

January 6, 2023 Board Meeting

FFSWFL Board Meeting

Jan 6, 2023, 3pm

Meeting via Zoom

Present: Carol Nasby, Terese Libby, Richard Collins, Judy Carson, Marcia Ellis

1. Treasurer's report, Richard (see below)

2. Minutes of Sept 7 board meeting approved. They are posted on our website. Approved minutes

of Friendship Force General Meeting December 14 held in conjunction with Holiday Party. Slate of candidates for 2023 Board were approved unanimously.

3. Old Business

a. Michelle has updated the website.

b. The following recruitment ideas were discussed

i. Presentation to Teresa's group

ii. PGICA newsletter/email

iii. Weekly magazine

iv. neighborhood watch newsletter

v. post in Nextdoor

vi. Judy will write an invitation for others to join FF and share it with others.

c. Leadership checklist from FFI discussed.

4. New Business

a. Calendar for meetings

i. Feb 13: Program will be about how to use technology on myFFI website. North Ft Myers Library. Terese will cover journeys. Marci will cover the Help section. Carol will assist members in registering.

ii. March 10: world friendship month: potluck and costumes (like last year). Judy will host

iii. April 14: Ft Myers library. Terese will make reservation. Carol Nasby and Linda Supakoff will present PP about animals of Pantanal, Brazil.

iv. May 12: Picnic at Gilcrest Park. Judy & Terese will plan and run. Try to bring guests. Summarize season activities. Carol will pass on tubs of supplies to Teresa at Mar mtg.

v. Aug 11: Linda Supakoff will host ice-cream social

vi. Oct 13: to be planned in the future.

Carol suggested showing videos from FFI at our meetings.

b. Dues: FFI will probably raise dues to \$30 for Jan 2024. We should raise our club dues from \$15 to \$20. Carol suggests raising dues in 2024 to \$50 next Jan. All were in agreement.

c. Carol would like to purchase a stand-up banner. Everyone agreed. Judy suggested we check prices.

d. LEOs: Judy will schedule for the 4 th Friday of the month. Terese will find a place for the first one. These are social get-togethers.

e. Journeys:

i. Possibility of going to Minnesota. They have opening for hosting us. Terese is

communicating with them. Their board meeting is next week and they will let us know

ii. Requests for 2024: Outbound: international-Sweden. Domestic- Connecticut, New York.

iii. Possibility of FF Baku, Azerbaijan to visit us in April 2023.

Marcia Ellis

Treasurer's Report

Friendship Force SWFL has three checking fee-free accounts at Charlotte State Bank. All pay a few

pennies in interest each month. I keep a ledger for each account in a spreadsheet and download

monthly statements from the bank.

Balances Ending December 2022

General \$2621 including dues for 2023

Inbound \$1569

Outbound \$2338

Received 2023 Dues for 37 Members

Received 2023 Dues for 2 Associate Members

Not Paid – Expect Payment from members: Judy Carson, Robeta Henapale and Casandra Wooden. and

Barbara Robinson

Expect Payment from associate members: Barbara Robinson, Bev and Dennis Haggerty and Marcia Ellis.

Resigning are Kathy Berglund, Betty Botsaris, Meridy Morre and Cindy & Dwight Haldeman.

As of January 5

General Dec 2022 Balance	\$2621
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Additional Dues Received	260
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Additional Dues Expected from members (4)	160
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Additional Dues Expected from associate members (4)	60
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Due FFI for 41 Members	\$1025
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Website Expense Expected	\$ 100
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Expected Balance Going Forward	\$1976
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Name Badges – I have ordered name badges after Ian from NameBadge.com. Badges are \$10.44 ea plus

shipping & handling averaging \$17/badge.

To Do: Submit IRS "Postcard"

Send check to FFI for regular members (\$25/member)

Richard Collins

January 13 General Meeting

FFSWFL General Meeting Minutes

Jan 13, 2023

Location: PG Police & Fire Station

31 members present including 2 new members

Board members present: Carol Nasby, Terese Libby, Richard Collins, Marcia Ellis

1. Introduction of 2 new members: Ruth Zanini and Jean Grady

2. Treasurer's report from Richard:

Balances Ending December 2022 in funds

General \$2621 including dues for 2023

Inbound \$1569

Outbound \$2338

3. If FFI raises dues this next year for 2024, we will also raise our club dues.

4. LEO (Let's Eat Out): A social lunch. Jan 27 at The Standard in Sable Palms TIME?

5. Richard reported we have 37 members paid and 3 associate members paid.

6. Sue reported on our next inbound journey. We are welcoming FF Northern Colorado. The schedule has been set. Our guests will arrive on Wed, March 15. We are expecting 15 guests.

3/16 Welcome brunch at Gilcrest Park, walking tour of murals, boat tour of canals, small dinners

3/17 Echo Farm tour & technology tour, picnic lunch there, manatee park on way home, small dinners

3/18 King Fisher Fleet boat to Cabbage Key, buy own lunch, dinner at home

3/19 Free day. Sue will send suggestion list. Guests take hosts to dinner.

3/20 Babcock Ranch bus tour. Lunch at their restaurant. Small group dinners

3/21 Koreschan State Park. Farewell party. Location to be determined.

Ginny will coordinate day hosts. Maureen will coordinate small dinner groups.

Sign up for events and small dinners today or email Sue

7. Recitation of FF Pledge

8. Maureen expressed thanks for being able to use the PG Police & Fire Department meeting room. This is first time since pre-Covid we are here.

9. Joanne MacPeak has tickets for the theater excursion to the Florida Repertory Theater at

2pm

on April 12. Performance is a musical about Johnny Cash.

10. Carol will be purchasing a standing banner for our club to take to our events and meetings.

11. Marci asked the club if they would like to host FF Baku, Azerbaijan in late April. There was a positive response. She will continue to correspond with their club president.

12. Terese reported that FF Twin Cities, MN will host us in summer 2024. There was interest in trying to add another club in the region to make it a 2 club journey.

13. Carol led a discussion on the location of our international outbound for 2024. She will request a

journey from FFI for Great Britain and Japan. Sweden was also discussed.

14. The February meeting program will focus on technology of using myFFI website.

15. Maureen and Michelle have signed up for a journey to Taiwan and are encouraging others to consider it. There is a link in the newsletter for more information about it.

16. Members are encouraged to consider attending the FFI World Conference Oct 2-5 in Dubrovnik.

17. No report has been received from Linda Supakoff regarding the international outbound for this fall to the Gold Coast and Blue Mountain clubs in Australia.

18. Carol and Maureen gave a presentation about our journey to FF Medicine Hat and FF Edmonton, Canada. There was also a pre-tour to Vancouver and a trip from Vancouver to Banff on the Rocky Mountaineer.

Marcia Ellis
Secretary

FF SWFL Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2023

Present: Carol & Chris Nasby, Maureen Butt, Judy Carson, Marcia Ellis, Kit Thanel & Debra Ferguson, Connie Anderson, Ginny Dooley, Linda Supakoff, Fred & Mary Giddings, Bev & Dennis Haggerty, Joanne MacPeek, Michelle Kemps, +?

1. Carol opened the meeting with the FF pledge.
2. Treasurer's Report: Richard is ill but there are no changes to last months' report.
3. Newsletter: All members are invited to contribute to the newsletter. Just send your article/information to Joanne Collins.
4. Everyone is responsible for increasing our membership. Invite your friends to join us for meetings and outings.
5. Mentors are Cheryl and Lou. Please let them know if your friends are interested in joining us.
6. The first LEO was very well attended! The regular date for LEOs will be the 4th Friday of the month. Our next LEO will be at noon at Connors Restaurant in Ft. Myers.
7. Joanne MacPeek gave an update on tickets to the Florida Repertory Theater on April 12.
8. Carol & Connie are working on ordering a banner for our club.
9. 2024: We are hoping for an outbound journey to Minneapolis or Northern Colorado. Carol has requested Japan for our international outbound.
10. FF N Colorado arriving Wednesday, March 15. Saturday, March 18 will be a long day. We are taking the King Fisher to Cabbage Key. Lunch will be expensive. May also bring a picnic lunch. We need to know how many will be going on the boat and

for lunch.

The farewell party will be held at the Standard at Sable Palms. Cost is \$25. Sue asked for someone to put together a Power Point of the journey. Everyone is asked to take pictures and send them in to the person who volunteers for this. There was further discussion of some of the other activities.

11. Judy Carson is hosting the International Day Potluck at 1pm on March 10. Bring an international dish to pass with recipe and wear a costume if you wish.
12. Journey to Australia: The first week of the exchange (Sept 4-11) will be to FF Gold Coast. The second week, Sept 12-18, will be to FF Blue Mountains. There will be a pre-trip to Figi (planned by Carol) and a post trip to New Zealand (planned by Michelle). There was one opening at the time of the meeting.
13. FF World Conference in Croatia will be Oct 2-5.
14. Several members have signed up to go to the Global exchange in Taiwan. They are planning a post trip to a club in Japan.
15. Today everyone was told to bring a device that they can use to sign up on myffi. Many members signed up during the meeting. Several were hunting for information on the site. In addition, Michelle reviewed navigation the club's website with members.

M. Ellis,

FFSWFL secretary

World Friendship Day Celebration

March 10, 2023

Location: Judy Carson's house

1. 20 members were in attendance. Members wore something from their travels and we had an international potluck lunch.
2. Carol welcomed new members Curt and Dorothy Decoux. Members introduced themselves and talked about clothing and items they were wearing and where they bought them.

Old Business

1. Finalize plans for the Northern Colorado inbound journey.
2. Sue reminded people to sign up for events and submit their payment to her.
3. The new club banner was demonstrated. Everyone liked and approved it.

New Business

1. Carol reviewed upcoming events and meetings.
 1. March 31 LEO will be at 12 noon at Laishley Crab House in Punta Gorda. RSVP to Carol Nasby at 507 236 6704.
 2. April meeting has been moved to North Fort Myers library at 10:00am on April 14.
 3. May 12 meeting will be at Gilcrest Park. Everyone needs to invite a friend. There will be subway sandwiches provided. Meeting will start at 11am. This will be an informal gathering stressing the advantages of FF membership and brainstorming ideas to recruit members. The Vice Presidents will coordinate this event.
 4. Date of August ice cream social TBD.
- 2.
3. President Carol Nasby presented information on a new government program to help citizens band together to sponsor refugees to come to the US from countries that are facing terror, war, or danger. The program is called Welcome USA and invites non-profits or groups of people to apply to sponsor a family or an individual for a short term to learn to settle into our country. The group will find housing and will aid in finding school for children and work for adults. There should be adequate finances to accomplish these goals.
Carol will send several links to the membership to inform our club about this option. A committee will investigate the possibility.

<https://www.state.gov/launch-of-the-welcome-corps-private-sponsorship-of-refugees-2/>

<https://welcome.us/>

<https://welcomecorps.org/>

M. Ellis