



Alliance Française
Tucson, AZ

**Minutes for AFT Board Meeting – ANNUAL MEETING
December 3, 2017 at 4:30 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
Carol Schaedler
Bernard Stefanek
Liz Guillen
Sylvia Robertshaw
Edward Elias
Jordan Luke

Rebecca called the meeting to order at 4:35 pm.

Attendance was taken. A quorum was present.

The agenda was approved. There were no additions or revisions to the agenda. The minutes from the 2016 Annual Meeting were approved by the assembled group. The minutes had been previously approved via email by the AFT Board.

The two prospective new AFT Board members in attendance introduced themselves.

By Laws Revision

Mary recapped the three key items that would be incorporated into the AFT's by laws:

- ! Rotating terms so that that whole board is not being re-elected each year
- ! Permits a maximum of one board member to serve as a member of the Nominating Committee
- ! Removal of the stipulation that the Executive Director's salary is approved at the Annual Meeting as this is impractical for the smooth functioning of this chapter

Finances

Rosann reported that the chapter had been founded in 1973 as a private foundation and that a significant change this year is that the chapter is now applying for public charity status. The key difference is that a public charity is able to accept stock and real estate as donations that are advantageous for the donor whereas such donations to a private foundation are not advantageous for the donor. Another benefit to a public charity status is that there are more grant opportunities available. The chapter should hear about the status decision very soon.

Rosann then presented a draft version of the financials as the Marché de Noël had taken place the day before and those figures had not been finalized. She reported that the AFT was ending the year in a better fiscal state than at the end of 2016. Considering there had been 3 changes of Executive Director in less than 12 months, this was deemed to be very good news that the chapter improved its bottom line despite its many big changes.

Executive Director's Administrative, Education, and Membership Report

Although only serving in the capacity of Executive Director since July, Gaelle assembled a report of the year in summary for general review.

French lessons (group, private, and workshops) served approximately 136 students.

Book Club and new Poetry Club are well attended.

Presentations are not attracting large groups but this may be because they are geared to people whose French is more advanced.

Events throughout the year have included:

- ! Potlucks

- ! Galette des Rois
- ! 1st of May Luncheon
- ! Ciné matinée and soirée cinéma
- ! Film Festival at The Loft
- ! Marché de Noël

Membership has increased to 212 members as of November 17, 2017.

Other good news is that the website is greatly improved, online registration and online payment has been implemented, and the Early Bird discount is working well.

Classes

The new 6-week sessions (13 in all) will commence on January 15, 2018. Included among the new classes are two new offerings – a watercolor painting class in French and a class called “Maman (or Papa) et Moi” for small children.

Work continues to develop classes for kids. A Saturday morning class for 6 – 10 year old children is in the works.

The JCC partnership continues to grow and two cooking classes will be offered there in January and in March. The AFT Board is considering sponsoring a French film at the upcoming JCC Film Festival.

In February there will be a free training for teachers in collaboration with the AF of Greater Phoenix and the Consulate of France in Los Angeles.

Executive Director’s Goals for 2018

Advertising a kids program

Improve follow up of students

Make best use of Kiwiversity software program

Voting Results

A total of 92 votes were received and recorded which exceeded the minimum required of 85. As required, each candidate received a majority of the votes cast and will begin their terms on January 1, 2018. The bylaw amendments were approved, as required, by more than 2/3 of the voters.

The majority approved the new slate of AFT Board Members who will begin their terms on January 1, 2018.

The 2018 AFT Board of Directors includes:

President	Rebecca McSwain
Vice-President	Ralph Morales
Secretary	Carol Schaedler
Treasurer	Laurie Prill
Member at Large	Bernard Stefanek
Member at Large	Yae I Smadja
Member at Large	Mary Carryer

At 5:45 pm Steve moved to adjourn with Dianne seconding the motion.

Minutes prepared and submitted by AFT Secretary, Dianne Janis.

AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES: Two new Resolutions

1/

Rebecca moved that the AFT Board confirm Gaëlle Merialdo Torrenti as permanent Executive Director of L'Alliance Française de Tucson, effective December 3, 2017, according to the terms of the offer made to her by the letter of June 22, 2017, from the President, AFT Board of Directors.

Rosann seconded this motion and it was approved unanimously by all board members.

2/

Rosann moved that Carol Schaedler, 2018 Secretary, and Laurie Prill, 2018 Treasurer, be granted signature authority at Chase Bank as of January 1, 2018, with continuing access for Mary Carryer, Member at Large, to view AFT accounts. Further, it was moved that Laurie Prill be given a debit card for expenses up to \$100.

Rebecca seconded this motion and it was approved unanimously by all board members.

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