



IFM Meeting of the Board and Member Churches, February 25, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Board Officers

Phil Alonso, Executive Director
Naomi Cabral, Development Director
Bob Thurman, President
Rick Kahil, Vice President
John Brusher, Treasurer
Robert Emmett, Assistant Treasurer
Karen Holt, Assistant Treasurer - **Absent**
Maxine Palmer, Secretary

Guests

Todd Parker, GV United Methodist

Board Members

Tim Gizzi, Calvary Bible
Janet Kelley, Christian Science Church - **Absent**
Marnie Ratkovsky, Emmanuel Episcopal - **Absent**
_____, First Baptist Church - **Absent**
Gaye Rogers, Grace Lutheran
Kari Gaul, Grass Valley United Methodist
Eleanor Kenitzer, N.C. United Methodist - **Absent**
Jim Schroeder, Peace Lutheran
Diane Chang, Seventh Day Adventist
_____, Sierra Center for Spiritual Living - **Absent**
Joan Denzler, Sierra Pines Methodist - **Absent**
_____, Sierra Presbyterian - **Absent**
Jeff Hebert, St. Canice
Nancy Koring (Jeff Hebert), St. Patrick's
Judi Wade, Twin Cities
Anne Lyon, Unitarian Universalist

Member Concerns

Anne Lyon expressed concern she is not getting the newsletter by e-mail. Kari Gaul also said she is not getting e-mail from IFM. Phil suggested they check their spam/junk mail. The marketing platform, Mailchimp is used and is known to have this problem. A concern was expressed that the Matching Campaign e-mails may also have this problem. Phil is considering sending the e-mails through a different server to solve this.

It was confirmed we had a quorum.

Prayer was led by Tim Gizzi.

Gaye Rogers asked that the minutes be changed to include Pastor Duane Bamsch, Grace Lutheran, as a guest and that he led the group in prayer. A motion was made by Jeff Hebert to approve the January minutes as corrected. Jim Schroeder seconded the motion. The motion was approved with all in favor.

Matching Campaign - Phil Alonso

- Posters and half-sheet fliers were given to the Board members present to distribute. All were encouraged to publicize the campaign in an effort to get new donors.
- An expanded master mailing list of about 1800 was created from SoxBox and Donor Tools. Naomi has a meeting at 11:30 at the post office tomorrow, Wednesday, Feb. 26th, to complete the bulk mailing.
- Phil is also working on creating a master e-mail list. A Matching Campaign e-mail will go out March 2nd.
- IFM is paying for an ad in The Union.
- KNCO also gave IFM a great deal on a month package of promotions for the campaign. Phil will be taping a 30 second segment about the Matching Campaign on March 1st which will be used periodically throughout the month. Phil is also going to tape a new segment for KNCO about IFM. Their current segment features Sue Van Son.
- There will be promotions on Facebook.
- Bob Thurman shared there is currently \$45,000 from matchers, and he is still working on one more donor.

Benefit Concert - Phil Alonso

- The concert was originally planned for May but has now been changed to September 12th to give more time to promote it.
- \$5,000 was budgeted for the event and \$1,000 will be used as a deposit for the Veteran's Hall.
- The Boston Ravine Group will perform and they are helping to recruit 2 or 3 other groups to perform.
- Board members expressed a need for the concert to have a catchy name.

Hunger Run - Phil Alonso

The Hunger Run is scheduled for September 26th at the Alta Sierra Golf Course. September is Hunger Action Month, so having the Concert and the Hunger Run this month fits the theme.

Paulette's Spaghetti Dinner - Phil Alonso

Paulette's Spaghetti Dinner will be Oct. 16th and will be the third Friday of October every year. We plan to raise the price a dollar or two.

Grants Update - Phil Alonso

- A Teichert grant was submitted Feb. 24th to replace the 22 fluorescent lights in Suite A with LED retrofit troffer kits. The bid by Grass Valley Electric for \$3,602.00 included all materials and labor and disposal of the current light frames and bulbs. Due to the age of the building, a 10% contingency was added to bring the total project budget to \$3,962.00. The grant recipients will be notified June 1st.
- A USDA grant will be submitted once Bob Thurman completes the quote process. This grant should cover 30-35% of the costs. The quote will be for a generator that would cover Suite C.
- An EFSP (Emergency Food & Shelter Program) grant is being explored again. IFM received \$14,700 last year from this grant to be spent on food only. Phil is meeting with Nancy Baglietto (Hospitality House) to apply for this grant again. Last year, the grant was filed as a partnership with IFM, Hospitality House and Salvation Army.
- Phil and Naomi will be working shortly on a plan to transition more of the grant work to Naomi and to build a grants team.

Treat Street Fair Booth - Phil Alonso

An opportunity to apply for a Treat Street Fair Booth was recently advertised in The Union. The application is due March 20th. Wendy said she would be willing to volunteer to design the menu but would not be able to volunteer at the fair. A commercial kitchen must be used for the food preparation. Exposure for IFM is a possible benefit.

After much discussion by the Board members present, it was decided the 5 day commitment in August would be too much to ask of the volunteers on top of the Benefit Concert (Sept. 12th), Hunger Run (Sept. 26th), and Paulette's Spaghetti Dinner (Oct. 16th). Some of the Board members have worked at food booths at the fair and realize the huge amount of work it is. There has also been no volunteer that has expressed willingness to lead the event. All Board members present voted against proceeding with the application.

Thank Yous - Phil Alonso

After the Matching Campaign is up and going, Phil and Naomi would like to tighten up the process for thank you letters and handwritten notes. A certain group (yet to be defined), would receive hand written thank you notes. Board members Gaye Rogers, Judi Wade, and Jim Schroeder's wife (Jim volunteered his wife.) volunteered to help with the handwritten notes.

Finance & Loan Paydown - John Brusher

- John has been in communication with Lisa at the USDA to determine the best way to submit the \$40,000 (approved by the Board) for a loan pay down. The loan pay down will be made as soon as John is sure he is submitting it to the correct place.
- There is currently over \$300,000 in cash. It is in low interest saving accounts. John is exploring the benefits of putting most of this in rolling CD's (Certificates of Deposit that mature at varying times) that have a higher rate of interest.

Operations Update - Phil Alonso

Nevada Union Food Pantry

- IFM, United Way, Nevada Union H.S. and Food Bank of Nevada County have partnered to set up a Nevada Union Food Pantry at the Nevada Union High School. This is similar to the program IFM currently has with Sierra College to provide food for homeless and socio-economic disadvantaged students and supports our goal of expanding our reach.
- A United Way volunteer goes to the Food Bank and IFM for the non-perishable food items. The pantry is filled once a week. A United Way volunteer tracks the inventory. Tutors and homeless liaison staff monitor the pantry that is open 12:30-4:30 on Fridays.
- United Way pays 1/2 the cost of the food, so it is minimal cost to us. Last week it was less than \$75.00 and it is covered within the current food budget.
- This month is a pilot for this program.
- Bob Thurman asked that the impact on volunteers be monitored.
- There is a need to create a flier to promote this.

Volunteer Appreciation

The Volunteer Appreciation Lunch will be June 9th at Twin Cities Church from 12:00-2:00 p.m.

New Pallet Jack

A new electric pallet jack was purchased from Crown for \$4,300. Crown is going to allow us a two-day trial period before we pay for it to be sure it fits our needs. They also threw in a free little manual pallet jack as a donation. Phil is going to work on selling the old big blue jack.

Senior Grocery Bag Program & Meals on Wheels

- The kick-off for this program is March 11th. This program is a coordinated effort by IFM, N.C. Food Bank, and Gold Country through the Dignity Health Grant.
- IFM received \$6,372 from this grant. \$1,272 will go to personnel and \$5,100 for food.
- 150 orange-colored bags with 7 items and bananas will be delivered on the 2nd Tuesday of each month with the Meals on Wheels deliveries. Another 150 bags will go to seniors on the waiting list for Meals on Wheels and to senior lunch programs.
- A nutritionist from the hospital will be sure the bag fulfills the nutritional content required for the Meals on Wheels program. The Meals on Wheels program will then pay for the food in the bags.
- This is all part of our goal to develop partnerships to help provide food to food insecure people.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maxine Palmer
IFM Secretary