

## Friends of Niños Meeting Minutes Feb 11, 2018 Hotel Fontan, Ixtapa Mexico

Meeting called to order by Leighton at 12:10. Present: Albright, Dehart, Ellis, Leighton, Lindblom, Neal, Shea, Romain, Johnson, Diglio: Absent, Culligan, Moe, Tullos

Recognition of service of retiring Board members Tim Ellis, Bob Neal and Tom Wenrich and welcoming of newly elected members from May 17 election, Margaret Diglio and Ruth Johnson by Leighton

Approval of Sept 5 2017 meeting minutes: Motion to approve, Lindblom; second Albright - passed

### Old Business

Financial Review : Albright presented the December 31 (mid- year) Balance sheet and Income statements prepared by Tom Culligan reiterating Culligan's note that all were in order. It was noted that our fiscal year has been changed to July1 thru June 30, now aligning with our tax year and the Zihua school year. Albright also presented a simplified annual forecast of expenses and income that focuses on items we can directly control, leaving out the large sums of Special Needs and Beca dollars which are "pass through" events in the sense that all these donations from sponsors are paid out to the students.

Benefit Dinner: Romain, reported that arrangements for the dinner and music, to be held at Pacifica Club, were in order. Expectations are the guest count will be near 65 versus last year's 75.

Fall Fundraiser: Albright, reported the fall 17 fundraising letter has brought in \$17k thus far. Donations will continue to trickle in with the final expected count of between \$17 to \$18k. Last year's results were \$18.4k. The use of a personal story in the letter was helpful but we are running out of good stories. This is our major fund- raising effort and we need good "heart string" stories. Albright solicited the board members to be on the lookout for a story to be used in the 2018 campaign. It was mentioned we should enlist Shelagh Yarnell to help.

Newsletter: Lindblom, solicited the board members for success stories about their students to be used as content material for a Spring/Summer edition.

Scholarships: Shea, reported this year's Nick August scholarship of \$500 was awarded to, Ilse Janitzi the top 2017 high school graduate to enroll at UT Petatlan. Looking ahead to the 2018 Sheahen scholarship, one candidate has been identified thus far, Bella Vanessa a straight 10 student with plans to attend Nicholas Hidalgo Morelia. There may be others to be identified by, Jose but the field is slim this year.

English Classes: Diglio, covered the progress of the Sponsor Taught Classes. This year's conversational format has been enthusiastically attended by better than 50 kids. About half are participants in Stella's ongoing English classes. Teachers, Shelagh & Ross Yarnell, Stan & Emily Karhoff, Viny & Margret Diglio, Tim Ellis, Alan Axelrod, Mary McGlenn & Annette Jones have divided the students into several groups based on proficiency. The classes are held 3 days each week for 3 weeks.

### New Business

Nominations & Elections: Leighton opened nomination. Albright presented the nominating committee's slate of Directors for 2018, Ruth Johnson and Margaret Diglio for 3 year terms and Officer positions, Tom Lindblom President, Margaret Diglio Secretary, Tom Culligan Treasurer, Steve for Past President all for 2 year terms. Leighton called for nominations from the floor, there being none, Ellis motioned to close nominations, second by Romain - passed. Motion to approve and elect slate as presented, Leighton, second, Albright - passed .

Sponsor Update: Albright reviewed the program statistics which showed student population to be 203 as of Jan 1.

Truck Replacement: Albright pointed out the truck used by Jose to efficiently conduct Niños effort is wearing out. A new one will cost approx. \$12k with "trade in", almost the same as in 2011. It is suggested we structure same financing as 2011 where Jose is responsible for \$3k of cost. Motion by Ellis to purchase new truck if numbers hold up. Second, Leighton - passed

Next Meeting Date: **Wednesday May 2nd** at 9AM Central time

Motion to adjourn: Lindblom, second Shea – passed