

Draft 7/2/2018

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FRIENDS OF NIGER
BY SKYPE
July 1, 2018**

Present: Meredith McGehee, Larry Koff, John Baird John Hutchison, Steve Bushell, Amy Wilson, Penni St. Hilaire, Yari Rabiou, Tom Dechert, Phyllis Forbes, Dale Downes and Cheryl Turner

Absent: Tom Corcoran, and Seybou Douma

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm EDT

Prior to the meeting Meredith had sent a proposed slate of officers and committee chairs for the 2018 to 2020 Board of Directors based on discussions and emails from board members.

Meredith thanked everyone for their patience, expressed regrets that she no longer has the time to serve as President, thanked Penni for her years of service to the organization and thanked Dale for already working of Facebook with Joel.

She then moved that John Baird be elected President of FON. Steve seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and John B was unanimously elected. She then turned the meeting over to John B.

John B said he was committed to doing his best. He thanked Meredith for all she had done for the organization and thanked the new board members for joining the board.

He said he would like to limit the voting to the officers and would like to wait on committee assignments. He then read the duties of the officers as described in the bylaws and said he would entertain changes. Cheryl questioned the need to keep hard copies of the minutes. It was pointed out that the bylaws were written a long time ago and in need of revision. It was then moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the duties of the officers be kept as they are in the bylaws.

John B moved that the board accept the slate of Phyllis Forbes as Vice President, Larry Koff as Treasurer and Cheryl Turner as Recording Secretary. Meredith seconded the motion. The officers were unanimously approved.

Meredith reminded John B that Tom D had volunteered to take over the Camel Express newsletter and this is an important position that should not wait. She also said she would help with the Newsletter. John B agreed.

Larry left the call at 7:27 pm.

There followed a discussion of procedures. How often should the board meet. Can the calls be done with pictures of the participants, it would help get to know board members better. Cheryl said that video calls are difficult from overseas. I was suggested that FON may want to switch to another technology such as Zoom.

Phyllis will work on a retreat. Amy volunteered to help. Phyllis would like 3 or 4 people to help with the retreat and members that are interested should email Phyllis.

Meredith left the meeting at 7:33 pm.

John B proposed having monthly meetings and that the next meeting be Sunday, August 5 at 7 pm EDT.

It was suggested that Nigeriens be brought on to the board. Yari said that he is the liaison to the Niger Diaspora and that Douma is the President of CONUSA. Cheryl said she would be going to Niger in August and would follow up on identifying a representative in Niger.

Dale asked to have an agenda before the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Penni St. Hilaire
Recording secretary, retired
7/2/2018