

“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, June 21, 2018

Main Street United Methodist Church, Kernersville, NC 10:00am

Members Present: Barbara North, Don Sylvester, Leroy Stokes, Ray Kiszely, Marylin John-Moniquette, Martha Brown, Karla Shanahan, Patti Gilmour.

Welcome and Introductions: Don Sylvester, Leadership Coordinator Don convened the meeting. Don had previously distributed the agenda for the meeting.

The May 17 Board Minutes were approved by Leroy and seconded by Ray. All approved. Patti will forward the minutes to Christa Douthit. It was also agreed that the Treasurer’s Report should be attached to the minutes.

Treasurer’s Report - Ray Kiszely

Ray passed out the report to all Board members (a copy is attached). There is an excess of \$113.00 from the Oregon trip. Leroy said that there were no outstanding obligations, therefore, the excess amount will stay in the club’s account.

Barbara questioned the credits for the ED’s for inbound journeys. Martha will answer that at the next Board meeting.

Leroy moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report and Marylin seconded it. All approved.

Recruiting Campaign Update (the May member gatherings) - Don Sylvester

a) Don gave everyone a handout outlining the numbers of people (including hosts) who had attended the three May gatherings. Out of 58 possible members, 43 people attended, 15 did not. Don also passed out a list of the members who did not attend so we

can be aware who did not hear about the need and efforts to recruit new members and who did not receive copies of the FF brochures.

Don reported that overall the response from members was positive and the attendees commented that the three gatherings were fun and that the club information that was given was helpful. Members who attended the 3 gatherings expressed concern about the loss of members and want to be involved in the on-going recruitment efforts. To that effect most took brochures to give to prospective members.

Don also distributed copies (for future consideration) of the recruiting suggestions that members made at the three gatherings.

- b) In a prior meeting the Board wanted to hear from the members at the May gatherings whether they supported the temporary policy of the club paying for the meals of guests at our events. Don reported that in all three gatherings, the members enthusiastically supported this policy. It was then agreed by the Board to continue this policy indefinitely.
- c) Martha suggested that for future events a contact telephone number of a specific member (who would be the contact person for the event in the case of a problem) be included on the invitation.

Update on Journeys and Open World - Martha Brown

- a) Mid-Willamette, Oregon outbound (June 6-12, 2018)

There were no questions. Leroy read a certificate that was given to him by the Mid-Willamette Valley club stating that a donation in honor of our club was made by their club to the Friendship Force International's 40th Anniversary Campaign Fund. Patti will put the certificate in the archives.

- b) Bundaberg, Australia inbound (Oct, 7 - 14, 2018)

Martha reported that so far the group will be small, about 8 people.

She suggested that 1 person should call members about hosting for both the inbound Australian group and for Open World. Martha raised the questions of the duration of stay in host family's homes, i.e., for the entire stay of 6 or 7 nights with one host family or 1/2 of the stay in each of two host family's homes. (Both ways have been done in the past). Martha suggested that she will talk to recent hosts about their opinions and preferences. Board members should send their own input to Martha by email.

It was noted that there is a desire to know if any of the incoming ambassadors were hosts in our previous outbound journey to Bundaberg. It was suggested that we ask their club to give us that information.

- c) Open World, Belarus (Nov. 9-17, 2018; topic "Marketing")

There will be 7 people (including the interpreter)

- d) San Luis, Brazil inbound 2019

The Brazilian club has asked to come in May. The Board voted to plan on their 2019 inbound journey to be in May.

- e) Oklahoma City inbound 2019

This club has asked to delay its possible inbound here until 2020. The Board agreed to this.

- f) 2019 outbound, Vietnam + possible Thailand, November 2019

Martha reported that there will be the possibility of a 4-5 night home stay and then extra time spent in Vietnam will be in hotels paid for by the club members. She reported that there might be the possibility of a home stay in Thailand near Chang Mai. Further information will be needed.

g) Detroit journey 2019

Martha reported that there has been a recent enquiry from the Detroit club about an inbound here or an outbound there in 2019. Martha suggests that our club go to Detroit, with an inbound here as a back-up alternative.

Karla asked that consideration be given to having a journey in the summer so that teachers could be involved.

h) Role of new members during an inbound journey

Don suggested, and it was agreed, that initially new members would not be asked to host but to be involved only in simpler tasks and activities.

Update on Social Events - Karla Shanahan

- a) Karla reported on the status and the setup for the picnic. So far 30 people have said they will attend.

In addition to the picnic there will be a walk in the Botanical Garden and Karla will check to see if there is enough seating for those who might want it.

Barbara and Patti will bring paper products, cutlery, etc. and drinks and other needed items, as well as name tags. Marylin will have sign up sheets and FF brochures.

The agenda for the picnic was discussed and will be as follows:

- 1) Don will welcome the attendees and will acknowledge guests and new members. Members who invite guests will introduce them.
- 2) A walk in the Botanical Gardens for those interested.
- 3) Picnic meal
- 4) Presentations (while people are eating)
 - Barbara and others will talk about the recent outbound journey to Oregon
 - Ray and Ralph will briefly talk about the Open World group coming in November.

- 5) Don will announce other future events this year.
- b) Event in late August
After discussion it was decided on August 25th at the Muddy Creek Music Hall in Bethania, if the venue is available. Karla will investigate this and report back. It was decided that there will not be any publicity about this event in the newspaper. Don reminded the Board that he and Patti will be out of town during this event and that someone will have to assume whatever his role might have been (which may not be much, given the nature of this event).
- c) October events around the Bundaberg, Australia inbound journey.
Barbara reported that the welcome event will be held Oct. 9 at the Main Street United Methodist Church in Kernersville. The Farewell event will be held on Monday, Oct. 15 at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Winston-Salem.
- d) The Annual Meeting will be held at the church and the date will be determined by the availability of the room. Dates suggested were October 30, September 18 or 25. Barbara and Don will check with the church about available dates.
- e) It was reported that there will be an orientation meeting held for the Open World ambassadors prior to any social events for them. Any social events are still to be decided.
- f) It was agreed that discussion about a possible December or January 2019 event will be postponed.
- g) Barbara was asked to send out "Save the Date" notices by email to all members about upcoming events. Her colorful announcements about events are very effective and she was asked to continue sending them in this way.

Membership Update - Marylin John-Moniquette

- a) Marylin reported that we have 6 new members. She will follow

up with them and ask them to send in the survey that was sent to them. They have filled out the short form. Marylin will also follow up with the new members concerning the upcoming picnic.

Marylin and Valerie Stokes have followed up with those prospective members who have expressed interest in FF when attending events, such as at the Shepherd Center presentation and the UNCG International Festival.

Many of these people were difficult to reach and the response was disappointing. About four people could not attend the upcoming 6/30 LEO but expressed some interest in attending a future event. Marylin's committee will follow up with these prospects before future events.

Appreciation was expressed regarding the work that has been done by Marylin and Val to reach prospective members.

- b) There was a discussion concerning the issue of the membership fees for members who join later in the year. Ray reported that anyone joining in the last quarter of the year will pay the full membership fee and that will cover them for the following year. The Board agreed to continue this policy.

Other Topics

- a) East Coast Regional meeting Nov. 7-9, 2018 in Charleston, SC

Don reported on the deadlines for the conference. It is 8/15 for \$200 registration fee (\$225 thereafter) and 9/1 for the hotel room group rate (if a room is still available).

At this time it is not certain who will attend. We discussed that if no one from our club here can go or wants to go, we may ask either the Rays in Greenville, S.C. (who attended a regional meeting in the past for us and then reported on it to us) or our member Ritha Tuten who lives in Charleston.

Don reported that the total cost per person to attend could be about \$800 (assuming one were to drive there). It was agreed that in the next Board meeting, we will discuss how much the club will contribute towards these expenses.

- b) Don will reserve the meeting rooms at the church through this Fall.

Meeting Adjourned

Marylin made a motion to adjourn, Patti seconded it and the motion was passed.