

# THE CAUCUS

The F.M.C.S. Retiree Newsletter

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June 2006

## FIFTH ANNUAL FMCS ALUMNI REUNION

By Dick Deem

The fifth Annual FMCS Alumni Reunion was held on May 7 – 10, 2006 at the Hilton Oceanfront Hotel in Cocoa Beach, Florida. The Reunion started on Sunday evening with cocktails in the hospitality suite at the hotel and then moved on to dinner at Bernard's Surf Restaurant, a local legend since the early astronauts were stationed at Cape Canaveral. On Monday two teams played golf at the Cocoa Beach Golf Course. Most of the non-golfers enjoyed a privately-guided tour of the Space Center where they saw preparations being made for the next launch scheduled for early July.

On Monday evening, Bill Usery invited all attendees to a sumptuous cocktail reception at the hotel followed by a special presentation by Mr. Usery and the Director of the Space Center, James Kennedy. Fred Reebals received a plaque in honor of the contributions made by the retirees to labor peace throughout all industries, and the space program in particular.

Tuesday was a "free day" so everyone could take advantage of the beach, pool and local scenery. Hospitality hour(s) were followed by a delicious dinner at the Horizons restaurant in the hotel overlooking the ocean. The group voted to locate the 2007 reunion back at Clearwater Beach/St. Petersburg area during the first week of May in order to take advantage of the lower prices available then.

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### News about the Friends of FMCS History:

**Funds running low:** Funds on hand will pay the archive rent for only eleven (11) months. So without some serious help, the Friends of FMCS History will not be around to celebrate the FMCS 60<sup>th</sup> birthday in August 2007.

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#### THE CAUCUS

200 N. Maple Ave. # 517  
Falls Church, VA 22046  
e-mail:winjerwin@aol.com

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**Friends Web Site:** The creation of a web site to make archive materials available online is now underway. While this will cost some money, it will greatly aid efforts to share the USCS/FMCS history in a way that the seldom-visited archive never has. The web site will provide other advantages: distribution of the **Caucus** instead via U.S. mail and with more frequency and pages. The web site will feature oral history interviews, photos, including class photos, one of a kind historic materials, as well as papers and articles on the history.

**Oral History Release Forms:** Only the interviewee and interviewer can use oral history materials without a release form signed by each. No university or archive will accept an oral history without a signed release. The Friends archive contains over 200 oral history interviews. Approximately 150 needed signed release. Over the past year, eighty releases have been gathered. The remaining seventy are the difficult ones to get because the mediator is deceased and a signature from next of kin is needed, or no good address has been found. If you know the whereabouts of anyone listed below, or the next of kin, please email your information to the address on the front page.

Gene Barry (San Fran), Robert Berman (Cape Kennedy), Paul Bowers (St. Louis), Hezekiah Brown (NYC), C.K. Call (Chicago), John Canestraight (St. Louis), Dan Edwards (SLC), Charles Harding (St. Louis), Yates Heafner (Charlotte), Maggie Jacobsen (San Fran), Gil Kannenberg (St. Louis), Jim Kelly (St. Louis), Elmer Kincaid (Houston), Bill Kurtz (Milwaukee), Frank McDonnell (Boston), Tom McNally (Boston), Matt Miller (NYC), Bob Mize (St. Louis), Gene Mlynek (Milwaukee), Gene Neill (Portland), Hank Nichols (Alaska), Tim O'Sullivan (LA), Jim Parman (Spokane), Jack Preston (Indianapolis), Roger Randall (San Fran), Willis Ray (Houston), George Roewer (New England), Sam Sackman (LA), Mike Salo (Seattle), Leroy Smith (Portland), John Taylor (San Diego), Lou Towers (D.C.), Bert Walters (LA), Jim Williams (DC), Jim Wilson (Cincinnati), Ed Windes (Evinsville), D.J. Yount (D.C.), Ben Youtsey (Seattle), Janice Boggess (D.C.), Lola Bradley (D.C.), Duane Buckmaster (D.C.), Harold Davis (D.C., Philly), Dick Goggin (Boston), James Greenwood (D.C.), Jim Macpherson (Cleveland/Seattle), Morris Myers (D.C.), Earle Schwieger (LA, DC), Bob Steiner (DC), John Wells (DC).

*Note: Your editor wrote the following for ADRResolution:*

## **Early ADR in U.S. History: Talking versus War**

Most ADR practitioners would say that using ADR is always the preferred approach in dealing with conflict, and war or fighting is never, if ever, the first choice. They would argue that ADR or talking never kills anyone, whereas war always does. But aren't there conflicts in which ADR works only after the parties have experienced war or fighting? Does the War of 1812 illustrate that?

Thirty years after the U.S. had won independence, the great powers of Europe --- France and England --- continued to treat the U.S. as a weakling nation lacking military or naval might. British and French aggression in the early

1800s seriously tested the convictions of Presidents Jefferson and Madison, both of whom hated war. Their well-documented lives demonstrate an unshakable devotion to using words and peaceful persuasion.

England armed Native America, who attacked American settlers. The British navy boarded U.S. ships and removing thousands of crew-members believed to be British. It also blocked trade with France as a part of their competition to dominate the sea. The French to a lesser extent engaged in similar tactics.

In response to these acts of aggression, President Jefferson instituted an embargo prohibiting trade with Europe. Its purpose, to gaining European respect and fair treatment, was never achieved. The 15 month embargo ironically racked havoc on U.S. merchants and the economy, while gaining minimal attention in France or England, both dominated by Napoleonic wars.

President Jefferson, disgusted with his failed embargo, retreated to Monticello for the last four months of his presidency. Madison, who succeeded Jefferson in the White House, offered a favorable trade agreement to France or England, whichever agreed to stop interfering with U.S. trade.

Then, eager for a negotiated resolution, Madison prematurely accepted the English ambassador's offer of key concessions, and offered his own concessions, before learning that the ambassador had acted without authority. Next, Madison accepted the Russian Czar's offer to mediate the dispute. But the Europeans rejected mediation.

As the problem dragged-on throughout Madison's first term, frustration mounted within Congress, and among editorialists and Eastern merchants, impatient with Madison, they urged war. Finally, facing a Fall election, Madison caved to the hawks and asked Congress to declare war on England. Congress did on June 18, 1812.

Two interesting memories of the war are the British overrunning and burning Washington, D.C., causing the Madisons to flee to Virginia; and our National Anthem, written by Francis Scott Key aboard a British ship bombarding Baltimore, where he had just negotiated a prisoner release.

In late 1814 after 17 months of war, England agreed to negotiations in Belgium. Then refused to listen to U.S representatives and demanded the return of the Great Lakes, New York and Massachusetts. Shocked by these extreme demands, Henry Clay and John Quincy Adams prepared to return home. Fortuitously, Napoleon had just been defeated and the British Foreign Minister stopped in Belgium in route to European negotiations. He saw his countrymen as fatigued by twenty years of War and eager for peace in spite of anger with the Americans. He broke the impasse by suggestion that pre-war boundaries be restored, and thus moved the parties to a peace treaty on December 24, 1814.

*Note: Some Retirees will remember fondly when articles like this appeared in local and national press coverage of FMCS mediators.*

**The Mediator Behind the  
Curtain in the Transit Strike**

By SEWELL CHAN, NYT  
(December 30, 2005)

Mr. Curreri, 53, a mild-mannered public servant with a wry sense of humor, has helped settle scores of labor disputes over the years, including strikes by teachers in Yonkers in 1999 and in Buffalo in 2000. Nothing in his 29 years at the state labor board, however, had approached the fury and intensity of the transit negotiations.

On one side was Roger Toussaint, the militant leader of 33,700 subway and bus workers, who incurred fines and imposed hardships on riders by starting an illegal strike. On the other side was the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which was under pressure from Gov. George E. Pataki and Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg to hold the line on the rising cost of health and retirement benefits.

Mr. Curreri joined the fray on Dec. 19, the eve of the strike, but his low-key involvement went virtually unnoticed by the throngs of journalists camped out at the Grand Hyatt, the Midtown hotel where the main talks took place.

Joined by two handpicked mediators, Martin F. Scheinman and Alan R. Viani, Mr. Curreri set up shop at a different hotel, the New York Helmsley, a block and half east on East 42nd Street.

### **New FMCS Director: Arthur Rosenfeld**

In January 2006, Arthur Rosenfeld was given a recess appointment as Director of the FMCS. (How many other Directors served as recess

The 33rd and 35th floors of the Helmsley became a place for sober discussion, away from the cameras and the rhetoric at the Hyatt. The two sides did not meet face to face; instead, the three mediators spent hours at a time with the union's top lawyers, Walter M. Meginniss Jr. and Basil A. Paterson, along with Mr. Toussaint and the authority's chief negotiator, Gary J. Dellaverson.

Mr. Curreri slept only a few hours on Dec. 19 and 20 and not at all on Dec. 21. Around 11 a.m. on Dec. 22, he and the other men, looking haggard but also happy, emerged from an elevator inside the Hyatt to announce that the strike would end. The next day, they also quietly drafted a suggested settlement - "not intended for public release," it states - that is nearly identical to the deal both sides finally agreed upon on Tuesday of this week.

Mr. Curreri shuns the limelight, but agreed in an interview to describe the frenetic atmosphere at the hotel. "People are running completely on adrenaline at that point," he recalled. "They are very tired, but they're still sharp. Nobody got so wiggled out they were just ready to concede. It didn't happen that way. People knew exactly what they were doing."

appointees?) Mr. Rosenfeld previously served as NLRB General Counsel, Senate Committee Labor Counsel and Special Assistant to the Labor Solicitor. He received a bachelor's degree from Muhlenberg College, a master's degree from

Lehigh University and a J.D. from Villanova University.

## **Tom Donahue on the AFL-CIO Split**

*Note: Remarks by Tom Donahue, former President of the AFL-CIO, January 7, 2006, Boston*

Andy Stern is one of the smartest leaders in labor today, with a clear and persuasive manner, good media presence and a good public relations sense, and is therefore enjoying great attention from the media. He's moving aggressively to plant his flag in more than twenty countries around the world advancing his brand of global unionism and appears to have limitless resources which he's willing to spend in foreign ventures aimed at multi-national employers or in domestic politics. And he'll have the flagship Wal-Mart campaign to keep him in the news. Indeed, all the excitement, all the "new ideas" and energy, seems to be on his side.

### **Editorial**

Have you been wondering why Big Autos continue to struggle unsuccessfully with foreign competition? Or why U.S. employment continues to move

### **From Oral History Tapes**

In the last few months, your editor has listened to a few oral histories he taped in the last 25 years. Here are a few stories you might enjoy:

In a 1986 interview, Joe Biondo recalled Paul Yager's advice to the young mediators on how to leave the parties once settlement is reached. Paul's advice: "Pin mistletoe to your coat tail and walk away slowly."

Jim Elmore described his dad as an ironic and sometimes irreverent Irishman. One of Jim's examples in a 1995 interview was when Jim told his

overseas? Most editorialists feel comfortable blaming it on the unions for pushing wages and benefits higher and higher since the 1950s.

A more accurate explanation must include the social compact delineated governmental and private responsibilities. Following WWII, the fear of communism and its cousin, socialism, caused the U.S. to limit government's role in wage and benefit setting. While the European governments provided universal health care and full retirement, the U.S. government established minimum wages and small retirement funds through Social Security. Those arrangements set a pattern of leaving any compensation beyond those governmental minimums to the discretion of the market. U.S. trade unions used their collective bargaining skills and power to negotiate a wide range of employee benefits and higher pay.

Now U.S. industries, such as the auto companies, are in grave trouble because they negotiated benefits that are now too costly to be competitive in our world economy. But these arrangements were part of the social contract that created the middle class by extending the benefits of collective bargaining to non unionized employment. What do you think?

dad that his title at FMCS was Commissioner, Jim's dad said: "That sounds like the guy who runs the water department."

Dan Funkhouser showed his great admiration for mediators' devotion to labor and management with this story. Dan recalled in the early 90s when the Republican Congress refused to pass President Clinton's budget and forced a shutdown of government agencies including FMCS. The mediators were ordered not to work until a budget was passed. But because mediators had parties needing assistance, many mediators worked even though they would not be paid and had been expressly prohibited from doing so.

### **Norm Walker's Famous Family**

Ken Moffett reported some interesting information on our colleague Norm Walker, now 94, who did PR under five Directors. A recently completed family genealogy by Norm's son features a photo of Norm's Grandfather standing with FDR in the 20's. The photo was taken when FDR was visiting New Orleans as Secretary of Navy to inspect the levees. Norm's Grand Dad was Editor of the New Orleans Picayune. Norm's Great Grandfather attended to Thomas Jefferson at his deathbed in Charlottesville.

Little did we know. Ken: Thanks.

### **From the Field**

We note sadly the passing of the following colleagues: Charlie Baumgardner, Roger Randell, Ed Koenig, Tom Connelly, and Phyllis Cayse. Each of them is remembered fondly by those who knew and worked with them.

Someone emailed this: "FMCS has finally hit the big time. Last night, FMCS was a clue on Jeopardy. One of the contestants even knew the "M" stood for mediation." Sender, please identify yourself.

Several family members wrote in connection with getting oral history release forms signed. They included: Muriel Mills for Hal, May Schultz for Larry, Rex Marlow's daughter Linda, Jean Chandler for Jim, Beverly Sanders for Thurman, and Larry Seibel's son. None of them knew about the taped interview, and those who asked for a copy were sent one, and a few of those wrote again expressing their delight in hearing the voice of a loved one recorded years ago.

Retiree Tom Curdie has been experiencing some tough health problems, seriously limiting his mobility. His old friends should write him: 649 B East Acoma Road, Midvale, UT 84047-1323. Patsy Anderson could also use some attention at: Shady Grove Med. Center, 9701 Medical Center Dr. Rockville, MD. 200850.

Joining retiree ranks since the last **Caucus** are: Oleh Korotko (N.O), Don O'Brien (Chicago), Pat Mingarelle (Erie) passing on his "Senior Mediator" status to Tom Carroll after 40 years, Gordon Trampe (Cedar Rapids ), and Tom Henry (Indianapolis). Toni Jones (N.O.) resigned.

A number of notes arrived with oral history releases, including those from: Rolf Valtin, Brian Flores, Joe Biondo, Kay McMurray, Jack Toner, Nick Fidandis, Norm Lee, Sorine Preli, Al Mille, and Alex Kapner. Notes also accompanied

checks from: Ward Wilson, Don Mayne, Dean Sederstrom, Carmon Newell, and Bruno Kozlowski. It is always good to get a note or letter commenting on the **Caucus** or sharing information.

Checks came from Frank Allen, Bob Baker, Bob Bennett, Joe Biondo, Bob Bowling, Dorthy Christiansen, Bernie DeLury, Don Eaton, Howard Furman, Ken Evans, Nick Fidandis, Dan Funkhouser, Ansel Garrett, Hal Gold, David Gurrola, Ed Hartfield, John Healy, C.J. Hedepeth, Wayne Horvitz, Alex Kapner, Bill Kilberg, Bruno Kozlowski, John Martin, Don Mayne, Jerry McKay, Al Mille, Ken Moffett, Carman Newell, Mike O'Rielly, Sharon Rafferty, Charles Rehmus, Frank Perles, Fred Reebals, Charlie Rehmus, Bev Sanders, Deen Sederstrom, Steve Schlossberg, Earl Smith, Sally Swerbilov, Lou Tanner, Rolf Valtin, John Wagner, Carlton Wallmark, Ward Wilson, and very generous checks from Brian Flores, Bill Hobgood, Norm Lee, Kay McMurray, and Sorine Preli. A sincere 'thank you' to each of you. If you are not listed, you know why.

Sincere thanks also to the following current mediators who regularly designate a portion of their travel reimbursement to the Friends: Scot Blake, John Buettner, Paul Chabot, Pete Cinquemani, Ron Collota, Gary Eder, Josh Flax, Bill Gill, Mike Johaneson, Dale Johnson, Christel Jorgensen, Lou Manchise, John Pinto, Kurt Saunders and Tom Summers.

Long letters or emails came from Ken Moffett, Charlie Rehmus, and Fred Reebals offering suggestion on where to put the Friends archive, and other interesting topics like a book on the PATCO strike, the NLRB's anti-union decisions and the-good-old-days. Brian Flores also sent a suggestion on where to put the archive.

Twenty names were removed from this **Caucus** mailing because of no response from the twenty retirees in a number of years, even after repeated hand-written notices on their copy of the **Caucus**. In the words of a current political bumper sticker, "enough is enough." Approximately 200 copies of each are mailed at a cost of \$250. for printing and mailing.

(continued from page one )

Those attending this Fifth Annual Reunion included: Bob and Marti Bennett, Reggie Bravo and his guest Lance (a stand-in for Lois), Bill and Vickie Carlisle, Dick and Genia Deem, Bob and Mary DeHaven, Mike and Barbara DiPinto, Don and Gerri Eaton, Hal Gold, Leon and Betty Groves, Don and Jean Hampton, John Knight, John and Bertha Lee, Norm Lee, Mike and Sheila Madden, Al and Eleanor Mille, Tom and Barbara Montgomery, John and Pat Popular, Jim and Alice Power, Fred and Pauline Reebals, John and Shirley Tucker, Gayle Wineriter, and Sam and Carol Zuiker. Also joining the retired mediators were Bill Usery and Fran Pardee along with Jeff Gordon and Les Hough who work with Bill at Georgia State University. Everyone enjoyed the activities and we hope to see all retirees at the 2007 Reunion. Details will be made available as soon as dates and hotel arrangements are finalized.

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*"Be kinder than necessary, for everyone*

*you meet is fighting some kind of battle."*

**The Caucus  
200 N. Maple Ave. #517  
Falls Church, VA 22046**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**