

FFCI Board Meeting: Minutes DRAFT
Saturday, January 15, 2022, 9:30 a.m.
Zoom Online Meeting

Present: Alta and Jerry Byg (Co-Treasurers), Sedahlia Crase (President), Dennis Dake (Newsletter), Margaret Epplin (Secretary)

1. **Call to order** The Zoom online meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by President Crase.

2. **Approve Agenda**

A Byg **made a motion** to approve the agenda. Dennis Dake **seconded**. **Motion carried.**

3. **Approve Minutes of November 13, 2021, Board meeting**

A Byg **made a motion** to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2021, Board meeting. Dennis Dake **seconded**. **Motion carried.**

4. **Reports** (Rather than recitation of reports, this is a time to ask questions or comment.)

a. **Treasurers Report, Alta/Jerry Byg** The Treasurers provided the report as follows:

There have been no transactions in the Journey account since November 11, 2021. Journey Account checkbook balance is \$250.

The November 11, 2021, General Account checkbook balance was \$4,769.59. Payments of \$40 to Puffin Publishing for website maintenance and \$1,100 to Friendship Force International for 2021 membership dues were made. 22 dues payments were received and deposited (\$880.00). With these transactions the General Checking Account balance is \$4,509.59.

b. **Membership**

Co-Treasurers Bygs sent FFI \$1,100 for 2021 dues of \$20 per member for 55 members. 24 members have paid FFCI dues so far for 2022.

To increase membership in FFCI, Crase suggests a presence at the Seniors Fair for ISU retirees. Crase will represent FFCI at the Seniors Fair and will check with Jerilyn Logue who works with OLLI and ISU retirees about other possibilities. Crase suggests FFCI advertise in *Ames Tribune/Sun* and OLLI brochures if funds allow. Perhaps FFCI could provide an OLLI workshop or class.

Crase will work with the Bygs to communicate with current members for renewals; Epplin will type a new list of members when dues are mostly paid.

A Byg suggested a brain-storming meeting outside the regular Board meeting to discuss ways to increase membership. Crase will suggest 5 potential 2-hour times for the Board to meet to talk about membership and the possibility of FFCI upcoming journeys.

Crase will pick up information from the past Membership Chair, Joan Mathews.

c. **Communication**

i. **Historian**

Crase needs a two-drawer file cabinet to store the historical materials she is temporarily housing until a member takes on the responsibility of Historian. Epplin will bring info from Marshalltown to Crase. Converting the historical records to digital is a possibility.

ii. **Information Technology (website) Epplin**

FFCI owes Jim Ecklund \$17.99, for the renewal of the Bluehost domain, and Epplin will request a check from Bygs.

Epplin has tried to set up the Bluehost charges to be automatically paid by FFCI instead of Jim Ecklund but is unable to because it requires a credit card. Epplin is continuing to work on this.

Crase is looking for Facebook passwords.

iii. **Newsletter Dake**

Dake requested that Board members send him information for the newsletter. Dake did a screen shot of officers at today's Zoom meeting and will include in the next newsletter. Other newsletter items to be included are new member introductions and pictures taken during activities. The newsletter will also be sent to old members through February. Dake will have additional copies of newsletters and membership lists at FFCI meetings and activities.

The Bygs reported that about 40 people (including 10 FFCI members) attended a meeting about their trip to Ukraine.

iv. **Publicity**

Crase asked all members to take pictures during FFCI activities and submit to Dennis. As mentioned above, Crase will investigate publicity of FFCI through OLLI and ISU retirees and the *Ames Tribune/Sun*.

d. **Activities**

Crase shared the list of possible activities for 2022, asking for volunteers every two months with assistance from past co-chairs Corry Bertelsen and Charene Starcevic.

e. **Nominations (Crase)** Crase will continue to work on Vice President, Membership Chair, and Historian.

f. **Information via Regional Representative Dale Moore (Crase)**

Crase reported that the FF Regional meeting is held on the 4th Thursday of every month but didn't meet in December. Discussion at recent regional meetings has included encouraging all members to get signed up on myFF. A Byg suggested a newsletter item with instructions on how to sign in on the FFI website.

Crase shared the FFI virtual trips in which she has participated. There are also other activities such as Bingo and a Book Club on the FFI website, but members must have myFF login information.

Crase said eventually FFCI would be using Bridge which is on FFI only now.

5. **Old business**

a. **Journeys (in- and out-bound)**

FFCI did not request either inbound or outbound journeys for 2022. Crase said the request for journey matches for 2023 hasn't been sent out yet but will be soon.

b. **Member sign-in to new FFI portal** Crase reminded Board members to set up sign-in information for the FFI website (myFF) if they have not already done so.

6. **New business**

a. **2023 budget** Crase will work with the Co-Treasurers to establish a budget for 2023. A Byg noted that the number of members will determine the 2023 budget.

b. **Elect vice president and appoint committee chairs** Crase will continue to work on this.

c. **2021 officer/committee reports** Crase reminded that annual Board officer/committee reports were due to Crase at the end of 2021.

d. **Future plans: thoughts, possibilities (brain storming)**

As mentioned earlier, Crase will suggest 5 potential 2-hour times for a Board brainstorming session to talk about increasing membership and the possibility of FFCI upcoming journeys.

7. **Other issues**

Dake thanked the Board for continuing FFCI during the challenging Covid situation. Dake suggested a newsletter article on the reasons members continue their annual membership.

8. **Adjournment**

A Byg **made a motion** to adjourn the meeting, Epplin **seconded**. **Motion carried**.

The Next Board meeting will be held via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 12.

The remaining Board meetings in 2022 are May 14, July 9, September 10, and November 12, and the Annual Meeting on October 8.

Respectively submitted, Margaret Epplin, Secretary