

Friendship Force CR-IC Board Minutes January 20th. 2025 via Zoom at 13:00

1

Present : Shirley Rosencrans, Nancy York, Tom Hess, Nadine Stark, Joanie Lacayo, Connie Williams, Judy Frascht-Miner, Stephanie Schulte, Mary Stull **Absent:** Carol Burke, Patty Potter, Sharon Bowers

Secretary's Report: There was a correction made to the December minutes. The word volunteer was replaced by board leader under Regional Rep/Open World. A motion was made by Judy to accept the minutes. Stephanie seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: There were no corrections to the Treasurer's report. A motion to accept the report was made by Nancy, and seconded by Joanie. The motion carried.

Charter Renewal is due by the National Friendship Force soon. Membership numbers as of November 2024 consisted of 72 people. Tom will report this and renew.

Budget 2025: The past and future budget expenses were discussed. This year there are no expected conferences and as of this date no Open World appointments. A comparison of expected expenses and actual numbers from 2024 is currently under review. A suggestion was made to table approval of the 2025 budget until the next meeting.

Committee Updates:

Membership: Carol updated the board through email and reported the following:

54 members have paid their dues and 17 were sent a reminder. Kathy Healy is a new member who joined us at the annual meeting. Michael Eckert is interested in joining. He lives in IC so Christine has been in contact. Taryn Roberts from FFI sent us the names of Roger Buresh, Tina Gage and Kyle Scheer. I have sent applications to Roger and Tina and will correspond again if I do not hear back. Kyle is working in Timor-Leste and from CR and wants to embark on a slow journey back home and would love to connect with FF club members during that time. Connie is corresponding with him

Journeys 2025:

Outbound New Hampshire Seacoast: Judy reported Marty is working on this journey which is full with a waiting list.

Outbound to Milwaukee: Connie reported there is room available for interested members. Total numbers are forthcoming.

Inbound from Adelaide: Stephanie is currently working on this journey. She is exploring new ideas and places such as the Basilica, and Camp Courageous in Monticello. The beginning/ending exact dates are not finalized as yet.

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Outbound Chiang Mai, Thailand: Judy gave updated information that no Covid requirements are needed, just come healthy. Three members from a Lansing FF club with a previously scheduled journey have joined ours. It is now full.

Outbound possible Journeys for 2026: Judy reported the outbound request form is due soon. Possibilities include Peru, Utah and Washington state, (lower Colombia.) There is correspondence for journeys in both directions for Utah and Washington state. There have been suggestions for new places to visit. The deadline is the first part of February.

Midwest Regional Update/Open World:

Connie reported on 3 things: #1) There could be an Open World assignment coming. #2) July, going to Milwaukee is M-Thursday. If you stay on, the German Fest is Friday thru Saturday. #3) Kim Hideman from the Kosovo consulate is organizing a group to go at the end of June. Specific dates and costs are not known at this time.

Representation meeting: Connie reported the 2025 International meeting has been cancelled. The 2026 North American conference dates and locations are under discussion as well as the 2027 International conference. Also, any local news and/or pictures can be sent to FFI to Allison or Taryn.

Communications: Mary reported we are up to date with the website. A software upgrade may be needed, she is checking with Laura Thomas. Mary is checking the current officers listed on the website.

Calendar:

LEO: Monday, February 3rd a LEO at Lucky's is set up. Time is 11:30 with hosts Mary and Larry Nelson. Sign-up genius has been sent out.

International Friendship Day Potluck: The date is Sunday March 2nd. Set up at 1:00 with the meeting starting at 2pm. Tom is awaiting the approval from The Marion Christian Church. Setup is minimal. Sign up genius will be sent out. Coffee, Lemonade and water provided. Alissa Boguslaw, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Coe College will be our speaker. Nancy will contact KKC for student contact. Mary will adjust the flyer from last year.

Annual Meeting: Shirley contacted Sally's in Springville for a new annual meeting site. The date is tentatively November 8th from 9:30 to 11:30.

Soup Supper/Game Night: Shirley is suggesting a game night on April 6th. or 13th. Several places were suggested, Anamosa library or the Marion library. Shirley will check availability.

May LEO: A possible LEO in Iowa City was discussed with suggested dates of May 3rd or 4th. Will ask our Iowa City members to organize this event.

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Next board meeting: Monday, February 24th. at 1:00 pm.

A motion to adjourn was made by Judy and seconded by Joanie. The meeting closed at 2:10 pm.

/cns