

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, January 16, 2019**

Main Street United Methodist Church, Kernersville, NC

Members Present: Don Sylvester, Ray Kiszely, Karla Shanahan, Barbara North, Mary Davis, Patti Gilmour, Charles John (Journey Coordinator for Brazil Incoming), Woody Clinard (Member-at-Large)

Consent Agenda:

Minutes of December 13, 2018 were approved by Barbara North and seconded by Mary Davis.

In future meetings, the Treasurer's Report will be added to the Consent Agenda for approval. Prior to each Board meeting, Ray will send the report to each Board member. If there are questions they will be dealt with at the next meeting. If not, the report will be approved without discussion.

If there is a journey coordinator's report and discussion is not required, it will also be added to the consent agenda for approval.

Unfilled Journeys Chair:

-Don reported that a sub-committee (Barbara, Ray, Don and Woody) met to further discuss the unfilled Council Journey's chair position. The committee recommended that the position be divided into: a) Incoming (domestic and international) and b) Outgoing (domestic and international). The committee recommended that Barbara and Patti co-chair the Incoming and Ray and Don co-chair the Outgoing responsibilities. The Board approved.

Journeys:

-Charles John reported on the incoming journey from Brazil in May. 11 or 12 ambassadors will be coming. He is receiving help and input from other FF members.
-At the Annual Meeting, Ray volunteered to be the Journey Coordinator for the outgoing international journey to Vietnam/Cambodia/Thailand. Judy Greene may be a co-coordinator. Ray will check with Judy about this.

-The incoming domestic journey by Detroit is still unconfirmed (as per email from Martha).

Membership:

-Mary Davis reported that membership this year is 63 (down from 73). Ray Kiszely confirmed that 63 members have paid their dues.

-Mary requested approval for a few small changes she wants to make to the registration form. The Board approved.

-Confidentiality Issues regarding email

A question was raised about the confidentiality of members' email addresses being listed on the membership list that is distributed to all members. Barbara will check the Minutes regarding a decision that was made about this by a previous Board and will report back to the Council members. She will also send out an email message to all members asking them to reply if they DO NOT want their email listed on the membership list.

-Orientation of New Members

Marylin Moniquette-John and her committee are organizing an orientation for new members. It will be held on January 26 and will be hosted at Val and Leroy's house.

It was decided that guests interested in joining the club are welcome to attend the orientation; Marylin should be notified if any guests will be attending.

It was decided that having an experienced member mentor or partner with each new member would be desirable.

-Presentations

Ralph Cauthen is managing a presentation to the organization, Let's Go Seniors, on January 22. Ray has volunteered to speak to the group.

Ralph will also later be giving a presentation about Friendship Force to his church.

Social Update:

-Karla reported that the Chocolate party will be held at Lucy Kaplan's house on Saturday, January 19. Seventeen people have confirmed that they will attend.

-Karla requested approval from the Board to have an event at Korner's Folly in Kernersville on March 30th. She will also try to organize a lunch afterwards at a local restaurant. The Board approved.

-The May social activities will focus on the incoming journey from Brazil and the welcome and farewell events; in June there may be a social event at which a presentation about the Brazilian visit may be made.

-Karla reported that she will reschedule the House of Plants event sometime during the year. It was cancelled last year due to weather.

-The Board approved having a social event of some sort at least every other month. Other ideas for future events were suggested and Karla, her subcommittee and (in at least one case) Ray will research some of these suggestions. It was also decided that guests will be invited whenever possible.

Other:

-January to April Board meeting locations were confirmed; there were some suggestions that the days and time of day may need to be reexamined at the next meeting on 2/13. The present schedule is:

Wednesday, February 13 (2:30-4:30) at MSUMC, Kernersville

Wednesday, March 13 (2:30-4:30) at the Piedmont Triad Regional Council, Kernersville

Wednesday, April 10 (2:30-4:30) at the Piedmont Triad Regional Council, Kernersville

-Board meetings for May-November will be scheduled at the next meeting. At that time each member will also list the time periods when they expect to be out of town this year.

-Agenda for future meetings

Don requested that, if Board members have items/issues that they wish to have discussed at the next Board meeting, they should send him an email a week before Board meetings so they can be included in the agenda.

Information that only needs to be reported and does not need to be discussed, decided on or approved should be emailed to Board members in advance. They will then be discussed only if there are questions about the distributed information.

-Subcommittees/council responsibilities/2019 focus

Don encouraged all Council chairs to consider their subcommittees and whether they could add some newer members and/or other members who

have been less involved in the past.

He also asked Council members to review the distributed list of chair responsibilities and report at the next Board meeting any modifications that they recommend.

He also suggested that we discuss at an upcoming meeting what our focus for 2019 should be (e.g., involving the membership more and continuation of recruiting).

-Financial Audit

Ray will communicate Tim Prout about Tim's financial audit, which has to be completed by March 1.

-International Conference in Colorado in July

Ralph Cauthen's interest in attending this conference and his request for a financial contribution to their attendance cost were discussed; it was agreed to wait to hear if other members express an interest in attending. We will also check prior Board minutes regarding what had previously been agreed about such financial support.

Meeting Adjourned:

Barbara moved to adjourn the meeting. Don seconded it.
Meeting adjourned.