

Minutes of Friendship Force of Central North Carolina (FFCNC)

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March 20, 2008

Present: Ralph Cauthen, Fred Andresen, Barbara North, Peter and Nancy Peiffer, Lundee Amos, Paul and Marcia Meis, Martha Brown, Marvin Scherl, and Laura Lennon

The Board of Directors of the FFCNC met on Thursday, March 20, 2008, at 11:45 a.m. at the Main Street United Methodist Church in Kernersville, NC, for a regularly scheduled meeting. The meeting began with a review of the minutes of the last board meeting by the Secretary. Arnold was absent from the meeting, but had previously emailed copies of the financial report to board members. As of 3/19/08, Arnold reported a checking account balance of \$2957.62, a CD of \$4751.07, and \$16,692.21 with the Winston Salem Foundation. Since the last board meeting, \$1000 was withdrawn from the CD for expenses. Total assets are \$24,300.90. The budget for 2008 has not been finalized. A full financial report is on file with the minutes of this meeting.

Membership Development and Retention - Fred circulated a revised membership form which had been prepared by Carol and Martha. The new form requests additional information and was mailed to new member prospects. Fred reported he has a list of 49 potential new members, 29 lapsed members, and 20 new prospects. Fred circulated a list of the potential members but still needs telephone numbers, addresses, and/or email addresses for some. Four suggestions were presented for membership development. Fred agreed to handle the first two items - to contact the lapsed members and the new prospects and to maintain separate listings. If prospects do not join in 2008, the lists will be used in 2009 for email communications only. A third suggestion was to have an emeritus category for board-approved individuals who would receive email but pay no dues. The fourth suggestion was to publish a membership directory. After some discussion, the board agreed a membership directory with no email addresses should be prepared and emailed to members. The emeritus category was not discussed and will be addressed by the board at a later date.

Fred's proposal for membership retention included (1) two day trips - one in May to a winery or a dinner theatre in Wytheville, VA, and/or a day trip in October to Bedford, VA to Smith Mountain Lake and (2) a mixer/meal program, catered, at no cost to members. After much discussion and no agreement on the mixer/meal program and its cost to the organization, a

motion was made and approved to support the membership retention program of day activities and the mixer/meal program, but with details to be worked out at a later date.

It was reported Eleanor Kennedy, Ann Fulton, and Carol Bryan will be meeting with Carol Andresen to discuss the formation of a Speaker's Bureau for FFCNC.

Fred distributed a summary of the feedback on the LEO 2/19. The dinner was a great success with unexpected recruitment opportunity and the W-S Journal newspaper notice was very effective.

Exchange Activities - Laura reported on the inbound Turkey exchange. An ED is still needed for this exchange. The dates have been changed to October 8-13th and the group consists of 12 persons, including one couple with two teenagers. Laura circulated a list of the exchange ambassadors with their names, email addresses, and interests. Ruth Jackson has agreed to be in charge of obtaining host families. A maximum of 10 family hosts may be needed.

Lundee reported the Peru outbound exchange has thirteen participants. The group will be meeting for dinner to get acquainted on Thursday, March 27th. The cultural workshop is scheduled for May 17th at the Center for Creative Leadership. It was not known if any of the flyers distributed increased participation in the exchange. Lundee distributed a financial statement to date for the Peru exchange. Patti Gilmour will coordinate an event for all members and guests after the trip.

LEO Activities – the next LEO event is being planned by Patti Gilmour on June 5th at the Taste of Thai in Greensboro. Palm Kahl is exploring the Turmeric (an Indian restaurant) in Winston-Salem for another date.

Communications Committee - an email policy was developed for the organization and presented to the board by Martha. Major components of the policy include: email may be used to communicate with members regarding FF business; members may indicate what type of communication they prefer to receive; email addresses will be maintained with membership records and only shared with members who need the information; emails will include FFCNC in their heading; emails sent to the entire membership will be sent from the Communications chair or designee; the number of emails sent will be consolidated as much as possible; approval must be received from two out of three board members (President, Past President, or President-elect) for email distribution of a topic not relating to FF. The Communications Committee will continue to issue three newsletters a year. In the other months, a short, brief email will be sent to the membership with any additional information. The deadline for information for the monthly communication is the 5th of each month with the email being sent to the membership around the 10th of each month. The Board approved Martha's policy suggestions with the understanding the policy can be modified as needed.

World Friendship Day – Ralph reported the welcoming party FFCNC hosted at his home for the Vietnamese delegation was a successful affair and he thanked everyone for their participation and food. This visit stirred up the Greensboro Montagnard community to protest but a very positive development of community dialogue with political leaders has come out of this hosting. Ralph is encouraging future exchanges to the Vietnam Highlands. Cuba was also mentioned as a country which may open up in the near future as a result of its recent political changes.

New Business – George Brown, Friendship Force International President, has communicated four strategic goals for the international organization. Ralph will review these and send to the board for their comment. These strategic goals will play a role in guiding our local chapter plans.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

Barbara North, Secretary

March 26, 2008