

Minutes from Friends for Life of America General Meeting - January 18, 2001

I. Welcome

Steven Cohen, President of Friends for Life of America, called the first spring semester meeting to order at 7:01p.m. He displayed a bookmark that he received from the Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital that portrayed a child's drawing with the message: "Thank you for helping kids like me. Sincerely, Ricky." Afterwards, Steven spoke about the \$10,000 grant Friends for Life of America provided to the hospital to refurbish the teen room so that patients would have a place to relax after a long day of difficult treatment. Then, he introduced Senator Michelle Rosenthal and introduced Senator Jeremy Kaplan (from Student Government) who commented on the marvelous reputation of Friends for Life of America.

II. Formal Appointments and Opening Announcements

Steven reported that Scott Gorran, formerly the Vice-President of Operations, had transferred to the University of Pennsylvania for the spring semester. Scott will hopefully be starting another chapter of Friends for Life of America at the University of Pennsylvania next fall. Steven then appointed the Interim Vice President for the spring semester - Valerie Lynch. Valerie told the membership that she is honored to serve Friends for Life of America and its membership.

Next, Steven announced that the board had restructured itself over the winter break. This allows for two vacancies in the board: Assistant Director of Member Services and Assistant Director of International Affairs. These are both very important positions on the board that need to be filled immediately. To apply for these positions, please our website, <http://www.friendsforlife.com>, and enter the members only section. User ID: "UF" Password: "dneirf" Then, click on the "officer applications" link. You can directly submit your applications online.

III. Tina Mullen, Director of Arts in Medicine at Shands Hospital - Volunteering Opportunities

Steven introduced Tina Mullen, Director of Arts in Medicine at Shands Hospital. Tina began by telling the membership a little bit about the history of the Arts in Medicine program. It began about ten years ago with a pediatric oncologist named Dr. John Graham-Pole. After watching many pediatric patients endure the excruciating pain of a bone marrow transplant, he started the Arts in Medicine program to alleviate some of the anxiety of the transplant process. Tina then told the membership about the volunteer process. Potential volunteers must attend an orientation to learn about certain safety precautions and fire hazards. After that, proof of vaccinations is required, as well as a free PPD test provided by Shands Hospital. Then, every applicant must be interviewed by the volunteer coordinator of the program. Members may volunteer for a variety of hospital programs, including Circle Art Studio, Pediatric Dialysis, and perform for the patients in the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit. As of now, there are only enough volunteers to keep the Circle Arts Studio open two days a week. Tina urged Friends for Life of America to supply volunteers for the rest of the week. Valerie thanked Tina for speaking to the Friends for Life of America membership. If you are interested in volunteering at Shands

Hospital, e-mail Valerie at vlynch@friendsforlife.com if you need Orientation information or Steven at scohen@friendsforlife.com AFTER completing the orientation and interview process. Please include day of the week and times you would like to volunteer and Steven will forward your information to the Volunteer Services Office at Shands Hospital. Note that you must commit three hours a week to volunteer through the Arts in Medicine program.

V. Announcements - Office of Member Services

Valerie then spoke about the Boggy Creek Camp in Eustis. The Boggy Creek Camp is a possible member retreat idea. Members would serve as counselors for a weekend for patients undergoing treatment for their respective illnesses. If anyone has any other member retreat ideas, please contact Valerie at vlynch@friendsforlife.com.

V. Introduction/Announcements - Office of International Affairs

Steven introduced Tony Rodriguez, Director of International Relations. Tony spoke about our organization's newest program, Hearts for the Holidays: Global Outreach. The object of Hearts for the Holidays: Global Outreach is to spread our mission through out the world. The first project of Hearts for the Holidays: Global Outreach is to send CARE packages to pediatric cancer patients all over the world. The Hillel Foundation donated close to 100 hats to Friends for Life of America. Although these hats do not seem like much, to a poor child, the chance to cover the effects of chemotherapy is unique and very much appreciated. Tony will need much help in this endeavor and therefore encourages members who wish to work with him to contact him at trodriguez@friendsforlife.com.

VI. Introduction/Announcements - Office of the President

At this time, Valerie announced that another object of Friends for Life of America is to unite the college. In the interest of this mission, she urged anyone who is part of another club to please e-mail her and give her the pertinent information regarding who to contact in the organization - vlynch@friendsforlife.com. Steven then introduced Matthew Willey, Treasurer of Friends for Life of America. Matt everyone for attending and urged everyone to become involved in the events in the upcoming semester. Matt then told one of his famous jokes which will not be printed in the minutes for the sake of the secretary's questionable sanity.

VII. Upcoming Events

The Officers then discussed the upcoming Painting for Patients program. Valerie announced that in two weeks, on February 1, 2001, the membership will be painting two 30"x40" mural for Shands Hospital. Five main artists will be painting the drawing the picture, but the membership will be decorating the border with handprints and painting the contents. The enormity of this project requires a chairperson. If you are interested, please answer the essay question in the Members Only section and e-mail your response to Hanna Frost. In February, Friends for Life of America will sponsor a program called Valentine Hearts. This program is similar to Hearts for the Holidays, but students will be designing valentines instead. This project also requires a chair. E-mail Hanna your essay online!

VIII. Introduction/Announcements - Office of Campaign Development

Hanna Frost, Director of Campaign Development, finally announced the largest fundraiser of the year. The fundraiser, after much deliberation, will be a 5K run and kid's race called Mile for a Child. Participants will pay an entry fee and will receive a T-shirt for running. Possible sponsors include Target, Publix, Domino's Pizza, and Olive Garden. T-shirts will either be purchased cheaply or donated by an area screen printing company. It looks to be a wonderful opportunity for the whole community to come out and have a wonderful time supporting pediatric leukemia patients. Amanda Kuhns, Assistant Director of Campaign Development, urged everyone to support this endeavor.

IX. Introduction/Announcements - Office of Public Relations

Corey Klippel, Director of Public Relations, spoke about the Milestones in Medicine Forum, to be held in April. Possible speakers include Professor Miriam Zach and Dr. Graham-Pole. Friends for Life of America will also be flying in a speaker from the Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital. This medical forum will fulfill the last part of our mission statement: to educate the public about leukemia and related cancers. Steven introduced Devon Nunnely, Assistant Director of Public Relations. Devon told the membership that she was very excited about this upcoming semester.

X. Introduction/Announcements - Office of Technological Resources

The two people responsible for Friends for Life's marvelous website are our Director and Assistant Director of Technological Services. The Director, Adam Kell, could not attend the meeting. Therefore, the Assistant Director, Dewayne Allen, spoke in his place. Dewayne urged everyone to visit the website at <http://www.friendsforlife.com>. The site includes all of the minutes; e-mail addresses, officer applications, and dates for meetings. Please remember that the User ID and password are case sensitive. If anyone has any suggestions concerning the website, please e-mail either Dewayne or Adam.

XI. Inspirational Moment and Closing

Steven, as has been his tradition for almost four years, closed the meeting with an inspirational story. He told a story about a young man, who despite the education he received because of his family's wealth and connections, failed as a lawyer. In the courtroom, he was too scared to face the opposition. He was easily bullied and quickly gained the reputation of being a coward. Despite all this, he became one of the greatest influences in our lifetime. That man's name was Mahatma Gandhi. After a profound pause, Steven adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.