

Friendship Force Knoxville

Board Meeting

November 9, 2021

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

President's Report: This is our last Board meeting of the year. I appreciate everyone's participation and assistance. She reminded everyone of the accomplishments during 2021: held monthly Events with interesting programs, published a monthly Newsletter, held in-person small group dinners at members' homes, kept our website updated, gained new members, traveled on two domestic Journeys, and hosted one domestic club with well attended Welcome and Farewell Dinners, and maintained a healthy bank account. All this was accomplished during the second year of COVID-19. And on December 11, we will celebrate FFK's 40th Anniversary.

A big thank you to outgoing Secretary, Barbara Elder, who kept on as Secretary for a second year. Immediate Past President, Kaye Bultemeier will be going off the Board next year. That position is for one year only; we thank Kaye for her years of service as Vice President and President of FFK. The Program and Membership committee will no longer be combined. Betsy Tonkin will remain as Membership Chair as part of the Vice President's duties. Martha Mitchell will chair the Program committee. We thank Helen Bachrach for co-chairing the Program and Membership committee.

The President will write and submit the names of Officers, Board members, and Committee Chairs for the Newsletter, the website, and for the 2022 Membership Directory after the November Annual Meeting. All committee chairs are filled except for Public Relations and Publicity which we have not had for some time.

Thanks to Janis staying on as the Communications Chair. Ray Simko will stay on as Website master, and Janis will stay on as Newsletter editor. Additional thanks go to Sandy Kehne for staying on as Hospitality Committee Chair, and Leslie Badaines

for becoming the Journey Coordinator. Many thanks to Diana Lopez who is stepping down as Journey Co-coordinator with Leslie but will remain on the Board as the immediate Past Journey Coordinator in a non-voting position. Renee Ioannides will stay on Club Concerns Chair, and Jonathan Hash will remain as the FFK's Historian.

Nominating committee: The FFK Board officer slate for 2022 was presented by Jean Mayer and Sandy Kehne; it will be voted on at the November 16 Annual Meeting: Jayne Raparelli, President; Betsy Tonkin, Vice President; Secretary, Mike McDonough; Treasurer, Bruce Robinson. The President thanked Betsy and Bruce for continuing in their positions.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the October 12, 2021, Board meeting were approved with an addendum of giving the fifty-dollar donation from the San Antonio Friendship Force Club to Bridge Refugee Services. Minutes of the October 26, 2021, General Membership Event (Farewell Dinner for San Antonio) were approved.

Treasurer's Report: In the Operating account for the period October 1 through October 31, 2021, there were no receipts and no expenses. In the Exchange (Journey) account for the same period there was \$550.00 of receipts and expenses of \$1551.51, all associated with the San Antonio Inbound Journey. Note that the San Antonio Inbound Journey budget was in the black by \$223.40 with respect to fees received and corresponding expenses. FFK itself spent \$259.91 for reimbursement of host lunches and welcome bags.

Program/Membership Co-Chair: Betsy Tonkin and Helen Bachrach: Upcoming programs for FFK include November 16 – annual meeting, election of officers, and a presentation about the Inbound San Antonio Journey by Jayne, Mike, and other FFK hosts, December 11 – 40th Anniversary and Holiday Party hosted by the Hospitality Committee at Highland Point Clubhouse, and January 25 – Presentation by FFK Ambassadors in Outbound Journey to San Antonio.

Helen is preparing a membership profile for the November Newsletter on long time members Joanne and Al Schuetz. Phyllis Driver will prepare a member profile on 2020 members Gary and Paulette Anderson. Vicki Creed will be calling FFK members for whom we have no joinder dates.

Journey Coordinator: Diana Lopez: The committee gave a hearty thanks to Jayne, Mike, and Leslie for coordinating and completing three successful Journeys in 2021.

Diana presented two updates to the original report to the Board. The Romania Journey is now cancelled for 2022. They cannot host this year, so if the club still wants to go, we will need to request it for 2023. All other Journeys are on track, including Open World.

The Board approved Barbara Elder's appointment as Ambassador Coordinator for the Lower Columbia Journey to take place in late June 2022.

The forms for Journey requests for 2023 are coming in from FFI. For hosting availability, Diana and Leslie will complete the form stating that we can host between 10-16 ambassadors excluding bad months for FFK being December, January, and February. We would like one domestic and one international Inbound Journey. For the Outbound request form, the committee will poll the membership in late January/early February 2022 to determine where members want to go in 2023.

The Board approved the updated COVID Policy to include all future Journeys. The committee added testing to all Journeys. (Copy of Policy attached.)

Diana reminded the committee of the decision of the Board to delete the Journey Credit and to strike Section VII from our Journey Policies but allowing those who have earned the credit thru 2022 to still receive it. This includes Jayne and Mike (3 Journeys plus Des Moines), Joanne (OW), Gus and Annalisa (1 Journey), Leslie (1 Journey) plus Australia if it occurs in 2022, and Barbara (Lower Columbia). The committee agreed to go ahead and remove it from the Journey Policies but to make a note in Section VII for 2022 to remove it completely in 2023.

Diana also reminded the committee that FFI has changed its Journey fee from a flat "per Journey" fee to a flat "per night" fee. The fee will be set at \$25 USD per Journey night regardless of accommodation type, ambassadors' origin, or the Journey destination. There is no distinction between international and domestic Journeys. The Board approved the updated Journey Policies.

Communications Chair: Janis Robinson: The deadline for the Newsletter is Friday, November 12. The General Membership Event has been moved up a week

because of Thanksgiving, hence the earlier date for publication. The December Newsletter will be a shortened version containing important reminders and information about the December General Membership Event with a deadline for submissions of November 30.

Website: Ray Simko informed the Board that everything was up to date.

December 11, 2021, Holiday Event/40th Anniversary Celebration: After discussion concerning the types of food to serve at the General Membership Holiday Event and 40th Anniversary Celebration, it was brought to the attention of the Board that there had been previous conversations about having it catered. Subsequently, Janis Robinson moved that up to \$1,000 be spent on the 40th Anniversary and Holiday Event on December 11, 2021. Sandy Kehne seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

The Event will begin at 2 P.M. and have finger foods. Janis is working on a slide show of FFK Journeys. Jayne will ask Joanne Schuetz, a long time FFK member, to be the speaker. Sandy will decorate the Clubhouse the day after Thanksgiving.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Elder