

Friendship Force Knoxville
Board Meeting
January 9, 2019

Present:

Kaye Bultemeier, Joanne Hayden, Sandy Kehne, Diana Lopez, Jean Mayer, Ron Mayer, Jayne Raparelli, Bruce Robinson, Janis Robinson

Diana called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m. Meeting location was the Egg and I in Bearden. She welcomed new board members Kaye Bultemeier and Bruce Robinson.

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the October 24, 2018 were amended to include Kaye Bultemeier in the list of those present. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Bruce presented a letter of an Audit of FY2018 Financial Records for Friendship Force of Knoxville. A review of the financial records was conducted on January 4, 2019 by Nancy Cooper and Bill Cherry. The review found all records to be complete and accurate. Ray Simko, previous treasurer of FFK, was commended for his detailed work and professional financial reporting.

Bruce presented the Treasurer's Report which included the operating account and the updated budget for 2019. He also shared a financial report from Friendship Force International which revealed that most of the operating money for FFI comes from journey participation fees. Only 10% of operating income comes from club membership dues.

Vice-President's Report

Kaye would like to designate a person to served as a media representative. She emphasized the importance of circulating information about Friendship Force in our local news publications, International House, WUOT, and Moxley Carmichael. The media is under the Program chair's purview, so Janis will work with Kaye to find someone.

Kaye discussed a survey taken a few years ago which gave reasons why people become members of Friendship Force and also why they remain active. It is important that we have programs which are consistent with our mission. It was suggested that we purchase a world map to display at our meetings. Bruce will take care of it. Also we should be visible at international festivals which are held downtown. (We already have an beautiful banner that could be used for that purpose.)

Membership

Ron reported that we had a very successful year on membership due to an excellent committee. We had thirty new members with a retention rate of nearly 80%. He recommended that for this coming year we continue to work the 2018 prospect list and consider another membership drive next year. It is imperative that we involve new members as quickly as possible after they join. It was pointed out that our 2019 journey coordinators are all new members. Ron's report was approved.

Journeys

Ron reported that the journey to La Serena, Chile went extremely well. Two of our newest members participated in this trip. He shared his concern that all journey participants should be required to secure travel insurance although a waiver is sufficient if the journey coordinator agrees to the waiver.

Jayne provided details for the inbound Cape of Good Hope Journey. She said there is a need for one or two more home hosts. She is waiting to hear from the Cape of Good Hope coordinator in order to know who is coming. The board agreed to have a South African emphasis at the February 19, 2019 get-together of FFK.

Annalisa and Gus Roehrig, coordinators for the Des Moines outbound journey, continue with their planning. Dates for the Des Moines journey are August 7th-12th, 2019. They have received 8 applications, 2 more on the way, and 4 more interested.

The Napa/Sonoma inbound journey is scheduled for October 11th-16th, 2019. Mike McDonough is working to secure more details.

Programs

Janis reviewed the tentative program schedule for 2019. Speaker for the January 15, 2019 meeting will be Ricardo Videla who will talk about his horse ride over the Andes in the footsteps of San Martin. March will be the Chinese auction with perhaps Ali to talk.

Activities

Sandy reported on the Holiday Party which was held on December 1, 2018 at TVUUC. Twenty-nine people attended the event. Bridge Refuge Services greatly appreciated the donations given to them by our members. More activities are being planned for this year, such as a South African get-together in February and the Urban Hike in April.

Communications

Diana expressed appreciation to Ray Simko for getting the latest newsletter out in two days because Don had a family crisis and could not complete it. The dates for meetings were revisited with a decision that the board would meet each month while general meetings would be held in January, March, and May and other activities would take place in February, April, and June. The next board meeting will be a week earlier on February 6 at 11:00 due to scheduling conflicts.

Everyone should look at the FFK website often. There is a new column on the history of Friendship Force on the website.

New Business

Diana will be attending the FFI Conference in Boulder, Colorado in July. She asked the board to give her any questions that they might want answered.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Jean Mayer, Secretary