

Minutes of Friendship Force of Central North Carolina (FFCNC)

www.ffcnc.org

September 18, 2008

Present: Ralph Cauthen, Fred and Carol Andresen, Barbara North, Peter Peiffer, Marvin Scherl, Arnold Sporleder, Paul Meis, and Laura Lennon

The Board of Directors of the FFCNC met on Thursday, September 18, 2008, at 11:45 a.m. at the Main Street United Methodist Church in Kernersville, NC, for their regularly scheduled meeting. The minutes of the last meeting on May 15, 2008 were approved as emailed to the Board.

Arnold Sporleder reported that the club had a bank balance of \$3421.18 which included \$911.78 for FFI for the Peru exchange. The Winston Salem Foundation account showed a value of \$15,684.54 as of 3/31/08. Total assets of the chapter were \$22,979.95 for the period ending September 18, 2008. The Wachovia CD of \$4786.01 matures on 9/19/08. The Board agreed to renew the CD for 7 months at the approximate rate of 3.54-3.60 APR. A full financial report is on file with the minutes.

Exchanges:

Laura reported the exact dates for the exchange to Japan in 2009 have yet to be confirmed. Roundtrip airfare to Japan could be greater than \$2000 based on current prices. The Friendship Force International Conference is scheduled for November 19-22, 2009, in Okinawa which could be an extension of the exchange. The cost of the conference, hotel, and airfare to Okinawa will add significantly to the cost of the trip for those wishing to attend the conference.

The recent e-newsletter outlined all the planned events for the upcoming Turkey exchange. Even though hosting for the incoming Turkey exchange was advertised in Fast Facts, it was suggested future hosting events be promoted more to get new members involved. Martha will be requested to send out a special notice to the membership about the exchange agenda and signing up for hosting activities.

Carol reported there will be no domestic inbound exchange in 2009. The ED for the Montana exchange has been requested to lead a humanitarian exchange to Africa and will be unable to fulfill her commitment to the Montana domestic exchange. Carol encouraged the chapter to concentrate on involving the membership in outbound exchanges and the regional conference.

Membership Development Report:

Fred reported there were 72 memberships for a total of 112 names with an additional 47 prospects. New membership forms are now available. Membership renewal requests for 2009 should be mailed by 10/16 with an unstamped, return envelope. Fred circulated his printed report on the membership meeting at Knollwood Baptist Church on 9/4/08. There were 78 people in attendance including 25 visitors who were prospective members, Turkish guests, and students. Several new members joined as a result of the meeting, most from Forsythe County. The cost of the dinner was approximately \$280. There was no cost for the custodian. In general, Fred felt the dinner meeting served its primary purpose of membership retention.

The next membership outing is scheduled for Saturday, February 28th, to Wytheville, VA to the Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre to see the musical, "Smoke on the Mountain". If we have a sufficient number of members to sign up, we can have our own FFCNC bus; otherwise we will be a subgroup with a scheduled Holiday Tours program. The outing will be promoted at the annual membership meeting in October.

Another event proposed for 2009 includes a State Fair Train Ride in October. The State Fair is held in Raleigh the week after the Dixie Classic Fair in Winston-Salem. A membership meeting in the spring of 2009 is also a possibility.

New Business:

Carol Andresen, Patti Gilmore, and Paul Meis comprise the nomination committee for this year. Carol reported that current officers, Barbara North and Arnold Sporleder, have agreed to run again for their respective offices. The committee is currently looking for a new President-Elect and will meet next Monday, 9/22/08.

Peter reported on possible 2010 exchanges. Each chapter must submit a planning form to the headquarters by November 1, 2008, with information on their availability, capacity, and destination interests. Our club specified their interests in 5-7 day cooperative outbound exchanges to Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Russia, and Thailand. The chapter will hear in mid-January 2009 concerning 2010 exchanges.

A committee of Ralph Cauthen, Barbara North, and Arnold Sporleder volunteered to investigate the tax exempt status for FFCNC.

The chapter's annual meeting is scheduled for October 30, 2008, at the Main Street United Methodist Church in Kernersville. The program will highlight our most pleasant memories of

Friendship Force exchanges. Don Sylvester and Betty Thompson were suggested as possible participants in the program.

The next LEO is scheduled for January 2009 in High Point. Pam Kahl and Ann Fulton will be working on other possible dates.

Ralph circulated a letter he received from Beth Robertson, Executive Director, of the Piedmont Triad Council for International Visitors (PTCIV). This organization hosts approximately 50-60 visitors each year from various countries. In 2007, they hosted 58 visitors from 35 countries. Unlike FFCNC, PTCIV is not a true exchange program. Visitors only come here and usually stay in hotels. The FFCNC and PTVIC jointly hosted a reception for a Vietnamese delegation last year. The Executive Director proposed an unofficial partnering with FFCNC. They would make us aware of their upcoming visitors which would provide an opportunity for our chapter to host visitors in our homes for dinner or overnight stays. The Board agreed for Ralph to respond affirmatively to the letter and proposed that we work with PTCIV at least for the next 6 months.

Recently, Scott Freese of the International Campus Ministries of the Triad sent out an email request to the membership soliciting funds for a Nepalese student. The email did not go through our normal procedures and Scott used a list from earlier emails. Audrey Womack in Greensboro is the contact person for college students who desire contact with local people. Marvin Scherl distributed some information and membership applications for the Friendship Family Program of the campus ministry program. This program connects local international college students with local families in the Triad area. The program requests the family schedule an activity at least once a month with the international student.

Friendship Force International has a new website and a beautiful new logo. Some tips on how to navigate the new website were distributed to the Board.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned until the next board meeting on November 20th.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara S. North, Secretary