

Report of the Nominations Committee to the FOL Board: September 2009

1. There are six Board members elected by vote of the membership for three year terms:

Terry Anderson 2007-08-09

Joseph Crayton 2007-08-09

Patricia Hough 2007-08-09

Svend Holsoe 2007-08-09

Robert Sharer 2007-08-09

Romelleh Horton 2009-10-11

All five Board members elected by the membership whose terms expire at the end of 2009 have expressed an interest in continuing to serve. **The committee recommends that the Board present a slate of these five Board members** to the membership in the fall appeal letter. Of course, write-in votes may be cast.

2. The Board has expressed a desire to have the terms of Board members elected by vote of the membership be staggered so that two terms expire every year. Our bylaws require Board terms to be of three years duration with a maximum of three consecutive terms served. Consequently, the staggered terms can not happen with five Board members being elected at the same time. Therefore, the committee recommends that, assuming all incumbent members up for re-election are in fact elected, the Board ask for volunteers among the five to tender their resignations accordingly: two to resign after one year (end of 2010) and one to resign after two years (end of 2011). The terms of the remaining two to be elected this fall will expire at the end of 2012. As a result, the stagger will be accomplished. **Rather than the Nominations Committee recommend who should resign early, the Board should place this on the agenda and ask for volunteers.**

3. Our bylaws permit the Board to elect up to six additional Trustees, also for three year terms. At present they are:

Torli Krua 2002-03-04, 2005-06-07, 2008-09-10

Stephanie Vickers 2004-05-06, 2007-08-09

Peter Levitov 2004-05-06, 2007-08-09

Candace Eastman 2008-09-10

Jefferson King 2009-10-11

Saah N-Toe 2009-10-11

Both Board members elected by the Board whose terms expire at the end of 2009 have expressed an interest in continuing to serve. **The committee recommends that the Board re-elect these Board members.**

4. Our bylaws require the Board chair to be elected every year. This election takes place at the fall meeting. Terry Anderson, who would like to remain on the Board, is not able to serve as Board chair in 2010. Since the chair must be a member of the Board, **all Board members should consider whether they**

would be willing to be considered for 2010 Board chair.

5. FOL officers also have one-year terms. This election also takes place at the fall meeting. Officers are not required to be Board members, although Stephanie Vickers is both President and Board member elected by the Board. Although our bylaws do not address how FOL officers are to be elected, the Nominations Committee polled the current officers and each officer is willing to stand for election for next year. Several officers suggested that new officers ought to be cultivated and, consequently, offered to remain in their respective positions for only one more year. **The committee recommends that all officers be re-elected by the Board in September.**

Report of the Program Committee to the FOL Board: September 2009

A. The committee recommends that the Board fund the following projects:

African Community Exchange [\$1300]

To facilitate the "Literate Liberia Movement" by providing transportation for organizers, community leaders and school personnel as well as materials and supplies to students in grades 7-12 who will teach literacy to some 3000 people in the Monrovia area, including neighborhoods and market places.

Margibi Country Women's Association [\$1985]

To train women to re-establish the production of country cloth, including weaving, tailoring, needle work, design, marketing and sales.

Liberian Potters(Pottery) Association [\$1750]

To purchase a kiln and related materials to enable a group of potters to become self-reliant through training more potters, providing production access for more potters and developing marketing strategies.

Visions in Action [\$1600]

To distribute scientific calculators to high schools and universities in certain counties and also to educate teachers in the incorporation of calculators into the curricula and the learning process.

TOTAL this round \$6635

B. The committee also recommends favorable consideration of a proposal from the Tappita District Development Association, a Board-member generated proposal, to provide motivation, training and resources to Liberian youth, culminating in an annual competition, in order to promote innovative business ideas that will result in Liberian products and services. Because two FOL Board members, Torli and Jefferson, (both of whom are on the Program Committee) serve on its board of directors, the committee recommends full Board discussion. The three remaining committee members were not in agreement as to the amount to be funded, although \$3500 was mentioned.

C. The committee identified two issues for committee discussion at the Board meeting and possible recommendation for adoption by the Board :

- 1, Should grant policy be modified to define eligibility for nonprofit organizations
 - a. only for Liberian organizations in Liberia?
 - b. open to organizations anywhere?
 - c. with a preference for organizations in Liberia?
2. Should grant applicants be limited to
 - a. one application per year?
 - b. one application per year if they received a grant during the previous round of grants?

If either or both of these policy changes are adopted by the Board, the web site must be changed accordingly and quickly before applications are received for the next round of grants.