

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, September 13, 2018

Main Street United Methodist Church, Kernersville, NC

Members Present: Marylin Moniquette-John, Barbara North, Ray Kiszely, Martha Brown, Don Sylvester, Patti Gilmour

Consent Agenda Items: Minutes of August 9, 2018 were approved by Marylin and seconded by Martha

Treasurer's Report: Ray passed out the Treasurer's Report
The report was approved by Don and seconded by Martha

Barbara still needs to follow-up with Crista as to whether the Treasurer's Report, or other documents, once uploaded to Go Daddy could then be printed or copied.

Certificate

Patti reported the receipt of a certificate received from FFI that recognizes Friendship Force of Central North Carolina for 35 Years of Friendship. It will be kept in the archives.

Leadership Council Members for 2019 - Don Sylvester

- Nominating Committee
Judy Green, Tim Prout, and Laura Lennon are the nominating committee. The committee has not delivered a report yet but when they have completed their task, they will report. The deadline is October 1st.

Don will contact Judy to ask about the committee's progress.

- Annual Meeting
The Board had decided that the purpose of the meeting this year will largely be to encourage and to engage the membership in becoming more involved in the large and small tasks of the club.

Therefore, there will not be a speaker or presentation and guests will not be invited.

There was considerable discussion and various suggestions were made about how to present this need to the club members and how to make the meeting sociable and enjoyable while encouraging the membership to be involved.

Examples of suggestions made were:

- to remind each member of his/her gifts of knowledge and experience and to encourage them to put them into practice by volunteering to help.
- to form small sub-committees for various tasks and to support the Council members
- to assign members (as well as new members) to sub-committees or ask members to choose committees they would like to work on
- to consider having a fun exercise at the annual meeting to help members choose tasks they would be willing to do.

Martha described a type of large jig-saw puzzle game that could be completed by members by putting their jig-saw piece, representing their volunteer task, on the puzzle.

- to have members who have introduced new members to the club to personally invite the new members to the annual meeting.
- to personally invite new members from 2017 to attend the annual meeting.

An additional question that should be addressed at the meeting is how to best reach the members by phone or email. Often messages left on voice mail or email are not responded to.

It was decided that a committee should be formed to plan the program for this annual meeting. Don and Patti will chair the committee and will ask two to four members to become a part of this working committee. This committee should be formed as soon as possible and a proposed program be given to the Board at the next Board meeting on October 4.

Updates of Journeys and Open World - Martha Brown and Ray Kiszely

Journeys, 2018

Bundaberg, Australia Incoming Journey in October - Barbara North

Barbara's committee consists of Charlotte Hamlin, Sandy Bundgaard, and Lucy Kaplan.

Barbara reported that there will be 9 ambassadors from Bundaberg. Night hosts and day hosts for these ambassadors have been arranged.

As yet, it is not certain if the ambassadors from Uganda will be coming. Two ambassadors, instead of three, hope to come but are waiting for visas and should know by Friday if their visas are being issued.

Barbara has not heard from the Virginia club re the transfer of the ambassadors from Charlottesville to Greensboro.

Judy and Barbara have put together a welcome pamphlet for the ambassadors.

An orientation meeting for the night hosts will be held at Barbara's on Sept. 25.

Invitations for the Welcome and Farewell events have been sent out to all club members. Members have been encouraged to bring guests and the cost of meals for the guests will be covered by the club.

The Welcome party will be held at the Kernersville Community House on October 10th.

The program planning is still in progress. Barbara will be the MC. Don will do an introduction. The Bundaberg ambassadors will introduce themselves. Charlotte will do a story-telling.

The Farewell party is also open to the club members and guests. It will be held on October 15 at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Winston-Salem. Program to be decided.

Open World/Belarus Incoming Group in November, 2018 - Ray Kiszely

Ray reported that more night hosts are needed, as well as drivers to take the participants to their meetings in Greensboro and

Winston-Salem. Ray will follow-up to find hosts and drivers. Work is being done to finalize the details pertaining to the welcome, orientation for delegates, farewell, and weekday lunches, etc. A proposed budget is being developed. It is not yet determined if there will be a separate “Welcome” party to which members can attend. Members and guests will be able to attend the “Farewell” party.

Journeys, 2019

- Sao Luis, Brazil International Inbound - May, 2019 (dates TBD)
Charles John will be the Host Coordinator. At this time there are twelve interested ambassadors, however there are concerns that the Brazil club might either cancel or reduce their numbers due to concern about the exchange rate. Charles will select a deadline date for them to commit or cancel.

- Vietnam & Thailand International Outbound - Nov., 2019 (dates TBD)
Martha reported that our club now has contact names and emails for both host coordinators. However, Martha has not heard from either one and FFI will follow-up. Martha wants to discuss dates, hoping for a three week trip so that the group can be home before Thanksgiving on November 28.
So far we have 17 people interested from our club and 3 from the Kalamazoo club.

- Detroit Domestic Inbound or Outbound Journey - 2019
Martha has been in contact with the Detroit club about possible dates for either an inbound or outbound journey in 2019. If an inbound journey to our club is chosen, the Board has suggested August or late March. Other dates suggested by Detroit will conflict with an international inbound from Sao Luis in May 2019. For an outbound journey to Detroit, the Board suggests late June so that the timing does not conflict with the Brazil Inbound in May.

Journeys, 2020

- Oklahoma City Domestic Inbound, 2020
Both clubs have now agreed to move this journey to 2020

- Surveying members about outbound International destinations for 2020 - Martha Brown
Martha has sent an email to members with a comprehensive list of possible international destinations in 2020. She has asked members to select destinations that interest them and to return this list to her by Sept. 20.

Update on Social Events - Karla Shanahan

- Due to the hurricane, the LEO that was to be held on Sept.16th at the House of Plants has been cancelled. Karla has contacted the participants and is returning their checks.
There will not be another LEO event this year but the LEO at the House of Plants may be rescheduled in 2019. Karla will follow-up, contact House of Plants, and plan a date.

Membership Update - Marylin Moniquette-John

- Marylin reported that 2 new additional members have joined. Including these two new members, there is a total of 12 new members this year.
Marylin will send out a new membership list to club members.
Marylin has received new tags for the new members and will order additional tags when requested.
Marylin will get bios for the two new members and will send them to Barbara so that she can include them in the newsletter.
- The Board has decided to start having orientations for all new members and the next one is planned to be held in January. In the future, orientations for new members will be done either on a one-on-one basis or in small groups, depending on the numbers. An additional suggestion was to assign a member “mentor” to each new member for their first year of membership.
- It was reported that the FFCNC website is now working well.

Other

- Don reported that Ralph has been in contact with a senior group called Let's Go Seniors at First Baptist Church. He has offered to coordinate the giving of a presentation on Friendship Force at one of their meetings. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 22, 2019. The Board was in agreement and Don will contact Ralph to confirm.
- Don asked Marylin to contact Ophelia about contacting the universities about their interest in Friendship Force.
- Don will contact FFI to report that our club will not attend the Eastern Regional meeting this year in October in Charleston.

Meeting Adjourned

Don moved to adjourn the meeting, Martha seconded it. Meeting adjourned.