



Alliance Française  
Tucson, AZ

**Minutes for AFT Board Meeting  
November 7, 2017 at 6 pm**

In attendance from the AFT Staff & 2017 Board:

Rebecca McSwain, President  
Rosann Gonzalez, Treasurer  
Dianne Janis, Secretary  
Mary Carryer, M.A.L. (Member at Large)  
Steve Jeton, M.A.L. (Member at Large)  
Gaëlle Merialdo Torrenti, Executive Director

Additional attendees included:

Christine Deymier  
Ralph Morales  
Carol Schaedler  
Yael Smadja  
Bernard Stefanek  
Laurie Prill

**Rebecca called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.**

Attendance was taken. A quorum was present.

The agenda was approved. The October meeting minutes had been previously approved via email.

Prospective AFT Board members introduced themselves and shared brief bios.

## **Executive Director's Administrative, Education, and Membership Report**

Of the 14 classes offered, 8 were cancelled.  
33 students signed up.

The Early Bird discount is working well to generate early registrations.

The special week of short sessions on idioms offered 6 classes and had 14 students participating. A net of \$160 was achieved.

The French for Beginners class at the JCC is successful and will probably continue.

The first presentation on Oct 7 had 10 attendees and the second presentation had 11 attendees. The dilemma with this type of presentation in high-level French is that students who are just beginning or are trying to refresh their knowledge hesitate to attend because the language will be too advanced for them. In contrast, fluent French speakers prefer this type of presentation to the ones that are delivered in English.

On November 11 there will be a presentation on Astronomy delivered in French.

The Poetry group is continuing despite a recent irregular schedule.

In October there were 23 new memberships and 4 renewals. Since August we have had 20 non-renewals.

As of October 31 there are 188 members + 7 teachers for the purposes of the elections. AFT must secure votes from 40% of the standing membership for the upcoming elections.

The AFT convention in New Orleans was held from October 19-21. Gaëlle reported that this was a very useful and informative conference where she made many new connections including the book person from MEP and the founder of Kiwi University who has agreed to offer their software to AFT for free – no time limit. There are numerous benefits to using this software including networking with teachers and suggestions and programs on how to reach kids and teenagers.

Similarly, Culturethèque was discussed as a great resource with an online library. Culturethèque has an annual fee and it was decided to have a few people “test drive” it before we would commit to the subscription fee.

Immediate priorities are established as follows:

- ! New classes in January – 6 weeks
- ! Kids classes – 10 weeks

- ! Investigate Culturethèque
- ! Begin to work with the KiwiVersity software and review it

## **Building Lease**

The confusion with the lease length and terms has been resolved. Our lease continues through the end of June with no rent increase.

## **By Laws Revision**

Mary prepared the appropriate documentation to disseminate to members regarding the By Laws revision. Rebecca distributed a full copy of the By Laws to attendees.

## **Finances**

Rosann reported that with no teaching income in December we will probably end the year on a low financial note. Cash flow due to the advance/early bird payments for classes is good so we will probably not have to dip into the AFT savings to cover expenses.

## **Upcoming Annual Board Elections**

Each prospective board member attendee agreed to be nominated and run for a board position.

## **Upcoming Events**

11/8-11/16 Loft French Film Festival Sponsorship  
Volunteers have been identified for all shifts at our Loft Cinema sponsorship table. Once again we will offer a free membership as a raffle item while we build the mailing list.

One of the donated sponsorship passes was purchased for \$100 and the other will be used for volunteers to attend the movie(s) of their choice.

11/17 Autumn Potluck

12/2 Marche Noël from 11am – 2pm

Christine offered to cook crepes and Roseann offered to make ratatouille for the event. Dianne will coordinate with volunteers who want to help price items.

### **Other Business – Still Pending**

A discussion on Event Planning and the accompanying templates/To Do lists needs to be inserted into an upcoming meeting agenda.

The need for a small refrigerator was discussed but no resolution was reached. Perhaps a solicitation to the members can be made to ask for a refrigerator to be donated?

### **Adjournment**

At 7:45 pm Steve moved to adjourn with Mary seconding the motion.

The board met in Executive Session following the regular meeting.

*Minutes prepared and submitted by AFT Secretary, Dianne Janis.*

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