

**Minutes
of the
2022 Annual Meeting**

April 27, 2022



Friendship Force of Wisconsin - Madison, Inc.



**Friendship Force of Wisconsin - Madison, Inc.
Annual Meeting Minutes April 27, 2022
Via Zoom**

Virtual Social Time on Zoom began at 6:30 pm.

Many friendly exchanges took place in our virtual Zoom social time.

Welcome & Introduction of New Members

Kathy Speck called the business part of the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, with a delightful welcome and presentation of photos and mini-bios of the four new members who had joined since our last annual meeting in 2021:

- Mary and Dennis Ray
- Janice Barbone
- Hal Wissink

Present: A quorum of the members was present.

**Approval of Minutes from Previous
Annual Meeting in April 2021**

- George Wysock and Donna Ulteig respectively moved to accept and second the minutes from the 2021 annual meeting. Gail Holmes noted there was no secretary's signature on the minutes. The minutes had been produced by a group effort, but Diana Rodum, who was secretary at the time of the meeting, agreed to sign them. The minutes passed unanimously with Ms. Rodum's signature added.

2022 - ANNUAL MEETING

Treasurer's Report for 2021-22

- Mary Juckem said she had deducted the donations received for the Afghan refugees from both the income and expenditures to accurately reflect the club's true financial status. She said that she had missed a 50 cent expenditure, which would then result in a net loss of \$93.11. She revised the report to reflect the difference. The club balance at the end of the year was \$16,653.63 for all accounts.
- Agnes Rona moved and Sandi Wysock seconded that the financial report be accepted with the minor change noted. The motion passed unanimously.

President's Report

President Kathy Speck said:

- Friendship Force International had to cancel all journeys for 2020 and 2021, but it survived the pandemic with a skeleton staff. It developed a new portal for members, which contains a lot of virtual cultural programs. It has also begun to schedule journeys for 2022 and 2023.
- Friendship Force WI had to cancel all incoming journeys, and the outgoing journeys were also cancelled. However, the club continued to be active with many virtual and some in-person activities and a lot of member involvement.

Election of Officers

Sandi Wysock presented the slate of candidates recommended by the Nominations Committee

- By an email vote, 56 members, which represented over 66% of the total membership, voted unanimously for the presented slate of candidates:
 - o President: Doug Johnson
 - o Co-Vice Presidents:
 - o Diane Mertens and Larry Neuman
 - o Secretary: John Witte
 - o Treasurer Mary Juckem

2022 - ANNUAL MEETING

Bylaws Change

President Speck recommended that Article VII Committees and Appointees, Section 1 of the bylaws be amended to add Electronics Communications Committee as a committee of the Board, as follows:

Electronic Communications: Manage and maintain electronic communications media such as the club website, social media sites, Zoom and MailChimp. Train users and identify evolving technology to enhance communications.

John Witte moved and Gail Holmes seconded that the amendment be added. The motion passed unanimously.

Journey Coordinator

Stephanie Sorensen, Journey Manager, reported the following:

- Friendship Force International has made numerous changes and is trying to reschedule cancelled journeys from the past two years.
- We have been offered an incoming journey from Japan and an outgoing to New Zealand.
- Members have shown an interest in going to Olympia WA. However, she will need two coordinators for the trip – one experienced and one learner.
- We have been offered an incoming journey from Mexico during Thanksgiving week, but this will depend on whether there are sufficient people to host that week. Anyone able to host should let her know.
- The incoming bike journey is on hold.
- There will be an Open World program group coming in the fall from Kazakhstan.
- New Caledonia is out, but Dallas TX is a possibility.
- Members were urged to be journey coordinators or hosts.
- Anyone interested in other journeys should check the Friendship Force International website for outbound journeys with other clubs. Often, there is room for a couple people on the outgoing journeys.

Activities and Programs

- President Speck urged the members to check the website events calendar to be aware of all upcoming events.
- Davis Blado said to note the changed dates for Tom & Donna Miller's presentation about Ukraine and Donna Ulteig's about the Chernobyl Centers.
- Donna Ulteig noted that the reference to Friends of Chernobyl Centers US (FOCCUS) was incorrect on the website.
- Gail Holmes thanked those who led the various club activities and discussed the upcoming activities. She reported that Maureen Kind will be leading the "Let's Walk, Let's Hike" group; Kathy Martinson will be coordinating the Second Harvest activity; and Vivian Norton will help with bike rides.
- Mike Lambert said that some international graduate students are willing to give a presentation about their country. An upcoming Zoom meeting is scheduled to hear about Korea. He also noted that he and his co-chair, David Blado, intend to continue trivia programs throughout the summer.

Newsletter

Agnes Rona told the group that she wants to give up her job as editor of the newsletter and needs a replacement. She said the group may have to consider some changes, such as having co-editors or only publishing every other month. Anyone interested in the position should contact her or the chair.

In Memoria

- Kathy Speck mentioned the former members who had died during the year and the contributions they had made to the club. Those individuals were: Mary Ann Fahl, Jim Weiland and Shirley Wolff Swenson.

In Gratitude

- Kathy Speck expressed her gratitude and appreciation for the various Board members, committee chairs and committee members who had contributed so much during the past year to keep the organization viable during the pandemic. In particular, she gave special recognition and appreciation for decades of service contributed by Janet Lonergan and Bernie Long, whose activities and leadership go back to the 1980s, and Sandi Wysock for several years of leadership and service, and her continuing contributions to the club.

Member Involvement

- Kathy Speck talked about succession planning and how the Board wants to involve members who have previously not been involved. Ms. Speck also informed the members that there is an ongoing need for members to step forward and take a leadership role, whether it be to chair or serve on a committee. Anyone interested in getting involved with the board or one of the committees in the upcoming program year should contact her or one of the Board or committee chairs before July.

Open World Program

- Sandi Wysock said the club will be hosting an Open World group from Kazakhstan in November, and she is looking for people to help with the planning and hosting.

Prizes

Doug Johnson announced that the three winners of the drawing are: Deb Gunther, Jan Viney and Martha McGregor.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

*Submitted by
Sandra Drew, Secretary*