

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

Friendship Force of Central North Carolina  
Minutes of Board Meeting, May 17, 2018

Main Street United Methodist Church, Kernersville, NC 10:00 a.m.

**Members Present:** Don Sylvester, Marylin John-Moniquette, Leroy Stokes, Martha Brown, Patti Gilmour-Sylvester

**Welcome and Introductions** - Don Sylvester, Leadership Coordinator  
Don convened the meeting. Don had previously distributed the agenda for the meeting. Don thanked everyone for the work they had done and especially thanked Marylin and Martha.

The March 1st Board Minutes were approved by Leroy and seconded by Marylin. Patti will forward the minutes to Christa Douthit.

There were no minutes for the April Board meeting as we did not have a quorum of Board members for a meeting. The meeting was cancelled.

**Update on Journeys and Open World** - Martha Brown  
2019 Outbound Journey to Vietnam

Martha reported on the possible outbound journey to Vietnam in November, 2019. The club will be hosted by the Vietnam USA Society which will provide 4-5 days of lodging. As this is not a FF club there will not be a home-stay involved.

Martha posed several questions:

- 1) How long should the journey be? Two or three weeks?
- 2) Should the journey include visits to Cambodia and Thailand and in what order? Should Cambodia be considered optional (as it may add about \$1000 to the trip)? There isn't a FF Club in Cambodia. If it is added when should it take place - at the beginning or the end of the trip?
- 3) Should the journey include a homestay in Thailand with a Thai FF club? One of the Thai FF clubs could perhaps offer a homestay in November (possibly at the same time as a special ceremony that takes place there). A second home-stay would help defray the cost of the trip.

Martha may ask the members who have already indicated their interest in going to Vietnam what their preference would be.

Board members felt that the journey should be a minimum of 2 weeks long and possibly three weeks if the members agree to this. Leroy and Don noted that, in their opinion, if the journey was a longer one of 2 to 3 weeks, there should be 2 home stays.

#### Open World - November, 2018

Martha sent an email with updates of all 2018 and 2019 journeys (a copy is included in an attachment with these minutes) to the Board members. Martha reported that FFI informed her that North Carolina had reached its limit for the number of Open World visits in 2018. However, FFI has now approved one additional delegation for our club for 2018. FFI/Open World will soon inform us of which delegations might be available for our club. The desired start date is Nov. 9, 2018.

Martha stated that there should not be a problem getting enough hosts for both the Australian inbound and Open world due to the limited size of both groups of guests.

The Board unanimously approved Ralph and Ray as coordinators for the Open World inbound. They will be encouraged by the Board to form a committee to help them.

#### **Update on Social Events-**(Karla is away) - Don Sylvester

- a) LEO at Taste of Thai - held 4/28  
About 40 members attended. 10 guests attended and 3 have already become members. It is possible that 1 or 2 more will join.
- b) LEO in Kernersville - scheduled for 6/30 - a picnic and visit to the nearby Botanical Gardens.  
Martha recommended that each club member bring a covered dish with extra for the guests.  
Don suggested that this will be a good event to which members can invite guests and we can invite the contacts we made from our UNCG and Shepherd Center efforts.  
Leroy will determine at some point who in the Oregon outbound group will make the presentation at this LEO.
- c) LEO in Winston-Salem possibly at the House of Plants - possibly sometime around 8/25.

There was discussion about whether a 5:00 meeting on a Sunday would work for most members. Karla should be updating us soon about the date, place, and time details of this event.

d) Advertising/Publicity of future events

It was agreed that there will not be any advertising done before the 6/30 meeting due to the number of leads that we already have to call and invite. Marylin suggested that advertising be done only for formal presentation meetings. This was agreed. There was some discussion about the wording to be used in future publicity for meetings/events (in some circumstances to avoid the public showing up unexpectedly). Further discussion was tabled for the time being.

e) Notifying members re: future events

- we should contact members who have not attended LEO's or member gatherings and invite them.
- suggestion that a "Save the Date" be sent out before events. In email subject line put "FFCNC SAVE THE DATE" to get the members' attention.
- Barbara has sent notices of events with pictures that draw attention to the invitation (e.g., for the Taste of Thai LEO). This seems to be very effective and should be continued in the future.
- once a month we should send out notices of future events
- urge all members to attend all events

### **Update on Recruiting Campaign**

a) UNCG International Festival -4/14/18 - Marylin and Don

The majority of attendees were students and therefore less interested in FF. There were 5 people with whom we should follow-up and invite to a future event.

b) Shepherd Center- 5/3/18

There was a successful attendance. There are 25 people to follow-up (14 of whom indicated that they would like to attend a future event).

c) Local University Enquiries

Ophelia has agreed to call various universities (UNCG, Bennett, and Guilford) when school re-convenes in the fall.

d) Local Libraries

Dr. Lea Williams has volunteered to contact the libraries as soon as she is finished with teaching. She will talk to the libraries about displaying our brochures; presentations by the club may not be welcomed by the libraries and therefore not be possible.

e) Newcomer's Group

Don reported that the group no longer distributes written information to new members.

f) NC Global Leadership

Don and Patti attended their annual meeting. They feel that meeting and inviting their individual members will be the more productive strategy for the time being.

g) May Member gatherings (3)

Woody's gathering (5/7/18) -He had a successful event: Martha presented our information and FF brochures/information were distributed.

The remaining two gatherings will be on 5/18 (at Don and Patti's) and 5/25 (at Ralph's).

**Update on Membership - Marilyn John-Moniquette**

- a) New members and other possible members were noted above.
- b) We discussed the necessity of Marilyn having a committee to help her with the many follow-up calls to potential members. She will ask 2 or 3 members to help her. She is to let us know if she needs more help.
- c) A discussion followed about the club paying for guests for meals at our events. The club paid for the guests at the LEO at Taste of Thai. It was agreed upon by the Board members present to continue paying but it was also decided that the membership should be asked at the May member gatherings if they agreed to this (the members at Woody's gathering unanimously agreed). This policy will be brought up for confirmation at the next Board meeting in June.
- d) There was a discussion about the need for a policy (if one does not yet exist) about how much to charge new members when they join in the latter part of the year. This will be followed up at our next board meeting.
- e) There was a discussion about the reimbursing of the expenses incurred by the members hosting the May gatherings and that a budget or maximum had not been set. The reimbursement of expenses had been agreed by the five board members at the second recruitment meeting on March 16 but there was no Board meeting in April to discuss this again. It was decided to reimburse these expenses this time but that in the future a budget and/or ceiling may need to be set.

**Treasurer's Report - Ray is away**

Ray sent a copy of the report to each of the Board members. Leroy

moved to approve it and Martha seconded it.

### **Other Topics**

#### **a) Southeast Regional Meeting 11/7-9/ 2018**

Some issues were tabled until the next Board meeting:

- i) Research into the amount the club would pay for up to two members to attend the regional meeting
  - ii) Don will check with Atlanta regarding the deadline for registration.
  - iii It is unclear who will attend for our club; we may ask members if they would like to attend.
- b) Barbara will be asked to reserve the meeting room at the Main Street United Methodist Church through November.
- c) Don requested that Board members be asked to submit a report if they are going to be absent from a Board meeting (as Ray did with the Treasurer's report).

### **Meeting Adjourned**

Martha made a motion to adjourn, Leroy seconded it and the motion was passed.