

Minutes

The **Board of Directors of the FFCNC** met at 11:45am on March 22, 2007 at the Main Street United Methodist Church in Kernersville with President Carol Andresen presiding.

The minutes were corrected and approved by the Board members via E-mail prior to this meeting and were not read. Carol requested that the minutes be re-sent for review prior to each Board Meeting.

Arnold Sporleder gave the Treasurer's Report. The FFCNC has approximately \$24,600 assets at the current time. A copy of the report is filed with the minutes.

Marvin Scherl reported two new memberships consisting of Tricia and Jerry Hammer and Ava and Mahlon Honeycutt. Two of the exchange travelers have not joined yet.

Martha Brown was thanked for an excellent newsletter and a second request was made for someone to help with this time consuming job.

A non-member Mail List for the purpose of publicity was discussed and Ralph suggested that we have categories of lists: past members, media, other exchange groups, etc. It was agreed that we could not obtain a teacher list, but Ruth will look for ways to promote exchanges to this group.

Peter Peiffer gave an update on the Outbound Germany exchange, 5/9—24/07. He had received the hosting list from Germany the previous Friday. The ED from Germany is "delightful", and he expects the trip to be excellent. Peter has a good group of ambassadors and has met all but one couple. He is still working on insurance requirements due to a provider change by FFI. The current provider will not insure Delta because of the airline's financial situation! There has been some problem with communications from Atlanta and those of us with FFI background assured him that that is not unusual!

The Cultural Orientation will be held at GTCC Jamestown Campus on March 31st and will be followed by a membership Pot Luck Dinner/Exchange Send-off at 5:30pm. The workshop will have two speakers from Germany, Michael Hoppe and Eve Michaels. Michael Hoppe's American wife has also lived in Germany and will give her perspective. Presenters have been given talking points.

Peter was told by FFI to take \$1200US for the German club "with him"! He and Arnold will investigate the possibility of an electronic transfer of these funds. Everything is paid except for this fee. Peter suggests that covered expenses for the ED be defined. There is no travel discount for fewer than 20 people, and this trip will have 16. Peter is to offer a proposal and there will be further discussion. If necessary, he may be reimbursed for certain expenses after the trip.

Fred Andresen, a recent "volunteer" for the position, will serve as ED for the Big Sky Festival Domestic Exchange. All spots are filled with the exception of two that are in final discussion. Fred would like short biographies on the ambassadors and discussed the need for US health insurance and also passports for those going into Canada on the Glacier post-trip. Inquiry will be made for any extra fees--for boat rides, etc.--planned during the Great Falls stay. Special requests for activities during the home stay may be made, but Helena not into "wish fulfillment"! This promises to be a fun and exciting exchange with at least two couples taking extended trips.

There is an updated Domestic Exchange directory that is available on the FFI web site.

Paul Meis reported on the Inbound Exchange from Japan in September of 2007. Paul finally heard from the ED, but they are currently busy with other activities. It was noted that hosting is a great recruitment opportunity. Paul expects a good response from members because of recent experiences with Japan.

Howard Hicks reported on our Outbound Exchange to Peru in June of 2008. Carol A. announced that the trip has been accepted by us and confirmed by Atlanta. She will also be in touch with a group from South Connecticut that will be going this summer. Other members will pursue Peruvian contacts that they may have. We will need an ED for this trip and the possibility of using someone from outside our group was discussed. Tickets may be held one year in advance.

Activities Chair, Carol Bryan, stated a need for more activities to get the former CIU and FFI members together. There is a No-Host Dinner planned at the Farmer's Market restaurant for June 4th. This is being held on a Monday in an attempt to make it more convenient for people to attend. Wine will be available.

Carol A. announced plans for a Triad Park Picnic on August 25th. We could make this our World Friendship Day event.

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Thursday night Oct. 25th at Main Street United Methodist Church (MSUMC) in Kernersville

Carol Andresen reported on the 30th Anniversary/International Conference in Atlanta attended by nearly 300 members. It was noted that the club would cover her conference registration. Carol presented brief notes on the meetings, which will be refined and sent to the board in hard copy. She and Fred addressed several of the issues, including recent leadership and financial problems, their positive impression of George Brown and the problems presented by an aging membership. A CD of FFI stories and a ten-minute promotional CD will be shared at the next Board meeting.

Putting excess exchange fees into the local treasury for future use was discussed among Board members. Marvin suggested that this was less than honest (and many concurred) and that funds should either be used for the exchange, perhaps for a special event, or returned to the ambassadors. This will be discussed further for our local policy.

Further discussion included the use of credit cards for trip expenses, the trend toward more travel independence except for home stay or FFI event, which may make it easier to include people from other clubs.

New Business: Marvin and Paul went to the Winston-Salem Foundation to assess the position of our invested funds. Investment and savings are under grandfathered rules so we can withdraw any or all funds from the Foundation. Last years return was about 8.7%. Since Marvin's personal investments grew 20% last year, he proposed looking into improving the return on our investments. There are various options of mutual funds with easy withdrawal (3 days). The Foundation is very safe, but VERY conservative. It was felt that officers did not give direct answers to Marvin and Paul's questions. The funds are there because the Friendship Force of Greater Winston-Salem (FFGWS) was worried that Atlanta might take excess funds when in financial trouble. FFGWS was incorporated as a non-profit.

Ralph Cauthen made a motion to explore this situation further and to receive proposals for change. The motion passed by a vote of general consent.

The President adjourned the meeting at 1:40pm. The next Board Meeting will be Thursday May 3, 2007 at the same time and location.

Attending: Peter Peiffer, Paul Meis, Fred Andresen, Carol Bryan, Marvin Scherl, Howard Hicks, Carol Andresen, Martha Brown, Ralph Cauthen, Arnold Sporleder, Laura Lennon, Nancy Peiffer and Ruth and Jim Jackson.

Laura Lennon
Secretary