

International Fellowship of Railroading Rotarians

**Minutes for the Annual Meeting - Tuesday, May 24, 2011
Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. New Orleans, LA USA**

The meeting was called to order by Pres. Don Schiller at 11:45am.

In attendance were: Don and Annette Schiller, Curtis Reinhardt, Hugh Summers, John Evans, Bill Reinhardt, Robert Bracegirdle, David Flinn, Joe Kelsch, Peter Weiglin and Basil Lewis

Self introductions, swapped railroading interests and signing in with home towns and email addresses.

Pres. Don presented his "State of the Fellowship" overview and recap of activities. He discussed the new website (www.ifrr.info) and reported that we currently have 70 members. He also mentioned plans to further develop the broadcast email list for purposes of staying in touch with the members and collecting information and ideas from them. He also asked about setting up a secure way to communicate through the website, although no immediate plans for that were put in place.

Board nominations were made and voting took place. Results: Pres. Don Schiller, VP Bill Reinhardt, Secretary (temporary!) Curtis Reinhardt. No Treasurer was selected since there are no bank accounts, no dues and no planned budget or expenditures for the foreseeable future.

Don reported that the attempt to retrieve the \$1,100 remaining from the old RR Fellowship coffers has been abandoned. The old organization's Treasurer proved to be very uncooperative and the RI lawyers didn't think that it was worth their time to run after that small amount of money.

There was a fleeting discussion about whether there is a need for insurance with no plans implemented.

Other topics were also brought up with no firm plan of action determined:

1. IFRR as a "virtual club" existing primarily online
2. setting up a regional communications program to disseminate regional RR items of interest
3. Service Projects (at hospitals, senior homes, day trips, helping widows pass on models and layouts, etc.)
4. creating a RIBI branch of IFRR
5. producing a IFRR lapel pin

It was also suggested that IFRR could send out periodic press releases to the International railroad press to promote IFRR and Rotary in general with the intent of helping boost interest and membership in both. Members reported that there is substantial press interest in railroads in Belgium, Japan, USA, Australia and England. Possibly a RR Press email database could be created. Joe Kelsch and Curtis Reinhardt both expressed interest in helping with this endeavor.

There was some discussion about IFRR involvement at the RI Convention in Bangkok in 2012. A few members confirmed that they were planning to attend and might be able to help with a booth or whatever. Other members were still unsure whether they could attend.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:55pm.

Curtis Reinhardt, IFRR Acting Secretary