

FFCNC Annual Meeting, October 30, 2014

On Halloween Eve, Thursday, October 30, 2014, members of FFCNC and their guests gathered at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall of Main Street United Methodist Church, Kernersville, NC for their annual meeting. The tables were decorated by Karla Shanahan and Valerie Stokes in a fall theme with orange plastic tablecloths and potted pansies surrounded by fall leaves at the base. The evening began with a time of fellowship and punch and appetizers. After an introduction of visitors and new members and an invocation given by Jane Cauthen, those in attendance enjoyed a delicious potluck feast. A slide show of Ungheni in Moldova, which was presented by the mayor of the town to the FFCNC Moldova ambassadors, was shown during this time.

The business portion of the meeting began with a summary discussion of the proposed changes to the bylaws led by Carol Andresen. There were 7 major changes presented: (1) Article II – to change the word “pecuniary” to “financial” for clarity; (2) Article IV, Section 1 – to designate “at-large members” of the board and to make their terms consistent with the elected officers; (3) Article V – to eliminate the office of President-elect: to expand the role of Vice-President to succeed the President: and to add or change responsibilities of the officers to reflect current practice; (4) Article VI, Section 1 – to indicate officers shall be elected for a term of two years for consistency with the term of office of the President; (5) Article VII, Section 2 – to eliminate the requirement for a specific number of committee members and to reflect the current practice of reporting at board meetings; (6) Article VIII, Section 1 – to replace the President-elect with the Vice-President as a result of eliminating the office of President-elect; and (7) Article VIII, Section 4 – to clarify the definition of a quorum. The proposed changes were unanimously accepted by the members in attendance.

Club presidents and leaders recently received a letter from Jack Mullen, Chair of the FFI Board of Directors, reviewing the state of FFI and asking clubs to provide feedback on three major questions by November 14th. Peter Peiffer led the club discussion on (1) a Fill-the-Seat Policy which would require exchanges that remain under-filled 100 days before departure to be posted on the FFI catalogue; (2) creating e-memberships and an online community for people not located near a club or clusters of people interested in FFI but unable to launch a club due to their

small number; and (3) equalizing the domestic and European inter-club exchange fees to \$10 a night. Club responses will be summarized and submitted to FFI as requested.

Before the new slate of officers for 2015 was presented, the President recognized the volunteer efforts of those members who served the last two years as current officers, members of the board, committee chairs, and committee members. Martha Brown, current Communications Chair, is stepping down from her current role after more than 8 years of working on the newsletter, the website, and email communications. In honor of Martha's service to FFCNC, the President announced the club will donate \$100 to the FFI Legacy Fund. Ophelia Jones, current Secretary and Tim Prout, current Treasurer, were presented as the slate of officers for 2015/16 and were unanimously elected. The current Vice-President, Leroy Stokes, will automatically succeed to the Presidency for the next two years. No new Vice-Presidential candidate was announced. Judy Greene has agreed to continue as Membership Chair and Dian Nussbaum has agreed to be our new Activities Chair.

Moldova Mentoring Exchange – Jane and Ralph Cauthen, Jim and Barbara North, Nancy and Peter Peiffer, and Doris and Ray Kiszely.

Ray Kiszely gave a brief report on the inbound exchange from the UK scheduled for October 2015. Martha Brown, ED for the Russia outbound exchange, provided a detailed summary of the exchange and the tour of the "Golden Ring" and St. Petersburg which is scheduled for next June. Initial deposits and applications for Russia for club members are due by January 3, 2015.

Members were reminded membership renewal notices would be sent out the first week in November.

Ann Finch, Chair of the Annual Meeting Committee, and her committee members (Karla Shanahan, Valerie Stokes, Molly North, Bonnie Cook, Carol Cochrane, and Sandy Bundgaard) were recognized for all their organization and work on setting up the annual meeting.

The President announced exchange requests to Costa Rica, Chile, China, and the Republic of Georgia have been submitted for 2016.

The battery in the microphone died thus signaling the meeting was adjourned.