

**Friends of Mali
Board Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2004 4:00 pm**

I. Old Business

- A. Report on Regional Meetings – September 22
Events reported in Boston and Oregon. Both groups were small informal gatherings.
- B. December event to welcome new volunteers – December is a bad month for activity so we'll look at January 22-23rd to welcome new RPCV's back from Mali.
- C. Election
Allison Williams will submit her candidacy for the Vice-President position and Mark Niles has expressed interest as Treasurer. The Secretary and Newsletter position remain open. Andrew will send an e-mail to paid members to vote by the end of this month (October 31). Andrew will also send a reminder to unpaid members to pay so they can vote. Members can vote on line at vote@friendsofmali.org. The Secretary's responsibilities will be shared by the board. Minute taking will be rotated amongst board members at each meeting. The newsletter editor will be appointed as soon as we find a candidate.
- D. Funding Resources page on website – Jeff has created a page on our website where individuals can post and exchange information on funding sources for development projects in Mali

II. New Business:

- A. Non-profit status – no new information
- B. Bringing back lapsed members
 1. Jeff will write monthly feature on what to find on the FOM website.
 2. Membership drive
We will contact lapsed and registered members to invite them to join and find out why they lapsed. Test market it one city. We'll need to generate talking points about what FOM does, what we hope to do and where their money is going.
- C. FOM financial position – we are operating in a deficit, need to come up with some revenue generating activities: One thing we can do is have the conference call every other month. Another option is to use a service

called freeconferencecall.com. Each person pays for the call, not the group. Finally, we will try using AOL IM as another option. We'll use this with next month's meeting.

- D. The recent e-mail solicitation to assist the Malian woman pay for face surgery is not an appropriate for our website. Individuals can contribute and maybe encourage others to help via discussion board but FOM will not formally sponsor personal requests like this.
- E. RPCV recognition program – The Peace Corps is sponsoring a RPCV/RPCV group of the month recognition program awarding groups for outstanding efforts to further the Peace Corps mission. The e-mail about it went out today. Please read, review and be aware. We will highlight on our website and use as a marketing piece. Encourage people to participate in FOM and help us win this recognition.

Next meeting: Sunday, December 5, 2004, 4pm