

Friends of Mali  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Saturday, September 12, 2003  
1:00 p.m.

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**Present:** Jumana, Jenna, Allison, Sabrina, Jeff, Andrew

**Absent:** Matt

## Minutes

### I. Old Business

#### A. Calabash Music

Matt originally contacted Calabash seeking to link their music page to our website. Nothing has happened so Jeff will follow-up with Matt to find out who he should talk to about doing that. The goal is to allow FOM members to read Calabash's music reviews and offerings but then purchase music through them. There are still some questions as to how it will work so Jeff will follow up with Matt.

#### B. Global TeachNet

We agreed to work with Global TeachNet to offer teaching materials on Mali through a "teacher's toolbox". The toolbox will potentially include songs, stories, geography and cultural learning material. We want to invite any of our members who are teachers to make suggestions about what else to add into this toolbox. Sabrina will send out an e-mail requesting members who are teachers or know teachers to suggest materials for this link. Jeff will also look into adding a posting component where members can post information directly.

#### C. Elections

Elections will be held during the last two weeks of February 2004. Positions that will come up for election are President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. The remaining positions (Webmaster, Newsletter and Membership) are nominated. Members will be notified of the positions up for election and encouraged to contact us if they are interested in running. Those eligible to run for a position and vote are paid members as of December 1, 2003.

Jumana is getting frustrated with the multiple roles she is finding she is having to play, particularly performing Treasurer duties. We want to make sure that everyone is clear about their responsibilities and how much time they should be committing to their positions. Over the next 10 days, everyone should think about the time commitment their position should have as well as read their job description and see if it meets what they actually do. If there are any discrepancies, please write them out and send them to Jumana by September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### D. NPCA Memberships

The idea is to sell the memberships on our website, we'll just add a link to NPCA instead of actually selling them (we have to charge members to do it). The link will get them there without have to deal with the administrative hassles.

## II. New Business

### A. Update on Membership Activities

Andrew has been in touch with Nana at the Peace Corps bureau to forward our FOM newsletter to the Bamako Peace Corps bureau. She in turn will send us the Mali Rag.

Andrew also sent a survey to 30 members requesting career/post-Peace Corps information. No response yet but he'll use the NPCA directory to benchmark the format.

Next Member Event: Create your own FOM party! Saturday, November 29, 2003. Sabrina will send out an announcement in this next newsletter. We'll ask members from different states to volunteer to host the party but create their own theme by organizing it around a local event or activity.

### B. Newsletter

Sabrina is struggling to keep publishing the newsletter in a consistent and timely manner because we keep missing deadlines. Please adhere to the deadlines that Sabrina sets. The next deadline for submissions is December 13, 2003. The newsletter will then be published by January 3, 2003. Sabrina will send the current newsletter out today for our review.

### C. New Call Conferencing Service

No more exploitation of the World Bank! From here on out we'll be using a new service called "Conference Call". Its the cheapest service at \$.20 per minute and will ultimately cost about \$100 per board meeting call. Because of this new expense, board meetings will be scheduled every other month.

## III. Other

Timbuktu flooding – The flooding of the Nile River has affected not just Mali but several countries in West Africa. The River swelled to 8 times its normal level flooding all regions along the river including Timbuktu, GAO, Segou and Bamako. The International Federation of the Red Cross is currently conducting a disaster assessment to see if they need to do any emergency fundraising. As soon as this assessment is completed, an appeal for support will be issued. We will direct members who want to contribute, to the Red Cross website when the appeal goes out.

Partnership Projects – There has been quite a big turnover of Peace Corps Partnership projects. Hopefully it means that they have been funded. A sewer/water project in Bamako, for example, has raised half its requested amount of \$13,000. It would be good for board members to check out the Peace Corps

partnership website from time to time to know what's going on and if we should be alerting our membership to anything.

Commemorative T-shirts from the Smithsonian Folk Life Festival will be offered on the website soon.