

Friendship Force of Wisconsin Madison Inc.

Board Meeting Minutes August 14, 2015

The Chamber of Commerce Building

The following Board members were present Sandi Wysock, Janet Lonergan, Judy Taylor, Gail Holmes, Mary Lindquist, Helen Ann Rugowski, Maggie Dohm, Fannie Hicklin, Paul Buckalew-guest, Ariel Ford - Guest

Excused Absent: Dave Dohler, Mary Babula, Maureen Kind, Lise Skofronick, George Wysock, Donna Hussin, & Lois Schulz

Agenda: Approved with additions

Secretary's Report: Lois Schulz, Amended by adding under new business: FFI has sent to Helen Ann Rugowski the **2017 Inbound Hosting Availability Form**. Board members present agreed to hosting 2 International exchanges and 1 domestic in 2017, minimum of 12 and maximum of 20 Ambassadors, best hosting months all but Dec, Jan, Feb., cost between \$200-300. The form will be submitted to FFI by August 15."

Treasurer's Report: Judith Taylor, approved A CD is coming due. A motion to allow Judy to choose an interest rate that best fits FFW-M was moved and carried.

Presidents Report: Helen Ann

1 - She participated on a Global Bicycling Exchange to Ames IA. Was a great experience.

1a - Everyone should write up an article for the newsletter when they participate in an exchange outside of our club. Helen Ann will be submitting one for this exchange.

2 - A reminder from Mary Babula, absent, by September 12th, a) Committee chairs are asked to recommend a chair and co-chair for their committee, b) Continue work that needs attention in the next month. c) Submit a brief description of the work of your committee. d) Plan for committee leadership is that co-chairs this year will be considered for the position of chair next year.

3 - September newsletter - will write an article asking members to consider getting more involved in our organization, like serving on committees to help plan what we do as an organization, as well as being involved in exchanges as hosts, day hosts, and exchange activities. The first step in getting people involved.

4 - Plans to develop a survey for members to complete, telling us anonymously what they value about our organization, their evaluation of the aspects and activities of our organization they have participated in along with why or why don't they participate with suggestions for what we could be doing.

Old Business:

1. Not for profit status - Sandi Wysock- 501C final paperwork will wait till after the September meeting so new officers to sign the paperwork
2. Luggage Tags - Gail Holmes- 250 ordered, 211 sold (20 sold to IB Guadeloupe exchange).
3. Club pins - Gail Holmes 524 ordered for cost of \$813.37. 211 sold. (20 sold to IB Guadeloupe)
4. Online payments - A trial invite to the board for the September meeting will be sent out. No cost.
5. Exchange Director Workshop - Mary Babula, Chair. (committee consisting of Stephanie, Sandi & Fannie and Gail Holmes as Exchange Director Coordinator)
The committee met to plan a workshop for new ED's. We plan to have the workshop on a Saturday in October, with the date to be finalized when presenters and locations is finalized. Contact Mary Babula with questions: mcbabula@hotmail.com or 608-241-0212.

New Business:

- **World Conference Reimbursement** - It was moved and carried that FFW-M would reimburse expenses for Mary Babula to attend the conference. The expenses would include airfare, registration and ½ hotel room during the conference. (Costs \$617, \$306.67 & ½ of \$645 or \$322.50)

- **A request from Western North Carolina** - for a home stay in May 2016. It was moved and declined to not accept the exchange because we have an exchange at the same time going to Cleveland County UK.

Guests

- **Guest, Ariel Ford** - **Written by Ariel Ford** - *Below are my comments from the board meeting. General comment regarding World Conference reimbursement for Mary Babula:*

A. *Spell out that funds are in U.S. dollars.*

B. *Conference registration (taken from FFI website) includes the gala: World of Friends Banquet.*

Now for my comments to the board:

I have been a member of Friendship Force International for over 30+ years, been a member of 3 clubs and VP of the last club that I belonged before coming to Madison. I am not a Johnny come lately. I have been a member of this club for over 15 years. I have been a day host, been on exchanges both domestic and international, and assisted in exchange planning and execution (Wolfsburg, Germany, Romania and VietNam).

I joined the Friendship Force because I believed in the mission. The mission "of bringing people together across barriers that separate people". I hear members state that Friendship Force is a travel club. We are NOT a travel club. I know because I trained as a travel agent, attending Executive Travel School. If we were a travel club, we could get better deals on travel.

My main reason for coming today and asking to speak, is to talk about Diversity both in terms of our club and the International organization. In the United States, 77% of the population is European American, with 23% minorities. Here locally, in Madison, approximately 84% European American and 16% minority.

Our club has fewer minorities today than ever. It appears that nothing is being done to maintain and recruit minorities. This is especially distressing since our club is down to 2 people of color. At a board meeting several years ago, I brought this same issue to the board. Some of you were on the board at that time. Now our numbers are down to essentially no minority representation.

At that time, I gave a list of possible organizations that could be contacted to get the word out about our organization. Nothing was done with this list. The person that was going to follow up had personal issues that had to be dealt with.

Unless you want the membership to be all European and over 60, new recruitment techniques must be used.

We cannot treat our minorities in the manner in which I have been treated by some board members. Everyone wants to be respected. You can not have the Plantation Owner mentality and expect to get and retain members, especially minorities.

Ariel will provide Sandi and Mary B by Monday, August 17, 2015 an email list of diverse organizations that they might contact for their diversity recruiting efforts. The initial contacts should be made by them since she (Ariel) is neither a member of the board of directors or on the committee. But she would be willing, if they so desired, to go to meetings along with them.

- **Guest, Paul Buckalew** - Addressed the board of his concerns with the ED's not being board members. After discussion we will see how the ED Coordinator works. ED's will be encourage to attend the board meetings.

- **Fannie Hicklin** - Reiterated the clubs unfriendly status long with Ariel's comments above.

Publishing Agenda & Minutes - It was moved and passed that we send/publish the agenda and minutes for our club members to see what our club is doing. This would begin with the August 2015 minutes and September 2015 agenda.

Exchange Reports 2015:

Arizona, Phoenix & Tucson - Domestic Inbound-June 18-24, 2015. Donna Hussin ED.

Gail Holmes submitted financial report for the exchange. \$86.92 was given to the club for the general funds.

Guadeloupe-International Inbound - July 24-31: Maureen Kind & Lise Skofronick CO-ED's
The Guadeloupe exchange is complete. A report will be given at the September meeting.

Exchange Reports 2016:

Cleveland County, UK, Outbound, proposed for May 2016-Nancy Brown and Stephanie Sorensen ED's. Veronica Fletcher, contact for their club. No report

Nashik Riverside Club India, Inbound proposed July 2016. Subash Badgujar, contact for their Club. This exchange to be coordinated with Cedar Rapids club for a second week. Still need ED

San Jose, Costa Rica, Inbound proposed September 2016, Gloria Sandoval contact for their Club. This exchange to be coordinated with San Diego Club. Still need ED

Committee Reports Standing:

Activities - Fannie Hicklin: 67 people sent in reservations. They took in \$1,005 and paid \$772.51 to JL Richards, \$14 to Dollar Tree with a balance of \$232.49 remaining. There are still expense for laundering that will be submitted at the September board meeting. There is a concern when we have potlucks and who's responsibility is it when people become ill from eating the food brought in. If catered, it is the caterer's responsibility but a potluck, it would be FFW-M's responsibility. Another comment was about people that attend without payment for eating. One may have brought her own food to eat for the meal. The committee would like the board to decide what to do about charging for the hard expenses like park reservation fee?

Communication -Dave Dohler-Website. Future communications - www.ffwis.org

Membership - Mary Lindquist -As of 8/14/15 we have 139 members, 36 family & 67 individuals. There are 4 complimentary memberships through the end of the year for new hosts for the Guadeloupe exchange.

Newsletter - Donna Hussin-articles to Donna by Midnight, **Wednesday, August 26th**. A reminded that we should be writing an article after each completed activity.

Outreach - Mary Babula & Sandi Wysock . New list of suggested books for book club was received. No two books were alike. Sandi will choose a book based on availability at the library. Mary Mastaglio is working on another meal outing probably in October. More information will be forthcoming.

Historian - Janet Lonergan No report

Recruitment: George Wysock- Still need ED's for 2016 India and Costa Rica

Committee Reports - Special Committees:

Ad Hoc Committees:

- (1) Mary Lindquist. Still a work in progress

Next meeting Friday, September 18th, 2015, 11:30 am

As a courtesy to the secretary, a copy of a report a board member is presenting is to be given to the secretary. Those making a motion are also requested to give a written copy to the secretary.

Motion made to adjourn - passed!