

## **FHWA Business Meeting**

**Tucson, Arizona**

**April 30, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 am by Steve Moreno. The meeting room was somewhat empty but Steve indicated “the bus was leaving so either you’re on it or we’re leaving”. He indicated this was the 35<sup>th</sup> FHWA Reunion and promised we would be out before 3:30pm.

Steve thanked Ron and Pam Hill, Phil and Pamela Miller and Dave Bender for all their hard work in putting together this reunion. It was a wonderful venue and all the effort put forth certainly showed.

All first timers were welcomed and he mentioned how most of us grew up with the colleagues there over a long career. He acknowledged the passing of Pope Francis mentioning what a humble, good man he was. He then told a joke about another passing with a person of both good and bad record of doings.

WE then had some business updates.

Dave Bender reported out on Golf:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> golf tournament in Arizona. First in 2002 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> in Phoenix in 2012.
- Weather was fabulous
- El conquistador course was outstanding
- 15 players, the winning team was 8 strokes ahead of the second-place team. Don and Rita Steinke and Bill and Verna Brownell were the winning team.
- No man or woman was close to the pin this year.

Pamela Miller reported on the raffle.

- Everyone was thanked for coming
- Special thanks to Nancy Fonseca who was fantastic in encouraging all to purchase tickets.
- Attendees were very generous with an intact of \$790.00.

John Price then provided some levity relaying some of his medical maladies. One included his recent cataract surgery where they found he had a rectal myopia. Unfortunately, the muscles in his eyes got entangled with the muscles in his rectum giving him a shitty outlook on life. John had another one or two similar problems that were hysterical.

Steve then handed the meeting over to the Chair of the Executive Board, George Ostensen. George again thanked the reunion team. Then he mentioned that they were looking for new Board Members. He mentioned the Board Members leaving:

- Lyle Rentz – former Chair
- Phil Miller – Treasurer
- Rita Steinke – outgoing Historian
- Kevin Heanue – Newsletter
- Joyce Curtis

George strongly encouraged volunteers to think about Board membership indicating it is not a big commitment. Margherita and Jason Harrington will be taking over the Newsletter and Mike Ritchie will be taking over the Treasurer position. He also indicated that Jim Cheatham, Sally Myers and Dave Bender will be joining the Board. George asked that the outgoing folk continue another year for a smooth transition.

Al Steger, although not a Board member has done a tremendous amount of work keeping our website active and adding Memorials as necessary. Al did a great job this year with on-line registration. The attendees were asked if there were any issues with registration and most seemed fine. Roberto suggested it was not real obvious if the reservation was confirmed so there may be some updates to make that more visible. Everyone was invited to send comments if they had some ideas for improvements and the Board with Al's help will respond. George/Al asked for feedback on how the website might be improved to increase usage.

There was a discussion on sharing your photos with the Reunion Committee and Ron Hill shared a QR code one could scan that would allow you to upload pictures. He indicated his daughter was talented and kind enough to put that together for us.

Phil Miller gave a Treasurer's report indicating in early March the Reunion Committee thought we might be in the hole as much as \$9,000. So, with that in mind Phil cashed out a CD the Board held. Things picked up and Ron and Pam Hill made some changes to the overall agenda and cut the loss to only \$3,500 - \$4,000 which is fairly normal. The Board subsidized some of the costs this year to keep them in line with past years. It appears we will still have a carryover of about \$10,000.

George mentioned the number one job of the Board is to find next year's reunion spot. Unfortunately, there is nothing on the burner. The Perret's were looking into a cruise but the company (Carnival) and the deposit being due immediately made that a nonstarter. So, we really need some ideas of future locations. One suggestion was a cruise through the Gulf of America because it might be our last chance before it is gone. Philadelphia/Wilmington area as well as Denver, Vancouver and District of Columbia were other potential locations for the next reunion.

George handed back the mic to Steve who had a few more jokes. One suggestion was writing to our congressman asking the Mexican President to annex the USA since they already have 31 states and then there would be no problem illegally crossing the border. Finally, there was some discussion on Canadians and the Canadian Flag. Canadians are known for their courage, hardiness, honesty and integrity. It was mentioned that the 6 points on the Canadian Flag stand for "Don't blame us we're not Americans".

The meeting was adjourned and all wished a good day and see you at the closing dinner.