO, as a possibility in 2016, using some Board members as well as locals to do the planning. For 2017, he said they were communicating with some states in the West who have shown interest in the past. There was also some interest in holding a reunion in Puerto Rico in future years. The reserve fund is in good shape with a balance of about \$10,000.

28th Reunion – 2016, Branson, MO: This was the first reunion held in Missouri and first in Branson, although Branson had been suggested several times in the past. It was noted there were members of three families who had attended the very first reunion in Austin, Texas. They were Dean and Carolyn Carlson, Red Lindsay, and Tommie Reinhardt.

The golf tournament was held at the Thousand Hills Golf Course while the nongolfers were free to attend any of the multitude of live entertainment shows available at the many theaters in Branson. The main tour was a railroad excursion via the historic “Ozark Zephyr” in restored passenger cars from the 1940’s and 1950’s era. This year the closing reception and family dinner was aboard the Showboat Branson Belle.

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The Retiree Reunion Policy provides that the local host representative of the previous reunion leaves the Board at each reunion and the local host representative of the current reunion is to join the Board. Since the Board hosted this reunion there is no local host, so Kevin Heanue, who was last year’s host agreed to stay on the Board for another year. Thanks to Rita Steinke, the pictures of past reunions have been compiled and are available for viewing on screens set up in the hospitality rooms. There was interest in having these pictures loaded on a disk, which could be available to everyone who attends these reunions. Sally Meyers, who has been handling the raffle the last couple of years, agreed to handle it again next year. The reunion next year will be in Folsom, CA.

29th Reunion – 2017, Folsom, CA: This was the first reunion in California. There was only one family present, Dean and Carolyn Carlson, who had attended the very first reunion in Austin, Texas. As is the tradition, the Division Administrator of the host state, Vince Mammano, addressed the group and gave an interesting update of how the spirit of the family of the FHWA had changed. He noted that the “millennial” generation was quite different from the former retiree generation. He said the male-dominated engineering organization is a thing of the past. He discussed how the agency had responded to accommodate two-worker households and the need for more flexible mobility policies that allow workers to use improved communications to hold positions in dispersed locations. He concluded with a very upbeat portrayal of the fact that FHWA maintained the family tradition in different ways, but just as successfully, and that he wanted to commend the retiree generation for the strong foundation they had established. He also noted that both he and his wife were second generation FHWA employees since his father Frank Mammano was a retired career FHWA employee and his wife Nancy was the daughter of Bill Blessing, also a retired career FHWA employee.

This year the golf tournament was held at the Empire Ranch Golf Club while the nongolfers were led by a docent on a Walking Tour of Historic Folsom. The main tour day offered a choice between the Sacramento Railroad Museum/California Capitol tour or a Gold History and Wine tour in the Sierra Nevada foothills.

Dale Wilken, Executive Board Chairman, announced the following additions to the Executive Board: Phil Miller, National Treasurer; Kevin Heanue, Washington Headquarters Coordinator; and Rita Steinke, Curator of the Digital Photo Records. He also announced that the photo DVD of previous reunion photos prepared by Rita Steinke was given to each retiree family attending this year’s reunion. Existing Board members also include Lyle Renz, Dave Bender, George Ostensen, Permanent Moderator, and Bob Callan, Secretary. As is customary, Mike Ritchie, as chair of the host team will also join the Executive Board for next year.

A discussion on future locations for reunions brought forward a volunteer from Gary and Sharon White to hold a reunion in the Chicago area in 2019. George Ostensen announced, since there were no volunteers for next year, 2018, he and his wife Peggy would get some of the retirees living in Florida to help them with holding one in the St. Petersburg area in Florida. The closing Family Night Dinner was held in the Sierra Ballroom at the Lake Natoma Inn with entertainment provided by a Johnny Cash Impersonator.

30th Reunion – 2018, St.Petersburg, FL: This is the second time an FHWA Retirees Reunion was held in Florida, the first was in 2011. Red Lindsay, who was attending again, was recognized as an FHWA Retirees Reunion pioneer, having attended the first one, hosted more than one of them, attended the first 25 in a row, and several more since then.

The golf tournament was rained out this year and the group tour was to the Ringling's Circus Museum, Art Museum and Ca'd'Zan (home) near Sarasota. The closing reception and family dinner was at the Island BBQ on the Pool Deck at the Hilton Bayfront Hotel.

The Board has been brainstorming additional ways to get newer retirees interested in attending these reunions and has decided to try to get an article in the FHWA News each year in advance of the next reunion to try to get some of the newer retirees interested.. Gary White gave a presentation of activities they have planned for the Reunion next year in Schaumburg, Illinois. Steve Moreno is heading a group interested in holding a reunion in Boise, Idaho in 2020 and Evan Wisniewski is looking into hosting a reunion in Lexington, Kentucky in late April in 2021. During the meeting the Perret's also volunteered they may be willing to host another reunion in Louisiana in 2022.

31st Reunion – 2019, Schaumburg, IL: This is the first time an FHWA Retirees Reunion had been held in Illinois. Kevin Heanue reported that an article had been prepared for the FHWA News informing everyone of the upcoming Retirees Reunion. It is hoped that some of the retirees who are not on our mailing list would be enticed to attend and/or join our mailing list. The golf tournament was held at the Schaumburg Golf Club and the nongolfers toured "Cantigny" the suburban estate of the Colonel Robert R. McCormick family – publishers of the Chicago Tribune. The main tour was the "Navy Pier and Chicago Architecture Tour" in downtown Chicago and the closing Family Night Dinner was in the Mahogany Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Hotel with music for dancing provided by a DJ.

Dale Wilken advised the group that he wished to resign as chairman of the Executive Board, but that he would stay on the Board for an additional year. Lyle Renz agreed to take over as Board Chairman. Dave Bender and Bob Callan had recently resigned, so Joyce Curtis and Steve Moreno were appointed as new Board Members to fill those vacancies.

During the 2019 FHWA Retirees Reunion in Chicago, the Executive Board also charged a subgroup to explore ways to improve overall communication with existing and future retirees in order to generate more interest and increase participation in our Reunions. Over the course of the next two months an online survey was designed to go out to the entire mailing list of FHWA retirees. In late June, an email blast announced an on-line survey to generate ideas to help guide the Board with the future of FHWA Retirees Reunions. Over 200 responses to the survey were received and the Executive Board has reviewed the survey responses, input and suggestions, and then after analyzing the results we have developed a series of Action Items that we are prepared to carry forward over the coming months. An Executive Summary of survey results, observations and Executive Board Action Items was sent to all retirees on the mailing list and will be available on the FHWA website.

32nd Reunion – 2020, Boise, ID: This reunion has been postponed due to the CoronaVirus-Covid19 Pandemic. Efforts are under way to reschedule it in 2021. If that is possible, the reunion planned in Kentucky in 2021 will be rescheduled for 2022.

ADDENDUM 3 – FHWA RETIREES REUNION POLICY STATEMENT

Adopted October 2008, revised 2020

General

The Federal Highway Administration Reunion Organization is a group of retired and active FHWA employees meeting periodically for the purposes of renewing friendships and enjoying the association with each other. It is a non-profit organization with no political or commercial agenda. Fund raising by the organization is limited to funding for the reunion.

Executive Board

The organization is governed by a voluntary Executive Board consisting of seven permanent members plus one member who is a representative of the host team of the past year's reunion. To be a member of the Board, one must be a retiree of FHWA. The Board must meet at least one time in advance of the business meeting at each reunion. The current Board members are listed in the minutes of each reunion.

From the Executive Board, members will be selected by the Board to serve as Moderator and Chairman. The Chairman and Moderator positions may be combined or separated as agreed to by the Board.

Purpose of the Board

The Executive Board is established to recommend policy for approval by the attendees. The Board assists in the conduct of reunions by maintaining records and providing guidance to the hosts through the "How To Manual". This Manual is based on the experience of past-hosted reunions. The Board also maintains a leadership role in the resolution of any overall reunion issues that may arise.

Membership

All active or retired employees, their family and friends are members and are eligible to attend all functions at the reunions. A database of people who wish to be informed of the reunions is maintained by a current or former member of the Executive Board.

Business Meeting

An open business meeting will be held at each reunion. Minor modifications and/or additions to this Policy Statement can be initiated and adopted by the Executive Board without a formal vote of the reunion attendees. However, significant policy changes must be voted on by the reunion attendees. The Executive Board will determine as to whether a general membership balloting is needed. Any reunion attendee can submit a suggested policy change no less than sixty (60) days before the annual reunion. If the revision or proposal is approved by the Board for consideration, the proposal will be included with the attendees' registration packets for discussion and ballot at the open business meeting. If the revision or proposal is not approved by the Board, the member offering it will be advised.

Establishment of Reunion Locations/Dates

It is desired that the reunion be held on a 12-18 month basis recognizing that the reunion host will set the specific time of each reunion and that shifting between spring and fall may result in lengthened or shortened time frames for the reunion. Locations are offered for consideration at reunions by volunteer hosts and are selected by vote of the attendees at the Business Meeting.

Funding of the Reunion

The reunion is funded by the attendees through a per-person registration fee, activity fees, contributions, and proceeds from the raffle held at each event. The objective is to be revenue neutral and carryover funds are made available to the next year's host. These carry over funds can be used for vendor down payments and unforeseen costs not planned for. In addition to meeting reunion expenses, these funds can be used for other related reunion expenses such as special recognitions and administrative expenses.

Reunion Hosts

It is required that at least one member of each host team be a retiree of FHWA. The host or host team is expected to conduct the reunion in general accord with the guidelines noted in this policy statement and the "How To Manual" provided to each hosting team. Independent of the Executive Board, host teams are expected to enter into contracts with hotels, golf clubs, tour companies, caterers, etc. and take all actions necessary to assure a successful reunion.