

FREDERICKSBURG-ESTE ASSOCIATION  
Annual Meeting Minutes – March 28, 2023

The 2023 Annual Meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM by Kathryn Willis, President. She noted that the relationship between Este and Fredericksburg began in 2015.

Kathryn reviewed the 2022 – 2023 cultural programs and fundraising events. Although not all the traditional annual activities were held, such as La Befana and the Spring Lecture/Wine and Cheese Gathering, other popular activities took place. These activities included a Joint Sister City Potluck and the 2022 Artist Exchange Program. Cathy Herndon was the featured artist and traveled to Este. While in Este, Cathy worked with students with disabilities, and she created a spectacular mural of a descending dove with words of peace and encouragement.

The community-wide, much anticipated Pizza Palooza was held on September 17<sup>th</sup>. The Acoustic Onion band played their signature Beatles songs to nine hundred event attendees. Approximately \$7,500 was raised through sponsorships and admissions.

In September, all the Fredericksburg sister city organizations joined forces to raise funds for Ukraine. Artists donated paintings for the auction, and donations were solicited from individuals and businesses for the Fred4Ukraine event. The fundraiser generated \$24,00, which was held back until Giving Tuesday in November. With the Giving Tuesday donor match programs, the collective impact of the fundraising effort totaled \$72,000. The proceeds were equally divided among Doctors Without Borders, Save the Children, and World Food Kitchen

The Fall Lecture and the Carter Memorial Concert took place. The lecture series and concert are two of the offerings that Fred-Este brings to Fredericksburg free of charge. Together, the programs help fulfill the organization's mission to bring cultural sharing and understanding of things Italian to our region.

Unfortunately, the Este adult exchange visit had to be postponed. Due to the post-Covid economics in Italy, there were not enough people who could commit to coming to Fredericksburg in September. The adult exchange was moved to Fall 2023.

**Nominating Committee Report** - Kathryn reported that several board members will rotate off the board. She thanked Ann Tebbutt, Midge Vittoria, Claire Simpson, Billy Chestnut, and Bob Bevilacqua for their service and commitment to the Fred-Este Sister City Program. Gifts were presented to each member.

The following Board Members will serve the upcoming year:

Kathryn Willis, President  
Scott Walker, Vice President  
Pat Baughman, Secretary  
Chip Willis, Treasurer  
Bob Antozzi, At-Large  
Deb Newman, Communications/Website  
Odile Pryor, Programs

Bob Antozzi and Bob Bevilacqua served on the Fred-Este Nominating Committee. They put forth two names for board membership consideration: Pamela Booth and Chuck Gialloreto. There being no nominations from the floor, the membership voted unanimously to approve Pamela and Chuck.

**Upcoming Events** – The 2023 Artist Exchange Program will feature Franco Rubini. Franco will arrive in Fredericksburg April 1, and return to Italy on April 20. There will be several special opportunities to view Franco's photographs will be available to Fred-Este membership. On April 6<sup>th</sup>, a Welcome Reception will be held at the Fredericksburg Visitor Center. On April 10<sup>th</sup>, there will be an exhibit opening at Salem Church Library, followed by an exhibit opening on April 12 at the Howell Branch Library. An All-Member Potluck Supper will be held on April 15<sup>th</sup> at the home of Rick and Sue Henderson. The Farewell Reception at Liberty Town will be held on April 16<sup>th</sup>. There will be a GoFundMe donor raffle. For every \$25 donated, a contributor will receive one raffle ticket. The lucky winner will receive a Franco Rubini photograph.

The 2023 Pizza Palooza will be held at Riverfront Park on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. This event will coincide with the Adult Exchange Visit, October 5 to October 16<sup>th</sup>.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Baughman