

Friends of Danang

January 10, 2008

Enrico Biscotti Co.

Strip District

MINUTES

1. Welcome to Guests:

Lino Distillo, from Duquesne University, has students doing community service and they move to international service.

Three members from the Delta Kappa Fraternity, Duquesne University;

Gene Bromberg, cousin of Noreen, free lance writer and photographer; he is going to Vietnam in March.

2. Silent Reflection: individual reflections

3. Financial Report:

There was a reported balance of \$6,446.77 in the administrative checking account as of December 31, 2007. At the December meeting \$115 was collected for the Larry Lagattuta Fund. During the month of December, \$175 was collected for the Roger Costello Book Fund.

Our goal to build the Hoi Yen Bridge is \$55,000 and so far we submitted \$11,413.00 to the East Meets West Foundation. **A**

complete report is enclosed.

An updated 2007 Veteran's Day Breakfast Income and Expenses Report is also included. The net profit is \$14,739.02! **A complete report is enclosed.**

4. Veteran's Day Breakfast:

Tony spoke to the representative at the Marriott for the 11-11-08 breakfast date. We have a \$500 deposit in place. We were bumped out of the Westin by a previous and larger engagement.

Bruce Bickel has been asked to be our speaker. He accepted and is honored to be our speaker. Bruce is a VN vet and works for PNC. A bio is enclosed.

T.J. has been busy organizing and alphabetizing all of our mailing lists from 2004-2007.

A complete report is enclosed.

6. Jewelry Show:

The show held in November was our fourth annual show. It was held at Chatham Village in Mt. Washington. Debbie Corr has graciously donated her profits to the Friends of Danang. We had our best show so far, and made a profit of \$2030!

7. Website Development:

Ed has been working on the website. Please visit www.friendsofdanang.org to check it out. The students at Wendover Middle School have been actively involved in raising money for the Friends of Danang.

8. Trip to Vietnam 2008:

The next trip is schedule to depart Pittsburgh on Friday, March 28, 2008 and return on Tuesday, April 8, 2007. The flight itinerary is PIT to Charlotte to LAX to Taipei to Saigon. Travelers will spend 8 nights in Saigon and 4 nights in Furama. Sixteen people are going and will be traveling economy deluxe. Thanh will send those involved an itinerary and flight schedule. Travelers need to give Thanh their original passports with two photo and a check for \$1500 made payable to "EVA Mission". On the trip, FOD will visit the clinic and Hoa Son School, and the kids helped by our "Let Them Walk Again" funds. The school that Judy Lorigan's granddaughter helped build is near the Mekong Delta, and that is part of the itinerary.

Media coverage was discussed. Noreen will speak to a few of her contacts. The reconciliation aspect of the trip is certainly newsworthy to someone. It is worth a chance to send Anderson Cooper at CNN an email regarding the trip, since he does many stories of human interest. Roger volunteered to talk to Reg Henry and Tony will call Chris Moore.

Our bridge is called the "Bridge of Reconciliation". Thanh will talk to Foreign Affairs about having a plaque made in English and Vietnamese. Ed Mihalacki has a VC flag that he is willing to give back to the Vietnamese. Thanh will check with Foreign Affairs.

Tony went to the Flag Factory to inquire about lapel pins with the US and VN twin pin design that could be given at the dedication. Michlovic will have the pin image put on balloons.

If you are going, or not going, there are items that we can collect and will be sent on the trip with our members. Please consider collecting the following:

- ✓ Toothbrushes
- ✓ Sample size toothpastes (That's a big hit and there is a dental clinic there)
- ✓ Sample soaps and shampoos
- ✓ \$1 reading glasses (the kind you can buy at the dollar store)

Ed Mihalacki has offered to get pens/pencils for the students at Hoa Son. T.J. is going to try to get calculators. Please bring these items to the February 14th or the March 13th meeting.

9. Future Projects:

Tony spoke with Dee Dee Nguyen of East Meets West about considering water projects in Danang as our next endeavor. She will look around Danang. EMW has water projects that service a community of 6000-7000 people for approximately \$40,000 to \$50,000.

10. Vietnamese Dinner:

The Vietnamese Dinner will be held on Sunday, June 1, 2008 at the Bethel Park Community Center from 4:00-7:00 pm. Tickets will sell for \$25 for adults. Menu will be very much like last year including coconut shrimp, pho soup, rice, salad, egg rolls, and more. More info to follow.

11. Open Discussion:

Everyone at the table expressed their thoughts and feelings about the Friends of Danang. Cindy Bahn will have a Japanese foreign exchange student. She may attend some of the meetings.

Tom Fallon is trying to invite the mayor to Vietnam. Tom would like him to know that we are trying to help others. He also expressed his thoughts about the "family" aspect of the FOD.

Roger is going to Australia for 6-12 months in order to be eligible to collect his army pension.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, February 14, 2008** at Enrico Biscotti Co. at 7:00 pm.

See you there.

Respectfully submitted,

