

FFCI Board Minutes
Saturday, July 8, 2023, 9:30 a.m. to 10:40 a.m.
Zoom Online Meeting

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

1. **Call to order:** President Crase called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.
2. **Approve Agenda:** Crase added an Agenda item to include May 11, 2023, Special Meeting minutes.
Epplin **moved to approve** the Agenda as amended. J Byg **seconded. Motion carried.**

3. Approve minutes of May 1, 2023 Board meeting

A Byg **moved to accept** Board meeting Minutes as written. Epplin **seconded. Motion carried.**

Approve minutes of May 11, 2023 Special meeting

Epplin **moved to accept** the May 11, 2023 Special Meeting 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

Treasurer J Byg emailed the following Treasurer's Report:

Since March 10, 2023, deposits were made in the amounts of \$5,525 for the Missoula Journey, \$2,952 for the Long Island Incoming Journey, and \$1,000 transfer from the General Account. One payment of \$14.20 has been made to Dennis Dake for miscellaneous printing expenses. With these transactions, the July 8, 2023 Journey Account checkbook balance is \$9,712.80.

March 10, 2023 the General Account checkbook balance was \$5,733.76. Two payments for expenses were made: Alta Byg, Treasurer was reimbursed \$420 for a credit card payment to City of Ames for rental of the Homewood Shelter for the annual FFI picnic and the club debit card was used to make a payment to Hickory Park in the amount of \$582.67 for food for the picnic. \$1,000 was transferred from the General Account to the Journey Account to provide liquidity. Revenue from the picnic was \$848. Dues payments and donations in the amount of \$210 were received and deposited.

With these transactions the General checking account balance on July 8, 2023 is \$4,789.09.

Audit of books: President Crase will let Roger Bertelsen know that A Byg will contact him about auditing FFCI books.

- b. **Membership:** J Byg reported that, as of July 8, 2023, 41 membership dues have been received. Secretary Epplin has received edits to the 2023 Membership List and made the changes. After this Board meeting, Epplin confirmed that an updated 2023 membership list was emailed to all members on May 30, 2023. Crase will notify non-renewals that only those who paid 2023 dues will be sent mailings the rest of the year.

c. Communication

- i. **Historian:** Materials are still at Sedahlia's home to be taken to Diane Oppedal who will sort historical materials according to May 2022 guidelines from Board of Directors.
- ii. **Information Technology** (website): Nothing new to report.
- iii. **Newsletter:** No report
- iv. **Publicity:** Crase reminds Board members to take photos at events and submit to Dake for the newsletter.

A Byg sent Crase info on getting the Facebook password and Crase will work on this.

d. **Activities**

- i. 53 members from around the state attended the All Iowa Picnic on Saturday June 24 hosted by FFCI. The Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Friendship Force Club will host the All Iowa picnic in 2024.
- ii. Small groups continue to plan club activities with assistance from past chairs, Corry Bertelsen and Charene Starcevic. All activities have been well received.
- iii. The June 21, 2022, Senior Olympics was postponed due to family emergency. The planning group decided not to hold this activity in the future. Instead, the group will plan and prepare a meal for the Incoming Long Island Journey.
- iv. FFCI summer activities are mainly socials designed for FFCI members to interact with inbound ambassadors from Long Island, NY Friendship Force, August 14 to 19.
- v. Crase sent FFCI membership a flyer about a Bastille Day celebration in Des Moines on July 14. All FFCI members are invited and encouraged to attend.

e. **Nominations:** See 6c below

f. **Information update via Regional Representative:** Regional Representative, Robert Mitchell, Milwaukee Club, had not been able to attend the Zoom mtg with Allison from FFI office and instead reviewed most of the tape of the meeting. The main discussion point related to FFI's thinking that instead of holding regional meetings (for us, the Midwest region in the US on off-World Conference years), the organizational structure would change and for North America, the structure might include the US and Canada, a much larger gathering than the regional meetings (e.g., Midwest, Mid-Atlantic, etc.). Pros and cons dealt with size of group, travel distances, host city as pivotal point for travel distances, and one Midwest concern from Bob was that we have fewer "attractive" large cities in the upper Midwest to host, but not all agreed with that as a "viewpoint." FFI is proposing that there be a US-Canada conference and no individual regional meetings. Planning would be done by an FFI Committee not individual regions—a big advantage.

5. **Old Business**

a. **2023 Inbound and Outbound Journeys:** FFCI requested Montana as the 2023 domestic Outbound Journey and received an assignment to Missoula, where 11 FFCI ambassadors will travel September 11-19, 2023. FFCI did not request a 2023 Inbound Journey but agreed to serve as hosts for ambassadors from Long Island, NY, Aug 14-19, 2023, the week after their journey to Quad Cities.

2024 Inbound and Outbound Journeys For 2024, FFCI requested a Domestic Outbound Journey to the Capitol City area, Willamette Valley, Walla Walla WA, or areas in Northeast. To date, we have not received any assignment from FFI.

Crise informed that we can do Journeys with others in our region like Quad Cities and Omaha or any other FF Club worldwide. All Journeys are listed on the FFI website.

b. **Member sign-in to new FFI portal:** It continues to be very low. Crise Suggested that we have a set up at the holiday event with several stations where Board members can assist those who wish to sign in. Crase noted that we had this idea for 2022 holiday event, but we need to be more proactive and set up stations as people first arrive. Maybe we can offer incentives for all who sign in at the holiday event.

c. **Two club-wide events:** Inbound Journey from Long Island and Outbound Journey to Missoula both appear to be on track. We need to advertise this weekend for another 12th person to fill the group, since one person canceled due to medical concerns. Home hosts and ambassadors have been matched for the Long Island Inbound Journey, and writing and calling between the two groups have been happening.

6. **New Business**

- a. **World Conference:** Crase will attend the World Conference in Croatia October 2 to 5, 2023. Crase encouraged other Board members to attend. Crase noted that any FFCI member or even non-members may attend. Becoming a member of the traveling club might be required.
 - b. **Audit committee:** Crase will check with Roger Bertelsen to see if he will do the audit.
 - c. **Nomination Committee for 2024 officers:** Crase requested recommendations for the Nomination Committee for 2024 officers. We will need a person to serve as president and Secretary and whatever officers (treasurers?) are in their last year.
 - d. **Report on 2024 journey requests:** Crase has received no information from FFI; Our Regional Rep Robert Mitchell reported that several clubs have received their assignments but assignments from FFI are late again this year, possibly due to a continuing concern about traveling outside the country in the US and maybe other countries. Domestic requests have been up both this year and last year.
 - e. **Future plans:** thoughts, possibilities (brainstorming) about what we can do to show our presence in the community. Carried over from previous meetings: volunteer; purchase setup at Farmer's Market in late spring or summer, assist at Thursday evening events at Bandshell Park, have an FFCI team at the Ames spring cleanup event (sponsored by Ames Tribune), serve meals downtown at Food at First, write a letter from the Board to relate FF to world issues and talk about goals of FFI and FFCI. FFI, invite group from Waverly, IA to perform from their reading groups and invite community members for a very nominal fee to pay for the event.
 - f. **Any future brain-storming events?** Retrospectives? Not covered at this Board meeting.
7. **Adjournment:** Due to Board member conflicts and the Missoula Outbound Journey, the date of the next Board meeting needs to be changed. Board members in attendance selected Wednesday August 30 afternoon or August 31 anytime. Crase will contact Dennis Dake to see if he can meet either of these dates and will let the Board know.

A Byg **moved to adjourn**. Epplin **seconded**. Meeting **adjourned** at 10:41.

FFCI meetings remaining in 2023: Annual meeting and elections November 4 or 11. Holiday Party, Saturday, December 2. Crase will contact Mongin to see if the community room at Mongin's facility is available December 2 for the annual FFCI Holiday Party.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Epplin, Secretary