

Friendship Force SWFL
Board Meeting December 18, 2015

Joint board meeting with 2015 and 2016 boards at Sue Linehan's home, 2 pm.

Attending: 2015 officers: Joanne Collins, President, Dennis Yemma 1st Vice President, Rob Linehan, Treasurer, Jule Yemma, Secretary. 2016 officers: Sue Linehan, President, Michelle Kemps 1st Vice President, BeverlyHarmon, 2nd Vice President, Cathy Cobb, Treasurer, Carol Berry, Secretary. Other attendees: Richard Collins, Webmaster and Kevin Janiak.

President Sue Linehan opened the meeting with attendees introducing themselves and describing activities with Friendship Force.

Other officers for the current year are: Newsletter, Joanne Collins, Webmaster Richard Collins, Email/Roster Cheryle Phelps, Historian Carla Harms, Parliamentarian Jody Garmon, Sunshine Cheryle Phelps. Sue appointed Lou Risk and Cheryle Phelps to become Ed Advisor/Coordinators to support future EDs. The board approved the appointment.

Old business: Richard noted that the secretary's report should be submitted to the President and then to Richard, for inclusion in the Newsletter. He also made a plea for photos taken by members of events and special activities with guests.

The Charter Renewal is being filled out and submitted to the national office by President Sue Linehan.

Finance: It was moved, seconded and approved that both checking accounts remain at Sun Trust Bank. These are account numbers 0191912010392 and 10001656533, both with federal tax ID number 800168499. It was also moved, seconded and approved that the sole signers on the account be the club President Susan Linehan and Treasurer Cathy Cobb with the authority to each, singly, to sign on the account for all the club's business. It was also moved, seconded and approved that the Treasurer investigate having either a debit or a credit card for the above two accounts. If the Treasurer feels it prudent, she is authorized to apply for the cards.

Rob also reported that ordering of shirts through the website is being streamlined.

Dues for 19 family units have been collected; 18 others will be notified.

New business: the purpose of this meeting was to set the agenda for 2016.

January 25 10:30-12:30, Fort Myers Library. There will be an informational session about what it means to be a member of FF. Dennis will attend and talk about ED responsibilities, Lou and Cheryle will participate. Joanne and Sue will organize slides and talk about expectations of hosts. Joanne will be going over the Costa Rica exchange at 10:00am before the general meeting.

February. No meeting due to the Costa Rica trip.

March 6. We will celebrate World Friendship Day with a pot luck meal of international dishes, 3-6 pm. Place to be determined. We will also be making preparations for the Belgium visit. Michelle will chair the meeting.

April. Costa Rica slide program. Michelle will chair the meeting.

May. Tentative presentation by Bev and Kevin on their five week exchange.

June. Possible lunch out with those available. Short meeting but no program.

July. No meeting.

August. Ice cream social.

The fall monthly programs will be scheduled this spring. Dates and locations will also be scheduled then. Possible subjects for programs include: Ford Cooper speaking about his life as a foreign service employee, TSA official on travel, Cooley's trip to China, trips taken by Cassandra Wooton with FF, Carla Harms on the history of our club, and a "Friendsgiving" inviting foreign students.

December. Lou will try to arrange for the Christmas Party at Colonial Country Club. Perhaps it will include African exchange group if they are visiting at that time.

Other business

The treasurer will order a name badge as an application for dues is processed. Information of membership is then sent to Cheryle and a copy of the application will go to membership. We need someone to assist with publicity and think of ways to recruit more members. A request for a volunteer to take that position will be made.

It was determined that the 2nd vice president will be in charge of setting up meeting locations.

A discussion followed about responsibilities and status of the ED advisor/ resource person. Lou and Cheryle will be overall advisors to EDs. With support others may be more willing to take on the role of ED.

A recruitment program will be scheduled for a retired teacher group. Sue and Joanne will make the presentation.

Joanne suggested that all board members read the by-laws.

Joanne recommended that board members consider attending the all Florida conference next year. No details are currently available.

The physical assets of the group are: a projector, a microphone, a feather flag, a banner and 2 metal signs.

The next board meeting will be held Jan 22, 2 pm at Michelle's house. Cathy and Rob will meet Jan 12 to go over details of the treasurer position.

Discussion followed of details of the Belgium exchange and the Costa Rica trip. The Belgium programs will include: a pizza party at Dennis and Jule's house, Ecco visit, a visit to the Mayor's office and lunch, A Babcock Ranch daytrip, a visit to the Edison house with lunch, a beach day and a farewell dinner at Lake Fairways. Suggestions for caterers for the farewell dinner are welcome. Cathy will check with a pianist to see if he would provide music. Each host will receive some money for gas and

lunches. Dennis suggested \$15/\$30 for one or two guests.

Joanne recommended Auto Slash.com, a broker for car rentals.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Berry, Secretary

FRIENDSHIP FORCE SWFL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES OF December 13 2015

PLACE: Colonial Country Club, Ft Myers
Call to Order 12:10

Remarks from the President Joanne Collins

- **Welcome to members**
- **Thank you to Cheryle Phelps & Lou Rizk for booking the venue for the Christmas party**
- **Introduction of guests Priscilla & Hugh McShane; Maureen Butt**
- **Review of her time as president**
- **Thank you to her board members Dennis, Sibby, Rob, Sue and Jule and presentation of gift**

Approval of Previous Minutes of August 2015 Meeting – No remarks, minutes approved

Committee Reports

Treasurer – Rob Linehan

- **\$5300 in uncommitted funds**
- **A donation of \$200 was sent to the Harry Chapin Food Bank**
- **“I’m In” donation of \$1050 sent to Friendship Force International to help with cost of upgrading their computer system. Members contributed \$550, matched with \$500 from our treasury.**
- **Membership dues are due now.**

Exchanges/ED Info –

2016

- **Belgium March 8-14th- Dennis Yemma requested help from members for more host families and gave overview of itinerary. By the end of the meeting and party he had enough volunteers.**
- **All Africa in December- no confirmed information, an ED will be needed**
- **February our club is traveling to Turrialba- Joanne is ED; ambassadors going will be receiving final information at the general meeting in January.**

2017

- **Eastern Canada outgoing- will find out on January 2016 if approved**
- **Denver in the Fall outgoing**

Membership – Sue Linehan

- **Sue reported she has two families in Punta Gorda who are interested in joining**
- **Bev Harmon and Kevin Janiak will be giving a presentation in their community to try to recruit new members**
- **Presentations in S Ft Myers area are needed. If you know of any groups who may be interested; please let Sue know.**

Publicity/Activities –

Dennis Yemma invited all members to the Welcome Pizza Party for the Belgium exchange to give everyone a chance to participate in exchange activities. More info on that in the future.

Fund raising – Wendy Henko will not be joining the club.

No activities planned at this time

Web Site, Face book, and sunshine report – Cheryle Phelps

Cheryle would like more people to be active on our face book page. You can send her pictures to post.

Newsletter – Joanne Collins will continue to do the newsletter, and Richard will continue to maintain the web site.

Historian – Carla Harms no report

Old Business

- **Joanne reported the new president of FF International is Jeremie Snook**
- **World Conference September 2016 is in Marrakesh Morocco if anyone is interested in attending**
- **Dues are due December 31.**

New Business

- **Election of new officers**
- **Lou Rizk, chairman of the selection committee, introduced its members. They included Rob Linehan, Jule Yemma, Bev Harmon and Michelle Kemp.**

Slate of nominees was presented as follows:

- **President- Sue Linehan**
- **1st VP- Michelle Kemps**
- **2nd VP- Bev Harmon**
- **Treasurer- Cathy Cobb**
- **Secretary- Carol Berry**

Lou called for nominations from the floor. There were no new nominations.

- **Two members approved the slate of officers and Jule Yemma, secretary, cast a Yes vote to approve the new officers.**
- **The next board meeting is 18 December at Sue Linehan's in Punta Gorda at 2PM. Sue reminded everyone that all members could attend a board meeting.**
- **If any members have suggestions for activities or programs let a board members know.**
- **The next general meeting will be January 25th at 10AM at the Fort Myers Library. Sue reported it would be a mini seminar regarding exchanges, hosting and Ed responsibilities.**
- **Sue thanked Joanne Collins for all of her work and care as president of the club and knows Joanne will be there to help her as needed.**

Meeting adjourned 12:40

Gift exchange followed

Respectfully submitted

Jule Yemma

Secretary

MINUTES OF November 13 2015

PLACE: Admin Center Ft Myers

Call to Order: 11:20

Approval of Previous Minutes of September 18 2015– Motion to accept by Jody Garmon, second by Lou Rizk; minutes approved

Committee Reports

Treasurer – Rob Linehan

\$5,116.7

Rob was collecting money from members wishing to participate in exchange activities.

Exchanges/ED Info –

Upcoming West Alejuela- NOV 15-21; Sibby Yemma ED not available; Sue Linehan reported schedule of events; cost to members and/or hosts; sign up sheets were available; members not hosting were encouraged to attend at least one of the activities planned

Outgoing 2016- Turrialba, Costa Rica, Joanne Collins ED has 19 ambassadors signed up and they have received information.

Incoming 2016- Belgium Coast March, Bev Harmon and Kevin Janiak co-eds with Dennis Yemma; Dennis gave some information; more to come.

Incoming December 2016- All Africa- ED is needed

2017

Outgoing to East Canada- will know if approved by 1/16

Outgoing to Denver September

Inbound from Baton Rouge LA- will know later in 2016

Membership – Sue Linehan

Current 51 members

Sue introduced Hugh and Priscilla McShane from Kentucky; snowbirds to Punta Gorda; will join our club

Carol and Chris Nasby; newer members; also snowbirds were introduced.

Sue and Joanne are taking their recruitment show on the road in January.

They will be talking to the Retired Teachers of Charlotte County and also

be at the Punta Gorda Library.

If you know of any group who may be interested in hearing about Friendship Force let them know.

Web Site- Richard no report

Face book, sunshine report – Cheryle Phelps

Cheryle reported there have been a lot of hits on face book mostly from foreigners

Newsletter – Joanne Collins be sure to read it

Historian – Carla Harms not present

Old Business

Joanne thanked all those who made the All FI Conference a success and read a very nice Thank you note from Joy Benedetto, FFI president at the time

New Business

Joanne asked members to consider donating to the “I’m In” fundraiser for FFI to upgrade their technology. FFSWFL will match donations. Give whatever you can and make check payable to FFI, give or mail to Rob.

The new FFI president is Jeremie Snook.

FFI World Conference 2016 will be in Marrakech Morocco September 16-19.

Next Meeting is December 13- 11AM, Colonial Country Club, cost is \$22.90; this will be our Christmas party and election of new board.

Lou Rizk asked nomination committee members to stay after for a short meeting.

Program

Joanne and Richard Collins presented slides and a talk on a three-week exchange they participated in to West Australia with a friendship force club from Texas.

Adjournment 12:35

Jule Yemma

Secretary

MINUTES OF October 21 2015

PLACE: Collins' Home Punta Gorda

Present: Joanne Collins, Dennis Yemma, Sibby Yemma, Rob Linehan, Sue Linehan, and Jule Yemma

Call to Order: 13:35

Approval of Previous Minutes of August 29 2015 Meeting – Jule Yemma- 1st Motion, Dennis; 2nd motion Sibby; minutes approved

New Business:

- **Joanne polled board members to determine if anyone would be interested in the president position; no board member stepped forward**
- **Dennis made a motion to amend the by-laws to allow for a longer term for president; motion was denied**
- **Joanne explained that if no one steps up for the position it would default to 1st VP or club could be disbanded.**
 - **Nomination committee members Jule & Rob stated so far this is who the nominees for the new board would be**
- **President- none**
- **1st VP Dennis Yemma**
- **2nd VP Bev Harmon**
- **Treasurer Cathy Cobb**
- **Secretary Carol Berry**
 - **Joanne called Joanne MacPeek to ask if she was interested in the president position; Joanne declined due to previous commitment to a church position she holds.**

Committee Reports

Treasurer – Rob Linehan- no report at this time; no change; he will be wiring

a check for over \$9000 to the outgoing (FEB 2106) Costa Rican exchange tour operator

Exchanges/ED Info –

- **Domestic: Inbound: Baton Rouge LA, board agreed 2016 was too busy and opted for 2017
Outbound: Denver, CO and Lincoln NE. (Denver set for 2017 SEP/OCT)**
- **Foreign: Inbound: Costa Rica Nov 2015; Sibby ED**
- **Sibby reported on activities planned;**
- **Cost of meals out was discussed; suggestion to give ambassadors \$20 for lunches that are not provided by hosts was agreed upon**
- **Everglades trip was discussed. Sibby, Dennis and Jule will be going to Everglades City to investigate activity options.**
- **There will be a host meeting at Sibby's home OCT 29 to discuss host duties and planned activities.**
Outbound: Costa Rica FEB 2106-
 - **Joanne reported first payment due by 11/1; 18 ambassadors have signed up and 5 are on a waiting list**
 - **Joanne reported she has recently heard from the Costa Rican exchange director that instead of \$100 from each ambassador they want \$200. She will be checking with the tour operator to be sure the club activities do not overlap with the tour activities.**

Membership – Sue Linehan no new members to report

Programs:

November 13- Joanne and Richard Collins will talk on Traveling Western Australia with FF Fort Worth

December 13- Annual Meeting & Holiday Brunch (Lou has reserved at same place as last year, 11AM, members need to pay that day with credit cards. Board members agreed to keep the gift exchange as a way for fun and interaction among members who attend.

Fund raising –Discussion by board ended with agreeing to wait for now on trying to raise funds

Old Business:

- **October 10th All Florida Club Conference Recap- Board members**

agreed the conference went well was well received by attendees and the facility used was excellent.

- **FFI Contribution to (I'm In) campaign to upgrade software systems at FFI. Lou Rizk and Cheryle Phelps have agreed to a \$200 donation if the club can match up to \$600 from the treasury. Members agreed on a matching contribution of \$500 from the treasury if club members donate up to the same amount. Joanne will put out a message to members encouraging them to contribute whatever they can and bring checks made out to FFI to the meeting in November or mail to Rob. All checks will be sent to FFI Atlanta. It was stressed that contributions would be tax deductible.**
- **Discussion to abolish the duties of club store, now run by Pam LaFontaine. It was felt by the board that the duties should revert back to the treasurer. The treasurer can order the badges and other items can be ordered by members from the website. Motion to approve 1ST Dennis, 2nd Sibby, and motion passed. Rob will be in touch with Pam to inform her of the change.**
- **Judi Stratton, FL Field Rep to FFI, agreed to do a program on ED duties provided Joanne does the slides for her. Joanne has agreed and the program will be slated for the first general meeting January 2016.**
- **Handoffs of new officers- one meeting all together with present board to help them develop general meeting programs for the year.**
 - **By laws updates**
- **Term limits for club officers, particularly treasurer- tabled for now. It was agreed the treasurer does not need two signatures for transactions.**
- **Should VP duties be stipulated? Note: Perhaps 2nd VP should be Membership/Publicity VP since recruiting new members is vital to club's existence. Members agreed the VP duties need to be spelled out. New board can work on this.**
- **Clarification regarding voting members of the board including committee chairpersons needed to be addressed. Joanne will review the bylaws.**

Adjournment 15:20

Jule Yemma

Secretary

MINUTES OF September 18, 2015

PLACE : Ft Myer's Library

Call to Order 1:30 p.m.

Approval of Previous Minutes of August 9, 2015– minutes approved unanimously

Committee Reports

Treasurer – Rob Linehan

Balance as of 8/29/05 is \$5,404.98. Rob requested those members who are attending the All Florida Conference on 10/10 to pay him today.

Exchanges

- **2015 exchanges were discussed by the President, Joanne Collins. Thanks to Cecilia Bridge for leading us in hosting the Denver Club last February. Thanks to ED, Lou Rizk, for organizing the successful May exchange to Schwerin, Germany and to the Belgian Coast Club.**
- **Sibby Yemma, ED, updated the club on the incoming exchange scheduled Nov 15-22 from West Alajuela, Costa Rica. Joanne stated that the Mayor of Ft Myers agreed to address the group and this will be a new activity as part of our exchange.**
- **On the Horizon for 2016 is our outbound exchange occurring Feb 1-13, 2016 to Turrialba, Costa Rica. The exchange is currently full with 18 ambassadors who have put down a deposit.**
- **As far as inbound exchanges are concerned, we will host the Belgian Coast Club in March 2016. Dennis Yemma is the ED with Bev Harmon and Kev Janiak assisting. Later in December 2016 we will host an Africa Exchange.**
- **Exchanges for 2017 – we have been accepted by the Denver, CO and Lincoln, NE clubs to visit in September 2017. We have requested a club outbound exchange to the eastern part of Canada. We should hear whether our request has been successful next January 2016.**

Membership

Sue Linehan reported that there are currently 51 paid members. She and Joanne Collins are scheduled to speak to the Retired Teachers of Charlotte County and to do a Punta Library presentation to the public on 1/13 and 1/19/16 respectively.

Web Site -Richard Collins – no report

Sunshine, Facebook- Cheryle Phelps – no report

Newsletter – Joanne Collins – There was a drawing for those who commented on the last newsletter and a bottle of wine was awarded to Sibby Yemma.

Club Store – Pam LaFontaine - Florida pins and pens are available for \$1 each.

Old Business

**• All Florida Conference- October 10 2015 - hosted by our club
This important conference will be attended by approx 50 people, 20 of whom are from our club.**

- Joanne encouraged everyone to attend. This is a unique opportunity to meet the leadership of FF and to represent our “small, but mighty club.”**
- The current president, Joy DiBenedetto, will present the Keynote address. Also, in attendance will be Allison Lindsay, FFI Educational Rep.**
- A sign up sheet was passed around for club members to volunteer to be facilitators, greeters, run the registration desk, help with food and host those traveling a distance away.**

New Business

- Election of Officers**

Joanne explained that a Nominating Committee consisting of 2 voting members (Rob Linehan, Jule Yemma) and 3 general club members (Michelle Kemps, Bev Harmon and Lou Rizk) has met and are seeking members to run for the offices of President, 2nd VP, Secretary and Treasurer.

- Dennis Yemma has agreed to stay on as first VP.**
- Club members should expect a call and will be asked to contribute.**
- There are previous experienced club officers to help those in**

new positions.

- **The next meeting will be Nov 13, 2015 at the Ft Myers Library at 11 AM. Program will be given by Richard and Joanne Collins, entitled *Traveling Western Australia with the Ft Worth, TX Friendship Force Club.***

Note: 21 people attended this meeting.

Sue Linehan and granddaughter, Aly, presented a 45-minute talk on traveling with Friendship Force to Guatemala on a “no host” tour. The program featured slides and detailed an exotic visit to very historic and beautiful parts of Guatemala, Antigua and Lake Atitlan. Thanks, Sue and Aly!

**Respectfully submitted
Joanne Collins, President
(Jule Yemma, Secretary, was on vacation)**

MINUTES OF FRIENDSHIP FORCE BOARD SWFL MEETING August 29 2015

PLACE: Yemmas' Home fort Myers

Present; Joanne Collins, Dennis Yemma, Sibby Yemma, Rob Linehan, Sue Linehan, Jule Yemma

Call to Order 10:30

**Approval of Previous Minutes - March 15 2015 Meeting – Jule Yemma –
Motion to approve 1st Dennis Yemma, 2nd Rob Linehan
Minutes approved**

Committee Reports

Treasurer – Rob Linehan - \$5404.98 unencumbered funds; a copy of the General account and Exchange account was sent to board members; there were no questions

**Exchanges/ED Info –
Domestic:**

- **Inbound 2016: No requests yet**
- **Outbound; Denver, CO and Lincoln, NE (Denver set for 2017 Sept/Oct)- Joanne MacPeek has volunteered to be the ED**

Foreign:

- **Inbound: Costa Rica NOV. Sibby ED**
 1. **One more home host is needed**
 2. **Activities for the exchange was discussed; Sibby has a tentative plan to include Welcome party at Yemmas', King Fisher Fleet Boat trip and beach day, trip to the Everglades, Bird Sanctuary in Punta Gorda followed by boat ride with Linehans and Collins, Thanksgiving Feast celebration in Punta Gorda and going away dinner**
 3. **Expenses for the exchange were discussed. It was decided to inform the ambassadors from Costa Rica that the cost for them would be \$175/person.**
 4. **Sibby will contact Pam LaFontaine to get bags and pins for the exchange**
 5. **Joanne will contact the Mayors office in Fort Myers to inquire about a tour of government offices**

Membership – Sue Linehan- no new members

Programs:

- **September 18- Sue will talk on Traveling Guatemala with Friendship Force, Ft Myers Library, 1PM-4PM**
- **November 13- Joanne and Richard Traveling Western Australia with FF Fort Worth (also Bev Harmon and Kevin Janiak will talk about going with Canadians)- Sibby will reserve the library for 11AM- 1PM**
- **December 13- Holiday Brunch- (Lou Rizk has reserved at same place as last year for same price); also election of new officers**

Old Business

October 10th All Florida Conference Topics discussed included

- **List of Participants – Sue brought list of those registered; 23 from other clubs and 13 from our club; Joanne stated more from Sarasota will be coming; board would like to see more of our members registered; Sue will work out home hosts needed**
- **Breakout session topics discussed; some suggestions were Membership/recruitment and retention; Leadership; Publicity/fundraising; Exchange director training; Officers/duties, club constitutions**

- 1. There will be five breakout sessions**
 - 2. Dennis Yemma will determine the schedule**
 - 3. Dennis and Sue will work together to appoint moderators for the sessions**
 - 4. Joanne will do the program, contact the speakers from FFI for their bios and time they need for their speech**
 - 5. Sue will think about an ice breaker**
- Member involvement will be needed for help at registration desk and other activities**
 - Supplies needed were discussed; Joanne thinks she has enough butcher block paper and markers; some additional name tags will be needed for attendees who do not have a FF name tag**

New Business

- Joanne made suggestions for a nominating committee of 3 regular members and two board members per the bylaws; Dennis made a motion to accept, seconded by Sibby and approved by the board**
- The nomination committee will consist of regular members Lou Rizk, Bev Harmon and Michelle Kemps and board members Rob Linehan and Jule Yemma**
- Per bylaws Term of Office “They shall be elected for one year and may be elected for one additional consecutive year. No officer shall be eligible to serve more than 2 consecutive terms in the same office.**
- The following offices will need to be filled:**
 - President- Joanne has served two years**
 - 1st Vice President- Dennis has served one year and is willing to do one more year**
 - 2nd Vice President- Sibby has served one year but does not wish to remain in the position**
 - Treasurer- Rob has served two years**
 - Secretary- Jule has served two years**
 - The nominating committee needs to meet and recruit potential willing candidates prior to December’s meeting**

Adjournment 1200

Jule Yemma, Secretary

MINUTES OF August 9 2015

PLACE : Home of Bob Kissinger & Reta Lanning, Lehigh Acres

Call to Order : 15:40

Remarks from the President

- **Joanne thanked Reta & Bob for hosting the ice cream social. Twenty-one members and guests attended.**
- **There are now 52 members in our club**
- **New members present introduced themselves and told the group a little bit about their interests and reasons for joining.**
- **Jack & Jo Cooley, and Michelle Kemp were welcomed as new members.**
- **Guests included Jane Scanlon, friend of Elin derickson; Jinnie, friend of Michelle; and Cindy, Chinese guest of Sibby Yemma.**
- **All members present introduced themselves and told something about why they are in friendship force and where they have traveled.**

Approval of Previous Minutes of June 19 2015 Meeting –Motion to accept by Dennis Yemma; second by Michelle Kemp

Committee Reports

Treasurer – Rob Linehan -\$6,321.33 of unencumbered funds as of 8/8/15.

Exchanges/ED Info –

Incoming- November 15-22, West Alajuela Cost Rica- ED Sibby Yemma

- **reported there are 16 ambassadors coming.**
- **She asked members to sign up for home hosts.**
- **The welcome party will be a pizza party at Dennis & Jule's home in Whiskey Creek, Ft Myers where hosts can pick up their ambassadors when they arrive from Miami.**
- **A location is needed for the farewell party.**
- **Small dinner hosts are needed**
- **Activity planners are needed. Sue Linehan suggested attendance at a Thanksgiving Feast she is planning through the boating club in Punta Gorda on November 20th; so they can experience a real American tradition.**
- **Please contact Sibby to help.**

Outgoing- February 1-13 2016-Turrialba Costa Rica- ED Joanne Collins

- **Joanne is accepting applications**
- **Homestay in Turrialba will be followed by an optional tour through Horizontes Nature Tour**

Membership – Sue Linehan asked members to take information cards with them to give to potential new members

Old Business

All Florida Conference hosted by our club is October 10 2015 at the Whiskey Creek Club , Ft Myers.

- **Dennis Yemma And Sue Linehan are co-chairing the conference**
- **Registration to attend is \$25, which includes snacks and a lunch**
- **All members are encouraged to attend. The registration form can be found on our web site.**
- **Help will be needed for various activities. Please contact Dennis or Sue to help.**

New Business

- **Joanne will need to let Friendship Force International know by September 1 where our club would like to travel in 2017.**

Some suggestions were Canada, France, Italy. Send suggestions to Joanne. A list of all clubs can be found on the international web site.

- **Upcoming exchanges 2016-2017 include:**

December 2016- Africa incoming

March 2016- Belgium incoming- Dennis Yemma, along with Bev Harmon & Kevin Janiak will be co-eds

Outgoing Denver fall 2017 possible

- **The next general meeting will be September 18th at the Ft Myers Main Library. Sue Linehan will give a presentation on her trip to Guatemala.**
- **The board will be meeting August 29, 10:30 at Dennis & Jule Yemma's home in Ft Myers.**
- **A nominating committee will be needed for officer elections in December. If you want to be a board member or be on the nominating committee please contact Joanne.**
- **Cheryle Phelps said she had been in contact with some our previous older members and hopes to invite them to an event in**

the future.

- **Joanne had a drawing for those who read and comment on the newsletter. Reta won a bottle of wine.**

Adjournment 16:30

**Jule Yemma
Secretary**

FRIENDSHIP FORCE SWFL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES OF JUNE 19, 2015

PLACE : PUNTA GORDA FIRE/POLICE STATION CONFERENCE ROOM

Call to Order 11:20 AM

Remarks from the President, Joanne Collins
Welcome

Approval of Previous Minutes of 10 APRIL- Unanimously approved

Committee Reports

Treasurer – Rob Linehan reported
\$3,593.33 in checking account
\$2,000 in exchange account
Total \$5,592.33

This balance is as of 6/19/2015 and is after all Belgian Exchange business has been finalized.

Exchanges/ED Info 2015

Inbound - West Alajuela Costa Rica – Sibby Yemma is the Exchange Director and Sue Linehan is advising her. There was no report since Sibby was not in attendance. However, this exchange is planned before Thanksgiving; volunteers are needed to help with planning; contact Sibby

Outbound- Schwerin, Germany and Brugge Belgium, May 2015, Joanne Collins reported that 8 members from our club participated in this fun exchange. A program all about the exchange is to follow the meeting.

2016

Inbound- Belgium – March 2016. Joanne Collins reported that the Belgian Club requested an exchange with our club and this request was approved by Atlanta. Dennis Yemma volunteered to be co-Ed, but he needs another ED to help him. Any interested members should contact him.

Africa- December 2016. Ambassadors will come from different parts of the country; if interested in being the ED, let one of our Board members know.

Outbound- Turrialba Costa Rica- February 2016- Joanne reported that she is the ED for this exchange and more information on it will be available this summer.

Possible outbound exchange to Denver, CO & Lincoln NE - Joanne reported that the Denver Club told her that Spring 2016 is a possibility, but it will be cold. After discussion with those present, the consensus felt that we should plan this for Fall 2017. Joanne MacPeek expressed interest in becoming the ED.

Membership – Sue Linehan reported that with the addition of Susan Beaudry and Lois Bonwell, we currently have 49 members. Sue and Joanne plan on giving a recruitment presentation to the Retired Teachers of Charlotte County on January 13 and one at the Punta Gorda Library on January 19, 2016.

If any members know of any groups who may be interested in our club, let Joanne & Sue know.

Web- Richard Collins reported that he recently added a recruitment u-tube video to the first page of the club's homepage. This u-tube was made by the national headquarters in Atlanta and a good tool. He hopes that all our members will sign in and look at it.

Facebook, sunshine report – Cheryle Phelps stated that she sent a card to one of the previous members who moved to Tallahassee.

Newsletter – Joanne Collins- Joanne encouraged members to read it and let her know if you have any info you'd like to be included (e.g., travel plans)
This month's winner (who sent Joanne an email that she read it) was Bev Harmon – she won a big bottle of wine.

Club Store – Pam LaFontaine was not in attendance. Joanne stated that shirts, badges, pens or pins can be ordered by going to the club website and filling out the form.

Historian – Carla Harms was not in attendance – no report.

Old Business

October 10 2015 our club is hosting the All Florida Conference at Whiskey Creek Clubhouse in Fort Myers. Dennis Yemma and Sue Linehan are coordinating this event. To date, 8 people have signed up. Joanne heard from Sarasota that they expect at least a carload of their members will attend.

The Ice Cream Social will be August 9th at the home of Reta Lanning and Bob Kissinger.

New Business

Joy DiBenedetto resigned from her post as CEO of Friendship Force International. Joanne was in contact with her and she still expects to attend the October 10 All Florida Conference

here in Ft Myers.

A new Florida rep was appointed and her name is Judi Stratton from the Sarasota Club.

A slide show and personal stories by club members who participated in the Germany/Belgium Exchange followed. Three guests, who were not FF members, attended and had lunch with the group at Sandra's, a local Germany restaurant.

Adjournment 12:50 p.m.

Joanne Collins, President and Substitute Secretary
(Jule Yemma, Secretary, was not in attendance)

MINUTES OF April 10 2015

PLACE : Fort Myers Library Meeting Room

Call to Order 12:32

Remarks from the President

Welcome

Approval of Previous Minutes of 1 March- First Jody Garmon, seconded by Sibby Yemma, minutes approved

Committee Reports

Treasurer – Rob Linehan not present- Joanne gave report;

\$4400 in checking account

\$4121 in exchange account

This balance was as of 2/28/15; no questions asked

Exchanges/ED Info –

2015

Inbound - West Alajuela Costa Rica, one of the two weeks before Thanksgiving; Sibby Yemma is ED; in preliminary planning stages; waiting to confirm with incoming ED specific dates; volunteers needed to help with planning; contact Sibby

Outbound- Schwerin, Germany and Brugge Belgium, May 2015, 8 members from our group are excited to be going; Lou Rizk not available; Cheryle Phelps stated he has not received any information from the German group yet.

2016

Inbound- Africa- ambassadors will come from different parts of the country; possible December 2016; if interested in being the ED let Joanne know

Outbound- Turrialba Costa Rica- February 2016- Joanne is ED; will try to coordinate a one week tour after the main exchange; members who have visited Costa Rica before have reported that the tour is exceptional.

Possible outbound exchange to Denver, CO & Lincoln NE September 2016- Joanne has been in contact with the Denver club who feel they cannot host Sep 2016 because of an already busy schedule; our members still would like to visit and the question of possibly spring 2016 will be posed to the Denver club. Joanne MacPeek expressed interest in becoming the ED.

Membership – Sue Linehan not available

Joanne reported we currently have 47 members

Michelle Kemps, from Punta Gorda a new member was present. She introduced herself and is looking forward to getting involved with our club. Gail Tomei from W Palm Beach is a new member also but she was not present at the meeting.

Susan Beaudry, who recently became a full time Ft Myers resident and belonged to a Dallas friendship force group, introduced herself and a friend. They will join our club.

Sue and Joanne recently gave a presentation to recruit new members at the Punta Gorda Library. They are trying to get a meeting scheduled with a Charlotte County retired teachers group.

If any members know of any groups who may be interested in our club, let Joanne & Sue know.

Web- Richard Collins has added “cultural” to the description of our club on the main page

Visit the web site for information; directions to where the meetings are held when in a public place; and also the registration form for the All Florida conference can be found on the web site; click on the ALL Florida

Conference link on the home page

Facebook, sunshine report – Cheryle Phelps no report

Newsletter – Joanne Collins-

Joanne encouraged members to read and contribute to the newsletter. If you are traveling with another club let her know or doing any other interesting activities so it can be put into the newsletter.

She can see who reads the newsletter; puts their names in a hat and this month Jody Garmon won the drawing.

Club Store – Pam LaFontaine not able to attend

You can order shirts, badges, pens or pins by going on our web site and filling in an order form. The shirts and badge will be directly mailed to you from the company. Some members are still waiting for articles they ordered through Pam; Joanne will check into those.

Historian – Carla Harms

Mentioned that the club used to have an alligator suit which was used during the welcomes but no one is aware of what happened to it.

Old Business

October 10 2015 our club is hosting the All Florida Conference at Whiskey Creek Clubhouse in Fort Myers.

Dennis Yemma and Sue Linehan are in charge.

All members are encouraged to help out.

New Business

- **Friendship Force International has new 2015 Strategic Plan- Joanne has a copy if anyone is interested in reading it.**

Friendship Force International also has a new 2015 exchange Policy- For Outbound foreign exchanges- The ambassador fee to FFI Atlanta will be \$165, plus \$100 suggested host fee to total \$265.

Domestic outbound- The ambassador fee will be \$50 for stays of 4-7 nights and a host fee of \$100 to total \$150.

NEW- “Fill the Seat” policy for exchange directors. If the exchange is not filled 100 days prior to departure the ED must publish the exchange with Friendship Force International.

- **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

June 19 1100 Punta Gorda Firehouse, program on the May exchange to Germany and Belgium will be presented.

August 9 Ice Cream Social hosted by Reta Lanning & Bob Kissinger

- **The Harmons' gave an account of their recent exchange with a Vancouver group who traveled to Australia and New Zealand. They broke up their long trip home by also going to Fiji on their own. They had a wonderful time.**
- **Elin Derickson brought two friends to the meeting, Rene and Jane. We hope they consider joining us.**

TSA Program: Sibby Yemma introduced Shane Pickwick; Assistant Director of screening at SWFL International Airport and former Marine.

Mr. Pickwick gave the club information on advanced imaging technology; pre screening; pre check; and many other topics of interest to the club members. He also answered questions from the group.

His talk was well received and Joanne presented him with a Tervis tumbler with SWFL FF logo in appreciation for his time.

Adjournment 14:10

Jule Yemma

Secretary jhb j

FRIENDSHIP FORCE SWFL MEETING
Board Meeting

MINUTES OF March 15 2015

PLACE : Linehans' Home Punta Gorda

Present: Joanne Collins, Dennis Yemma, Rob Linehan, Jule Yemma, Sue Linehan, Richard Collins

Call to Order 14:14

Remarks from the President

Thanked board and other members for coming and thanked our hosts the Linehans who provided a light lunch

Approval of Previous Minutes of January 7 2105 Meeting Minutes approved

Committee Reports

Treasurer – Rob Linehan

- **Board members received treasurer report by email; no questions asked**
- **Rob informed board that members who need t-shirts or name badges can now order them from the club store and their order will be sent directly to them rather than getting them the next time they see the store manager.**
- **Due to price increases, badges are now \$12 and t-shirts are \$23 including shipping.**
- 1. **Dennis suggested that new members dues should include the cost of a badge, rounded to \$12, for total of \$37. Board members agreed to the idea.**
- 2. **Rob informed the board that the money has all been collected for the German/Belgium exchange. Lou Rizk is working on the exact amounts we need to pay the host clubs as well as what we need to pay Friendship Force International. Joanne will check with Lou.**
- 3. **Rob and Sue will be leaving 8 April for 2 months- Other board members agreed to have Joanne handle the treasurer's duties.**

Exchanges/ED Info

- **Domestic Inbound 2016- no requests at this time**
- **Domestic Outbound 2016- Denver CO and Lincoln NE; Joanne will ask club members for interest and time of year; possibly late September, early October.**
- **Foreign Inbound 2015 – Costa Rica November; Sibby Yemma ED has the name of the contact for the Costa Ricans club and has sent an email to her.**
- **Foreign Outbound 2016- Turrialba Costa Rica- Pam LaFontaine and Joanne Collins would like to be the ED. The Board voted for Joanne to be the ED.**
- **There was discussion regarding the number of ambassadors for the**

German/Belgium exchange and whether there would be enough for Lou Rizk's fees to be paid. Joanne will check with Lou.

Membership – Sue Linehan

- **March 31, Joanne and Sue will present to the Punta Gorda Library**
- **Two new members have called and heard about the club by word of mouth. They have decided to join. Gail Tomei is from West Palm Beach; and Michelle Kemp is from Port Charlotte.**
- **There was some discussion regarding having members join who are out of our immediate area due to concerns about being able to participate in inbound exchanges or local activities.**

Programs

10 April 12:30 Fort Myers Library Annex- TSA representative will speak to the group. Sibby Yemma is arranging to have the speaker. Joanne may be sailing and will need a ride from Fort Myers dock. She will let Jule know where and when.

19 June- Report on German/Belgium exchange at Punta Gorda firehouse 11:00

9 August- Ice Cream Social, 15:00, Joanne Robbins in FT Myers has volunteered.

Web Site

Richard will update the home page to read “cultural exchange travel club”

Newsletter – Joanne Collins

Joanne continues to enjoy doing the newsletter and has contacted some of the club members who never read it.

Club Store – Pam LaFontaine will continue to order the pens and pins for the club. Rob will check with her to see if she found out if there was a discount depending on the amount ordered.

Old Business

- **Joanne discussed the Florid “Show” for exchanges. She had sent out information to the board resembling what the Denver club did at the farewell. Using the letters FLORIDA, to convey information to our**

hosts. Dennis suggested to make more bullet statements than long sentences.

- **All Florida Conference Oct 2105**

Joanne had examples of information to be sent out; registrations forms and an agenda for the day.

Some suggestions and revisions were made. Joanne will send to FFI for input.

Richard will post the registration form on our web site.

Once registration forms start coming in, with deadline of early September; Sue and Dennis will firm up topics for breakout sessions based on interests shown by those who register.

New Business

Joanne read the information she put in the club profile for the FFI website. Members agreed it sounded good.

Summer vacation plans were discussed:

Sue & Rob will be away July and 1st week of August

Joanne & Richard will be away June 20-30

Jule & Dennis will be away July

Adjournment 1600

Jule Yemma

Secretary

FRIENDSHIP FORCE SWFL MEETING MINUTES 2015

MINUTES OF March 1 2105

PLACE : Yemmas' Fort Myers

Call to Order 15:20

Friendship force pledge recited

Remarks from the President

Joanne thanked everyone for coming to celebrate World Friendship Day

Richard Collins showed a video of photos from the recent Denver

exchange

Approval of Previous Minutes of January 6 2105– minutes approved

Committee Reports

Treasurer – Rob Linehan

\$6100 to include \$4100 in general account and \$2000 in exchange account.

Membership –

- **Joanne reported that she and Sue Linehan gave a talk to a women's group in Elin Derickson's community. Elin reported they were well received.**
- **Joanne and Sue will be giving a talk on the club at the library in Punta Gorda**
- **If any members are aware of any retired teacher groups in our area let them know. Elin will check in Naples.**

Exchanges

- **Joanne reported that the recent Denver exchange went well and she has received a lot of positive comments. She thanked everyone for their efforts.**
- **The Denver group would like us to come visit. The question was asked if it would be possible to have an outbound to Nebraska and Denver at the same time. This would have to be determined in the future.**
- **May outbound 2015 to Schwerin/Germany still have a few openings. Contact Lou Rizk for information.**
- **Inbound November 2015 from Costa Rica –Sibby Yemma will be ED**
- **Maynard Houston questioned why only Costa Rica seems to be the place for exchanges at this time. Gwen, a guest and district representative from NJ explained that it depends on which clubs are able to host international exchanges and Fort Myers is ideal for this.**
- **Outgoing 2016- ? February- to Turrialba Costa Rica- An ED will be needed. Pam LaFontaine expressed interest in the position. If anyone else is interested let the board know.**
- **Inbound 2016- November/December- Atlanta has informed**

Joanne that an All African exchange is in the works for our club. This would involve hosting ambassadors from all different parts of Africa. More information to follow.

Web Site -Richard Collins - visit the site

Sunshine, Facebook- Cheryle Phelps members need to click on like to see the facebook page

Newsletter – Joanne Collins

Please submit information you want to see in the newsletter. It can be about whatever activities you may be involved in or let the group know where you are traveling to with other clubs

Club Store – Pam LaFontaine had some Florida pins and pens to sell for \$1 each.

Old Business

The World Conference in Vancouver in August is overbooked. Joanne is on a waiting list.

New Business

- **All Florida Conference- October 10 2015- hosted by our club**
- **Dennis Yemma and Sue Linehan will co-chair the event**
- **Whiskey Creek Country Club, Fort Myers, has been booked by Dennis at a cost of \$20/person, from 8AM-4:30PM. This will include coffee and pastry in the morning, buffet lunch, and water and coffee with pastry for break.**
- **Help will be needed- All members need to be involved to show the other Florid clubs that we are small but mighty.**
- **Joy Benedetto, president of Florida FF, will come from Atlanta to attend. Joanne thinks she may want to address all the clubs about the possibility of hosting a World Conference in the Orlando area.**
- **April 10- a speaker from TSA will be at our meeting in the Library annex in downtown Ft Myers. The meeting time has been**

- moved to 12:30. Sibby Yemma is arranging for the speaker.**
- **Dennis asked for someone to be there early to assure the room is open and set up. Jule Yemma volunteered.**
 - **Joanne reported that FFI International will be displaying artwork from children at the World Summit of Peace Laureates in Atlanta. If you know any teachers have them check out the FFI web site for details.**
 - **Joanne Robbins reported that her church, the Nazarene Church on Daniels, hosts 8-13 year old Chinese students in July. They come for two weeks to learn our culture and language. If anyone is interested in hosting contact Joanne.**
 - **Happy Birthday was sung to Jule for her special day.**

Adjournment- 15:55

**Respectfully submitted
Jule Yemma**

Secretary

MINUTES OF January 16 2015

PLACE : Ft Myers Main Library

Call to Order 11:05

Presentation: Richard Collins presented his philosophy about our new web site and what it should represent to potential members, other clubs and our own members. He demonstrated how to navigate the new web site. Members were encouraged to submit information and pictures from exchanges they participate in to keep the web site interesting. The web site can be found at www.friendshipforceswfl.org

Remarks from the President

Joanne introduced two new members :

Joanne MacPeek, Ft Myers

Bill Chmela, Port Charlotte

Approval of Previous Minutes of December 14 2014 Meeting

Dennis Yemma move to accept, second by Sibby Yemma –Minutes approved

Committee Reports

Treasurer – Rob Linehan

Current balance \$6395

Report filed for audit

Exchanges/ED Info

- **Cheryle Phelps gave update for Lou Rizk regarding Schwerrin Germany and Brugge Belgium in May.**
- **Joanne reminded members that they also can travel with other clubs. Information regarding other trips can be found on the international web site.**
- **Sue informed members that they should send pictures and a short bio of trips to Joanne for the newsletter and/or Richard for the web site.**

Membership – Sue Linehan

- **Sue distributed cards that included our web site address and friendship force international web site. It was suggested that when you hand them to a potential member you should write your name and email address on the back of the card so the person who shows interest has someone to contact with questions.**
- **There is also a place on our web site membership page with a contact email for potential new members. The email is ffswflpg@gmail.com**
 - **Joanne and Sue recently gave a presentation about our club to a women's group in Naples but they have not had any contact from potential members yet. If anyone in the club has a group they would like Sue to present to let her know.**

Sunshine report – Cheryle Phelps nothing to report at this time

Newsletter – Joanne Collins

Please send information to her for the newsletter by the 28th of the month. It does not have to be only exchange information. It would be interesting to know where our members are traveling or what activities they are involved

in.

Club Store – Pam LaFontaine

Pam showed the new name badges with larger letters, cost \$10

New blue shirts \$20 and also had pins and pens with the club name on for \$1 each. Contact Pam if you want to place orders.

Old Business

The All Florida Conference hosted by our club will be October 10 2015.

Dennis Yemma will chair committees to organize the event, which will be at the Whiskey Creek Country Club in FT Myers.

Volunteers will be needed to help, more information to come.

Joanne has been in contact with FFI to send a speaker.

New Business

- **The board proposed an amendment to the bylaws at the December meeting.**

The proposal was sent to members by email.

Rob Linehan proposed a change to the amendment to put a cap on the fee paid.

The amendment is as follows:

THE BOARD PROPOSES THE FORMULATION OF AN ED REIMBURSEMENT POLICY FOR CLUB OUTBOUND TRIPS. IT MAKES THE PROPOSAL IN KEEPING WITH POLICIES ALREADY IN PLACE BY MANY OTHER FRIENDSHIP FORCE CLUBS. THEREFORE A MOTION IS MADE TO REIMBURSE THE OUTGOING ED FOR THE COST OF EACH HOME STAY UP TO \$200 AND EACH FRIENDSHIP FORCE INTERNATIONAL (FFI) FEES USING THE FOLLOWING FORMULA: THE TOTAL COST OF THE HOME STAY FEES PLUS THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE INTERNATIONAL FEES FOR THE ED WILL BE DIVIDED BY THE NUMBER OF AMBASSADORS THE RECEIVING CLUB CAN HOST. EXAMPLE: 15 AMBASSADORS, \$100 PER AMBASSADOR TO HOME CLUB AND \$150 PER AMBASSADOR TO FFI; THE ED COST IS \$250 DIVIDED BY 15 EQUALS \$16.67 PER AMBASSADOR OR \$17 TO COVER ED COST. THE FEES WOULD BE PAID TO THE TREASURER OF OUR CLUB AND POSTED TO THE EXCHANGE ACCOUNT TO KEEP ACCURATE RECORDS.

The motion to accept the proposed amendment was approved by Pam LaFontaine and 2nd by Cheryle Phelps.

The amendment to the bylaws passed.

- **Cecelia Bridge gave information to the hosts for the upcoming**

Denver inbound exchange February 2-7.

- **Sign up sheets for the various activities were sent around.**

Adjournment : 12:30

Jule Yemma, Secretary

FRIENDSHIP FORCE SWFL MEETING

Board Meeting

MINUTES OF January 7 2015

PLACE : Yemma's Home Ft Myers

Present: Joanne Collins, Dennis Yemma, Sibby Yemma, Rob Linehan, Jule Yemma, Richard Collins, Sue Linehan

Call to Order 13:40

**Approval of Previous Minutes of 6 December 2014 Meeting –
Accepted Dennis Yemma, 2nd Sibby Yemma –Minutes Approved**

Old Business

- **Dues: Rob read the names of the members who have not paid their dues; Joanne and Rob will follow up by calling and email to determine who wants to remain members in the club.**
- **Denver Exchange: Jonnie Sprimont was unable to make the meeting; Cecelia Bridge will be at the general meeting on 16 January to give final updates. Sibby agreed to host three more people for the small dinner parties on 4 February.**
- **Date and Place for the All Florida Conference:**
 1. **Joanne reported that she has been in touch with Sandy Gourdine, FI representative for FF International, who would be willing to come to the All FI Conference hosted by our club.**
 2. **Rob inquired about expenses for Atlanta representatives to attend. Joanne will need to research this.**
 3. **Joanne gave Dennis a copy of last year's agenda to use for planning the conference.**

4. **Joanne will check with Sandy about time frame for the meeting. Board members discussed early November as a possibility.**
 5. **Dennis reported that he has checked with the Whiskey Creek Country Club for the venue and it was agreed by the members to be a viable option. Details will be confirmed at a later date.**
- **Reimbursement of Club ED :**
 1. **A motion was made by the board at their December meeting to reimburse the outgoing ED for their home stay fees.**
 2. **It was brought to the general members at the 14 December meeting. Jody Harmon, parliamentarian, informed the board that it needed to be put in writing for the general members and voted upon. The motion was tabled until the January meeting for a vote.**
 3. **Dennis proposed a change to original motion of using the amount of 20 ambassadors as the divider for the fees because sometimes the number may be less. Sibby 2nd the revision.**
 4. **The following statement will be emailed to all members prior to the general meeting on January 16.**

THE BOARD PROPOSES THE FORMULATION OF AN ED REIMBURSEMENT POLICY FOR CLUB OUTBOUND TRIPS. IT MAKES THE PROPOSAL IN KEEPING WITH POLICIES ALREADY IN PLACE BY MANY OTHER FRIENDSHIP FORCE CLUBS. THEREFORE A MOTION IS MADE TO REIMBURSE THE OUTGOING ED FOR THE COST OF THE HOME STAY AND FRIENDSHIP FORCE INTERNATIONAL (FFI) FEES USING THE FOLLOWING FORMULA: THE TOTAL COST OF THE HOME STAY PLUS THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE INTERNATIONAL FEES FOR THE ED WILL BE DIVIDED BY THE NUMBER OF AMBASSADORS THE RECEIVING CLUBS CAN HOST.

EXAMPLE: 15 AMBASSADORS, \$100 PER AMBASSADOR TO HOME CLUB AND \$150 PER AMBASSADOR TO FFI; THE ED COST IS \$250 DIVIDED BY 15 EQUALS \$16.67 PER AMBASSADOR OR \$17 TO COVER ED COST. THE FEES WOULD BE PAID TO THE TREASURER OF OUR CLUB AND POSTED TO THE EXCHANGE ACCOUNT TO HELP KEEP ACCURATE RECORDS.

- **Loose Ends:**
 1. **February meeting: Would like someone from the Denver club to give a talk about their club and area. This needs to be confirmed with Cecelia.**
 2. **March Friendship Force Day- need a host for the international lunch**
 3. **April 10- Need a TSA representative to talk to the club members. Sibby will contact TSA at FL SW International Airport**

4. August 9- need a host for the ice cream social.

New Business

- **Joanne questioned whether or not a budget is needed for the club. Board members discussed and felt one was not needed at this time.**
- **Richard proposed the club needs to purchase a projector to have available for presentations. Board members agreed after discussion. Sibby, Dennis and Richard will research and bring ideas to the general meeting on the 16th.**
- **Dennis proposed having snacks or drinks for the general meeting. It was agreed Yemmas' would bring bottled water only since the club tries to go to lunch after as a way to socialize.**
- **Jule wanted to know how long past minutes needed to be kept. She has two bags full of folders given to her when she became secretary. The board agreed that minutes over three years old could be discarded.**
- **Richard Collins presented his philosophy about our website and what it should represent to potential members, other clubs and our own members. He demonstrated navigating the new web site to the board. Richard will present the information to the general members at our meeting on 16 January.**

Committee Reports

Treasurer: Rob sent a report to board members that there is a total of \$7400 before FFI is paid on 15 January.

There were no questions regarding the report.

2015 Exchanges International: Lou Rizk was not present but reported to Joanne that he has three more slots to fill for the Schwerin, Germany and Brugge, Belgium exchange in May. He has sent the information to Atlanta. There is no inbound exchange for 2015 at this time; but the club is hosting the All Florida Conference in the fall.

Membership:

Sue will be ordering contact information cards that can be handed out to potential members. She reinforced that the best venue for recruitment is still word of mouth.

Sue and Joanne will be speaking to a Naples Womens club this week. Elin Derickson of our club is a member there.

Sibby will make a proposal to the singles club she belongs to about addressing their members.

Newsletter – Joanne enjoys doing the newsletter but would like other club members to contribute articles. The rest of the board agreed after discussion and ideas; such as contributing recipes or information about where other members have traveled; that Cheryle Phelps can send an email to members asking them to contribute information to Joanne by the 25th of the month.

Club Store – One newer member is still waiting for her badge. Joanne was unable to reach Pam LaFontaine.

Adjournment 16:00

Jule Yemma, Secretary