

Friendship Force of Knoxville

Board Meeting via Zoom

March 8, 2022

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

President: Jayne Raparelli called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Secretary Report: Mike McDonough. Members approved the Feb. 8, 2022 Board minutes and the Feb. 22, 2022 General Membership Event minutes.

Treasurer Report: Bruce Robinson. In the Operating account for the period Feb. 1 through Feb. 28, 2022, there were \$180 of receipts from members' dues and no expenses. In the Exchange (Journey) account for the same period there were receipts of \$125 for the Lower Columbia journey application fees and \$40 for purchase of t-shirts and no expenses.

Vice President/Membership Committee Chair: Betsy Tonkin. Honorary memberships were discussed. Members decided to make no changes.

Journey Coordinator Report: Leslie Badaines reported the following.

- 1. Des Moines Journey # 22509 April 20-25, 2033** - Mike McDonough- reported that there are 10 Ambassadors all matched with hosts. All are driving except for one person flying. **We need 30 people to break even on the Farewell dinner at Calhoun's. (Sunday, April 24); Mike suggested inviting prospective members.** We discussed the addition of Background music (Dolly Parton) for the Welcome dinner at Cherokee Condo Club House (to keep with the Mountains and Music theme). **Leslie will download some music but will need technical help with the playback.**

2. **Lower Columbia Journey # 22637 July 6-11, 2022** - Barbara Elder indicated that 6 members have applied for this trip. We need 4 more participants. The deadline to apply is March 31. After this date, other FF clubs will be invited to join us. The cost for this Journey is \$425 (including the fee to FFI).
3. **St Louis Journey #22754 - Date TBD** - Phyllis Driver has contacted Mary Lou Hudson and is waiting to hear back as to when in September their group would be available. Because of the possibility of an incoming Open World group, **we recommended that early to mid-September** be the goal for their arrival. We can host a **maximum of 12 Ambassadors**.
4. **Australia Journey #22408 October 19-November 2, 2022** - Leslie Badaines noted that the trip has officially been approved by both Gold Coast and North Moreton clubs. Both clubs are in the Australian State of Queensland. **Australia currently requires a PCR test administered by a medical or other authorized person within 3 days of arrival in Australia.** This may change. Australian States also may have additional regulations of rapid or other testing upon arrival. This also may change. The clubs recommend we bring one or more rapid tests of our own, especially if we plan to visit several States.
Visitor visas are required to enter Australia; it's recommended that passports are at least 6 months from expiration date.
5. **Open World Update** - Betsy Tonkin-**Open World is rescheduling** and wants to know if we can host in October. **The Board voted to pursue an Open World visit and recommended an early October date, (ending no later than October 17), so as not to conflict with the October 19 Australia journey.**
6. **ALEX Program Update** - Betsy Tonkin asked if Phyllis Driver had contacted the Rotary Club to see if they were interested in a joint program. **Phyllis said she will contact the Rotary Club.**
7. **Western Colorado FF Mutual exchange**- Leslie noted the following dates as finalized:

Western Colorado to FFK April 23-29, 2023; and FFK to Western Colorado June 10-16, 2023. Leslie will need to get Journey numbers from FFI-Allison Lindsey.

8. **FFI Outbound Survey Results**— Leslie noted that she has received 17 responses. The country with the most first choice votes was Sweden (4). Runners up for first choice were: Canada (3) Egypt (2) Romania (2) United Kingdom (2)

These countries had the most combined first and second choices: Sweden (7), United Kingdom (4), Canada (3), Egypt (3).

These countries had the most first, second and third choices: Sweden (9), United Kingdom (5), France (5), Switzerland (6), Egypt (4), Canada (4)

The Journey Committee recommended requesting countries in this order: Sweden, Canada, United Kingdom. The Board voted and approved these choices. Leslie will complete and submit the FFI form.

Program Committee Chair Report: Marsha Mitchell. March 22 program— presentation on Morocco via Zoom. April 20- Welcome Dinner for the Great Des Moines club. May 24—send your ideas to Marsha. June 22—joint meeting social with the Western North Carolina club at the Shelton House in Waynesville, N.C. July—Leslie suggested the ambassadors to Lower Columbia present the program.

Communication Committee Chair Report: Janis Robinson gave the following report.

Friday, March 11: Newsletter articles due to Janis.

Saturday, March 12: Newsletter sent out for review.

Sunday, March 13: Newsletter sent to members.

Janis thanked Marsha's sister, Rusha Sams, for sending a few words about their presentation for the newsletter.

Betsy will send Janis a new URL for the Zoom General Membership Events.

Janis hopes to meet with Gail Tyson, who is working with Marsha on the Program Committee, to brainstorm ideas about the newsletter.

Website: Ray Simko—The FFK website needs an updated calendar of events.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike McDonough
FFK Secretary