

Friendship Force Knoxville

Board Meeting

September 8, 2020

Present via ZOOM: President, Kaye Bultemeier, Jayne Raparelli, Bruce Robinson, Janis Robinson, Ray Simko, Sandy Kehne, Diana Lopez, Jonathon Hash, Leslie Badaines, Barbara Elder, and FFK member Betsy Tonkin.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the August 4, 2020 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer, Bruce Robinson, reported that there were no expenses nor revenues in the month of August, and thus FFK's account balances have not changed. Further discussion of the dues for 2021 was deferred until the October 2020, Board meeting.

Vice President's Report: Jayne Raparelli presented a revised FFK 2021 membership renewal/application, member interest survey.

She made the following editing changes:

- *Reduced font to decrease total number of pages
- *Added heading Member Interest Survey, and deleted How To Get Involved.
- *#8 –Changed Journey Coordinator to Ambassador Coordinator.

Jayne thanked the following FFK members who assisted with the 2021 membership renewal/application and member interest survey: Bruce Robinson, Betsy Tonkin, Kaye Bultemeier, Barbara Elder, and Mike McDonough.

Journey Co-Coordination: Diana reported that they have received the form for the inbound journeys in 2022 and completed it requesting one inbound international and one inbound domestic (Des Moines). She reviewed the completed form for inbound international journeys and will submit after the Board meeting. The form to request outbound journeys for 2022 will be

forthcoming in September. We will be requesting the postponed Australian journey. We also discussed a backup for second or third choice. The forms are different this year to allow for all the postponed journeys, but none are guaranteed. The Board decided to request New Zealand to go along with the Australian journey and Columbia/Costa Rica if a third choice is requested. The board will review the completed form at the October meeting.

Leslie reviewed the request for outbound domestic club journeys for 2022. The Board agreed to request Columbia Cascades, Albuquerque, and Missoula as options. Kaye reminded us that we can also set these up on our own without going thru FFI initially.

The six people interested in going on the 2021 Romania/Azerbaijan Outbound met last week and decided not to go to Azerbaijan. There is a difference of \$2000 per person to include both countries (because of flight costs between all the cities, primarily), which would exclude many members from going. There is another group coordinated by Bobbie Mulholland from Adelaide, Australia that is assessing interest in a journey to Armenia and Azerbaijan, so if anyone really wants to go to Azerbaijan, they can join that group. We decided on June 9-21, and we will visit Bucharest for 4 days, then Sibiu for 7 days, and individuals can do anything else they would like on their own either before or after those dates. Diana has contacted FFI Regional Manager about the change but has received no response to date and will contact her again.

2021 St Louis, MO Inbound – A host coordinator is still needed for this journey in April. There is no word from St. Louis about dates.

2021 Romania Outbound – Dates for Romania are June 9-21, 2021. There are currently six people interested in going. If you have any interest, please contact Diana Lopez, dlopez@utk.edu.

2021 San Antonio Outbound – No confirmed date yet for our September 2021 trip to them. Contact Leslie Badaines, badaines1@aol.com.

2021 Napa-Sonoma Outbound – Date will be set just before or after San Antonio. Contact Jayne Raparelli, jaynerap@aol.com.

2021 San Antonio Inbound – Date will be set after the outbound journey is settled. Contact Jayne Raparelli, Jaynerap@aol.com.

2022 Des Moines Inbound – Des Moines will visit Knoxville in April 2022. Contact Diana Lopez, dlopez@utk.edu.

2022 Australia Outbound – TBD. Contact Leslie Badaines, badaines1@aol.com.

Programs: Janis Robinson, Program Chair, thanked Kaye and Noel for their program via ZOOM on the Trans-Siberian Railway on August 25, 2020. The upcoming program for the FFK general meeting via ZOOM on September 22, 2020 will be on indigenous architecture of the Andes in Peru and Bolivia given by Carlos Pinella.

Communication: Ray Simko reported that his phone committee got mixed responses from their efforts to contact members about survey questions. He felt a written survey would yield better results. Most people look at the newsletter, but few go to the website: www.Friendshipforceknoxville.org. Thoughts were that the website should display prominently in the Newsletter, which is a good recruiting tool for new members. Betsy Tonkin offered to email survey questions to members.

New Business: Betsy Tonkin reported that she has been in touch with Britton Holmes, regional support manager at FFI and Open World program manager Matt Tucker (with whom she had coordinated about the postponed Open World Judiciary visit from Uzbekistan) about a virtual reunion between the OW delegates from Georgia whom we had hosted last November with FFK hosts. Both were enthusiastic about such a follow up to their visit as at least two other FF chapters have had similar successful virtual OW reunions. They agreed to have Lewis Madanick, the OW program manager for Georgia, contact Betsy as soon as he returns from vacation.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Elder