

Minutes of Annual Meeting of Friendship Force of Central North Carolina (FFCNC)

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October 30, 2008

The annual meeting of FFCNC was held at 6 p.m. on October 30, 2008 at the Main Street United Methodist Church in Kernersville, NC with 43 people attending a potluck dinner. Howard Hicks gave thanks for the meal. Peruvian music and a video provided by Lundee Amos played during the fellowship time.

Ralph Cauthen, President, welcomed everyone and summarized some of the chapter's highlights of the past year including scheduled LEO's, the outbound exchange to Peru in July, the inbound exchange from Turkey in October, a reception for Vietnamese visitors with the Piedmont Triad Council for International Visitors International (PTCIV), and a new FFI website. The chapter can anticipate more opportunities for interaction with PTCIV in the future.

Barbara North, Secretary, gave the treasurer's report in Arnold's absence. As of 10/24/08, the chapter had a bank balance of \$2445.88, a Wachovia CD of \$4789.94, and a Foundation value of \$15, 640.67 for total assets of \$22, 205.49. Barbara also summarized the minutes of the 2007 annual meeting.

Martha Brown brought photographs of the Open World Exchange with Russia for viewing. Jim and Barbara North displayed some of the watercolor art, left with them to be sold, by their Turkish guest, Ayla Alguner.

Fred Andresen reported the chapter had 72 paid memberships for a total of 113 people for 2008. The size of our chapter ranks us in the top 25. There are 47 on the prospect list. LEO's, the newsletter, Fast Facts, and the website have all contributed to the increased membership. The chapter's activities have been given good press by the newspaper in Winston-Salem and Jamestown. Focus groups conducted this past year indicated a desire for day trips and programs with speakers; hence, a day trip was made this past Spring to Smith Mountain Lake and the membership meeting in September hosted a speaker on Turkey. A trip to Wytheville, VA, is scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Commemorative Bicentennial Programs and calendars were available for members to take home.

Carol Andresen presented the proposed slate of officers on behalf of the nominating committee composed of Carol, Paul Meis, and Patti Gilmore. The following officers were proposed and were unanimously voted upon:

President: Peter Peiffer

Vice-President: Fred Andresen

Secretary: Barbara North

Treasurer: Arnold Sporleder

President Elect: Marcia Meis

Peter Peiffer, incoming President, presided over the remainder of the meeting. Peter encouraged attendance at the FF regional meeting to be held in Long Beach Island, New Jersey, April 3-5, 2009. The conference will be a great opportunity to learn more about the organization, and to exchange ideas with other chapters. In conjunction with the meeting, a homestay is scheduled in Delaware.

The next LEO is being planned by Ann Fulton in High Point at the local country club in January. Patti Gilmore has agreed to assist with scheduling LEO's in Greensboro in 2009.

Laura Lennon reported on the Japanese exchange to Aichi scheduled for November 9-15, 2009 in collaboration with Harrisburg, PA. The exchange is timed to allow attendance at the international conference in Okinawa on November 19-22 or to include an extension visit in Japan. Approximately 10-15 spaces should be available for ambassadors from our chapter. An exchange director is needed for this outbound exchange.

The program highlighted "Great Times and Good Memories", a series of reflections on exchange activities. Ophelia Jones reflected very positively on her first (and recent) homestay experience in Peru. Gloria Griffin told a most calamitous but humorous story of a "yellow flower trip" during an exchange to Thailand. Ruth Jackson, who hosted German visitors this summer, noted the value and memories of return hosting.

Lundee Amos and the Peru outbound exchange ambassadors recognized Carol Andresen for her contributions to their cultural workshop with a small gift from Peru.

Thanks were given to Judy Greene for her help in setting up the room for the meeting, to Carol Andresen and Sue Schoch for the table decorations, and to others who assisted in the meeting preparations.

Jim North and Ruth Jackson reported on the Turkey Inbound Exchange. Expressions of thanks were given to Laura Lennon, the Exchange Coordinator; Carol Bryan, Lynda Forrest, Howard Hicks, and Sue Schoch for the cultural workshop; Pam Kahl for the tour of Old Salem; Kit Ravenel for the Greensboro Historical Museum tour; Martha Brown for the booklet; Carol and Fred Andresen for the Friday box lunches; Kit Ravenel and Sue Schoch for the goodie bags; Ralph Cauthen for organizing the drive to the mountains; Nancy and Peter Peiffer for hosting the cookout; Marcia Meis for the punch for the farewell dinner; Nick Divitchi for the Turkish translation of the music; Divan Cultural Center for the meeting space for the cultural workshop; and Trinity Presbyterian Church for the space for the farewell dinner. Host families for the exchange were Carol and Fred Andresen, Jane and Ralph Cauthen, Laura and Denver Lennon, Jim and Barbara North, Patti Gilmore and Don Sylvester, Sue Schoch, and Judy Greene. Day hosts included Antionette Skeeters, Marian and Ava Honeycutt, and Joan Decker. Several of the host families shared some of their experiences.

Peter closed the meeting with some remarks about the positive influence of Friendship Force saying, "A world of friends is a world of peace". The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. with the group singing, "Let there be Peace".

Submitted,

Barbara North

Secretary