



Alliance Française
Tucson, AZ

**Minutes for AFT Board Meeting
March 15, 2016 at 6pm**

In attendance from the AFT Staff & 2016 Board:

Magali Bergolla, Executive Director
Mary Carryer, Member at Large (M.A.L.)
Christine Deymier, M.A.L.
Rosann Gonzalez, Treasurer
Dianne Janis, Secretary
Steve Jeton, M.A.L.
Rebecca McSwain, President
Raymonde Zlotnikoff, Vice President

Rebecca called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Minutes

Minutes from the February meeting had been reviewed and approved via email prior to this meeting.

Financials

The February financials were reviewed and are herein attached. It was agreed to give Magali a debit card for the easy purchase of small items that she needs to run the office.

Executive Director's Administrative Report

The light fixtures have still not been repaired. Mary suggested a handyman to perform this important maintenance task.

It is proposed that we could provide a computer link to the e-library resources. We will need a dedicated table for the computer. It was suggested that we can organize this during the slower summer months.

Executive Director's Education and Membership Report

Magali reported that there are 4 classes right now and a good ratio. One has 9 students and one has 6 students.

An A-2 Conversation class has been added. The Morning 102 class has been discontinued but 2 students from that class have elected to take private lessons. Magali talked with Liz about launching a Literature class. The start date for is April 19 and to be a 5-week class. Fee is \$95.

Another event to consider is a Member Presentation of a hiking trip on Mont Blanc. Karin Bivens's husband, a professional photographer, would give the talk. Members would be encouraged to bring/donate wine for this presentation.

Other ways to engage our members and attract new members were discussed. Mary led the discussion about "Things French" and how we can determine the needs of the community. What does Tucson want from AFT?

There is a group that gathers in Oro Valley to drink coffee and speak French. We should make sure these people know about AFT. It was agreed that someone should investigate if there are any French or French-owned businesses in town. Steve volunteered to call the Chamber of Commerce to investigate this.

There are other French-related clubs and groups in town and we need to reach out to them.

Magali announced we have 130 members. It would be useful to know how many of these people are in Tucson year-round.

TEACHER ISSUE: We have not been able to attract teachers to work with children. If we had a teacher team for this, perhaps we could start a Summer Camp for kids and design the sessions by age group.

As part of the discussion about formulating AFT's strategic plan, it was suggested that we have a separate meeting just to do a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) of the AFT. This would be useful for future planning.

Karin . It 12 students interested in the March class schedule. Fridays have been identified as the most popular day of the week for the Conversation class.

No complaints have been received regarding the 4-week sessions.

Event Planning

It was proposed that we could “theme” the potlucks to different regions to encourage a wider sampling of food types to enjoy: Quebec, Petanque, etc.

It was proposed that we think about coordinating an event with Feast Restaurant. Various scenarios of party and menu type were presented. It was agreed that all seemed to be a bit pricey for our group.

Cata Vino was suggested as an alternative location where we could host an AFT Wine Tasting Event.

It was suggested that we investigate having a table at the next Festival of Books. The price is around \$400 and would offer wonderful visibility to AFT to a group of people most likely to be interested in taking classes or attending our lectures and films. Rebecca will research this further.

Could AFT sponsor a trip to France or Corsica or Quebec? Magali can investigate prices with her travel agent.

It was suggested that a “HOW TO” document be written for how to set up and run the monthly potlucks so that all board members can volunteer and not have to wonder what is required for it. This should include instructions on the alarm, obtaining the key, etc.

President’s Remarks

Rebecca proposed that a year-round calendar be prepared to “map” all of AFT’s activities each month. Duties should be assigned to each event/task.

Other Business

Steve suggested investigating crowdfunding for AFT. Dianne explained that this was a very big project to take on and she would be happy to address the particulars as well as if this is viable for AFT at a future board meeting.

Steve suggested offering Internships to UA students. They could help Magali with administrative tasks.

Adjournment

Mary moved to adjourn the meeting with Rosann seconding the motion. Rebecca adjourned the meeting at 6:45 pm.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Dianne Janis, AFT Secretary.

#