

NFLL Council Minutes

Monday, February 13, 2017, 9:30am

Room 205, MCC DTC (Downtown Center) 145 N. Centennial Way, Mesa

Action Items:

- Voted to change the format and post Committee Reports on the NFLL web site.
- Delay March/April Newsletter until after April 24; rename it the Spring Newsletter.
- Voted to accept Sandy Whitley as a Member-at-Large.

Attendees:

President: Marlin Fried

Vice President: Dan Taylor

Secretary: Gretchen Hirni

Treasurer: Fred Searing

Members at Large: Anne Stehr, Steve Johnson, Dan Scarpone

Committee Chairs:

Curriculum: Jennifer Wong, Margo Heaps

Social: Peggy Schultz

Communications: (Co-Chairs) Peggy Randolph, Barbara Thelander

Membership: Barbara Dixon

MCC Liaison: Neva Hansen, Pat Esparza

Guests:

Sam Wong

Marilyn Stromsness - Mesa Leadership Program

Sandy Whitley

Alan Zisner

The meeting was called to order by the president with a quorum present. Minutes of the January meeting were approved. The president introduced and welcomed the guests.

Old Business

Treasurer's Report:

Fred Searing provided members copies of the 2/7/2017 Financial Report. He stated NFLL has slightly fewer members than last year, but we are \$150 ahead so we are on target. Expenditures were less than expected. The only item not in the report is the additional funds contributed to Scholarships. Essentially, we have about \$5,800 accumulated for scholarships, so we're in good shape. The largest expenditure item coming up is the picnic, which we put a down payment on in January. Neva put the budget review together and Fred reviewed it. Motion to accept the budget passed.

MCC Liaisons:

Pat Esparza had nothing to report at this time. Barbara Thelander asked if the Council

could use this room in the future but Neva stated MCC had no information about future availability. Marlin thanked Neva for reserving this meeting room for the Council Meeting today.

Old Business:

Committee Recruitment and Incentive Task Force:

Peggy Randolph sent the committee's report and Barbara Thelander added that we are in a "holding pattern right now", but suggested using the March Membership Meeting to encourage people to talk about volunteering for committees. Updates will be sent by email. Committee will continue. Please send any ideas by email. Committee's report is not yet ready for approval.

Peggy Randolph stated the committee decided to form a task force. Committee member Gary Kleeman (Communications Committee) had already talked to Marlin about this. Step one: Identify what works. Barbara will interview committee chairs to find out what is working for them and what they propose to do. The immediate concern is recruiting committee chairs and co-chairs. Perhaps the All Members Meeting could be a place to recruit people into leadership positions. First, we need more members. Suggestions to do this included: providing food incentives; being friendlier to our new members; recognizing new/old members; presenting entertainment (i.e. Marshal Trembell); using strong and repeated publicity; offering a door prize; asking interest groups to perform; etc. Also, on the tables, have a list of volunteer positions available for people to sign as volunteers. Chairs could describe their committees. We could post a list of available volunteer positions/descriptions on our website to encourage people to sign up. Steve suggested offering a class in "volunteering", as well.

Marlin stated that the Annual Meeting is coming up soon and there's a short amount of time available to do this. Will the committee do this or do they need more members? Maybe an ad-hoc committee could be used to do this if this is what the council wants us to do. Suggestion: place to begin is at the New Member Meeting where committee chairs could describe positions available and request volunteers. Recruiting one-on-one is the best way to do it. Marlin suggested we should use every meeting, web site, newsletter, and every option available to get as much information out to the members as possible. Peggy and Margo expressed concerns about bombarding new members with too much at New Members Meeting. It might make people back off. The Task Force is stressing volunteering for "leadership" positions. Becoming a new facilitator is a good position or level from which to start as a volunteer with NFLL. Marlin asked the committee what was needed? Are they going to work on these responsibilities? Any suggestions from the council? Barbara Thelander described what to expect from their committee, especially a list of "Best Practices", as a good start to continue. Peggy stated we want to try to attract more people to the All Members Meetings to see what works and would like a committee to help plan the All Members Meeting. Question: Whose responsibility is the All Members Meeting? Marlin answered that it was the

President's and the elected officers. Barbara also suggested including pictures and publicity in the newsletters of members working and having fun.

We need to demonstrate to others what we actually do as volunteers. It doesn't matter what the activity it is but we need to start to market ourselves. Reasons people volunteer was discussed and described by several members. Marlin thanked the committee for bring these issues to the council.

Volunteer Appreciation Lunch:

Dan Taylor stated the Volunteer Appreciation Lunch has been scheduled for Thursday, April 27, at EVIT, Mesa, AZ, and emailed the menu and invoice to council members.

EVIT's meals are very good, beautifully presented and prepared by high school students at very reasonable prices. We have many levels of volunteers to include.

What kind of food shall we select? Questions? Thoughts?

Probably about 100 volunteers will be invited by mid-March, at the latest, with an RSVP on invitation. EVIT only needs one week's notice. One meal and vegetarian option to choose from will be offered. "Chef's Choice" was discussed as another option rather than "chicken".

MCCCD Legal needs about three weeks for approval and must be done before submitting PO request. This takes a couple of weeks. Highball the amount because it's difficult to get another approval. Last year, we had 110 people attend. Any person who volunteers should be included. Committee chairs should get us these names. No cost for our volunteers. The room is large and we'll likely use half. Microphones and technology ports are available. "We want to be sure the volunteers feel appreciated when they walk out of the room".

Marlin requested and received approval for the following motions:

- 1). Approved budget item. We will expect 125 participants and budget for \$15.00/person including a 15% gratuity for up to \$2,200.
- 2). Approved EVIT for the event.
- 3). Approved "Chef's Choice" and "vegetable" option as meal offering.

Scholarships:

No report.

New Business

AmeriCorp:

Dan Scarpone emailed council a job description for AmeriCorp (like a domestic Peace Corp). It's been around a long time, was student-based but has changed over the years. Mesa United Way has a program which is focused on recruiting members over the age of 55. It would be nice to have a liaison person only dedicated to New

Frontiers. This person would attend all the meetings, gather all the information and make sure we have it. This person could augment our needs and Neva and Pat. Could be helpful and important to us as we continue to grow. This person would still be a volunteer but receive a stipend for perhaps 15-20 hours work/week and an educational credit. Person can be an America Corp person for up to four years and can use the credit for themselves or gift it to someone. Questions?

1). Where would person do this? The person applies through Mesa United Way. Office can be anywhere. We would have to find an office or they could work out of their home. We could have more than one worker. We would have to do a report for Mesa United Way.

2). To whom would the America Corp workers report? Perhaps the NFLL president or Pat? We would need to document the number of hours worked.

3). Cost? We would pay a monthly amount directly to Mesa United Way. A monthly P.O. and invoice would be needed and would also be a part of our budget. Suggested amount could be about \$3,500 for 15 to 20 hours at \$250/month. 10 hours a week would be about \$1,800 per year. Mesa United Way would provide an Invoice on a monthly basis which would go straight to MCC. Worker would receive almost \$7/hour as a stipend, not a wage. This is a Federal Program.

Pat would arrange permission from MCC. Mesa United Way would be responsible to be sure the number of hours of work the person completed.

4). Who will manage this person? Who manages this person? Person wouldn't be a volunteer while the rest of us are volunteers. Does that pose a challenge for anyone here? Shift for this group but perhaps strengthens what we do.

5). Will NFF continue to be a totally volunteer organization?

6). Philosophical concerns about payment of some volunteers and not others.

Suggestion: Margo stated that we could find out from other organizations and gather more information.

7). Timeline: normally United Way's time-line is August to December. There are no contracts to sign. We aren't committed for the next year.

Dan: Are we interested in this option? It will impact next year's budget.

Marlin: Person shouldn't report to the president. We need a coordinator and to carefully consider all comments and concerns.

Committee Reports

Marlin: All Committee Minutes will now go on the web site. Volunteers could find the Committee Minutes there. Motion passed to post Committee Minutes on the web site and not to the Council Minutes. Send Committee Minutes to Alan to post.

Nominating Committee:

A chair and three more volunteers are needed.

Other:

All Member Meeting will be held at Red Mountain campus, March 24.

Risk Forms: collected annually but the PDF file is on a flash drive that Marlin now keeps. Of the original three available, only one now remaining. Suggestions included putting it on the MCC Cloud. Barbara recommended MCC keep the Risk Forms and NFLL keep copies. Other information could be stored on the Cloud, as well. Google provides 5gigs of storage with a Google Account. Need for more information. MCC may have this covered. Legality issues a concern.

At the last General Meeting, we moved to approve four Members at Large. Motion to accept Sandy Whitney as the fourth Member at Large. Passed.

Membership:

Barbara Dixon has agreed to be chair of committee. She submitted a report; no comments/suggestions to add.

Long wait time to enroll as NFLL member a concern. Suggestions included having more registration help and changing the location for enrolling members who require computer help. Pat noted several room-usage issues but suggested Red Mountain Community Room is available. NFLL would be welcomed as Red Mountain needs more people to keep it open. Computer access would be necessary. Other Red Mountain positives were noted.

Curriculum Committee:

Jennifer Wong stated the report was already emailed to members. Discussion followed. There are currently 69 classes on the web site and 50 classes still open. 18 classes are one-day classes and several are DVD classes. Need to advertise the number of classes still open.

Communications Committee:

Barbara stated had one action item: March/April Newsletter last year had pictures of scholarship recipients but due to earlier date of Membership meeting. Suggested delaying Newsletter until after April 24th and call it Spring Newsletter. This would help provide more news. Motion passed.

Social Committee:

Peggy Schultz announced the Annual Picnic, April 6, and described the menu. Turf Paradise event - named a race after NFLL. They forwarded a picture of members attending along with the jockey and horse. Peggy and co-chair will be designated as "co-chairs". Requested help discovering reasons fewer members attended the last month's lunch in Tempe.

Difficulty of scheduling meetings at library and/or using member's homes was

discussed. This is OK and not a liability. Their goal is to plan events through July. Help is needed to place items on the web site. Biggest need is co-chair to just put items on the web site and/or doing the computer work. Marlin stated there is no rule as to the number of co-chairs, but there are two votes per committee on the council.

Members at Large:

No report.

Marlin will take care of sending a card to chair of Sunshine Committee. Barbara questioned having Committee Reports at the end of the minutes. Marlin answered he wanted to allow more time to new and old business. Next meeting: March 13, 2017, Saguaro Room, Mesa Library, 9:30am. There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Gretchen Hirni