

Friends of Danang
October 9, 2008
Enrico Biscotti Company
Strip District

MINUTES

1. Welcome to Guests:

Jimmy Cvetic, former detective and veteran, is organizing the boxing match to help the FOD and the WWII Memorial. He works with the youth in the area. His goal is to teach them to be champions of their own life through amateur boxing.

Sam Trivilino and his friend Joe;

Tom Buell, from the Pittsburgh Quarterly, is writing an article about the FOD;

Thanh, niece of Thanh Armagost

2. Individual reflections

Individual reflections

3. Financial Report:

There was a reported balance of \$10,709.46 in the administrative checking account as of September 30, 2008, of which \$3,890 is restricted for Roger's book fund. At our August meeting, \$55 was collected for the Larry Lagattuta Fund, which is now at \$7,363.00.

A complete report is enclosed.

4. New Project:

We will build a new school and a clean water source. So far, we have not engaged someone to build the water well. As it was reported in the past, we will partner with the Vietnam Children's Fund to build the school. Tony asked the group for permission to send them a down payment of \$5000. Tom Fallon made the motion to send t he money. The motion was second.

5. **Veteran's Day Breakfast:**

- T.J. did a wonderful job getting letters out with handwritten envelopes
- Success of the breakfast depends on the people in this group.
- It is the largest Veteran's Day breakfast in the state of PA
- Please do your best to sell tickets and ads
- Nick Dubos reported that Duquesne University's admissions expressed a desire to buy a table.
- Marriott will charge us only .50 more per breakfast
- Our first breakfast had only 32 people in attendance
- Should we show the video of our first school during registration in the lobby?
- Could we cover 10 years of FOD in the program?
- Ed M offered to change the VHS tape to a DVD
- Noreen suggested putting that video on our website
- We could put a summary of all of our accomplishments in the program
- T.J. offered to auction a Rocky Bleier autographed football jersey
- We have a Steelers blanket as a door prize
- Due to the breakfast on November 11th, **our next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 6 at 7:30.**
- We need to get the registration into a database
- On November 10th, it may be possible to meet the night before and set up early.
- We have a commitment from Laura Ward from EMW who will speak about 5 minutes.

6. **Veteran's Day Boxing Event:**

At 7:30pm on November 11, 2008, an amateur boxing event will be held at the Marriott City Center. It is at the same place as the breakfast. The proceeds benefit the FOD, the WWII War Monument, and the Western PA Police Athletic League. Ticket prices are \$500 for a table of 5, \$50 for "gold" seating, \$30 for "silver" seating and \$20 for general admission. For tickets call 412-298-7373. Checks made payable to "WPAL-Fighting for Veterans."

The tickets will also be available at the VDB.

7. **Jewelry Show and Vietnamese Luncheon:**

The Jewelry Show will be held on November 16th at Chatham Village in Mt. Washington from 10:00-4:00. Debbie Corr of California has graciously offered to bring her jewelry and give us the proceeds from the show. This year, we will also have a Vietnamese luncheon for \$10 that

will include coconut shrimp, egg rolls, and Vietnamese salad. Take out and preordering is available. You can buy egg rolls at \$10 per dozen. Postcards were available at the meeting. If you need some more contact George at 412-849-3600.

8. Spaghetti Dinner:

This year, the annual Spaghetti Dinner will be held on Saturday, October 11th at the Bethel Park Community Center from 3:00-7:00. This is a partnership with the Bethel Park Rotary. If you can work at the dinner please come to the Community Center and help in any way you can. Setting up and cleaning up is also needed.

Many of you have received raffle tickets to sell. FOD gets 100% of the profits of the raffle tickets that we sell. We get 50% of the proceeds of the dinner tickets that we sell.

9. Trade Mission Plans:

Jim Wolf and Jim Snider are working on resources for water wells. Bob Schiffbauer will be in Danang for a month and agreed to look into things while he is there.

Jim Wolf had an audience with the Prime Minister of Vietnam. Officials from Hanoi and Danang were in attendance. Jim reported that with the support of local political and business leaders and Pittsburgh's friends in the Vietnamese government, a date for a trade mission from the Pittsburgh region to Vietnam has been set for February 16-20, 2009. In addition, discussions are also underway to have a mission from Vietnam visit Pittsburgh prior to that date, perhaps in early December 2008. We are cautiously optimistic that formalizing a sister city relationship between Pittsburgh and Danang can/will be a part of those two visits. Representation from the Friends of Danang will be welcome for both visits. Please contact Jim Wolf (jameswolf@comcast.net) or 412-341-1764 if you have any requests, questions, or suggestions.

10. Increase of Dinner Contribution from \$10-15 to \$15-20:

Everyone was in agreement for the increase. We are asking for a \$15 donation for meals and a \$20 donation for dinner and drinks.

11. Press Releases:

Noreen and Shirley are working on press releases. If you have a community paper, call Noreen at 412-414-7228.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, November 6, 2008** at Enrico Biscotti Co. at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb

Note: This is a very busy time of year for all of us and the Friends of Danang. Thank you for your generosity in giving your time, effort, and financial support in all of the fundraisers and events that are coming up in October and November.