

**The Friendship Force of Wisconsin - Madison, Inc.**  
**Annual Meeting Minutes - April 29, 2018**  
**Radisson Hotel**

The meeting was called to order by President Sandi Wysock at 1:20 pm. A quorum was present. She thanked everyone who helped organize the meeting, the Board members for serving, and introduced new members and guests attending the meeting.

Ballots were at the tables, members were asked to vote, and the ballots were collected by nominating committee members. Some absentee ballots had also been received and were counted in the total. Ballots were counted while the meeting proceeded. The nominating committee consisted of Sandi Wysock, Lise Skofronick, Sandy Drew, and Mary Lou Martino.

Janet Lonergan moved the minutes from last year be approved as submitted (printed in the newsletter). The motion was seconded and approved. Martha McGregor moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented (available on the tables). It was seconded and approved.

Sandi gave a detailed report on accomplishments of the past year. Our outbound Journey this past year was to Medicine Hat, Canada (led by Peg Hutnik assisted by Donna Hussin). We received incoming groups from New Caledonia (led by Dan Eggerding assisted by Lise Skofronick), San Diego (led by Donna Hussin and Gail Holmes), Indonesia (led by Doug and Kathy Johnson). Several new activities were incorporated into these Journeys which were enjoyed by guests and provided variety for the hosts also. Our Indonesian group came to experience winter and had a wonderful time. We were also able to secure an Open World delegation of young professionals from Ukraine studying media processes in the US (led by Sandi Wysock and Sandy Drew). All of these incoming groups provided lots of opportunities for home hosting, the heart of Friendship Force.

We have another upcoming inbound Journey scheduled for June from Niagara, Canada (led by Lise Skofronick and George Wysock). Plans are also progressing for our upcoming outbound Journey to Japan (led by Kathy Speck and Magdi Sebestyen) which still has a few openings. Several workshops are planned to explore Japanese culture and everyone is invited to participate in these events - watch the newsletter. We hope to be awarded another Open World group.

As of January 1, we added 33 new members and now have a total of 131 members of our Club, up from 124 last year. One of our major efforts this year was to recruit new members at our 40th Anniversary event. Twenty people signed up that day and others have joined throughout the year. Kathy Speck and the membership committee did an outstanding job on this event.

We need this growth in order to have sufficient people to support all of our programs and activities. Many clubs in the US as well as Europe are suffering declining membership as people age and health issues arise which limit their participation. We are finally turning this trend around in our Club having added 57 members in the past three years.

Networking and friend recommendations continue to be our best source of new members, so keep up the good work.

As we gather new members, changes will inevitably come along - more tech savvy people who want to interact in different ways; people who are still working and will need to find ways to participate around working hours and who will require more help to host; and a wider variety of social activities will need to be planned to keep everyone involved. We have developed a mentoring program to make certain that we integrate our new members effectively into the Club.

As you probably know, our website was hacked this past year. We took advantage of this opportunity to change to a new platform that will offer us more flexibility going forward. Al Rieland, Dan Eggerding and Dave Dohler led the effort to make this happen. We are using Facebook as well as Eventbrite and you will be able to sign up and pay for events on-line using credit cards.

We continue to work on developing connections with other groups in the community such as Sister Cities and Rotary and develop ongoing professional presentations. We've also purchased some new display materials. FFI is working to help local clubs increase their marketing and PR skills.

Last year, the Board developed some strategic plans and developed a vision for 2022 that includes growth, diversity, mentoring, having a variety educational, social and service experiences, managing our Club's affairs efficiently and effectively, as well as continuing our global cultural journey experiences.

A couple of announcements about FFI: the next International Conference cannot be held in Puerto Rico as was originally planned and will be held in Boulder, CO in July of 2019. They announced that the annual affiliation dues will be raised by \$5 per person in 2020 for the first time in 7 years - which will necessitate our Board reviewing our own dues policy.

Sandi also thanked everyone for being a part of her "tribe" and for allowing her to be President of this group for the past two plus years - an honor and a privilege.

Lise Skofronick of the Nominating Committee reported the results of the vote. The slate of officers for next year beginning in September will be: Peg Hutnik, President; Kathy Speck, Vice President; Martha Mc Gregor, Secretary; and May Juckem, Treasurer.

Sandi thanked those who served who are no longer on the Board: Lise Skofronick (outreach); Jane Kessenick (activities); Mary Lindquist (membership); Sandy Drew (Vice President). She thanked all of the Journey Coordinators (listed above and in the program) as well as day hosts, drivers, dinner hosts, bakers, highway pickup participants, and WPT auction participants. She also reminded members of those we lost in the past year: Eleanor Loree Davies, Barbara Infield, and Lois Hinhede. Long time members were all recognized on the program.

Sandi then shared with everyone Journey assignments for 2019. We will have an incoming group from Medicine Hat, Canada; an incoming group from Aichi, Japan; and our outbound Journey will be two weeks in Australia in the Central Coast and in Tweed Valley.

Signups are available here for participants in our next highway cleanup, the WPT auction, dinner hosting or day hosting for the incoming group from Niagara, and the bus trip to East Troy with the Yerkes Observatory and the train ride with gourmet lunch.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.