Welcome to our eighteenth Annual General Meeting, especially to those members who have joined us during the past year. 2020 marks our 20th anniversary!

Following are the highlights of the past year for the Firebird Foundation:

**The Project**

- Dmitry Yemanov continues to lead the core development team. They have focused on completing Firebird 4.0 Beta 2 with 102 bug fixes, 19 improvements, and 3 new features.

- Mark Rotteveel continues to oversee the JDBC driver for Jaybird version 5, in which there were 2 bug fixes, 9 improvements, and 3 new features.

- Jiri Cincura continues to improve the .NET Provider, which is now at version 7.5.

- Pavel Cisar continues to develop the driver for Python version 2.01.

- Alexey Kovyazin continues to manage the documentation as well as the official website.

- The project to adapt our website to be more user-friendly for
mobile phone users is now completely subscribed and available for public view and test migration. Thanks to all of you who contributed to our crowd-funding campaign!

**Apprenticeship Program**
We are considering an apprenticeship program to stimulate new recruits to get involved at the source code level. This program will actually allocate and grant some funds to be paid like a scholarship for those candidates who are selected to be mentored by our core engine developers.

**The Firebird Butler**
The Firebird Butler develops solutions to various Firebird-related challenges unaddressed by the core Firebird distribution. This expansion will bring more attention to Firebird and new opportunities for project development and financing.

Regarding RFC’s, there are 2 stable and 3 draft specifications. The most vital RFC's for service and data pipe protocols have reference implementations in Python.

The Saturnin project (reference implementation of the Butler platform in Python) recently released its third milestone that includes:

- Butler Protobuf handlers for Python (firebird-butler-protobuf v0.2.2).

- Base package with Butler platform (saturnin-core v0.5.1) that among others includes implementation of FBSP and FBSD protocols and allows creation of Butler Services and Microservices working in separate threads or processes.
• SDK package (saturnin-sdk v0.5.0) with sample Services and Microservices, as well as basic service test and execution environment for developers.

• Saturnin package (saturnin v0.3.0) with set of Microservices for work with text (reader, writer, line filter), data (printer, filter, aggregator), and Firebird server log (fetch from server, parser).

The team is currently working on the new Firebird driver for Python (as announced at the conference). The new driver has Firebird 3 and Python 3 as baseline while using the new FB3 API.

Sponsorships
Sponsorships, usually by corporations, continue to be an essential source of income to support our funding objectives. Currently we have 5 Platinum, 1 Gold, 3 Silver, and 6 Bronze sponsors. The total of all 2019 contributions from sponsors was USD $324,244, accounting for 87% of our Foundation income. Additional donors contributed USD $33,669, accounting for 9% of income. We extend a huge thank you to all of these contributors, especially those who are our longer-term sponsors.

Memberships
About 4% of Foundation income came from membership subscriptions, for a total of USD $14,395.61. Although the income from subscriptions may appear as a small contribution in comparison to other sources, it is essential to the continuity of our funding support. I want to thank all of the subscribing members for their continued support. We are especially appreciative to those who renew each year.
We are always open to new ideas to increase memberships. I would like to remind everyone about the Firebird Foundation member logos which members can display on their websites to encourage site visitors to consider applying for membership. You can acquire these logos from the menus on the Foundation members’ webpages (http://www.firebirdsql.org/en/logos/) and link them to our main public page at http://www.firebirdsql.org/en/firebird-foundation/

Grants
The Foundation currently makes 8 grants, and the new grant added in 2019 to support Jaybird driver development has already proven beneficial.

Events
Our big events this year included:

• Firebird Developers’ Day in Brazil (July) hosted by Carlos Cantu.

I was pleased to be a special guest via a prerecorded message informing the attendees how they can become a member of the Firebird Foundation and the benefits that this brings to everyone.

• Firebird Conference in East Berlin, Germany (October).

It was a pleasure rubbing shoulders with many of our developers in Berlin last year at our annual conference. The enthusiasm to continue making Firebird and its associated tools, drivers, and resources better than ever was readily apparent to me. There is
great determination to meet the challenges we face to keep Firebird a superior offering in the relational SQL database niche. Our development team can be proud of their efforts.

**New Opportunities**

There are efforts in the open-source community to build ties with the Firebird Project. This is something that the Firebird Foundation wishes to encourage and facilitate.

- The Firebird Foundation has been approached by the Open Invention Network (OIN), an organization formed to foster a safe patent environment for developers and users of Linux and Open Source-based solutions. They are inviting the Firebird Foundation to join their community. Their website is [https://www.openinventionnetwork.com](https://www.openinventionnetwork.com). I would like the members to give their input in how we should respond.

- The Free Pascal Compiler/Lazarus project recognizes the strong Delphi legacy behind Firebird SQL and is seeking to utilize the Firebird SQL technology in some of its core offerings.

- I have made efforts to open a dialogue with Embarcadero Interbase in hopes to build a more cooperative and synergistic relationship. This effort hasn’t produced any tangible results yet.

**Newsgroups**

As projected last year, the project's Yahoo-based newsgroups are now read only. We are looking for a relocation solution. Suggestions have included:
• Migrating to groups.io, which encompasses both free and paid (USD $220 per group per year) options.

• Moving the groups to our own mail list server.

• Moving to a self-hosted forum engine, such as phpBB, instead of mail lists.

Conclusion and Final Thoughts
Raymond has done a phenomenal job as treasurer over the past decade. We have greatly appreciated his diligent and excellent work to keep our finances well managed and organized. Regrettably the time has come to seek a replacement. Fortunately Raymond has agreed to train the new replacement who is elected in this year’s election cycle. We are deeply grateful to him for helping us have continuity in this transition.

Helen Borrie suffered a stroke at the end of July 2019. It has left her with some significant impairments affecting her right side. However, she has recovered very well and is reasonably confident that she can continue managing memberships and grants as well as her role as secretary. The news of Helen’s stroke came as a shock to everyone and made us realize how much the Foundation depends upon Helen’s diligent and careful attention to so many needful things. We are very much indebted to her tireless sacrifice and painstaking efforts.

I love Firebird SQL and desire to give back what I can to the Foundation in service. I desire to keep the Foundation moving forward in attracting more members and sponsors as well as to help improve our exposure to the world as a first-class database product offering.

As president I plan to continue to look for ways that the
Foundation can invite new sponsors as well as increase associate and voting members. I wish to give a BIG thank you to all of our existing sponsors and members who make everything we are doing possible. If any of you have ideas or contacts to share with me in order to accomplish evangelism outreach, please get in touch with the Foundation, and we will do what we can to implement all good ideas.

I also wish to say thank you to the Committee members who provide a great depth of knowledge and understanding and who are passionately committed to giving the Firebird Foundation the gravity that we need to keep fresh ideas flowing and the project moving forward.

I am grateful to my fellow officers and our predecessors in the Foundation, all of the developers of the core, platform ports, drivers, etc., and the QA folks, document writers, translators, etc., who have done such a great job giving our Foundation sponsors and members a reason to be proud and to feel like they are contributing to a thriving and successful project. It is a great pleasure to be a part of this.

Jason LeRoy Wharton, President
17 March 2020