

**Friends of Mali
Board Meeting Minutes
July 18, 2004 12:00 pm**

I. Old Business

A. Logo/image for Nagelene bottles

The logo has been completed and the bottles are ready for production. They cost around \$8 to produce which is a reduced rate based on their being given away. Therefore, we will give them away to the next two or three stages. We can also give them away to regional reps as a thank you for serving.

Remaining issues:

1. Jumana is now working out the payment arrangements and when the bottles will be produced.
2. Megan Doherty presenting to the trainees in Philly. Training is September 22. Josh Romalis has moved to Philly, Andrew will e-mail him and ask if he would be interested in helping out.

B. **Regional Meetings**

New York – around seven people showed but this was due more to the Evite going out late than lack of interest. People were interested

Portland – Stephanie Skalak, regional rep, says their event also went well
California – no event because the regional representative was in San Diego and most RPCVs were in different cities. They are looking at getting a different regional rep.

Southwest – couldn't organize due to people not being centrally located
DC – Herb Casey, regional rep. Around 5 people showed but again this was due to the timing of the invitation.

We will suggest that the next event, which should be in September, be organized around Mali's Independence Day celebration on September 22. Sabrina will announce this in the newsletter.

C. Translating the Friends of Mali Website into French – Get update from Jumana.

D. Member survey – no responses yet. Sabrina will resend the survey in the next newsletter. We'll also encourage regional reps to get the word out about this and bring it to the next national meeting.

- E. Election – perhaps one of the reasons we had no interest in board positions is that the position descriptions are not well written or particularly inviting. Allison will rewrite the descriptions and contact Jumana and Matt for help.

Timeline

The revised positions are due to Sabrina by **Thursday July 22.**

We'll set the next election date for **September 1.**

Submissions of interest should be sent to the Secretary by **August 15**

A special email will be sent to membership on those who have announced their candidacy on **August 21.**

If we have no interest in any positions, board members should think about making a personal appeal to select RPCVs. Another option is to create the Vice President/acting Treasurer position. When someone volunteers or we nominate someone to take one of the positions, the combined position will be divided

- F. Direct deposit NPCA rebate checks – update from Jumana
- G. Megan Doherty's draft for FOM participation in immigrant support issues – update from Jumana

II. New Business

Project ideas for Friends of Mali –

SPA funds have recently been cut from the Peace Corps budget and are no longer available to volunteers. Friends of Mali can take advantage of our membership base that either knows of relevant grants or have used grants in the past that would be helpful to current volunteers.

1. Sabrina will place an item in the newsletter requesting members submit grant info to us that they have used or know of.
2. Sabrina will check with Jeff to see if he can add a dedicated link to the website where individuals can post grant info themselves.

Next Meeting: August 15 at 12:00 pm