

Friendship Force Knoxville

Board Meeting

August 10, 2021

Present: Jayne Raparelli, Betsy Tonkin, Bruce Robinson, Janis Robinson, Diana Lopez, Sandy Kehne, Barbara Elder, Ray Simko, Helen Bachrach, Leslie Badaines

President's Report: Jayne Raparelli opened the meeting at 2:00 P.M. via ZOOM. She reported that Ron Mayer had a successful medical treatment in Atlanta and will be returning to Atlanta for another treatment next week.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the July 13, 2021 Board meeting were approved. Minutes from the July 27, 2021 General Membership Event were approved.

Treasurer's Report: In the Operating account for the period July 1 through August 3, 2021, there was no revenue and an expense for a memorial for Ron Dubois. In the Exchange (Journey) account for the same period there was significant revenue from various journey fees. There were similar payments to FFI and host Journey clubs for those same upcoming journeys.

Program Co-Chair: Helen Bachrach: The August Membership Event will be *Living in the Czech Republic*: John Schwartz's sabbatical year in Prague. The September, October, and November meeting plans are all on hold. September's program depends on a successful return of our ambassadors from Napa-Sonoma. It was planned as an in-house Event, but it will now probably be a ZOOM meeting. October's Event is a Welcome Dinner for San Antonio ambassadors visiting Knoxville, if that trip is still occurring. The November Rick Steves' film and recruitment of new members is on hold until we can safely meet in person. It is also the election meeting which may also be held via ZOOM.

Journey Co-coordinators: Leslie Badaines: Planning for FFK's first two Outbound Journeys is underway; several members will head to Napa/Sonoma September 8-13, and to San Antonio October 1-6, 2021. Leslie presented the following information regarding upcoming Journeys:

INBOUND

San Antonio, Texas Journey #21441 – October 22-27, 2021. The ten Ambassadors arriving from San Antonio will be fully vaccinated. Hosts for this group must also be fully vaccinated. The journey committee has planned an exciting itinerary for our visitors that includes a full day downtown with a walking tour, a visit to the East TN History Museum, and music at the Blue Plate Special; a tour of Norris Dam and the Lenoir Museum; a day in the Smokey Mountains with an easy hike and lunchtime at Spence Cabin in Elkmont. Janis Robinson is coordinating small dinners for our guests. Jayne Raparelli and Mike McDonough are Host Coordinators for this Journey.

Des Moines, Iowa Journey #22509 is planned for late April 2022. Mike Donough, Host Coordinator, is working with Des Moines Ambassador Coordinator for specific dates. The date for this Journey will coincide with the Dogwood Arts Festival.

St Louis, Missouri Journey #22754, September 2022. Phyllis Driver, Host Coordinator will be working with the St. Louis Ambassador Coordinator on specific dates.

OUTBOUND

Napa/Sonoma Journey #21440 – September 8-13, 2021. Ten members are registered for this trip, including 4 from Friendship Force Clubs in Atlanta, Lake Hartwell and Central NC..

San Antonio Journey #21243, October 1-6, 2021. Four members are registered for this trip, including 1 member from Friendship Force Western North Carolina. Leslie Badaines is Journey Coordinator.

Sibiu, Romania Journey is likely to occur in May or early June 2022 depending on the status of Covid 19 in Romania. Ambassador Coordinator is Diana Lopez.

Open World. Betsy Tonkin will be attending a two-day webinar August 31 and September 1, 2021. She hopes to learn more at that time regarding 2022 possibilities for Open World.

Lower Columbia, Washington Journey #22637. This Journey is likely to occur in late June or early July 2022. Ambassador Coordinator needed for this Journey to occur.

Australia Journey #22408, October 21-November 4, 2022. Two clubs will be visited – North Moreton (October 21-28) and Gold Coast (Oct 28 - Nov 4). The host clubs have limited this Journey to 12 Ambassadors. Both Clubs have cautioned us not to make travel plans until we receive word that travel restrictions are lifted. Leslie Badaines is Ambassador Coordinator.

The Journey committee discussed FFI's "Fill the Seat Policy", along with the "Earned Seat Policy", as compared to our current policy at FFK. Diana Lopez has written to several other clubs to ask for their policies for comparison and to bring to the Board.

Communications: Janis has Friday, August 13 as her deadline for the Newsletter.

Vice President Betsy Tonkin noted we have openings for Board positions. She recommended that a nominating committee be appointed sooner than later. The nominating committee consists of two members appointed by the President. The nominating committee presents the slate at the November annual meeting.

Old Business: Small dinners/Lunches/Appetizers/Cocktails

When Diana and Jayne were planning these events, it seemed a promising time. However, the Delta variant has spread causing some hosts to decline hosting and some members to decline invitations. Diana and Jayne assigned every member to a host, but because of Delta, not everyone will receive an invitation. They estimate that 85-90 % of the membership will receive an invitation.

President Jayne Raparelli adjourned the meeting at 3:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Elder, Secretary