

“The mission of Friendship Force is to promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people”

Minutes of Friendship Force of Central North Carolina

www.ffcnc.org

March 6, 2014

Present: Barbara North, Ralph Cauthen, Karla Shanahan, Nancy Russell, Peter Peiffer, Hal Guess, Marvin Scherl, Leroy Stokes, Martha Brown, Tim Prout, and Ophelia Jones.

The Board of Directors of FFCNC met for their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, March 6, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. at the Main Street United Methodist Church in Kernersville, NC. The president, Barbara North, opened the meeting with a welcome.

The minutes of the last board meeting on January 9, 2013 were approved with corrections.

Treasurer’s Report: The treasurer distributed the report to the board. As of February 28, 2014, there is a checking account balance of \$2,749.05, a savings account balance of 0.00 dollars. The Winston Salem Foundation Market Value investment account as of 2/28/14 was \$19,659.48, with total club assets of \$22,408.53.

Report of Audit of Books from Buddy Leasure and recommendations-

1. Annual audits needed not wait four years.
2. Establish a budget that addresses expenditures of dues and expenditures for exchanges. (This would be a better way of knowing where money is going.)
3. Adopt a voucher system- Receipt given for reimbursement of funds. Form to be available on the website.
4. Some records need to be kept for the duration of the club existence (club minutes), some a shorter period of time. Old financial records (how long would we keep papers?) Martha will inquire from Dale Brown. (3/6/14 answer was at least 5 years)

It was also addressed to bring to the board a more detailed report on transactions that occur between board meetings, such as the conferences, exchanges, Open World or other FFCNC activities.

Treasurer will check on the Certificate of Authority form from the bank so that it can be update. Board members affected will be notified.

Membership Report: Judy and Marta emailed and distributed needed reports that the FFCNC as of 3/1/14 has 58 paid memberships to date: 32 Family and 27 Single. This includes 7 new paid memberships since last report (2 Family; 5 Singles) and 1 Family complimentary membership. One comp membership has paid, so the membership is extended into the 2nd year; one comp offer was declined due to expected relocation. Including comps and legacy members, the total number of people is 99.

Judy and Marta made phone calls to the 14 members who have not renewed. One renewal was received. Two 2 maybes, 3 will not renew; messages were not returned from the others. Phone calling was also solicited from the Board, of the **Non-Renewals to date**, please reach out, and invite them back into FFCNC. The committee also distributed **The New Member Mentoring: Progress Report** sent to the board by email. Their first suggestion is in the works and will be a trial run.

1. Provide a New member orientation (**Tentative date for our First New Member Orientation is Saturday, March 29 at 4 pm.**) Committee has asked Board to approve expenditure for wine and cheese. Board approved expenditure not to exceed \$50.00 for the wine and cheese. Orientation will consist of getting acquainted, viewing the FFI DVD, an overview of some of the terminology and exchange experiences and Q and A session. All Board members are invited to participate.
2. Make welcome calls
3. Assign a mentor to each new member
4. Get new members involved in an event or small task quickly
5. Promote greater connections and friendships within FFCNC
6. Additional ideas for a marketing/recruiting committee:

Judy reminded the Board to send new members names and applications to the Membership Chair first, so that it can be addressed to the FFCNC Board. The board also suggested that a new member would be one who has not participated in any activities of FFCNC.

2014 Open World Kosovo- Final Report- Ralph and Ray had sent a final report on the Open World Kosovo exchange to the board. The report included the Host narrative report dated February 6, 2014 .This January 10th to January 18 visit was sponsored by the Open World Leadership Center. Ray Kiszely completed all the reports due to FFI and Open World. \$500 of the funds received was returned to FFI and Open World. The exchange was completed within budget. Ralph commented on what went well- more people were involved, they came in under budget, the project was a sizable undertaking but they gained good experience. The Open World Program is looking for an exchange with the Serbian and the Moldavian groups to get together.

2014 Outbound exchange to Moldova (September) Barton Parks, ED

Barbara gave the summary report on behalf of Barton, who was absent. The seven night home stay will take place August 27- September 3 in Moldova. Ambassadors will leave on August 26 to arrive on August 27. August 27 is Moldovan Independence Day with lots of celebrations. A bio is requested from the Moldovan exchange director, this is needed for our ambassadors to be able to travel to Moldova. More planning from the ED's will need to take place before departure. The second week home stay in Ankara, Turkey will be considered, an ED for the Turkey excursion will be needed. There are 14 ambassadors signed up and room for approximately four more ambassadors to join this exchange. If you would like to know more contact Barton Parks.

Old Business

- Membership Interest Surveys- It was suggested that the survey needs to be put on excel or some other program so that information can be easily organized and retrieved.
- World Friendship Day Social- Our LEO March 22, at 11 am for a brunch held at Moose Café at the Piedmont Triad farmer's Market; Sandy Ridge Rd., in Colfax for our next LEO. Charlotte Hamlin will entertain and share her storytelling skills. Bring a friend for brunch.
- The LEO for May will be held at Marilyn Baird's home on Lake Norman. Karla will check on the date of Saturday the May 31 and make sure the date is set. Karla will try to secure a speaker for that day, one who has visited other Baltic countries. If she is not available for the Lake Norman excursion, she will speaker at another occasion.

- Barbara received correspondence from a Eileen Howell a Canadian who is working on a proposal for an exchange of French speaking travelers from other French speaking countries to visit the US working through the Canadian Government. Eileen would like to bring this program through the cooperation of the Canada Commission of Official Languages. This probably will not be an opportunity for our 2014 program.

New Business:

- A select committee is working on the President's Southeast Regional Conference to be held in the Triad on April 25th thru the 27th. 16 Delegates are expected and FFCNC will need home hosts for their stay. An agenda is planned with welcome and farewell dinners. Activities and other arrangements have been taken care of by the committee. Board members are invited to attend the dinners. The committee would include, Pattie Gilmore-Sylvester, Nancy Russell, Barbara North, Leroy Stokes, Dottie Blanchard, Ruth Jackson, and Martha Rhodes.
- The Scholarship suggestion was again entertained to the use of some of the Winston-Salem Foundation money in recruitment of new members. It was suggested that a select small group to coordinate and decide, make a proposal for the use of the monies.
- The 2015 FFI Exchange proposals are as follows: Inbound from Cleveland, UK in October, and an outbound in June to Moscow, Russia. The ambassadors will expect to pay \$100 or more for fees. The club has until April 15, 2014, to decide. Martha Brown has volunteered to be the ED for this Russian excursion.
- Domestic outbound to the Colorado Pike's Peak club in 2015 has not as yet proposed a month for visitation. An ED will be needed for this exchange. Some suggestions to visit would be the spring maybe March or April 2015.
- Compensation for Inbound ED's –travel and expenses are not being paid in FFCNC. Some clubs give money, some use as a \$200-\$500 credit for other outbound exchanges with some expiration date of its use. More information will be gathered from other clubs.
- The Annual membership meeting will be Thursday, October 16 or 30th. Lundee Amos will coordinate the program.

Communication/Newsletter-Martha and Nancy stated that the Newsletter will be available by Monday March 10, 2014. The Newsletter will have updates on Moldova, an interest survey, World Friendship Day information, and updates on the 2015 exchanges approved.

Other Topics for Discussion- Social Media was not discussed at this time.

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned. The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2014 at MSUMC at 10:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ophelia Jones, Secretary