

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, July 12, 2018

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

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

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

Ray moved to accept the minutes of the June 21st, 2018 Board Meeting and Marylin seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Don asked if the coordinator(s) for Open World become part of the Board and, if they want to, attend Board meetings. The answer is that they are but they attend Board meetings only if they want to. The secretary will send minutes of each meeting to the coordinators, if they want them.

Don asked whether a quorum is needed for meetings to take place. The board agreed that going forward, meetings can take place as long as at least 4 Board members attend the meeting.

Treasurer's Report - Ray Kiszely

Ray passed out the report to all Board members (a copy is attached). He indicated that the balance of \$5700 was uncommitted and there were no unpaid expenses.

This report, and future reports, includes a line item showing the amount held in reserve for future journey credits (earned by inbound journey coordinators).

Don asked for a guideline for when approval is required by the Board for spending by Board members/coordinators, for example, for items needed for events. Ray reported that any payment in excess of \$1000 must be approved by the Board.

Discussion of Upcoming Dates

- The annual meeting will be held on 10/25 at 6:00 p.m. at the Main Street United Methodist Church
- The November Board Meeting will be held on 11/1 (changed from 11/15).
- The possible December/January social will be discussed at the 11/1 Board Meeting.

Update on Journeys and Open world

Open World - report by Ray Kiszely

Ralph Cauthen and Ray Kiszely will coordinate the Open World program. Ralph will be in charge of home hosting, evening hosts, the welcome and farewell parties.

Ray will be in charge of organizing the business meetings.

The hosting duties will be handled by club members in Greensboro and Winston-Salem and the 8 days of hosting will be shared, 4 nights in Greensboro and 4 nights in Winston-Salem.

Martha Brown's Report on Journeys - report emailed by Martha

Martha sent a report on the future arranged journeys (see attached)

At the last board meeting, the question was raised about repeating another Global Arts Journey, such as the National Black Theater Festival. The Board decided that the club would not host this event this year because the club already has many commitments and does not wish to add another. It may be possible to repeat this another year as everyone agrees that it is a wonderful festival in which to take part.

Barbara North's report on the Bundaberg Incoming Journey in October

Status of the Inbound Group

Barbara reported that she does not have information from the Bundaberg club concerning the number of ambassadors that will be coming. FFI has not yet announced the journey on its website (other than a small e-flier announcement). Other clubs involved, such as Charlottesville, VA, have expressed some frustration about the lack of advertising for this journey by FFI.

Barbara noted that deadlines set by FFI are soon and decisions will have

to be made.

Events for the Inbound Journey

Barbara outlined some decisions about events for the incoming group that she and her committee are considering, with some yet to be decided.

The Welcome event may be a brunch on Oct.10th, possibly at the Kernersville Community Center (the UMC is not available). The cost for the Community Center is \$20/hour and seems to be a good option.

The Farewell party may be held at the UU Church in Winston-Salem on the 15th. There is no charge for this locale.

The following is a tentative outline of possible events for the week:

On Wednesday, after the brunch, there will be a visit to Reynolda House.

On Thursday, there could be a visit to Seagrove, the Zoo, or the mountains. Still to be decided.

Friday, or another day, will include a visit to Old Salem.

On Saturday morning, there will be a lecture on the Quakers and the Underground Railroad.

Sunday will be a free day with hosts.

Monday morning will be a visit to the International Civil Rights Museum.

The afternoon will be free as will Tuesday until the Farewell Party in the evening.

The group departs on Wednesday.

Barbara described an event of interest, the Land Jam Concert, to be held at the Carolina Theater in Greensboro on Friday, Oct. 12. It is a fund raiser for the Piedmont Land Conservancy and a well known musical group, The Steep Canyon Rangers, will be featured.

It was necessary to reserve tickets and so Barbara has reserved 25 tickets at \$27.50 + tax (not yet paid for but payment is due in August).

The Board agreed that this would be a good event for the Bundaberg group.

Patti announced that she is in touch with a speaker who may be willing to do a presentation on the Piedmont Land Conservancy. She is waiting for his response to her request.

Hosting

A question was raised about splitting up the hosting duties for this inbound journey, i.e. 1/2 week in Greensboro and 1/2 week in Winston-Salem. It was agreed that this would not be done. There will be hosts in each city but the ambassadors will stay with their own host(s) for the entire period.

Transportation from Charlottesville to Greensboro

There was a brief discussion about how the Greensboro club could assist the transport of the Bundaberg group from Charlottesville if they do not choose to fly. Suggestions included hiring a van or having members drive to a half-way point to meet the other club. No decisions were made.

Atlanta's Recent Email on Updates about Future Matching Procedures

The following key scheduling dates (all applying to 2020 journeys) are as follows:

Mid-July 2018: 2020 inbound hosting availability form sent to club presidents.

August 15, 2018: Deadline to submit the inbound Hosting Availability Form to FFI.

September 1, 2016: 2020 Outbound Destination Request Form sent to club presidents

November 1, 2018: Deadline to submit the Outbound Destination Request Form to FFI

Mid-February, 2018: Journey Assignment emails sent to club presidents.

Regarding FFI's alternative types of journeys that each club can offer in the future, the Board made the following decisions for now:

- That we continue to list international clubs only on our outbound request form and that we make our own arrangements for domestic journeys.
- We agreed not to offer Short Stay Programs.
- We agreed not to offer Easy Activity Level Programs
- We agreed not to offer Themed Global Journeys
- Regarding our club's preferred international destinations for 2020, we agreed to survey the membership again in order to identify our top 3 destinations.

Once Don receives the various required forms from FFI, he will forward them to Martha. There was some discussion around what specific information would be put on the forms. Barbara indicated that the basics would be filled out similar to what has been done in the past (for example, one international outbound, one international inbound, for 5 - 7 days, etc.).

Council Members for 2019

We discussed who was willing to remain on the Council in 2019.

Those agreeing to stay on were: Ray, Barbara, and Karla.

Those declining were: Marylin

Those undecided were: Don, Patti, Martha (as she was not present at this meeting)

It was agreed that the undecided parties must decide by the next Board meeting on August 9, 2018.

Potential members for a nominating committee will be identified at the next Board meeting in August.

There followed a related discussion about the need to have more member involvement in the work of the club. One suggestion was to try to encourage some members to become "at large" members of the Board. No resolution was reached but it was agreed that further discussion in the future is needed on this subject.

Update on Social Events - Karla Shanahan

- the 6/30 LEO picnic in Kernersville was a success with around 20 people attending.
- originally 8/25 was set for the next LEO at Muddy Creek Music Hall in Bethania but it has been cancelled and another date (9/16) and another venue (House of Plants) was selected. The event will begin at 5:00 p.m. and Karla will look into the cost of catering. Karla will email us the details of the catering and each Board member should respond to her as to whether they think that the catering is a good idea for that event. There will be a one-time registration fee for the event (\$50 total for the club). The House of Plants will demonstrate how to create a planter.
- Marylin will follow up and invite the people from our past recruiting efforts who have expressed interest in the club.

Membership Update - Marilyn John-Moniquette

Marilyn reported that we have 4 or 5 new members. The total number of members is now at 70.

The Board agreed that the club should pay for name tags for new members. Don made a motion for the club to buy name tags for members who joined from January, 2018 and later. Ray seconded the motion. Motion passed.

It was suggested that the Bundaberg inbound journey may be a good opportunity to begin to involve new members in the simpler tasks related to the journey (such as the Welcome party or day hosting, etc.).

Barbara asked Marilyn to try to get a bio for each new member so that it can be included in the newsletter.

Marilyn noted that there is a problem with our CNCFF website in that the link to the Membership Coordinator does not work correctly. Barbara will check with Christa Douthit about this in order to have it corrected.

Other

East Regional meeting November 7-9 in Charleston, SC

Ray reported that in the past the Board had approved paying up to \$400 towards the expenses for a club member to attend the meeting. Ray stated that the Board, at its own discretion, can pay more, if needed. Don reported that he estimated that the total cost to attend would probably be at least \$800.

So far, no one from the Board has indicated an ability to attend. Don will check with the only club member who currently lives in Charleston and ask her if she is able to attend to represent our club.

Reservation of meeting rooms at the UMC

At the end of this board meeting, Don will see Betsy Tang at the church about reserving a room for our annual meeting and monthly Board meetings through November, 2018.

Meeting Adjourned

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

