

FFCI Board Minutes

Saturday, May 1, 2023, 1:00 p.m.

Zoom Online Meeting, rescheduled from May 13, 2023

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 1 p.m.
2. **Approve Agenda:** Crase added an Agenda item to New Business: report on the FFCI information A Byg has written for the FFI website.

Epplin **moved to approve** the Agenda as amended. A Byg **seconded. Motion carried.**

3. **Approve minutes of March 11, 2023 Board meeting**

Epplin **moved to accept** the Minutes as written. A Byg **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 March 10, 2023 General account check book balance was \$5,733.76. A donation of \$10.00 and three dues payments in the amount of \$120.00 were received and deposited. With these transactions the General checking account balance is \$5,863.76.

As of March 10, 2023, 39 membership dues have been received.

J Byg worked with Jim Ecklund, our website consultant, to change the responsible party from Ecklund to FFCI Treasurer to pay Bluehost's annual website fee directly through the FFCI debit card.

The limit on the club debit card is \$1,000, and the Treasurers feel this is adequate.

Audit of books: President Crase will contact Roger Bertelsen about auditing FFCI books

- b. **Membership:** Bygs reported that, as of April 29, 39 membership dues have been received. Bygs included a list of those who have not paid in the Treasurers's report, and Crase will contact the unpaid list to ask for renewal or information on whether they wish to renew.

- c. **Communication**

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

- ii. **Information Technology (website):** The Friendship Force of Central Iowa website (ffcentraliowa.org) is up-to-date with minutes, newsletters and upcoming events included.

- iii. **Newsletter:** Dennis Dake will send the next newsletter when he receives more information. Crase will submit the President's letter by this Friday. Crase and Epplin will do an article about the Outbound Journey to Missoula.

Board members should send any additional information for the newsletter to Dake.

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

A Byg tried to put FFCI information on FFCI's Facebook page and wasn't successful. A Byg will look into how to get the password through "forgot password."

- d. **Activities:**

- i. FFCI is hosting the All Iowa Picnic on Saturday June 24 (see 5a).

- ii. FFCI LEO will be held May 11 at 11:30 at Pizza Ranch (see Old Business 5d)

iii. FFCI members enjoyed a Mystery Dinner on April 22 at Clouds in Ames. Thanks to the Committee for setting up this event.

e. **Nominations:** Due date for nominations for 2024 FFCI officers will be dependent on the date of the 2023 Annual Meeting as established at May 11 LEO (see 5d).

f. **Information update via Regional Representative:** No regional meeting was held since there was a death in the family of FFI staff. Crase encouraged all Board members to Zoom in for regional meetings.

5. Old Business

a. **All Iowa Picnic** will be held June 24, from 1 to 3, at the Homewood Club House. The Committee is Alta and Jerry Byg, Margaret Epplin Kueier Chung, and Sedahlia Crase. RSVPs for the picnic will be sent to Margaret Epplin, 2114 State Ames. An RSVP form is posted on the FFCI website (ffcentraliowa.org).

b. 2022 Journeys

i. **Long Island Inbound August 14 to 19, 2023:** The Inbound Journey Committee led by Dennis and Dot Dake is very actively working on the activities. Participating FFCI members will be asked to email a picture of their Covid vaccination card. Information on this journey will be shared at the May 11 LEO.

ii. **Missoula Outbound Journey September 11 to 19, 2023:** The Outbound Journey to Missoula MT is coordinated by Sedahlia Crase and Margaret Epplin. An email with information and due dates has been sent to all those who expressed an interest.

c. **Membership sign-in to new FFI portal:** Participation has not improved. Please go to FFI and sign up.

d. **Reminder of the multi-purpose LEO May 11, at 11:30 at Pizza Ranch:** In a Special Meeting at the May 11 LEO, the Board will present a motion to change the wording in the ByLaws about the date of the Annual Meeting from “..no later than October 15...” to “...no later than November 15...” Information about the Inbound Long Island Journey will be shared at this LEO, too.

e. **International FFI Conference October 2 to 5, 2023:** Registration is still open for the 2023 FFI World Conference, in Dubrovnik, Croatia. All FFCI members are encouraged to register and attend. There is a link for the Conference registration and details on the FFCI website, www.ffcentraliowa.org, under Events/October 2023.

6. New Business

a. **Policies and Procedures:** Epplin volunteered to retype the Policies and Procedures adding section numbers so it will be more user friendly. Crase appointed Epplin to complete this task. A Byg has agreed to double check the final product to make sure there are no content changes. Epplin will bring the final proposed version to the Board for approval of all edits.

b. **Future plans:** thoughts, possibilities (brainstorming) 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.

7. Other

A Byg shared that the Ames RAGBRAI committee is looking for volunteers for many activities. Dennis Dake will put an item in the newsletter. Members can volunteer through “Discover Ames.”

Crase reminded FFCI members to bring guests to events and to wear nametags and FF shirts at FFCI activities.

8. Adjournment: A Byg made a motion to adjourn; Dake seconded. Motion carried.

The Next Board meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Saturday, July 8, via Zoom. Board meetings remaining in 2023 are: July 8, Sept. 9, and Nov. 11. The Annual Meeting is currently scheduled for October 7, but this is during the FF International Conference. The Annual Meeting will be rescheduled according to proposed ByLaws change as voted on at the May 11 LEO (see 5d).