

Minutes of Friendship Force of Central North Carolina (FFCNC)

www.ffcnc.org

December 3, 2009

Present: Fred Andresen, Martha Brown, Ralph Cauthen, Ray Kiszely, Donna Lambeth, Paul and Marcia Meis, Barbara North, Peter and Nancy Peiffer, and Arnold Sporleder

The 2009 and the newly elected 2010 Board of Directors of the FFCNC met on Thursday, December 3, at 11:45 a.m. at the Main Street United Methodist Church in Kernersville, NC, for their regularly scheduled meeting. The newly elected President, Marcia Meis, opened the meeting with a review of 2009 activities and future scheduled events. Marcia suggested the chapter consider a future service project. Newly elected Board members were introduced: Marcia Meis: President; Ray Kiszely: Vice-President and Chair of Membership; Donna Lambeth: Presidential Advisor and Member-at-Large; Valerie Stokes: Inbound ED for Australia (in absentia). A Chair of Publicity is yet to be announced. The minutes of the last meeting on September 17, 2009 were approved as written and distributed.

Financial Report: Arnold circulated the financial report ending December 3, 2009. Current assets of \$21,175.68 include a bank account balance of \$3896.13, a Wachovia CD for \$3314.69, and the Winston Foundation valued at \$13,940.86. An additional \$963.24 is still being held for the Japanese exchange. The Wachovia CD will mature in 2/22/10. A full financial report is on file with the minutes. Arnold submitted the preliminary budget for 2010 which proposed total expenses of approximately \$3100 with income from membership dues of only \$2000. The difference between income and expenses will be met by money currently invested in the CD. Since the club was “grandfathered” in the Winston Foundation, there are no restrictions on how much money we can withdraw from our reserves. However, there are some restrictions on what the money can be spent. The speaker system, approved for purchase by the Board in September, is now available for use. Arnold proposed the club send the church a donation of \$200 for the use of church facilities last year. The Board unanimously approved.

Reports:

Japan Outbound Exchange – Peter reported the chapter had an excellent outbound exchange experience in Aichi, Japan in November with very few problems. The H1N1 virus threat never became an issue. Carol Andresen was ill one day during the trip but there were no other problems. The Aichi club was most hospitable, gracious and well organized. The farewell dinner was held at a very nice French restaurant at a cost of \$40 per person. The \$75 per

person provided by FFI did not begin to cover the Aichi club's expenses for this exchange, which included a group bus trip, admission charges to various places, and very nice meals. Blending of the three different groups which comprised the exchange (9 from our chapter, 3 from the Pennsylvania chapter, and two from Sonoma, California) did not present a problem. The Aichi club had excellent involvement from their members. There were at least two people in charge of each day's activities who were not the same members as the host families. Peter noticed the Aichi club members were wearing specific club pins and suggested our club adopt a club pin to be used for exchanges.

Mid-Atlantic President's Conference - the Mid-Atlantic President's Conference is scheduled for April 8-10, 2010 in Greensboro, NC. FFCNC will be host for this biannual meeting which will include officers from as many as 18 different clubs. The Friday night "banquet" is tentatively planned for the Embassy Suites. The hotel will charge \$35 per person with a minimum count of 30 persons. The speaker at this event will be Jim Kirkpatrick, former Guilford County Commissioner and chair of the Guilford Battleground Company. Fred will now be responsible for developing the program and contacting attendees. The selected theme for the program is "Revitalization". The cost of attending the conference is \$50 plus the cost of the dinner for a total of \$85. Fred is guessing that 80% of the attendees will want homestays for the conference. Marcia and Ray will attend the conference as representatives from our chapter.

Home Hosting Committee – A Home Hosting Committee for 2010 has been organized to serve for the two scheduled home-hosting events this year (Australian inbound and the President's Conference). The committee will be divided into two sections – Guilford and Winston-Salem - and will involve a large number of persons, both old and new members, for orientation and leadership development. The committee will consist of the following members: Carol Bryan (Chair), Hazel Bowen, Martha Brown, Charlie and Ann Finch, Margaret Griffin, Judy Greene, Ophelia Jones, Doris Kiszely, and Nancy Peiffer. The Winston-Salem group is scheduled to meet at the home of Donna Lambeth at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 19th, while the Guilford group will meet at the home of Ralph Cauthen at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 12th. Donna Lambeth suggested reaching out to new people to host for the events, while using core people to be more active in planning the exchanges. Fred noted that both the Japan and Morganton, NC chapters have developed "package exchanges" for consistent programming.

Inbound Exchange from Australia – Paul Meis reported for Valerie Stokes, who is now the ED for the Australian exchange. Doug Harding, the ED for the group from Australia, has had nine responses to date. Paul proposed that the budget for this exchange be increased. The new fee for international exchanges is now \$125 per new FFI guidelines and our club match would be the same. Donna mentioned that the Winston Foundation money would be available to make up the difference, if needed.

Activities Committee – Ralph distributed a report of the Activities Committee summarizing the events of 2009 and the proposed schedule for 2010. The next LEO is scheduled for Saturday, January 16, at the Taste of Thai Restaurant in Greensboro. A program on the recent Japanese outbound exchange will be presented. Persons will order from the menu. LEO's are also tentatively scheduled for February, June, and December with a picnic to be scheduled sometime during the summer at Marilyn Baird's home on Lake Norman. The LEO in February will probably be a breakfast event in Winston-Salem. Ralph requested ideas for World Friendship Day in March 2010. He also would like the club to continue to partnership with the Piedmont Triad Council for International Visitors (PTCIV) in 2010. The annual meeting is scheduled in October. The board proposed the date of October 21st. Arnold is to check with the church for availability.

Outbound Exchange to New Zealand – Ralph Cauthen reported both Dunedin and Auckland chapters have been contacted but there are no final dates as yet. Interested persons from our chapter have asked for the group to return home before Thanksgiving. It is likely the trip will begin in late October.

Publicity - Carol, Fred, and Peter are available to make presentations to groups about Friendship Force. Ralph and Ray suggested adding anecdotes on our website about people's experiences with Friendship Force. Carol Andresen was reported to have taken good notes during the Japanese exchange and could possibly contribute her experiences for the website.

Membership – Ray reported he had visited with both Fred and Marvin to get a feel for membership issues and procedures. He is requesting new membership applications come through him so that he may be more aware of the new members. There are currently 72 paid memberships for a total of 116 members. Thirty of our previous members have not renewed. He has personally contacted 10 of those members not renewing. Some appear to be waiting to the last minute to renew. Ray suggested the club consider offering alternative payment options. Ray asked the club to consider what its target number for membership should be, what it means to be a member of our club, and possibly having different membership levels, i.e., active, inactive, emeritus, etc. He also suggested the club have programs on Australia and New Zealand prior to the exchanges, and programs with other types of topics, such as financial information or service opportunities.

Board Meeting Schedule – The board meetings for 2010 are scheduled for 11:45 a.m. at Main Street United Methodist Church in Kernersville on the following first Thursdays:

February 4th, April 1st, June 3rd, August 5th, October 7th, and December 2nd

Old Business:

Exchange Requests for 2011 - Requests for 2011 exchanges were submitted to Atlanta. The chapter should hear from headquarters in January 2010.

Chapter Name - Ralph reported the papers to officially change the name of the chapter from Friendship Force of Winston-Salem to Friendship Force of Central North Carolina are ready to be submitted to the NC Department of State. A check for \$25 will need to accompany the request.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned until the next Board meeting on February 4th, 2010.

Respectfully submitted on January 24, 2010,

Barbara S. North

Secretary