

Minutes for Friendship Force CR/IC Board Meeting

April 14, 2020 at 10AM via Zoom

Call to order by Mary Ann Nelson at 10:15 AM. Present on Zoom: Mary Ann and Larry Nelson, John and Judy Miner, Mary Stull, Connie Williams, Esther Hudson, Joanne Smith, Darlene Peterson, Jerry and Carol Burke, Dale Moore, and Trudy Johansen (who could see and hear everyone present, but who the Board could not see or hear.)

President's Report:

Mary Ann opened the meeting by reading the mission statement, which she also had included in a previous email to the Board. She also outlined the 3 main points to be emphasized during the meeting: 1) FFI finances, 2) Journey's carryover from 2020 to 2021 and its' future, and 3) During this unprecedented coronavirus pandemic, how can the CR/IC Club stay connected with its' members during this social distancing time and near future?

Secretary's Report:

The report was sent by Trudy/Mary Ann via email. The Board members who were present on the March 19th conference call were added: Mary Stull, Joanne Smith, Jerry and Carol Burke, John and Judy Miner, Mary Ann and Larry Nelson, and Trudy Johansen, and in the Journey's minutes on Kosovo/Budapest, the word "visited" was changed to "revisited." Mary made a motion to accept the minutes with revisions and Jerry seconded it. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Joanne the report to Mary Ann who sent it to the Board. and also the journey account report. Refund checks from the Albuquerque trip will be going out soon. Jerry made a motion to accept the report and Judy seconded. Report approved.

President's Report:

Goal # 1—FFI finances: Mary Ann had previously sent the Board via email a Power Point on FFI finances. During this pandemic, much of the expected revenue is not coming in due to cancelled Journey trips among other things. She asked Dale Moore, who sat in on a Regional FFI meeting to summarize. Revenue from Journey's is usually 75-80% of the budget, and 80% of FFI costs is the staff. FFI cut everything they could, including furloughing staff to 20%. A fund raising campaign was started. It is 2 fold: 1) a challenge to each club, and 2) a challenge to all FF members individually. At the Regional meeting Dale reported that some clubs were giving \$2,000-\$5,000. Individually, some members are giving the refunds they are receiving from cancelled Journey's or are pledging \$ per month. Without fundraising, staff could be let go, FFI could fold or go dormant, or individual clubs could fold, but would need to give any monies to another non-profit. The goal of the fundraising is about \$340,000 of which about \$70,000 has been pledged so far. Much discussion was held. Joanne mentioned that the Club had \$2,000 budgeted for World Conference, which is now cancelled, so the \$ could be used. John mentioned that some members are making donations now and will revisit the idea later of giving more. Perhaps a "match" to our membership to give to FFI could be started? Mary mentioned sending a note to our members along with the Power Point explanation and information on its' impact to not only our Club but world wide. Mary Ann wants information included in the Newsletter along with an appeal to our members and directions on gifting. Judy made a motion to give \$1,500 to FFI and to ask members to add to that. Connie seconded, and the motion passed. A specified date for members to send their donations to the treasurer will be set. Dale and Mary Ann discussed "forward thinking" from here on regarding dues and the model we use.

President's report:

Goal # 2—Journey's: Connie reported that all Journey's for 2020 have cancelled. Albuquerque has invited the Club back next year. Kosovo/ Budapest cancelled, but Kosovo along with something else might be an option? Taiwan cancelled early in the process. International has been cancelled. Dale reported the Regional in Minneapolis has been cancelled, maybe next year? The proposed Journey's for 2021 are still on: 1) the

families and kids from Mexico on July 21, and 2) Australia/New Zealand on September 21. Discussion: Dale, when Journey's resume, some Clubs will have the capacity to do more Journey's than normal. Also, due to economic constraints this virus is causing, focus on domestic trips as a way to start back up. Mary Ann, without a vaccine, who's going to want to travel? Connie, need for vaccination and way to keep FFI framework together. Larry exposed concern about what happens to our local Club and also encouraged local US Journey's.

President's report:

Goal #3—How do we keep our members involved?; Darlene mentioned needing a place for October LEO. Mary Ann mentioned that LEO's are up in the air with so many unknowns. As things open up, possibly a LEO in a member's backyard? Mix and Mingle are small groups so would be good once things open up. Could a Mix and Mingle meet on Zoom? Mary Ann will coordinate a sub committee to look into way to keep connected. Connie volunteered to head up the committee. Maybe Judy and Audrey to help? Dale mentioned from a Regional meeting that some clubs are using their member roster to have members call the member prior to their name and following their name. Host a Zoom Happy Hour? Create a Zoom challenge? Mary Ann mentioned baseball in Quad cities is up in the air.

Communication:

John and Judy talked about the lead time for members to get info ready for the Newsletter. Mary mentioned that she was able to get the World event the Club held into the Hoopla section of the Gazette. Kudos, Mary!!

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Judy made a motion to adjourn the Board meeting. Judy seconded, and Mary Ann adjourned the meeting at 11:25.

Respectfully submitted—4-15-2020

Trudy Johansen
Recording Secretary