

# Friendship Force of Knoxville

## Board Meeting

Feb. 8, 2022

**Present:** Jayne Raparelli, Betsy Tonkin, Bruce Robinson, Mike McDonough, Leslie Badaines, Janis Robinson, Marsha Mitchell, Sandy Kehne, Ray Simko and Diana Lopez.

**President:** Jayne Raparelli started the meeting at 2:01 p.m.

**Secretary Report:** Mike McDonough. Members approved minutes of the Jan. 11, 2022 Board meeting and the Jan. 25, 2022 General Membership Event.

**Treasurer Report:** Bruce Robinson. In the Operating account for the period Jan. 1 through Jan. 31, 2022 there were \$135 of receipts from members' dues and expenses of \$975 for FFI dues and \$18.48 for treasurer's expenses. In the Exchange (Journey) account for the same period there were no receipts and expenses of \$300 for a deposit for Calhoun's room rental and \$25 rental for Metcalf Bottoms pavilion related to the Des Moines inbound journey.

The Audit Committee found no problems with the 2021 Financial Records. President Jayne Raparelli reported the official audit letter from chair Ray Simko and Art Mitchell commended Bruce Robinson for his continued dedicated and detailed work as Treasurer for FFK. The letter will be included in the Secretary's records.

**Vice President/Membership Committee Chair Report:** Betsy Tonkin.

There are 43 FFK members to date. There are a number of 2021 members who have not yet paid dues or otherwise indicated they will renew. Four members passed away in 2021.

We currently have three honorary members. Honorary members do not pay dues to FFK. Bruce Robinson noted that he had been advised by FFI that FFK does not need to

forward dues to FFI for honorary members, but if they take an active role, such as participating in journeys, FFI dues for such persons would be required. It has been reported to the Board that one or more honorary members may not have been members for the requisite 30 years. Betsy Tonkin suggested she would obtain and review FFK's history records to locate membership rolls to verify when the honorary members joined.

The Board approved a motion to continue following FFK Bylaws that require honorary members have 30 or more years of FFK membership. If membership records show that any honorary members do not have 30 years of membership, Jayne Raparelli is to notify the appropriate current honorary member or a family member of our error.

**Journey Coordinator Report:** Leslie Badaines.

1. **Des Moines incoming Journey # 22509** April 20-25, 2022; Mike McDonough has confirmed 11 Ambassadors, 2 couples, 7 singles. Itinerary has changed due to unavailability of venues. We are now adding Metcalf Bottoms as our Smoky Mountain trip, and we are eliminating the Museum of Appalachia due to the museum closing for a John Rice Irwin memorial on that date. Day hosts, small dinner hosts and drivers are needed.
2. **Lower Columbia Journey # 22637** June 1-7, 2022 - Barbara Elder has received 3 applications for the 14 slots for this Journey. Barbara had a call from Judi Smith, Host coordinator, who said her club *needs to change the date to July 6-11*, due to conflicts with their Open World visit. If we do not fill this journey we will open to other clubs, such as Western North Carolina, San Antonio, and Napa/Sonoma.
3. **St. Louis Journey # 22754** Date TBD - Phyllis Driver will contact Mary Lou Hudson, Ambassador coordinator for St Louis. We indicated that early September or possibly August would be a good time for this club to visit.
4. **Australia Journey # 22408** October 19-November 2, 2022 - Leslie Badaines discussed both Australia clubs' concerns about their hosts having a covid test prior to our arrival. Leslie polled those interested in the 2020 trip, and of those responding, 5 would not go if their hosts did not have a test prior to arrival, 6 would. Leslie indicated that since we cannot dictate what another club will do, she would

notify potential FFK ambassadors about this so that they can make appropriate decisions about going. Australia is opening to visitors, so it appears this trip is on!

5. **Open World Date** TBD - Betsy Tonkin has heard from Britton Holmes at FFI that the earlier summer dates we offered for the Open World Uzbekistan delegation are not available. Britton did not respond to Betsy's subsequent offer of anytime in September after September 11 but advised that Open World is now rescheduling a number of programs and will get back to us with proposed options.
6. **ALEX Program** update- Betsy Tonkin asked Phyllis Driver if she thought Rotary Club in Knoxville would be interested in participating Betsy will send Phyllis a PowerPoint presentation from FFI about the program.
7. **Tote bags report** – Tote bags have arrived. There were some errors. Irv Russotto, our vendor, will be contacting the manufacturer to correct the errors. Leslie will let Bruce know when the corrected bags arrive so the invoice can be paid.
8. **Western Colorado**- Leslie mentioned a request from FF of Western Colorado to visit us with potential exchanging hosting of us; she got the go ahead to pursue this (for 2023).
9. **Day trips**- Possible day trip with another club (potentially with Western North Carolina) was discussed. It is more of a program committee issue, than a journey issue. Leslie can help Marsha Mitchell.
10. **2023 Outbound Travel Request Form**—has been received from FFI. Leslie went over the list of countries. The Board decided on 15 countries to poll our members. Leslie will send out the poll.

**Program Committee Chair Report:** Marsha Mitchell. Gail Tyson has agreed to be on the Program Committee. The Feb. 22 program will be on Egypt presented by

FFK members Susan Dakak and Susana Navarro-Valenti. The March 22 program will be about Morocco given by Marsha's sister and brother-in-law, Rasha and Bert Sams. The April program will be the April 20 Welcome Dinner for the Greater Des Moines club. May could be a joint event with the Western North Carolina Friendship Force Club, and June may be a membership recruitment program including the Rick Steves' Europe Video, Why We Travel. Jayne Raparelli will check the licensing agreement for the expiration date to show the video. She will also contact the Western North Carolina president about meeting halfway, perhaps in Maggie Valley.

**Communications Committee Chair Report:** Janis Robinson.

- The deadlines for the FFK February Newsletter are
  - Friday 11 February: Newsletter Articles to Janis Robinson
  - Saturday 12 February: Newsletter out for review by Board
  - Sunday 13 February: Newsletter sent to members
- Susan Dakak sent information for the newsletter about her father's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration (Fuad Mishu) including a link to an interview on WATE;
- Karen Setzfand sent an article about "Why we travel" from NYT that will be made into a FFK newsletter article with a link to the online article

**Webmaster Report:** Ray Simko reported that the webpage was current.

**Adjourn:** President Jayne Raparelli thanked all attendees for participating in the meeting. She adjourned the meeting at 3:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike McDonough

FFK Secretary