

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, March 14, 2019

Piedmont Triad Regional Council, Kernersville, NC

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

Minutes of February 13, 2019 were approved by Ray Kiszely and seconded by Mary Davis.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Ray Kiszely presented his Treasurer's Report. It was approved by Mary Davis and seconded by Barbara North.

Ray informed the Board that he has transferred all cash to the Wells Fargo checking account. He also reported that Tim Prout, who had audited the books for FFCNC, had recommended that some of the money in the Wells Fargo account be returned to the Winston Salem Foundation account. The Foundation is an investment account whose value fluctuates with the market. Ray says that money can be withdrawn from the Foundation as needed but that there is a time delay of about two weeks.

Charles John recommended that we keep up to \$4000 in the Wells Fargo account for expenses that come up (for example, incoming journey expenses) and put the rest in the Foundation account.

Barbara North suggested that we consider using some of the Wells Fargo funds to reimburse hosts (during incoming journeys) for some of their expenses, such as their attendance at the Welcome and Farewell events and/or entry fees to some of the sights to which we take visiting ambassadors. This idea was supported by the Board; it was decided that Charles John would make a proposal as to how much financial support would be given to the members who host the next incoming group from Brazil.

Decisions about the above suggestions were tabled for a later Board meeting, after Charles has presented his proposal.

JOURNEYS UPDATES:

2019

- INBOUND INTERNATIONAL JOURNEY FROM BRAZIL - Charles John
- Charles reported that he is receiving help from Judy Greene, Ray Kiszely, Peter Peiffer, Tim Prout, Donna Lambeth, and Patti Gilmour.

- Charles recently distributed to all club members a draft agenda and a request for volunteers. The Board supported his intention in his search for volunteers to start by contacting new members from 2018 and 2019 (using a new membership list, which indicates new members, that Mary Davis will be distributing) and then to use the membership volunteering lists that were developed last year.
- Charles and Judy visited Mt. Airy, a town to which they intend to take the Brazilian guests, and as a result they made some changes to their agenda plans.
- Charles has been in contact with the Brazilian journey coordinator who had questions for our club. Charles responded as follows: a) the amount that each of the ambassadors will be paying toward the local itinerary expenses (\$136.00); b) that they should bring U.S. dollars; c) he has sent a draft of the itinerary to them. In response to their question about a club gift, the Board suggested that, if they wish to make a gift, they make a donation to a local charity here (we can help them choose a charity).
- Charles asked for input from the the Board about the number of nights of small group dinners; the Board suggested one night rather than two.
- Charles is in touch with two Portuguese translators and is organizing this for the daily outings where translation will be important. There may be a need for more translators.
- Charles reported that Patti Gilmour will contact the membership to find additional day and night hosts.

- **OUTBOUND JOURNEY TO VIETNAM/THAILAND - Ray Kiszely**
- Ray reported that he contacted interested travelers by email asking for someone to volunteer to be the journey coordinator for this trip (as he is no longer able to take on this position). As of this date, he has not had any response. After considerable discussion by the Board, it was decided to cancel the trip. Barbara will communicate this to the club by email.

- **DOMESTIC OUTBOUND JOURNEY - Don Sylvester**
- The Board discussed this as a possibility for the summer or the fall (now that the club will not have an international outbound journey this fall). Don Sylvester reported that there had been a request to FFI from the Baton Rouge club about an inbound there. Don will contact the Baton Rouge club about this. He will also try to put our club on a list at FFI for domestic outbound journeys. If any of our club members have contacts with other clubs that may be interested, please let Don know. It will be necessary if a match is made to find a journey coordinator.

2020

- **Outbound International Journey to Lethbridge, Canada.** Don reported that FFI matched us with Lethbridge, in Alberta, Canada for July 2020. Don will contact FFI to find out more about the possible timing for the Lethbridge club. It will again be necessary to find a journey coordinator.
- **Inbound International Journey.** Don reported that FFI indicated that there isn't an inbound match yet for our club.

- Domestic Inbound Journey from Oklahoma City. Barbara North and or Patti Gilmour will continue to follow up with the Oklahoma club about this possible inbound journey. The Board felt that either spring or fall could work depending on when, and if, the outbound international takes place.
- Open World. The Board has decided to put participation in Open World for both 2019 and 2020 on hold until other trip decisions are made.

SOCIAL PROGRAM UPDATE

- LEO. Karla has organized a LEO for March 30 at Korner's Folly, Kernersville. Lunch to follow. Guests will be encouraged. It was agreed that for guests both the tour and lunch expenses will be paid by the club. Mary Davis will try to follow up and invite any prospective members whose contact information was passed on to her from last year. She will bring to the event sign-up sheets and brochures for any guests. It was agreed that we would not advertise for this particular event.
- Karla had asked the Board if another LEO should be planned for April. The Board decided that it would not be necessary given that there will be a welcome and farewell party in May and that the membership will be invited to both.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

- Mary Davis has updated the membership list and will send it to the Board members and to the membership. She asked if a decision had been made about including email addresses. Barbara stated that she had sent out an email asking members to inform her if they did not want their email address included on the membership list. She did not receive any responses so the Board has decided that email addresses will be included on the membership list and it will be distributed to all members.
- Mary will put an asterisk by the names of new members for 2018 and 2019.
- Mary has ordered name tag badges from FFI for three new members.
- Mary has reported the names of the new members to the FFI site.

COMMUNICATIONS

- As indicated above, Barbara did not receive any responses from the membership about including email addresses on the membership list.
- Due to time constraints, the "Go Daddy" issue on the FFCNC website was tabled.

OTHER

- FFI International Meeting in July: Ralph and Jane Cauthen will attend and the club has sent them \$400 to help reimburse part of their expenses.
- Tim Prout audited the books and the Board recommended that he receive a \$50.00 gift card for the work done. Ray will send him the gift.
- Future Meeting Locations: This was the first meeting for the Board at the Piedmont Triad Regional Council in Kernersville. Ray reported that he reserved a room at this

location for our April meeting and he will speak with them about rooms for our May-November meeting dates.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Mary made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Charles seconded the motion.