

“The mission of Friendship Force is to promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people”

Minutes of Friendship force of Central North Carolina

www.ffcnc.org

May 1, 2014

Present: Barbara North, Peter Peiffer, Marvin Scherl, Leroy Stokes, Martha Brown, Tim Prout, Barton Parks and Ophelia Jones.

The Board of Directors of FFCNC met for their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, May 1, 2014 at 10:30 AM at the Main Street United Methodist Church in Kernersville, NC. The president, Barbara North, opened the meeting with a welcome, an agenda was provided.

The minutes of the last board meeting on March 6, 2014 were approved with corrections.

Treasurer's Report- The treasurer's report was distributed to the board members through email. Tim presented a summary of account transactions from 10/20/13 through 4/29/14 of income, expenses, and transfers as well as a fund summary of the Winston-Salem Foundation of Friendship Force of Central North Carolina. This account summary was sent to all board members and will be included with the final minutes of the May meeting. As of March 31, 2014, there is a checking account balance of \$2,212.09, a savings account balance of 0.00 dollars. The Winston Salem Foundation Market Value Investment account as of 4/30/14 was \$20,131.46. A motion was made and seconded to transfer \$2,500 dollars from the WSF to the checking account.

Tim has constructed a new reimbursement form that should be submitted with original receipts submitted to club for any reimbursements. This form will be able to be downloaded from our website.

Membership Report- Judy Greene and Marta Rhodes have submitted a written report. This report was read by Barbara and is as follows:

Paid memberships for 2014:28 single, 33 family --Headcount 94.

(This includes new paid members for 2014: 6 single, 2 family--Headcount 10)

Complimentary Members: 1 family, 1 single--Headcount:3

Paid plus comp members: 29 single, 34 family--Headcount:97

Legacy Members (inactive, receive email newsletter only):2 family, 1 single: Headcount:5

The FFCNC New Membership Orientation held on Saturday, March 29, 4 PM at the home of Barbara and Jim North. It was attended by 12 new(er) and 9 experienced members. After snacks were served, everyone was welcomed and introduced themselves with a couple of sentences about their interests. The FFI video was viewed and the group was introduced to the mission and activities of both FFI and FFCNC. New members received folders that included a copy of the by-laws, a list of current officers, email policy, member survey, feedback form, and a membership list. Judy and Martha thanked the experience members who were present, and especially to Barbara and Jim North for making their home available and to Ophelia, Ralph, Peter, Nancy and Marta for adding their expertise. Feedback from the participants was positive and helpful.

Future Plans: Our next phase is to identify experienced members willing to be designated as mentors. New members who were unable to attend will be contacted over the next two months to schedule/reschedule time to meet, receive handouts, and ask their questions about FFCNC. The next Newsletter will include an announcement concerning mentors for all experienced members

WANTED: MENTORS FOR NEW MEMBERS. You may want especially to invite a newer member to carpool with you for the LEO at Lake Norman on May 31 or invite one or more new members to join you in a FFCNC or non-FFCNC activity that you enjoy. Other suggestions followed for making friends within FFCNC such as lunch or dinner out, a potluck, coffee or tea, concert, theatre, walking, bowling, game night, visit a art gallery or any other activitiy for making friends within FFCNC.

A FFCNC business card will be available for members who may use them for recruitment of new members. Marvin will head this up and place websites, the new logo on a card. Cards will be available if members would like and used for exchanges and recruitment purposes.

2014 Outgoing Exchange to Moldova in September, Barton Parks, ED

Barton distributed a report on the mentoring exchange with the new group in Chisinau, Moldova. 14 ambassadors have signed on for the exchange, 12 from FFCNC and 2 from Colorado. They will leave on August 27 to September 3, 2014. Upon arrival, the ambassadors will recover in the hotel for two nights before the program begins.

Barton stated that the major unresolved issues are where to spend the second week, after Moldova. All 14 are willing to join the Ankara, Turkey FF club. The Atlanta office of FFI has so far not been able to get a positive response from either club in/around Ankara. The ambassadors will meet for further discussion on May 5 to begin planning and mentoring and where to spend the 2nd week. If Ankara works out, the group unanimously wants to spend two or three days in Istanbul on the way from Moldova to Ankara.

Barton stated that the group wishes to contact other American FF clubs who have mentored new groups to learn their “best practices” for them to use in Moldova. The Atlanta office did send names and useful information.

Mariana Turcan, the Moldova ED, has conveyed their preference for only one or two formal groups meeting to begin with and the rest of the training occurring in informal groups, arranged on site. Mariana would like the FFCNC to pay their \$131/local fee per ambassador, in cash upon arrival. FFCNC will also pay to FFI \$165/per ambassador for the week in Moldova, and \$165/in Ankara, if they have an exchange. All expenses will be paid except for one or two meals and some incidentals. Additional money will be needed for personal expenses. The cultural program seems to be very rich, including the Moldovan Independence Day celebrations.

Old Business

- The World Friendship Day social, hosted by Anne Finch and Jane Cauthen was very successful. This was held at the Moose Café at the Piedmont Triad Farmer’s Market, on March 22 at 11 AM. This LEO’s theme was “Make a friend, make a difference.” Charlotte Hamlin shared with the group her entertaining stories that were loved by all.
- The next LEO will be the Lake Norman Social on Saturday, May 31. Marilyn Baird will be the host. Arrangements are vague at this time; the Newsletter will have information that is more current and a flyer will be sent by email to the membership. Lundee Amos will orchestrate a program on “Laughter.”
- Report on the Southeast Regional President’s Conference- This event was held April 25 –April 27 on the Jamestown Campus of the Guilford Technical

Community College. Leroy and Barbara gave a report. At the conference Tom Laggy introduced himself as the Southeast Regional Representative and Kathy Thomas, the Chief Operating Officer, program coordinator of Friendship Force International in Atlanta. Kathy Thomas gave a summary of the activities on exchanges and issues of the club from the Atlanta home office. Here is a summary from Leroy and Barbara concerning the conference.

1. The International board meeting was this past March. The Board decided that program fees will remain the same for 2014 and 2015. Club fees will go up next year.
2. Health and mobility concerns of outbound exchange ambassadors were addressed, but some host ED's have concerns that some ambassadors are participating on exchanges that are not appropriate for their capabilities. In March, the Global Expansion Board put in stronger statements about mental and cognitive issues. Kathy is willing to help ED's with explanations of an ambassador who should not to travel on any particular exchange.
3. The 3 year Global Expansion Plan will end this year and a new strategic plan will start. The effort to develop this plan is to collect information thru two surveys. One will be for leaders and the other will be for members. We will be receiving this survey soon in an email, please complete and return ASAP.
4. The new strategic plan will be launched at the 2014 FF International Conference in Auckland, New Zealand in October and new initiatives in 2015.
5. The Open World was well received by the FFI and the FF clubs, this program not only contributes to the fulfillment of FFI's mission, but also provides valuable funds that keep other FF program fees lower.
6. Travel Insurance by Travel Guard will no longer be discounted for the FF clubs. Their new plan is not age-based which generally lowers the cost of the insurance. Peter mentioned that Kathy would put in a good word for FFCNC if need be for any travel problems and is willing to assist with these issues.
7. In 2013 a survey was conducted to all clubs related to membership. Shared statistics were shared and were concluded that 61% of clubs are getting older. Most clubs have 31-70 members. FFCNC is considered a large club with 100 members. Some traditional clubs versus non-traditional clubs seem to be younger who might meet at different times for different occasions. An age range of 50-70 is needed for a club to be sustainable.
8. The hosting fee is negotiable with the in-bound exchanges. Most clubs agreed that the \$100 hosting fee was insufficient to support their in-bound exchanges.
9. 61% of clubs offer some form of reimbursement for outbound exchange directors and 26% offer some kind of compensation for inbound exchange directors. FFCNC's policy is to cover an out-bound ED's travel cost if the group has ten or more ambassadors traveling and our board is currently discussing creation of a policy to provide some level of compensation for in-bound ED's.

10. Various ideas were shared including the FF business cards that can be given to new acquaintances when interest in FF is shown.
 - The 2015 FFI exchanges- It is a Match- the Russian exchange will be held in June of 2015 to Moscow, Russia. Martha Brown will be the ED for this Russian exchange.
The hosting of the Cleveland County, United Kingdom in October of 2015 is still pending. No confirmation from the UK at this time, An ED suggestion is needed inbound exchange.
 - An ED is needed for the Colorado Springs outbound in the spring of 2015. FFCNC members in serving as the ED for this outbound exchange to Pike's Peak should contact Barbara at 643-0985.
 - The Annual Membership meeting will be held on Thursday, October 30 at MSUMC at 6 PM to meet/greet and the program begins at 6:30 PM.
 - An Open World Program will be declined for September 2014

New Business:

- A motion was made and seconded to donate \$100.00 dollars as a memorial for Mr. Bill Doran. Peter will find out where to send and send a check soon. Tim will issue the check on behalf of the Friendship Force membership.
- A discussion followed whether to purchase or rent a LCD Projector to display or project presentations for the membership meetings. Martha suggested we visit B&H Photo for price checks.
- Carol Andresen has revisited the by-laws again. A small committee will be asked to complete this task. Some discussion followed concerning the terms of some officers. The by-laws recommendations were tabled until the July meeting.
- The Scholarship suggestion was to establish a small committee to bring a proposal to the Board for consideration.
- Compensation for inbound ED's was considered as some other clubs have done in the past. A proposal will be submitted by Marvin and Peter to amend the procedures for our in-bound exchanges.
- The possible mystery exchange in 2015 and another look will be taken for this activity.
- Change of Board meeting from July 3 to June 26, and September 4 to the 18 because of the Moldova exchange.

Communication/Newsletter- Martha Brown

The Newsletter will be available by the weekend.

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned. The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, June 26, 2014 at MSUMC at 10:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ophelia Jones, Secretary