

FFCI Board Minutes
Saturday, March 11, 2023, 9:30 a.m.
Zoom Online Meeting

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

1. **Call to order:** President Crase called the meeting to order at 9:30.
2. **Approve Agenda:** Crase added an Agenda item (7e) to share results of the FFCI membership survey on Covid
Alta **moved to approve** the Agenda as amended. Epplin **seconded. Motion carried.**

3. **Approve minutes of January 14, 2023 Board meeting**

Crase noted that Kalispell is not 100 miles from Missoula as stated on page 2 of the Minutes.

Alta **moved to accept** the Minutes as corrected. Epplin **seconded. Motion carried.**

4. **Reports:** A time to ask questions/comment, not a recitation.

- a. **Treasurer:** Alta and Jerry Byg, Co-Treasurers

There have been no transactions in the Journey Account since January 13, 2023. Journey Account checkbook balance is \$250.00.

The January 13, 2023 General Account checkbook balance was \$5,483.75. Two payments for expenses were made: Jerry Byg, Treasurer was reimbursed \$1,150.00 for a credit card payment to FFI for 46 2022 memberships at \$25 each and a payment to Puffin Publishing in the amount of \$19.99 for website renewal. Dues payments and donations in the amount of \$1,420 were received and deposited.

With these transactions the General checking account balance is \$5,733.76.

Epplin noted that our website consultant Jim Eckland would like for us to pay BlueHost directly. J Byg and Epplin will talk about how this can be done.

FFCI has a credit card with a limit of \$900. Perhaps this limit needs to be increased.

- i. **2023 budget:** Bygs Co-Treasurers emailed the 2023 budget to the Board prior to this meeting. The Bygs reported that the 2023 budget was based on the 2022 budget. Many items weren't used in 2022, but Epplin suggested keeping all the items as the activity of FFCI has picked up post pandemic.

Epplin **moved** to approve the budget. Dake **seconded. Motion carried.**

- ii. **Audit of books:** Now that Roger Bertelsen is back in Ames, Crase will contact him about the audit.

- b. **Membership:** Bygs reported that, as of March 10, 2023, 35 membership dues have been received. One more membership check was received since March 10 and Susan Urbatsch has paid ahead so the current 2023 FFCI membership is 37.

- c. **Communication**

- i. **Historian:** Materials are still at Crase's home until warmer weather.

- ii. **Information Technology (website):** Epplin worked on the broken links on the website with consultant Eckland who didn't charge our club for his time.

- iii. **Newsletter:** On February 3, Dennis Dake sent the February/March newsletter to the FFCI membership. Thanks to Dake for a very informative newsletter. For the next newsletter, Crase suggests including two bios of FFCI members, as well as information about upcoming journeys, both Long Island Inbound and Missoula MT Outbound. A Byg asked that the upcoming April 22 Clouds dinner FFCI activity be included in the next newsletter.

Board members should send any additional information for the newsletter to Dake ASAP. Dake will publish the next newsletter around the end of March.

iv. **Publicity:** Crase reminds that Board members need to take photos at events and submit to Dake for the newsletter.

d. **Activities:** Crase noted that FFCI is in the second year of small groups volunteering to develop and implement programs/activities, with assistance from 2022 co-chairs Corry Bertelsen and Charene Starcevic. Corry and Charene will continue in 2023 joined by Dorothy Dake, a past Activities chair. Based on 2022's wonderful programs, we trust that we will end up with great programs/activities for all of 2023. Remember to thank them!

12 FFCI members have signed up for the April 22 Mystery Dinner at Clouds in Ames. It would be nice to have more members attend. Contact Charene Starcevic (515) 231-3686 to see if there is any remaining space.

e. **Nominations:** Due date for nominations for 2024 FFCI officers will be dependent on the date of the 2023 Annual Meeting (see 7b below).

f. **Information update via Regional Representative:** At Crase's request, all current Board members agreed to have their emails added to the list for Regional FFCI Zoom meetings. FFCI needs to have at least one member present for each regional meeting.

5. Old Business

a. 2022 Journeys

i. **Long Island Inbound August 14 to 19, 2023:** Dennis Dake is serving as the Coordinator for the Inbound Long Island Journey. The Long Island Club will visit the Quad Cities Club for the first days of their journey and the Ames FFCI for the last 5 days. A Committee of Ginny and Stu Huntington, Corry and Roger Bertelsen, and Dennis and Dot Dake has formed to design a plan of activities and budget for the 5-day FFCI portion. There are enough committed home hosts and day hosts.

The budget for the Ames portion will be finalized by May 1. The Long Island Club would like to cut one check for the entire Outbound Journey (Ames and Quad Cities). Crase asked that FFI be informed of the Ames portion of the journey so that FFCI is credited with hosting an Inbound Journey as this improves FFCI's chances at future journeys.

The Long Island FF Club requires both Covid immunizations plus the booster to participate in this journey and will bring copies of all immunizations of ambassadors. Dennis Dake has received the Covid policy for FF of the Quad Cities and will email to the Board. Crase recognizes that FFCI needs to come up with a Covid policy and has conducted a survey of FFCI members as reported in 6e below. At the May 11 LEO (Let's Eat Out) Dennis Dake plans to make copies of Covid immunizations and boosters of FFCI members participating in this journey.

Missoula Outbound Journey September 11 to 19, 2023 A report on this Outbound Journey is tabled until the May Board meeting.

b. **Membership sign-in to new FFI portal:** Participation continues to be poor.

c. **International FFI Conference October 2 to 5, 2023** Registration is open for the 2023 International FFI Conference, to be held in Dubrovnik, Croatia. Some pre-and post-tours are filled and early bird registration ended on March 10, 2023. All FFCI members are encouraged to register and attend.

6. New Business

a. **2023 budget:** The budget was approved by the Board in item 4a above.

b. **Changing Date of FFCI Annual Meeting** Epplin emailed a report to the Board on "How to Make Changes to FFCI ByLaws." Currently the ByLaws state that "the annual meeting of FFCI shall be held no later than October 15 each year." (Article VIII, Sections 1 and 2)

A Byg **made a motion** to change the wording from “...no later than October 15” to “...no later than November 15” in Article VIII, Sections 1 and 2, and that this be voted on at the May 11 LEO. Epplin **seconded. Motion carried.**

According to Article X of the FFCI ByLaws “The ByLaws may be amended at any regular or special meeting of FFCI by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting, provided that prior approval has been obtained from FFI and that notice to the amendments has been given either at the previous meeting or sent to each member at least one (1) month before the meeting.” Since the Board wishes the change to be voted on at the May 11 LEO meeting, FFCI members must receive notification of the vote on proposed change by April 11.

- c. **2024 Outbound Journey Destination Requests Poll** This item was tabled.
- d. **Future plans:** thoughts, possibilities (brain storming) about what we can do to show our presence in the community (volunteer; purchase setup at Farmer’s Market in late spring, summer; assist at Thurs evening events at Bandshell Pk; have an FFCI team at the spring cleanup event (sponsored by Ames Tribune?); serve meals downtown for a week.
- e. **FFCI Covid Policy** Crase stated that FFCI needs a Covid policy and Crase will examine the policies from other clubs (e.g., Long Island and Quad Cities). Crase surveyed the FFCI membership by email on March 4 and will summarize the results of the survey, write up a suggested Covid policy, and email it to the Board. Approval of a policy will be on the May Board Agenda. In general, FFCI members requested that guest ambassadors staying in their homes be fully vaccinated.

7. Adjournment

Epplin **made a motion** to adjourn; Dake **seconded. Motion carried.**

The Next Board meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Saturday, May 13, via Zoom. Several Board members will be unable to attend May 13, so Epplin will send an email to the Board to find an alternate date, hopefully before the May 11 LEO meeting.

Board meetings remaining in 2023 are: May 13, July 8, Sept. 9, Nov. 11. The Annual Meeting is currently scheduled for October 7, but this is during the FF International Conference.