

Friendship Force of Wisconsin - Madison, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2019
Bridge LakePoint Community Center, 1917 Lake Point Drive, Madison

The meeting was called to order at 12:43.

Present: Peg Hutnik, Kathy Speck-Kemeny, Martha McGregor, Mary Juckem, Stephanie Sorensen, Magdi Sebestyen, Audrey Liimatainen, Agnes Rona, Janet Lonergan, Sandi Wysock,

Excused absence: Helen Ann Rugowski, Tom Miller, Donna Miller, Gail Holmes

Minutes. Motion was made by Janet Lonergan to accept the minutes as submitted, seconded by Kathy Speck, and motion carried.

Treasurer's Report. There was no additional discussion or changes to the treasurer's report.

President's Report. Peg Hutnik reported that the international journey for 2020 will be to New Caledonia and Christchurch, New Zealand. During her cruise, she spoke with president of the Christchurch club and there would be a possibility that we could extend a few days in New Zealand to the North Island. She also reported that FFI will be planning more discovery tours and global journeys that do not have a home stay which makes them more expensive. They will also continue the cruises through Holland America; Alaska in the fall of 2019 and Australia/New Zealand are scheduled for 2020.

Journey Coordinator's Report. Stephanie Sorensen reported that work is progressing on the journeys, but all of the coordinators have been gone. Open World for the group from Russia will be next week.

Newsletter Editor. Agnes Rona asked if the format is ok. The next newsletter will be out on May 1 which means that the deadline for submitting articles is April 17 or one week after the board meeting. Sandi Wysock will continue to forward copies of the newsletter to regional presidents.

Activities. It appears that we have a good amount of activities planned for the year. Peg will invite Dale Moore to the annual picnic to be held July 8. This is also the farewell party for the incoming Medicine Hat journey. We discussed a 6 at 6 activity for all members so that those still working can attend a social event. Kathy suggested that we alternate the LEO's and book club meetings so that some meet during the day and some meet during the evening. Magdi will plan a hike for May 5 at 1:30 at Indian Lake. An email will be sent to members.

Membership Committee. We have 118 members that renewed this year. Helen Ann Rugowski reported that there were thirty people who signed up at the International Festival on February 23. Helen Ann is planning new member orientation meetings to be held on April 4 and April 6. She has enough members to help with those meetings.

Outreach Committee. Tom Miller sent a report via email.

Historian. Janet Lonergan reminded us that the secretary retains all the reports for each month. The treasurer will retain the treasurer's reports and submit all materials to the in-coming treasurer.

Ad Hoc Committees.

Accumulated Funds. No report.

Board Manual up-dates. The Board manual is available on One Cloud. Peg suggested that we start the newly elected officers earlier than September. The plan is to have a retreat with both the new board and old board in July with the transition to the new board at that meeting or the August meeting. This will require a change in the by-laws to be voted on by the membership at the 2020 annual meeting. Also, a report of the retreat should be made available to the membership.

Technology. Sandi Wysock reported that they are meeting their goals. The first goal was to get the web-site up and running and that is done. The second goal was to get MailChimp functioning and get others trained to use it. Lois Shultz is trained to post messages. There are new functions that will allow users to target specific groups to send reminders and messages so that all members are not receiving all of the emails sent out. The third goal was to work on the content of the web site which is still on-going. Since we have several platforms (web site, MailChimp, Facebook) for communications, it is important to train several people to use and post information. Possibly event announcements can be added to Facebook. Please be considerate and give those posting items plenty of lead time so they can get your post out there in a timely manner. Dan Eggerding has located a calendar plug-in for the website that will function as a true calendar. This calendar has the potential to have ticketing added, along with the ability to pay using either pay pal or a card function. Sandy suggested that the ad hoc technology committee might need to be a formal committee which would require a change in the by-laws.

Old Business.

Open World. Sandi Wysock reported that there are five ambassadors from Russia, a facilitator, and a translator. One participant is a reporter for Tass, others work in television. There will be a pot-luck for the club to meet them on Sunday Mar 24 at the clubhouse for the Tree Lane Condo Association. Kathy said that net-working with the experts here is key to the success of an Open World program.

International Conference. Peg reported that there are still scholarships available for members to attend the meeting in Colorado. The board will vote on the recipients at the April or May meeting.

Annual Meeting. There will be a special welcome for the new members at 11:30 during the ice-breaker. The lunch will be served at 12:15, followed by the business meeting at 1:15. Sandy Drew will handle the election of officers for 2019-2020; the ballots will be on the table. Absentee ballots will be mailed out on March 17. The secretary's report and treasurer's report will be on the tables for the members to read. There will be a photo loop of journeys running in the background for viewing.

New Business

Niagara, Ontario. Sandi reported that the Niagara Ontario Club has sent us an invitation. The San Antonio club will be visiting them from June 12-19, 2019 and there are ten open positions. Sandi made a motion to accept the invitation from Niagara to join their San Antonio journey, seconded by Agnes Rona, motion carried.

Discussion followed about the invitations for 2020. Peg suggested that we invite the Oita club from Taketa Japan. Orlando and Denver have been waiting for an invitation from us. The Big Canoe, Georgia club would like to visit us when they visit Des Moines. Should we consider Open World again for 2020?

The next meeting will be April 10. The meeting was adjourned at 2:31.

Respectfully submitted by Martha McGregor.