

Wear Your Denver Denim!

by Bob Boynton

September is the most beautiful time of the year to enjoy all that Denver has to offer. The weather averages in the mid-80s in the afternoon with very low humidity and often dips below 60 degrees at night, with almost no possibility of rain! Come early and stay late! Our very low convention rates are good at the Double Tree for three days before and three days after the convention. C'mon, what are you waiting for? There's still plenty of time to register, and we have plenty of room!

As a special treat, Friday night's banquet is going to be BBQ and Western-themed. So save your finery for Saturday night, throw on some jeans and by all means wear your Denver Denim convention shirts! If you didn't buy one when you registered, first of all, why on earth not? And second, no problem! Order one now and join us in the fun! Shirts need to be ordered by August 1st. They will not be available at the convention. Bring your Western hats, your Western boots, and your big-buckled belts, if you've got 'em. We'll be handing out bandannas to complete the look!

We look forward to welcoming you to our fair city! If you know anyone who is on the fence about coming, give them a nudge! It'll be FAN-tastic!

Your Freshmen Society Membership Department

by Chaz Cone, FFS Membership Director

How's that for an article title to encourage you to turn the page as fast as you can? :)

The FFS Membership department is the nuts and bolts deep in side the FFS machine. I thought you might like to know how it all works.

Still reading? Here we go...

First, the "FFS Membership Department" is just me; running it takes about 15 hours every week.

The job has two major elements: managing the memberships worldwide and leading the State Rep/Regional Directors organization.

The database

Currently we have more than 1,300 members world-wide. Each family has a record in the database with demographic information and membership history. The system "knows" when each member's dues are due so it sends a reminder the month before; those who have email get the reminder that way as well as a postcard.

When someone pays their dues, I update the database with the new renewal date and that triggers a "thank-you" email or letter acting as the receipt.

When someone new joins the FFS, I add them to the database. This triggers a new member packet welcoming them to the FFS.

Each quarter when Fresh News is published, I provide the mailing labels to the printer for those of you still receiving FreshNews in the mail. At the same time, I email those who have "opted out" of the mailed version in favor of reading Fresh News online.

Dues processing

When members pay their dues, I receive those checks (or emails which I acknowledge with a reply). I prepare the checks for deposit and make entries in this month's spreadsheet. The online (credit card) renewals and new member applications are added to the spreadsheet as well. This happens daily at the same time I update the member's renewal date.

After the end of the month, I process the credit cards that have come in during the month and send that information to our Treasurer and personally deposit the checks. If you've wondered why a check you wrote early in the month doesn't clear the bank until the next month, that's why!



Bob (Tommy's Dad) and the Denver Gang
p.s. Board members who don't wear our Western shirts Friday night will be teased mercilessly!