

CANADA & USA
JOINT FRIENDS IN ACTION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 27 & 28, 2022

The combined FIA Board of Directors met on Thursday and Friday, October 27 & 28, 2022 at the Friends in Action International headquarters board room 3985 East Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA. Attendees from USA board: Matt Durkee, Executive Director; Andy Hunt, Chairman & Treasurer; Paul Jarot, Vice Chairman; Ted Illjes, Secretary; Faye Brown, Randy Schnieders. Steve Nehlsen was absent due to other commitments. Canadian board members present: Roger Wingfield, Chairman; Irwin Pronk, Chris Smerdon. Pete Giesbrecht was unable to attend.

- I. **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS.** Andy Hunt requested Roger Wingfield to chair the meeting
 - A. Roger and Matt introduced new members and staff members as the meeting was starting at 8:35 AM.
- II. **DEVOTIONS & PRAYER** (Roger Wingfield)
 - A. Roger led the devotions focusing on the parable of the talents. We have the “talent” of the gift of salvation, and we need to invest it wisely by allowing others to receive it.
- III. **MISSIONARY CONNECTION** (Mike & Ruth Butler)
 - A. Mike shared his ministry plans with the board
 1. The primary means of travel in country is helicopter, due to mountainous regions inhibiting construction of airstrips. This reduces the need for new airstrips
 2. Discussed national co-workers’ ministry. Plan to continue with the wood working ministry.
 3. Mike shared missionary relations we help with in PNG
 4. Partner Jesse (wife Kary) has been staying at the Wewak base due to a situation in their tribe. Presently, Jesse & Kary are with a partnering org.
 5. Mike shared our need to train nationals with trade skills to keep our NGO status.
 6. The Butlers are also providing education to the National workers’ children
 7. Butlers are using their Canadian marina profits to help fund the FIA Wewak base.
 8. Mike and Ruth are heading back to PNG November 27, 2022, and they are ready!
 9. Mike is having difficulty dealing with changing government regulations
- IV. **CONSENT AGENDA & MINUTES** (Roger Wingfield)
 - A. A motion was made to approve and accept agenda with one exception: the removal of the Johnston’s from Item 2. The motion was seconded and approved.
- V. **JOINT GOVERNANCE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) & POLICY REVIEW**
 - A. Finalize and confirm revision to mission statement to be presented to FIA organization
 1. Under Mission Statement, change the wording to “To speed the Gospel to those least-reached with the good news of Jesus Christ by doing mission work in areas of limited infrastructure through construction projects and service.”
 2. This new MOU mission statement change is to be transmitted to all FIA mission personnel by Matt Durkee.
 3. **Ted Illjes** will be the FIA international board secretary through the year ending **2023**. A motion to approve Ted Illjes as the international board secretary was seconded and approved.
 4. Discussed board member expense compensation and reimbursement.

- (a) Plan to have a budget item for board members' expenses for 2023 in the amount of \$10,000.

B. A motion was made to accept the FIA MOU as amended above as of **October 27, 2022**. Motion seconded and approved.

VI. **FINANCE DISCUSSION**

A. FIA USA Audit Review (Kyle Hunt)

- 1. Kyle reviewed the statement and audit by the Walz Group for the years 2020 & 2021 and said that FIA financial matters are in good order.

B. Year-to-date assessment on annual fundraising goals. Matching giving goals are going well (being promoted to give "where needed most" or unrestricted)

VII. **INTERNATIONAL FIELDS – PROGRESS AND 2023 PROJECTIONS**

A. YTD field/project progress report and review international goals and objectives (2023 projection)

1. Bolivia

- (a) Donna Ferch will continue with the Bolivia ministry but not in leadership
- (b) See board report for details
- (c) Considering setting up an NGO in Bolivia
- (d) Matt Durkee and Tim Johnston met with Bible translators, Tom and Claudeliz Ferrell, just across the river in Brazil. They are requesting help with the Pacaas Novos printing of the New Testament Bible. They need \$50,000 for 2,000 New Testament copies. This item was tabled.

2. Nicaragua – Our in-country NGO was cancelled by the Nicaraguan government

(a) Other options to transfer money:

- 1. A certified in-country Rama NGO
- 2. An in-country church planting ministry
- 3. An organization by the name of Blue Energy – a 501-3C non-profit
- 4. Western Union – limited to \$3,000/month
- 5. Credit card/Debit card

(b) Matt Durkee will research the above options to determine the best plan of action

3. Papua New Guinea – Mike Butler expressed the needs of PNG:

- (a) Solar power system
- (b) Repairs to building
- (c) Need dedicated partners

Meeting adjourned for the day.

OCTOBER 28, 2022 - Board meeting Day 2

Andy Hunt led in devotions from Romans 15:23-24 (goers and senders). Being a sender is important and part of God's design. As senders, we need to be committed.

4. West Africa – Field report submitted by the Effler's

(a) Matt shared the video from Jeremy Effler at the Senegal base

- 1. Prayer needed for the national base workers
- 2. One believer – Oosman
- 3. Significant construction has been completed
- 4. Equipment registration has been completed

(b) A comment was made that "this is our most developed ministry with 4 couples on the field."

6. Vanuatu – Matt and Randy expanded on the field report
 - (a) Randy shared the need to repair the storm damage to the base
 - (b) Cattle farm is being updated with the help from Anseley Archer
 - (c) Planning to install a solar power system
 - (d) Guest house in town is still being rented
 - (e) Reviewed the water project status
7. Reviewed the FIA Annual Operating Expenses Budget and International Financial Goals for 2023 Activity reports
8. A motion was made to accept and approve the 2023 International Goals and Objectives for FIA International Fields and Budget. Motion seconded and approved.
9. A motion was made to approve and accept the USA and Canadian Annual Operating expense Budget. Motion seconded and approved.

VIII. **2023 INTERNATIONAL BOARD AND BANQUET MEETING DATES/LOCATIONS**

- A. January 31 – February 1: Cape Coral, Florida (board meeting)
- B. August 17-18 Canada (board meeting)
- C. October 26 & 27 – FIA headquarters, Middletown, PA (board meeting)
- D. October 17 Illinois banquet
- E. October 27 & 28 Pennsylvania banquets
- F. June 2023 FIA Orientation Program
- G. September 2023 Team Leader Training Program

IX. **FIA INTERNATIONAL – MISSION GOVERNANCE AND DIRECTION**

- A. Theology of Risk (discussion)
 1. What level of risk is acceptable – need to know the potential risks and have a plan to mitigate a crisis.
 2. Team leader should be trained in EMT
 3. Well-equipped first-aid kit, burn kit, air splints, stretcher basket
 4. A risk task force will be implemented to include Chris Smerdon, Faye Brown, Irwin Pronk and Steve Nehlsen, and they will formulate a risk assessment plan.

Roger closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ted Illjes, Secretary
Friends in Action, International – USA Board