

# Friendship Force of Knoxville

## Board Meeting via Zoom

June 14, 2022

**Present:** Jayne Raparelli, Betsy Tonkin, Mike McDonough, Leslie Badaines, Marsha Mitchell, Sandy Kehne, Ray Simko.

Meeting began at 2:06 p.m.

**President's Report:** Jayne Raparelli

The May 24 *Picnic at Suttree Landing Park* was a big success. Eighteen FFK members attended. Thanks to Marsha Mitchell for booking the city park, Gail Tyson, for picking up the Club-provided food, and all the attendees who brought delicious side dishes, appetizers, and desserts. It was a feast! Special thanks to those who picked up folks who needed rides. Thanks to Treasurer Bruce Robinson who issued the reimbursements to Marsha and Gail. The Club paid for the shrimp and chicken as well as the pavilion rental fee. It was great meeting in person. Two more members signed up to attend the June 22 joint event with the Western N.C. Club. Marsha will share the details in her report. Phyllis Driver told us about a massive food packaging event on June 11 at the Knoxville Expo Center to benefit Ukrainian refugees in Poland. As a result, eight FFK members volunteered at the event. There will be an article about the event in the June newsletter.

*Treasurer Bruce Robinson* will resign his position effective Oct. 1. Thank you, Bruce, for your many years of exemplary service to FFK.

*The July Board meeting*, Tuesday, July 12. Mike and I return home early that morning from the Lower Columbia journey. Leslie arrives home on July 11.

**Secretary's Report:** Mike McDonough. Minutes of May 10, 2022 Board meeting were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bruce Robinson

Treasurer's Report was approved: In the Operating account for the period May 1 through May 31, 2022 there were no receipts and expenses of \$100 for the picnic. In the Exchange (Journey) account for the same period there were receipts of \$2,150 related to the Lower Columbia and Australia outbound journeys. There were expenses of \$3,750 related to the Lower Columbia journey fees.

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

The July 26 membership general meeting will be held at TVUUC. It will be a membership recruitment event showing the Rick Steves' video Why We Travel. Our guest will be Rob Kilpatrick, the volunteer Southeast Field Representative. Rob is also president of his Huntsville, AL club. Rob and his wife will be hosted by Jayne and Mike.

We will offer wine and cheese. *Motion was made and approved to set aside \$150 to use towards the July 26 event.* Sandy may be away. Betsy and Leslie will help coordinate. It was recommended we ask for a RSVP to know how much food to purchase.

Jayne will contact TVUUC to check on Wi-fi at the church and let Betsy know.

Betsy will write an article for the FFK newsletter, asking members to invite someone they know who might be interested in FFK. She will send an invitation as an attachment that members can send to potential members.

Betsy drafted an article for her HOA newsletter about the July 26 event. (Four FFK members live in the same community: Betsy, Sandy, Janis and Bruce.)

**Journey Coordinator:** Leslie Badaines

1. Lower Columbia Journey #22637 is July 6-11. Barbara Elder reports that 10 are going; 6 from FFK. The other 4 are from these clubs: Huntsville, Des Moines, and Lake Hartwell. The Knoxville participants will talk about the journey at the August General meeting.

2. Australia- Journey #22408 Oct. 19-Nov. 2, 2022 now has 12 Ambassadors, 4 from FFK and 8 from clubs in: Huntsville (1), San Antonio (1), Des Moines (3), Greater Atlanta (2), and Central North Carolina (1). Most are planning to go on our offered 3night pre-trip to Sydney. Leslie held the first Zoom meeting with the Australian Ambassadors on June 12, and told those going to Australia that the **international wire fee (of \$12.50) will be added to each Ambassador's final fee.** Leslie asked if our club should offer a donation to FFI on behalf of each club we visit; the Board indicated that each Ambassador, rather than FFK, should be asked to donate.
3. FFI assigned Journeys- Unfortunately, FFI only assigned us one INBOUND Journey (Western Colorado), a mutual exchange that had been previously arranged between our two clubs. Our 3 top OUTBOUND choices: Sweden, United Kingdom and Canada were extremely popular and not available to us. Leslie sent an email to "FFI Planning" and VP Allison Lindsay for clarification on what clubs might be available for 2<sup>nd</sup> round of assignments and learned that Mexico and India were possibilities After a quick poll of Board members, those responding all voted for Mexico. Several days later, Leslie received an email from FFI Planning indicating that we could be assigned a club in Mexico. (The "it's a Match" form has not come in yet, nor was the location of the club given).

**Program Committee Chair:** Marsha Mitchell. The June 22 social event with the Western N.C. club at the Shelton House in Waynesville, NC, is going well. Sixteen FFK members and 15 FFWNC members will attend with many staying overnight in a Maggie Valley hotel. Everyone should arrive no later than 10 a.m. Marsha noted that the lunch will include both a chicken and egg salad options for a sandwich, along with other salads, desserts and beverages. She suggested Jayne welcome everyone along with the Western NC club president. Jayne will contact Susan Harvey, the Western NC club president. Lunch will probably be over around 1:30 or 2 p.m., but there is no set time for us to vacate.

**July program:** as previously discussed.

**August**—presentation by the Lower Columbia ambassadors (Barbara Elder, Leslie Badaines, Ron and Jean Mayer, Jayne Raparelli and Mike McDonough.) Meeting to be held in the TVUUC Fellowship Hall. Leslie suggested asking Diana Lopez to speak about her experience joining another club on an outbound journey. Diana recently traveled with the Western N.C. club to Spokane, WA.

**September**- Betsy said if an Open World delegation from Uzbekistan is coming to Knoxville to October, (she will not know if they are coming for a while) the September meeting be a Zoom presentation by her friend about his time in Uzbekistan teaching their judges and prosecutors.

**October**—topic—Open World—provided the delegates are here.

Other programs: Bruce and Janis suggested Marsha ask a couple to talk to us about their adventures sailing around the world.

**Communications Committee Chair:** Janis Robinson

Ray and Janis will update the FFK Home page on the website to add the new FFI tagline A World of Friends is a World of Peace and remove the link to the Travel from the Home page which was for the Covid years.

June Newsletter deadlines: Friday, June 17—articles due to Janis, Saturday, June 18—review copy to Board, Sunday, June 19—copies to members.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.