

Greetings IFRR Members!

We are writing to update you on IFRR activities and accomplishments at the recently concluded RI Convention in Atlanta. A great time was had by all in attendance and we want to share this info with everyone. Below please find the Minutes from the Annual Meeting as well as updates on the Atlanta IFRR Booth in the House of Friendship and our visit to the Atlanta Headquarters Building of Norfolk Southern Railway Co. A few photos are attached as well. (We will probably post a few additional photos on our website as well. <http://ifrr.info>)



Wm. H. (Bill) Reinhardt
Acting President, International Fellowship of Railroading Rotarians
and
Curtis Reinhardt
Current Secretary and Incoming VP

IFRR General Meeting Notes and Minutes

Tuesday, June 13, 2017
Atlanta Convention Center

In attendance:

Bill Reinhardt, Acting President (seated in center of photo) - Oakdale, MN, USA
Curtis Reinhardt, VP (photographer and not in the photo) - Grover Beach, CA, USA



L to R:

Augustine Campana - Lake Vista, FL, USA
Dustin Buck - Forest City, IA, USA
John Evans - Northwood, England, UK
Ken Peach - Orlando, FL, USA
Gene Holiman - Austin, TX, USA
Ian Jenner - Auckland, New Zealand
Dave Ring - Albuquerque, NM, USA
Bill Bassett - Walkill, NY, USA
Bruce McNaught - Albany Creek, Australia
Don Bell - Toronto, Canada
Amelia Nelson - Anderson, SC, USA
Mike Conley - Marion, NC, USA

Acting President Bill Reinhardt called the meeting to order at 1:30pm in an outer lobby of the Atlanta Convention Center immediately following a group luncheon in the House of Friendship. Bill welcomed the members and gave a brief overview for the meeting. He also reviewed the past year and our need for the change of IFRR officers several months ago.

As a group, we then went around the semi-circle and introduced ourselves, including mention of where we hailed from and what our railroad interests are.

Don Bell then reviewed the member survey he conducted several months ago and briefly discussed the results. He also lamented about the low response rate and commented that he hoped that we would be able to find some active “workers” within **the sixty new members we signed up at the Convention**. Don also volunteered to help with setting up IFRR Convention tours during the Toronto Convention which is in his backyard.

Bruce McNaught then took the floor and volunteered to put together some IFRR sponsored rail tours in the future. Furthermore, he suggested that members submit write ups and photos/videos of various rail journeys they have taken or museums they have visited. These brief accounts could then be posted on the website. Bruce also volunteered to process the new applications and work with Bill Muller to consolidate all the IFRR member info into one database and broadcast email list. We also voted to place Bruce McNaught in the new position of handling the IFRR database and he will coordinate that effort with Bill Muller.

Dustin Buck offered to put together an IFRR Facebook Page. It was suggested that this online tool could be used by members for posting various items and staying in touch. More on that soon!

Bill then listed the slate of proposed 2017-18 officers which was then moved on, seconded and approved unanimously. They are listed here:

President: Robert Bracegirdle

Vice-President: Curtis Reinhardt

Vice-President of Excursions and Database Management: Bruce McNaught (This is a new position)

Secretary: Bill Muller

Treasurer: John Evans

Congratulations were given to them and the group as a whole thanked them for accepting the responsibility.

The meeting concluded and we all headed for the escalators and off to ride the MARTA light rail. That afternoon we visited the offices of the Norfolk Southern Railroad Company where we took a tour of that recently remodeled facility.

Submitted by Curtis Reinhardt, Secretary

IFRR BOOTH in the House of Friendship

The Booth was located in the House of Friendship and was open for five days to show activities of the Fellowship, promote Railroading and obtain new members. Most of the time the booth was manned by one or more members. Fortunately the RI Staffers placed our booth next to the very popular Music Fellowship booth and both were near one of the main entrances to the large hall used for the Plenary Sessions.

The booth had nine wall panels used for hanging displays and a table for other information. The wall panels had these items: Meeting announcements, My trains, Excursions, Norfolk Southern Railway, Amtrak, Grand Canyon Railroad, Previous IFRR meetings, Model Railroad Tour of Germany and Visiting model layouts. The table had sheets for members to sign in, applications for membership, miscellaneous railroad information and an HO three car train named the "Rail Runner." (The Rail Runner is a relatively new commuter railroad in the middle of New Mexico, USA.)

There was great interest by the convention goers and about sixty new members were signed up. (Our membership is now approaching 200 members!)

IFRR TOUR to the Atlanta Headquarters Building of the Norfolk Southern Railway Co.

After the lunch together and the Annual meeting, interested members boarded the MARTA light rail and a two block hot uphill walk to the Atlanta Headquarters Building of Norfolk Southern Railway Co. The tour was hosted by Chris Graeff, a young Civil Engineer who's title is Manager Facility Services. Six of the eight floors of the building have recently been remodeled and are beautiful, efficient and extremely "high tech." (Particularly for an old man like me) Large interactive display screen were in use throughout the building. High tech building features included the ability to select your floor destination on a lobby keypad before boarding an elevator which increased their capacity and efficiency.

Much of the building houses regular business operations using many computers. This building's services cover the whole south east portion of NS. The train operations portion consisted of many cubicles in which an operator has three or four screens which show location, speed etc. of all the trains under this operators control. The operator can speak directly to the engineers of each every train in their assigned area. Obviously these are manned 24/7, 7 days a week.

The participants in the tour enjoyed seeing the business and control portion of railroading fist hand.





