

Friends of Swaziland Board Meeting Summary - July 26, 2015

Friends of Swaziland held an open board meeting on Sunday, July 26, 2015, at 8PM EST via teleconference. Board Members attending were: John von Reyn - Group Leader; Scott Lewis - Treasurer, Patty von Reyn - Board Member, and Jack Conrad, Communications. We were pleased to have the following recently returned RPCVs join in on our discussions: Laura Reynolds; Brandon Bobisink; and Brian Deyo.

John welcomed all to the meeting and asked those calling in to introduce themselves and relate their connection to Swaziland.

Scott then delivered the Treasurer's report: Currently there is \$3371 in the treasury. We have 30 paid memberships, all joining through the National Peace Corps Association.

Patty then described a poster she is working on that can be used to publicize Friends of Swaziland.

Scott noted that there are 416 members listed on the PC Swaziland Facebook page and 148 members listed on the Friends of Swaziland Facebook page. This led to a discussion of increasing awareness of Friends of Swaziland among PCVs still serving in Swaziland and RPCVs who have served in Swaziland. In summary:

Ideas for Increasing Awareness of FOS among PCVs Currently Serving:

- Laura and Brandon discussed ways of creating awareness of PCVs currently serving, such as approaching them at mid-service and COS conferences. Another avenue would be to send information about FOS to the editors of "Swazi SoJo", the PCV Swaziland newsletter. John will share the poster and a Google slide presentation about FOS with Laura for her comments/suggestions that may be used to publicize FOS to PCVs.
- Laura and Brandon mentioned that Musa Malaza, a staff member in PC Swaziland would be a great contact for FOS and offered to contact him on our behalf.

Ideas for Increasing Membership of RPCVs

- Laura and Brandon mentioned that there are currently a large number of recently returned PCVs in the Washington and they frequently get together with former PC/SD Director Eileen Cronin. FOS should coordinate with Ms. Cronin to introduce the DC RPCVs to Friends of Swaziland.
- John has a list of the PCVs who served in Swaziland up to 1996 that could be the basis of contacting older volunteers. In addition, Mike Messick provided FOS with a list of RPCVs who have served in Swaziland over the last few years. Scott mentioned it's possible to get an updated list from Peace Corps and he would check into it. These lists can be used to help us in contacting RPCVs about FOS.
- Given there are now a number of ways of communicating with PCVs (FOS currently has a webpage, Facebook page, and a Yahoo egroup that are used for disseminating

information. Many of the recent returned PCVs have Facebook pages for their specific groups.) Laura mentioned that she could explore the use of social networking sites and make recommendations on how we can most effectively get out information about FOS.

Once again many thanks to Laura, Brandon and Brian for their ideas and interest in helping Friends of Swaziland.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 8 at PM EST. As addition to reporting on our progress in increasing awareness/membership in FOS, we should consider a small project to possibly fund by the end of the year.

Summary prepared by John von Reyn.