

Minutes for
Friendship Force Board of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City
October 26, 2017 5:30pm, Cedar Rapids Downtown Library

The meeting was called to order by President Jean Thomas.

Present: Jean Thomas, Dean Thomas, Mary Stull, Connie Williams, Shirley Rosencrans, Marian Wetjen, Stephanie Schulte, Larry Nelson, MaryAnn Nelson, Rosie Russell, Barb Steggall and Jim Steggall.

The minutes from the July 29, 2017 Board Meeting were reviewed and approved. (Mary/Mary Ann)

Treasurer's Report-Stephanie

Stephanie presented the October Treasurer's Report. The available balance is \$13,914.73 in the General Account and \$8,042.58 in the Exchange account. A \$400 donation to FFI in recognition of the 40th Anniversary, as part of a show of support and collaboration from the Midwest Region, was approved. This donation was covered in the 2018 approved budget.

Dean made a motion for acceptance of the report and Mary seconded. Motion passed.

President's Report- Jean & Dean

The Des Moines Club is hosting their 40-year anniversary bash on Oct. 29. Thomas', Moore's and Steggall's plan to attend.

The Super-Regional Conference will be held on April 20-22, 2018 in Cincinnati, OH.

Committee Reports

Membership: Marian

Current membership is 86. Three new members have joined recently. 2018 dues are to be paid by the Annual Meeting.

Activities: Shirley

The Longbranch Convention Center has been reserved for the Annual Meeting on Sunday Dec. 3. Social time starts at 5:00pm with a dinner at 5:30pm. The program will cover the recent Taiwan journey.

Journeys: Connie

Connie reported the following Journeys scheduled for 2018:

Ribeirao Preto, Brazil - July 10-16, 2018

Incoming international journey to arrive for a 5-7 day journey, then traveling on to Chicago. I was fortunate to make contact with Simone Lanzoni, wife of Helcio Lanzoni, ambassador coordinator and Kathy Coyner from the Chicago FF. (See photo) Simone is a member of the Friendship Force Board of Directors and was excited to chat about their journey. We can expect 14-16 ambassadors, including some teenage family members, as this is during a school break. This will truly be a great opportunity to show off the best of the Midwest!

Tauranga Western Bay of Plenty, New Zealand - Sept. 27-Oct. 3, 2018

Incoming international journey to Wichita, Cedar Rapids/Iowa City and Las Vegas. There are a few quilters in this group, so they plan to begin their trip in Des Moines for the Quilt Show on Sept. 25-27. The journey to CR/IC will begin Sept. 27 (what a beautiful time of year to visit!), then on to Wichita and Las Vegas. Ambassador Host, Brian Grimwood, has collected the names of 28 interested members. No worries, he knows all four host cities plan to host 20 ambassadors, and anticipates the numbers to be in line with our hosting capacity by the journey dates. Again, a committee and Host Coordinator is needed.

Albuquerque, NM - tentative for 2018

Incoming domestic journey. Late May thru mid-June? August? We're waiting to hear back from them.

Kosovo – Steve Williams was following up with Ambassadors from the Open World to see if there is interest in establishing a FF Club in Kosovo. There is not a club in Kosovo currently, but there is interest to connect with the Open World participants who had visited Cedar Rapids/Iowa City in September 2017. A motion was made by Connie and seconded by Dean to establish a special committee to study the CR-IC /Kosovo relationship. Motion passed. Connie, Steve, and Mary Ann volunteered to be on the committee.

Communications:

Dale has completed his term and is transitioning to Mary as Communications Chair.

President Elect: Jim/Barb

On behalf of the Nominations Committee, Jim reported that Jerry Burke has been nominated for Treasurer and Larry and MaryAnn Nelson for Secretary. No one has volunteered to be President Elect. Jean and Dean will be Past Presidents, Mary will be the Communications Chair, Audrey Bradford the Director at Large and all others will continue in their current roles.

Other Business

There was a discussion about historical information of the Club that has been travelling with the President. It was agreed that the memorabilia would be brought to the Annual Meeting and interested members could claim what they want.

Stephanie Schulte brought up the issue of the Treasurer being able to use the debit card for online banking and purchases on behalf of the Club. A motion was made by Dean and seconded by Mary to authorize the Treasurer to utilize the debit card. Motion passed.

The next Board meeting is Oct. 26 5:30pm at the Cedar Rapids Public Library conference room. The meeting adjourned at 11:15am.

Jim & Barb Steggall
Co-Secretaries