LEADERSHIP TEAM

Board of Directors
Jerry Syslo    President and Events Co-Chair
Elizabeth McInerney Vice President and Events Co-Chair
Beth Summers    Secretary
Marc Chauche    Treasurer
Kathleen Doig    Education Chair
Jeff Koterba Membership Chair and Café et Conversation Liaison
Marty Skomal    Fundraising Chair
Amélie Raoul    French Film Chair

Committee Chairs
Denise Arnold    Désir de Lire Chair
Anne Baxter Apéro Chair
Mitzi Friedman    Student Scholarships and Teacher Resource Grants Chair
Jean Hanson    Database Chair
Christine Kluka    Website Chair
Erin Leger Email Chair
Miranda McQuillan    Social Media Chair
Sue Mehal Finance Chair

Ex-Officio Board
Bernie Duhaime Past President and Sister City Liaison
Cédric Fichépain    French Honorary Consul
Anne Marie Kenny Past President
Holly Richmond Immediate Past President

Other Positions
Ghaida Alsalami French Instructor
Linda Gjere French Instructor
Nelly Hinnawi French Instructor
Bonodji Nako French Instructor
Colleen Sariscsany Teacher Resource Grants Administrator
Krissy Stiles Lead French Instructor
Nancy VanderBosch French Instructor
SUMMARY

Throughout the year, the leadership team worked very hard with a high degree of engagement and professionalism to support the organization. We forged new partnerships, enhanced existing relationships, produced new events, worked on internal efficiencies and expanded our community outreach. Meanwhile, we continued to deliver on our established programs like French language classes and student scholarships.

Our highest-profile activity was undoubtedly our efforts to welcome Omaha’s newest Sister City, Isigny-Omaha Intercom, a region in Normandy. AFO member Bernie Duhaime co-chaired a joint committee between AFO and Omaha Sister Cities Association to orchestrate a series of events, tours and dinners to formalize and celebrate the new relationship.

Overall, we ended the year on a positive note by most measures while making very good progress on our longer-term goals and objectives. We continue to look for ways to improve by demonstrating value and meeting the needs of our members.

BOARD CHANGES

Four board members are retiring as of the July 2023 annual meeting. They are all to be commended for their time and talents given to AFO:

Marc Chauche	Treasurer
Amélie Raoul	French Film Chair
Marty Skomal	Fundraising Chair
Beth Summers	Secretary

FINANCE

Our financial position is strong. We have reserves that could cover operating costs for two years if needed. Our annual internal audit found no material discrepancies.

To better support the board’s fiduciary responsibilities, we’ve adopted the following financial guidelines to help analyze and assess our cash flows:

- Membership dues should offset our operating expenses.
- Our year-end appeal for donations should fund our scholarships and teacher grants
- Ticket prices for events should be set to offset our projected event expenses. If needed, we will solicit donations to make sure an event will break even.
- Tuition for French classes should offset our teaching expenses and provide a margin to help fund our general long-term goals.

Our 2022 results closely followed these guidelines. To address some minor shortfalls, we’ve already identified some expense savings for this year.
EVENTS

Managed by Elizabeth McInerney, our events were a wonderful mix of social, cultural and educational opportunities. In addition to **eight member events**, there were **five collaborations** with community partners, which gave us exposure to hundreds of people beyond our membership.

A total of 499 event tickets were sold on our website. Not included is the number of attendees for four of the five collaborations. Filmstreams directly sold all of the tickets for the two sold-out film events. Admission was free for both the One Community Cultural Festival and the Black Elk Celebration of Nations. Hundreds of people attended each event.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 10, 2022</td>
<td>Bastille Day Picnic chez Marc Chauche</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 18, 2022</td>
<td>One Community Cultural Festival at Stinson Park; a <strong>collaboration</strong> with the Nebraska Chinese Association, coordinated by Anne Marie Kenny and Holly Richmond.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 2, 2022</td>
<td>Bienvenu Celebration chez Carol Lydiatt</td>
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<td>October 16, 2022</td>
<td>French Politics Today with Jody Neathery-Castro at Field Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 9, 2022</td>
<td>Van Gogh – Sold out film event, a <strong>collaboration</strong> with Film Streams and the Omaha Symphony</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 20, 2022</td>
<td>Beaujolais Wines at Blackstone Corkscrew</td>
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<td>December 11, 2022</td>
<td>Fête de Fin d’Année at Le Voltaire</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 12, 2023</td>
<td>Scholarship and Teacher Grant Awards at Field Club with a presentation by April Hawkins</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 10, 2023</td>
<td>Les Misérables at the Orpheum Theater</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 30, 2023</td>
<td>Black Elk Celebration of Nations, a <strong>collaboration</strong> with Sister Cities, held at Black Elk Elementary School.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 21, 2023</td>
<td>Chevalier – Sold out film event, a <strong>collaboration</strong> with Film Streams and KVO</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 19, 2023</td>
<td>Gala Reception and Dinner, a <strong>collaboration</strong> with Omaha Sister Cities to welcome Omaha’s newest Sister City, Isigny-Omaha Intercom, a region in Normandy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 19, 2023</td>
<td>Seminar in History and Politics – Part One, with John Jordan at Field Club</td>
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MEMBERSHIP

We’ve added over 50 new members in the past twelve months. Our total number of current members has remained constant around 250. Total revenue from membership dues increased by over 7%.

In 2023, we increased membership dues for the first time since at least 2016 to put us more in-line with other AF’s of similar size. We created a new category, Household, to replace two other categories, Family and Couple.

When new members answered how they heard of AFO, the most common reply was from a friend, colleague or family member. The second most common reply was a Google search.

The other important referral source for new members continues to be our association with the Café et Conversation group. Between AFO and C&C, the Omaha community has a weekly French language meet-up throughout the year, where members of either group can practice their French in a relaxed, social environment.

PLANNING

At a separate planning meeting in January 2023, the board recommended a set of shared values which we believe are held by our membership. Over time, we plan to incorporate these values in our communications and collateral:

Alliance Française Omaha’s shared values:

- Personal development (Lifelong learning)
- Fraternity (Importance of social connections)
- Community (Connections to other groups within our city)
- Stewardship (Support for a cultural institution)

At that same meeting, the board agreed to prioritize the following special projects for 2023:

- Leadership – succession process, training
- Technology – database integration, website upgrade
- Marketing – key messages, strategies, budget
- Fundraising – purpose, strategies, donor relations

These special projects are being worked in addition to our existing programs.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AND TEACHER GRANTS

These two programs, chaired by Mitzi Friedman and supported by Colleen Sariscsany, awarded a total of $4,430 in the past twelve months. We had decided that our year-end appeal would be for the sole purpose of funding these programs and we raised just over $5,000 during that campaign.
FRENCH CLASSES

Our French language school, chaired by Kathleen Doig, continue to be our largest recurring source of revenue. Almost all of our classes continue to be offered via Zoom, which was the preferred method identified in a student survey last year. We hope to offer some in-person classes this fall and plan to survey our students again this year to see if opinions have changed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AFO French Classes</th>
<th>July 2022 thru June 2023</th>
<th>Change from prior year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue from tuition</td>
<td>$24,234</td>
<td>Up 1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of classes</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of class registrations</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>Down 14%</td>
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We have raised tuition rates the past two years to recover from steep discounts offered at the start of the pandemic in 2020 and expect to make more changes this fall.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuition Rates by Year: Standard 10-week class</th>
<th>Member rate</th>
<th>Non-member rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011 through 2019</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>$125</td>
<td>$150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>$165</td>
<td>$200</td>
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</tbody>
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Respectfully submitted, Jerry Syslo, Président, July 9, 2023