

## Friendship Force Knoxville

### Board Meeting

September 14, 2021

**Present:** Jayne Raparelli, Betsy Tonkin, Bruce Robinson, Diana Lopez, Janis Robinson, Barbara Elder, Sandy Kehne, Ray Simko

**President's Report:** Jayne Raparelli opened the meeting at 2:00 P.M. She reported that FFI sent FFK a certificate congratulating our club on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our founding. "We appreciate your dedication to the mission of promoting understanding across the barriers that separate people, and we wish you many more years of success." The certificate was signed by Jeremi Snook, FFI President.

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes from the August 10, 2021, Board meeting were approved. Minutes from the August 24, 2021, General Membership Event were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** In the Operating account for the period August 1 through September 3, 2021, there were no revenues and no expenses. In the Exchange (Journey) account for the same period there was \$1500 of revenues from the San Antonio Inbound journey fees. There were expenses of \$800 for the San Antonio Outbound journey fees: \$75 for the Cherokee Bluff clubhouse rental for the San Antonio Inbound journey and a \$250 damage/cleaning deposit for the same. We should be able to recover the \$250 damage/cleaning deposit if we leave the clubhouse in the same condition as found.

**Program and Membership Co-Chair: Betsy Tonkin:** The Program committee did not meet in September, but Betsy reminded the Board that the September Event will be presented by the Ambassadors who recently returned from the Napa/Sonoma Outbound Journey. This Event will again be held as a ZOOM meeting. The October Event will be the Farewell dinner for FF San Antonio. The November Event will be FFK Board elections. No decision has been made whether this will be a recruitment membership drive, since the Event may be held via ZOOM and not in person.

**Journey Co-coordinators: Diana Lopez:** Diana reported that Napa/Sonoma Journey went off as planned, and Ambassadors and hosts had a great experience. Plans for the upcoming Outbound journey to San Antonio (Oct 1-6) is moving ahead. The Ambassadors are all ready to leave and are looking forward to a wonderful journey. Plans for the Inbound San Antonio journey on October 22-27, coordinated by Mike McDonough and Jayne Raparelli, are being finalized. The Board discussed other options for both the Welcome Dinner at the Cherokee Bluff Clubhouse, and the Farewell Dinner at Calhoun's on the River, since they are scheduled to be held indoors, and agreed the San Antonio planning committee will decide if they want to keep these current locations or find new venues. All members are invited to these events. An itinerary of activities will be published in the Newsletter, and anyone is welcome to join in. That will conclude the Journeys for 2021.

For 2022, dates have been established for the Inbound Des Moines and the Outbound to Australia. The Journeys to Romania and to Lower Columbia are still to be determined. Phyllis has not yet begun to work on the St. Louis Journey, and no coordinator has been found for Lower Columbia.

Betsy will report on the Open World conference more thoroughly when she gets the recording. It appears that we will not have to resubmit our request to host the Uzbekistan delegation for a Rule of Law visit. There is also another program in which we may want to participate after we have received more information.

Diana presented the findings from FFI and from other clubs on Journey credits, earned seat credits, and other possible funding for coordinators. The information was sent to the Board. Since our policies are within the acceptable guidelines of FFI and are similar to the policies of other clubs, the Journey committee recommends no change in the policies at this time. Discussion was postponed until the next meeting when more Board members would be present.

**Communications:** Janis stated the deadline for the Newsletter is September 17.

**Website:** Ray Simko reported that Jonathan Hash will not be able to complete the information for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary history. He stated that someone is needed to add the new information since the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary to the brochure.

**Nominating Committee:** Jayne will continue her search for two members to serve on the Nominating committee. She will email the Board for their approval.

**Old Business:** Small Dinners/Lunches/Appetizers/Cocktails

Small dinners appear to have been very successful. They were held in August and September at members' homes with one more to come in October. A new member, Susana Navarro-Valenti, offered to host a small dinner at her home. Susana had also attended a small dinner. All FFK members who were in town and had indicated they wished to participate, were invited to one of these gatherings. Only three people declined their invitation. One was because of Covid-19 concerns.

President Jayne Raparelli adjourned the meeting at 3:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Elder