

Call to Order - Meeting was held via Zoom (due to COVID-19 quarantine) on October 10, 2020, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Purpose of Meeting - Quarterly AFF Board Meeting

Attendees - Emmanuel LeBihan (ELB), Ghassane Habib (GH), Randa Alrahwanji (RA), Isabelle LeBihan (ILB), Patience Tshimika (PT) Erica Plazanet (EP), Marge Frech (MF)

1. Emmanuel called the meeting to order at 11 a.m. on October 10, 2020.

- Agenda approved unanimously by the Board
- Meeting Minutes of last board meeting (July 11, 2020) reviewed and approved unanimously by the Board.

2. 2020 activities and event report

- Due to the extended COVID-19 Quarantine and congregation restrictions, AFF has been unable to have many of the events originally planned for 2020. However, we have adapted and through innovation and determination, the AFF Board has successfully delivered many activities to our members.
- French conversation (Ghassane,Patience) - The last two weekly meetings have taken place on the patio at La Boulangerie with great success and with larger participation than the previous weekly Zoom conversation meetings. People enjoy meeting face to face. Thursday French Conversations at La Boulangerie will continue unless stricter congregation regulations are again implemented for Fresno County. But, we know that Zoom works and we can revert to this mode if necessary.
- Book Club (Randa) - Last two book club meetings were conducted on Zoom and went well. The next Book Club meeting will continue on Zoom on October 28, 2020, at 4 p.m. to review *Stupeur et Tremblements* by Amelie Nothomb. Zoom allows for participation of members in other cities/countries. Once the county libraries open back up for use and classrooms can be reserved, we can/may hold Book Club there.
- French classes (Emmanuel) - Classes are being conducted via Zoom for 11 students (4 Advanced and 7 Beginners) in 3 classes. The last class for this session will be Nov. 8, 2020. The next class sessions will begin in January 2021. Emmanuel will meet with the teachers to discuss the next course session. At this time, we don't know if classes will continue online or in person (depends on COVID-19). Options for class meeting places include Bob Boro's office, Patricia Duvet's house in Sanger and Randa's house in Fowler.
- Art painting (Isabelle) - First session of Art Class by Ai had 8 attendees and was well received. The second session is scheduled for Oct. 17, 2020. A minimum of 5 students is needed to hold the class.
- Library (Emmanuel) - Over 200 books have been collected, organized and posted on the AFF website for borrowing. There was a lot of enthusiasm for organizing

a library; however, no one has reserved a book. It takes up a lot of space in Isabelle's home. Erica volunteered storage space for the books if they can be boxed in safe containers.

- 14 juillet photo contest (Emmanuel) - Contest was successful with 15 entries. Results of the contest are posted on the AFF website.

3. Treasurer's Report (Isabelle)

- We still need someone to fill the Treasurer's position permanently. Isabelle is acting Treasurer, but she is carrying a heavy load with Website manager, teacher and Treasurer.
- Balance sheet for 2020 - bank statement indicates balance of \$6,935.48 in accounts; however, Isabelle's balance sheet indicates a balance of \$6,882.68 (\$52.60 difference). Ghassane will review to help figure out discrepancy.
- Accounting forecasts for 2021 - Under the current conditions for COVID-19 and the changing regulations for congregation, we must remain flexible in our approach for program delivery and cannot, at this time, definitely plan events. Online classes for Art and Language courses have been successful and will continue. Hopefully, membership will be sustained at the current level of 70 members. PayPal is set up on the website to collect course fees and PayPal charges fees for use. This fee needs to be passed on to the purchaser. Isabelle will look into how this can be done or using a different fee-free payment option such as Vendu through Bank of America.
- Donations and IRS - Still waiting on a response from IRS regarding the status of Form 8822-B submitted in June. Marge will call the IRS again at the end of October (Note IRS response received Oct 27, 2020). Donations received between January and September total \$566 for AFF programs and \$100 designated for scholarships.

4. Scholarship (Emmanuel)

- Moved (Marge) and Seconded (Emmanuel) to name the AFF scholarship in honor of Jennifer Dupras and perpetuate a dedicated fund. Unanimously approved by the Board.
- Proposition for the 2020 scholarship. Board will review the attached proposal and provide Emmanuel with input. Emmanuel and Ghassane will develop parameters for the scholarship based on Board input and publish the information.

5. Forecast and preparation 2021

- Ghassane moved and Emmanuel approved the renewal of the P.O. Box and Zoom app. Unanimously approved by the Board.
- 2021 membership form - Discussion ensued regarding whether to provide membership discounts to renewing members, to increase membership prices to change membership form, etc. It was unanimously decided by the Board to

maintain current membership prices for all new and renewing members and not to revise the membership application form at this time. A recruitment letter with Membership application will be sent out to existing members. Emmanuel will outline the 2020 AFF activities and accomplishments in the recruitment letter. Board members will promote membership in AFF with their friends and acquaintances.

- Activities and events - Board meetings, Zoom conversations, language classes, art sessions, movies, and book club have been successful using Zoom and the AFF website. Cooking classes, meetings/classes at the library, etc. will be planned once regulations for congregating are relaxed. Emmanuel is working on organizing a free wine tasting webinar with Chateau de Pommard representative from Southern California. Emmanuel will send out more information once he has confirmed with Claire Stein. Erica suggested an online Yoga course with her instructor and guided French antique buying trips.
 - Yoga in the French language (instructor does speak English) directly from Paris. Erica practices with and personally knows the instructor who is very serious and dependable. “MaYogaTerreHappy” can offer members either free trial and/or discounted prices for AF Fresno Members (Emmanuel will have to confirm the prices after discussions). Yoga hours are throughout the day French time and so our mornings are perfect!
 - Guided French antique buying day trips to vendors here in California. Erica has experience in antiques with Americans in France and has sent containers of imports to California. Due to tariffs and Covid, these international experiences are nearly impossible. Because Erica knows at least 3 addresses for a lovely French-style experience near Santa Cruz, Sacramento... this could be a nice event to offer (Members could drive themselves or carpool- their choice) Transportation not included. Lunch yes- all depending on covid)
- AFF partners for 2021 - (Panier Français, Le Parisien Café, Americannery, Fresno state Winery, La boulangerie) - Emmanuel has contacted all and they all agreed to partner with AFF in 2021.

6. Next Meetings

- December 12, 2020, General Assembly via Zoom
- January 9, 2021, 1st meeting and election of the board via Zoom

7. Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.