

Friendship Force of Knoxville

Board Meeting via Zoom

May 10, 2022

Present: Jayne Raparelli, Betsy Tonkin, Bruce Robinson, Mike McDonough, Janis Robinson, Ray Simko.

Meeting opened at 2 p.m.

President's Report: Jayne Raparelli

Say goodbye to Zoom monthly membership meetings!

Back to TVUUC—FFK has booked the TVUUC Fellowship Hall for the fourth Tuesday of each month (except December) beginning with the July 26 General Membership event. Rental fee had been \$50. Current cost—to be determined. We have a \$50 credit for the March 2020 space.

FFI:

- The FFI English Class that was looking for volunteers—Article was in the FFK newsletter. One of our members responded to the call for volunteers.
- I attended an April 15 meeting with Southeast leaders facilitated by Rob Kilpatrick, the Southeast Field Representative. Clubs that were represented: Lake Hartwell GA/SC, Big Canoe/N GA, Birmingham, Charlotte, Central Carolina, Atlanta, and Knoxville.

Notes from the meeting:

**Field Representative* contact at FFI is Allison Lindsay.

**FFI website* is being revamped. Aiming at people looking at us. Goal—come online as of May 2. Members use: my.friendshipforce.org
The documents we access will be on my.friendshipforce.org

**FFI newsletter* will be revived and sent to all FF membership, regardless of whether they have a my.friendshipforce.org account or not.

- *Journey coordinator fees*—has been a recent discussion item. *FFI policy* – previously called Fill the Seat program—waives FFI journey fee for ambassador coordinators depending upon how well the journey is filled. Eg., If the host can take 16 ambassadors, and there are 16 going, the journey (ambassador) coordinator would get 100% of the FFI journey fee waived. If 80% was filled, 80% of the fee would be waived.

FFI endorses local clubs' policy via their own bylaws. For example, some clubs get together and the ambassadors give money to the ambassador coordinator. The Huntsville, AL club's ambassadors pay 100% of ambassador coordinator's travel expenses. They also give a \$200 honorarium to all coordinators, host and ambassador. Central Carolina—20 years ago, the Winston-Salem club had business people who donated money to the club. As a result, the club today has a budget of not less than \$15,000, (considered a large budget for FF clubs) and gives money to both host and ambassador coordinators.

FFI Host application form---easier to use if completed online. Alison Lindsay can help. (FFK uses this form.)

My.friendshipforce.org website—constantly evolving. On our own club dashboard, we can click on Clubs and Groups and see all clubs' pages anywhere in the world.

Members without their own email account—and therefore, cannot use my.friendshipforce.org. Must have own email in order to travel. It was suggested a board member give their members without an email address a proxy email.

Global Members—are FFI members, but not members of a local club, due to not having one near them, or they are not welcome. Not meant to replace local clubs. Alison Lindsay is president of Global Members Club.

Gift to host club—one club said they give money to FFI instead of giving a gift or donation to a charity of the host club's choice. They suggested everyone consider helping FFI in this way.

Southeast Rep. Rob Kilpatrick—would like to meet us in person. He asks for clubs to host him and his wife.

Southeast Regional Conference—may happen again. Usually held in a hotel, for two nights. About 11 years ago it was held in Pigeon Forge.

Secretary's Report: Mike McDonough. Minutes of April 12, 2022 Board meeting approved.

Treasurer's Report: Bruce Robinson. In the Operating account for the period Apr. 1 through Apr. 30, 2022 there were no revenue nor expenses. In the Exchange (Journey) account for the same period there were receipts of \$1,881 related to the Des Moines inbound journey and Lower Columbia outbound journey. There were expenses of \$1,792.09 related to the Des Moines journey.

Vice President/Membership Committee Chair: Betsy Tonkin. Betsy has not heard from the potential members she emailed who had inquired through the FFI website. Nor has she heard from Leslie Badaines' friend who attended the Des Moines Farewell Dinner.

Journey Coordinator: Leslie Badaines.

1. The Des Moines visit to Knoxville was successful. Positive reports were received and the Journey came in under budget. Kudos to Host Coordinator, Mike McDonough and his team for an excellent program!
2. The Lower Columbia Journey (July 6-11) has been filled and payments received from 9 of the 10 Ambassadors (as of last week).
3. St. Louis (September 17-22) is without a Host Coordinator. Phyllis Driver has resigned due to her husband's medical condition. If no Host Coordinator can be found, this Journey will need to be canceled.
4. Australia (October 19- November 2)- Leslie has advertised regionally and the trip will be added to the FFI Journey Catalog. There are 4 going from FFK (possibly 5). Several from Huntsville and Central North Carolina have inquired. Leslie is also waiting for a final response from 2 Iowa couples, before confirming other outside candidates. The maximum number both Australian clubs can accept is 12, (10 if all are singles).

5. Open World Uzbekistan -Judges from Uzbekistan are scheduled to arrive in Knoxville on October 7 and remain until October 15. Betsy Tonkin has received confirmation from Matt Tucker, the Government contact for Open World.

Open World: Betsy—We will receive identity of the delegates six weeks prior to their arrival. There will be a zoom meeting with hosts and delegates prior to arrival to finalize their itinerary. Marsha Mitchell and Courtney Shea confirmed they will host and assist Betsy with coordination. We will probably need 8 hosts. Some of the hosts could be local judges.

Program Committee--Betsy suggested the **July 26** in-person program at TVUUC be the Rick Steves' video, Why We Travel. She will write an article for the Highland Point newsletter inviting them to this event. Mike suggested inviting the Southeast Field Representative, volunteer Rob Kilpatrick, to this event since Rob said he'd like to visit Southeast clubs. Rob and his wife would need a home host. Jayne will follow up with Rob Kilpatrick.

Possible September program—Betsy has a former colleague living in Canada who knows some Uzbekistan judges, and how the Uzbekistan legal system differs from the U.S. She will follow up and ask if he could give a zoom presentation at our September general membership event.

Communications Committee Chair: Janis Robinson. Newsletter deadline—Friday, May 13 to submit articles. Saturday, May 14, Janis will send a review copy. Sunday, May 15, newsletter to be sent. Website—Ray Simko—website is up to date.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike McDonough

FFK Secretary