

**Western Canadian FF Clubs Webinar Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2016**

Participants: All Western clubs participated except FF Hay River, FF Edmonton & Area, FF Winnipeg and FF Saskatoon. Also on the call from FFI were Allison Lindsey , Jo Custead, and Kristin Harrison.

Facilitator: Angie Grikis, Chair of Council of Canadian FF Clubs and Mavis Grant, Western FFI Field Rep

Angie opened the meeting and asked participants to introduce themselves and the club they were representing and to approve the agenda.

1. **2018 Outbound Exchange Requests:** Angie asked participants to provide a list of destinations their club is requesting for 2018 Outbounds and indicate if they think their club will be able to fill the Exchange. Information provided by participants is in the table on page 3 and 4.

Following the round-table, Kristin from FFI {who assigns Outbound Exchanges} provided comments on whether requested destinations would likely be approved.

- a. She was pleased that so many expressed interest in U.S. destinations and indicated that it was likely that all Canadian requests for a U.S. destination could be satisfied.
 - b. Kristen also advised that Germany and U.K. clubs had voiced an interest in hosting an all Europe Exchange, and that if Canadian clubs were interested, she could coordinate an all Canada Exchange.
 - c. Brian questioned whether it was necessary to partner with another club to fill an exchange and Kirsten recommended contacting the field rep. and/or contacting the club directly if a number of spaces need to be filled.
2. **2017 Outbound and Inbound Exchanges:** Mavis requested participants to provide information on their 2017 outbound and inbound Exchanges and whether they would likely be able to fill the Outbound. Information provided by participants is in the table on page 3 and 4.
 3. **Report on Atlanta Meeting:** Mavis provide a brief outline of the report she sent to Presidents previously:
 - a. We should return to origins of FF: The is the basis as per FF Pledge.
 - b. She stressed the importance of a service component during inbounds.
 - c. FFI should have their new website finished by the end of 2016.
 - d. FFI has produced a new promotional video and package for clubs.
 - e. There should be more and better vetting of members.
 - f. She plans to have webinars every 2 months starting in Jan 2017
 4. **Plans for Canada's 150th Anniversary:** As the meeting was running late, Angie requested clubs to send information on their plans to her and Mavis.
 5. **Mentor Program:** Cecile Latour was unavailable due to illness. Allison indicated that the mentor program is guided by field reps.

6. **Regional and National Conferences:** Angie asked participants if they were interested in attending these type of conferences.
 - a. Brian Grover – Victoria/VI club is not interested . He suggested that unless there was something substantial included the conference would be a waste of time and \$. Barbara feels Victoria more interested in Western U.S. conferences that Canadian.
 - b. Joyce – club is sour on Regional conferences because member was refused entrance by FFI previously. Finds WebEx meetings helpful because does not involve long distances. Would attend National conference if there was a worthwhile agenda
 - c. Sheila – Would consider if held close by . Don't see club members attending.
 - d. Diane – Likes Canadian conference like in Niagara. People would be interested in regional conference if hosted.
 - e. Judy – on the fence
 - f. Lynda would encourage more communication with regional clubs either by conferences or at the least through WebEx meetings
 - g. Mavis reported that there were several concerns with the Olympia conference: some felt it encompassed too large an area to be effective as a regional conference , the notification was very late in coming, and home stays were not offered, hence the interest in a Canadian conference.
 - h. Mavis reported that other countries report very good satisfaction with regional conferences. The reduction in frequency of FFI conferences was to encourage regional ones. Home stays would help defray the cost of conferences

7. **Travel Insurance:** Allison reported that she had sent presidents two travel insurance plans that they should make their members aware of: Multinational and Canadian to U.S.
 - a. The plans are available for purchase for club members including a provision for trip cancellation and interruption and non-refundable costs such as Tour costs, hotels, FFI fees, Host fees.
 - b. She advised members to compare the price and coverage of this insurance with their current provider and decide which is most advantageous to them personally.
 - c. The insurance is applicable to all travel not just Outbounds.
 - d. FFI does get a commission but purchasing this insurance is also a way of supporting FFI

8. **Closing Comments:**
 - a. Alison reminded everyone that next year is FFI's 40th anniversary.
 - b. Jo Custead asked members to support the Manchester Conference next year. Landing fees are cheaper than Heathrow .
 - c. Jo reminded all clubs to put all unfilled exchanges on the Canffex website.
 - d. Mavis reported that if a Canadian President's meeting was arranged for the World Conference, there would be an extra fee.
 - e. Mavis requested responses to her emails.
 - f. Angie thanked everyone for participating.