

**Friendship Force of Wisconsin - Madison, Inc.**  
Board Meeting Minutes November 11, 2020  
Via Zoom

Kathy Speck Kemeny called the meeting to order at 12:30.

**Present:** Kathy Speck Kemeny, Diana Rodum, Mary Juckem, Peter Kaufman, Magdi Sebestyen, Gail Holmes, Stephanie Sorensen, Mike Lambert, Doug Johnson, Sandi Wysock and Lise Skofronick, Dorothy Baldwin, Agnes Rona.

**Excused Absence:**

**Minutes.** The motion to accept the minutes was seconded and passed.

**Reports.**

**President's Report.** Kathy noted that there have been no changes since the last President's Report, that it is no longer "business as usual" through the pandemic and that our challenge is to keep our members more engaged.

**Treasurer's Report.** Mary Juckem reported that the new balance is \$20,420.82. Both the corrected September Treasurer's report and the October report were accepted by unanimous vote. Discussion followed regarding membership renewals that have included donations to our club. Sandi will send Lise the official wording regarding our tax status for inclusion in her thankyou notes, which can be used as official receipts for tax purposes. Sandi had developed a form letter to send to donors which is in the Board Manual, Section 5. As chair of Membership, Lise will send thank you notes with the necessary wording.

**Journey Coordinator.** Stephanie reported that the only activity has been settling on the 2021 journey plan. Gail reported that the Christ Church, NZ FF club is offering a video tour, and it was proposed to offer this link to the entire club. It has already gone out on a Mail Chimp notice to the club, but Peter will also post it to the schedule of events.

**Program Committee.** Mike and Magdi stated there was nothing to report beyond the committee's goals, to be discussed later in the meeting.

**Activities.** Gail noted that warmer than expected weather had allowed more activities this past month:

- Adopt-A-Highway service occurred 10/21. Photos were taken of the participants.
- A hike in Donald County Park took place on 11/5.
- There was no Second Harvest service due to covid 19.
- Bike riders enjoyed the Badger Trail in Bellville on 11/4.
- Dining on the 6<sup>th</sup> was a ZOOM cocktail get-together hosted by Marji and Pete Marion.
- Book Club plans to meet on 11/30 at 7:00 to discuss Hmong in Wisconsin. Contact Reta Harring for the link to the Zoom session. Members are encouraged to participate even if they have not read the book.

There are no plans yet for December.

**Outreach.** Dorothy Baldwin will be out of town and unable to attend through Thanksgiving. She asked that members will give her some ideas, as restrictions on contact inhibit outreach.

**Membership.** Refer to Lise's Membership Committee Report. She reported that there has been a good return of membership renewals. The Membership Committee would like to help increase participation in member activities.

## **Ad Hoc Committees.**

**Electronics.** Sandi reported that the Ad Hoc Electronic Communications Committee would be meeting on the afternoon of Friday 11/13.

**Events.** Peter reported that the events calendar was updated late this month. Kathy suggested emailing Peter regarding events that don't make it in the monthly newsletter. She wondered if we should post FFI events on our events calendar. Sandi and Diana suggested posting a link to the FFI events site, and Peter said he would post it on the first of each month at the top.

**Newsletter.** Agnes requested that members send her copy to post in the newsletter by November 20. She also brought up the process of sending newsletter documents to the Wisconsin Historical Society. That discussion will be postponed to include the club historian. Sandi and Pete will send an article, and Gail will send one about Lima Peru's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## **Old Business.**

**2022 Outbound Journeys.** Stephanie reported:

- 2021 - the Niagara club indicated that our journey there in the fall may still be possible, but will depend on the status of the pandemic..
- 2022 - Toronto may be willing to take us in the spring.
- A motion was made and passed to make requests for journeys to New Caledonia and New Zealand (cancelled in April 2020 due to the pandemic) and Toronto for 2022.

**Membership Renewals.** Kathy initiated discussion about automatic membership renewals this year, since the board previously decided to waive the 2021 membership fee for 2020 members. Lise stated that she was planning to check with non-responders to the renewal forms that had been mailed, and it was concluded that we would drop only those who specifically request that they be removed. Stephanie noted that dues for non-paying members would still have to be paid to FFI.

**Face Masks.** Following our last board meeting, Kathy brought Magdi's idea to the FFI Midwest Leaders Meeting, and that group was interested in exploring a group purchase. Magdi subsequently worked with a Lincoln club board member has family that is producing masks for \$6/ea. After much discussion about bulk purchases, design, color, etc., the Board took a head count of member interested in getting a FF mask, and concluded there was not enough interest. The project is dropped but Magdi's effort was appreciated. Diana mentioned that a UW engineering group had designed a mask "fitter" called the Badger Seal, to snug down the typical clinical mask. It is currently being produced by a Middleton company (link <https://www.tabsynth.com/product/badger-seal-mask-fitter/>). Bulk orders are cheaper.

## **New Business.**

### **Goals.**

- **Programs.** Magdi and Mike presented ideas to find new and unusual events to elicit member interest (refer to the Proposed Goals submitted by the Program Committee):
  - Cultural presentations we create
  - Presentations from on-line sources with group discussion afterwards, i.e. watching a Rick Steves tour show with Zoom discussion afterwards.
  - Game night programs

- Stephanie suggested geographic trivia and breakout rooms for teams
- Dorothy suggested tour games
- Informing members via Event Calendar, Mail Chimp or a new message board.

The cost of outside speakers was discussed, noting that many local speakers are free or low cost, and that UW Speakers Bureau costs vary. Magdi requested a budget of \$300 for the Program Committee, which was approved.

Magdi proposed a group watch of a Dunn County Historical Soc. Program “Wisconsin’s Gangster Past”, airing on Friday 11/13 6:30 – 8:00, at a group rate of \$25. It was moved and passed to purchase the \$25 group link for distribution to the membership. An email announcement will be sent to the membership.

**Next Meeting.** Wednesday 12/9 12:30 – 2:30 via ZOOM. Kathy adjourned the meeting at 2:35 PM, noting that today’s agenda discussion of goals was not completed, and would be resumed at the next meeting.