

Minutes from Friends for Life of America General Meeting - October 19, 2000

I. Welcome

Steven: I would like to start by welcoming you all to the second Friends For Life meeting. We really appreciate your coming out tonight. Scott, our Vice President of Operations, is going to read the minutes from the last meeting.

II. Minutes

Scott: Before I read the minutes, I'd just like to add that there has been some confusion about meeting times. Friends for Life meets every other week, not every week. I heard that some people went to a room in Reitz last week and no one was there. Well, we didn't have a meeting last week. The Thursdays in between the general meetings are for officers only. I just wanted to clear up the misunderstanding. Also remember that we'll send you e-mail reminders about the meetings a few days in advance. Now, the minutes...

III. Website and Logo

Steven: Friends for Life has a website that is currently under construction. The address is www.friendsforlife.com. Currently, only the front page is up; you cannot see what is being done on the other sections at this time. Let me tell you, though, that it looks really, really good. Regarding the logo, we had artists come up with several different designs. I'm going to pass around the sample logos, and you can tell us which one you like most at the end of the meeting. We want the members to contribute their ideas, not just the executive board.

IV. Hearts for the Holidays

Steven: Last week, several of you signed up for Hearts for the Holidays, and some of you even indicated that you would like to chair the event. Well, those members interested in chairing the event submitted essays, and after looking them over, we decided that Tonya Carr will be the chair for the program. Let's give her a round of applause. Tonya, please see us after the meeting. Now, regarding the program, our budget is currently under review by Student Government. We're looking at making 3,000 cards, and along with glue, markers, crayons, stickers, scissors, etc., the whole project should cost somewhere in the neighborhood of \$300. Scott is now going to go more into detail about the program.

Scott: Hearts for the Holidays is a program whereby students on the UF campus will design cards for pediatric leukemia patients across the state and perhaps even across the nation. Well, last meeting, several of you signed up for the Hearts for the Holidays committee. Now, what will this committee do? The first and most important thing this committee needs to do is solicit supply donations from stores. We initially weren't sure whether monetary or supply donations would be best, but after weighing each option, we decided to go the supply route. Also, the committee will set up times when members will make cards and schedule times to table at Turlington and the Reitz Union. We've actually decided to use this tabling opportunity as a way to attract new members, as opposed to just tabling separately to increase the member base. The committee will also work with other organizations on the UF campus to make cards. Maybe the fraternities and

sororities would be interesting in making cards? I have a friend who's a swimmer, and I think some of them will be making cards. There's a lot of interest around campus, and I don't think we'll have any trouble making 3,000 cards.

Steven: At one of our upcoming general meeting, instead of us just talking, we're going to make cards as well. We're also going to use the next meeting as a way for the members to get to know each other by organizing icebreakers.

Scott: Understand that, even if you didn't sign up for the Hearts for the Holidays committee, you can still make cards. I expect all of us to make a lot of cards, as it's pretty easy and doesn't require too much time.

V. Officer Appointments

Steven: We have openings for a number of positions on the executive board. We're looking for dedicated individuals who truly want to impact the lives of others. Should you have any additional questions regarding the responsibilities of the officers, please ask me at the end of the meeting. You must submit your officer applications before your interview.

Scott: As I told you last meeting, I haven't been a member of Friends For Life much longer than any of you – only since the summer. I just went through the whole process, and I can give you a pretty accurate rundown. First, UF policy mandates that each officer has at least a 2.0 GPA and is registered for a minimum of 12 credit hours. That's not a Friends for Life thing; it's a UF thing. We evaluate your application holistically, meaning we take everything into account. Then, you are interviewed. We're going to hold sign-ups after the meeting for interviews next week. We have over 10 hours reserved for them, but if you cannot make it to any and are still interested, please let us know and we'll make alternate arrangements. The interviews only last about 15 minutes each; they're not too bad.

VI. Shands Update

Scott: To volunteer at Shands, you need to do three things: buy a Shands polo shirt, complete your immunization forms, and attend a Volunteer Orientation. There is only one Orientation left, so if you wish to volunteer at any time this semester, you must go to the session next Thursday, October 26th, from 4-6 pm. It only lasts about an hour and forty-five minutes. The first half is about fire safety, the second about infectious diseases. It was a bit dry, but some parts were interesting. We'll have a sign-up sheet after the meeting for those interested in signing up.

Steven: One of the opportunities we have for volunteering is the Circle Arts Studio, where you would actually participate in Arts and Crafts with the children. This is actually the area that we are directly funding. We have times of 9 AM – 12 PM Monday through Friday and many other opportunities to interact with the patients at night. After volunteering for at least four weeks, if you have really developed a relationship with the patients, you are eligible for Patient Referrals in which you can actually go bedside. Also, the hospital is always looking for musical entertainment. If you play any instrument, the

kids would really love that. Similarly, if you dance, sing, storytell, etc., the kids would enjoy all of those things as well. Furthermore, they really don't have any volunteers who work nights, so if you're interested, there are also times from 6 – 9 PM where you could go in and spend time with the patients. Also, at our next meeting, we are going to be holding sign-ups for actual volunteer times.

VII. Painting for Patients

Scott: Have any of you ever been to Shands and seen the Quilt of Life? Well, we're going to be doing something similar with a painting that we'll donate to hospital. We plan to have artists actually design the painting, so if any of you are artists, we'd love to hear from you. We've already picked out a frame and materials, and we should be starting this program relatively soon.

VII. FFL Theme Song

Steven: Scott actually begged me not to talk about this, but I'll do it anyway. We have written a preliminary song that will be used for promotional purposes. To encourage others to join Friends for Life and to foster interest within the UF community, we will hold a contest to find the student(s) to perform the song. All UF students may audition. The winning group will get to professionally record the song.

VIII. Fashion Show

Steven: If you remember at the last meeting, we spoke about Bright Night. Well, after talking to some upper-level UF officials, I think we're going to have to put Bright Night on hold until next year. I think we need to be a more established organization before we attempt something of that size. Our huge project for the year, however, will be a fashion show. We're planning it for February, preferably right around Valentine's Day. This is a really big program, and one of the top priorities is finding a company to donate clothing. . . . Someone like a Gap or an Abercrombie. If you have any connections to these, please let us know.

Scott: In return for donating clothing, obviously, they would be a title sponsor, and that's very positive publicity.

Member: Where will we find the models?

Steven: We'll audition UF students. If you're interested in helping with the program, please sign up after the meeting and put "chair" next to your name if you would be interested in heading the program.

Scott: We see it as a way to appeal to a wide variety of students on campus, and we're starting it so early because the project is so large in nature.

X. Proposals, Suggestions, Comments

Steven: Before the proposals, what did you guys think of the logos that were passed around? Does anyone have any comments or any questions?

Member: I work with the Champs program, and I think the members would be very interested in helping to design cards.

Steven: Unfortunately, since the Champs program isn't directly affiliated UF, we cannot allow that. The money we receive from Student Government must directly be used by or help University of Florida students. It all relates to the activity fees that we pay as part of our tuition.

Member: Could Champions still design cards, if we used our own supplies?

Steven: Yes, and that would be great. The more cards, the better.

Scott: If any of you have any questions, comments, or suggestions on anything, we would love to hear them. We really want the members to really get involved with everything.

XI. Adjourn

Steve: Once again, thank you very much for coming. We look forward to seeing you again.