

**Friendship Force of Southwest Florida**  
**General Meeting Minutes, Fort Myers Library, downtown**  
**Jan 12, 2024**

Present: Marcia Ellis, Sue and Rob Linehan, Michelle Kemps, Richard Collins, Carol and Chris Nasby, Barbara Robinson, Cheryl Phelps, Lou Rizk, Deb Ferguson, Kit Thanel, Dennis Haggerty, Terese Libby, Maureen and Hank Butt.

1. Carol began the meeting with the Friendship Force pledge and a tribute to Rosalynn Carter.
2. Lunch will be at The Lodge restaurant.
3. Treasurer's report from Richard Collins: Dues are \$45 members, \$15 associate members. Accounts (general, outbound and inbound) \$7649.
4. A book club was started Jan 3. We had both "in person" and zoom presence. The Wind Knows My Name by Isabel Allende was reviewed. Next meeting will be Feb 13 and the book is In A Sunburned Country by Bill Bryson.
5. Jan 6 three members went kayaking at Matlacha. Beautiful weather to spend time in nature. Terese will organize another kayak event in the future.
6. Sue Linehan invites members to her home to make shell crafts Jan 20 from 10am to 4pm and Jan 21 from 1 to 4pm. She plans to make ornaments and any project they would like to do.
7. New pins have arrived. They can be purchased from Carol \$4 ea or 3 for \$10.
8. Joanne has 4 Tervis tumblers with club design for sale at \$20 ea.
9. Some members would like to purchase shirts with club logo. Marci will investigate cost, etc.
10. Tomorrow is game day at Luvy's and is a potluck. Begins at 1pm.
11. Friday, Jan 19 club members are going to the Florida Repertory Theater. They will go to lunch after the performance.
12. Inbound Journeys
  - a. FF West Kentucky. Feb 1-7. JC is Maureen Butt. There are 6 home hosts. Members should sign up for events with Maureen.
  - b. FF Minneapolis Twin Cities. March 3-9. JC is Joanne Collins. Members should sign up for events with Joanne.
13. Outbound Journeys
  - a. FF 2 Point Northern Colorado and FF Minnesota. June 20 JC is Terese Libby.
  - b. FF Sherbrook, Montreal, Quebec City. Sept 4-18. JC is Michelle Kemps. Deadline for sign up is April 1.
  - c. There was discussion of locations to request for 2025 outbound journey. Japan, United Kingdom, and Kenya or somewhere in Africa.
14. Future meetings:
  - a. Feb 16. Program: Taiwan global journey. Location: N. Ft. Myers Library
  - b. March 15. World FF Day potluck at Sue & Rob Linehan's.
  - c. April 12. Program: Morocco. Location TBD.
  - d. May 17. Program: Global Entry. Location TBD.
  - e. June & July: No Meeting
15. Meeting adjourned for program. Carol presented our journey to Australia and Michelle presented the New Zealand post-trip.

M. Ellis, Secretary

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**FFSWFL Board Meeting Minutes**

**Feb 15, 2024**

**Present: Carol Nasby, Terese Libby, Richard Collins, Marcia Ellis, Joanne Collins**

**Absent: Judy Carson**

1. **Budget presented by Richard. Motion to approve it carried.**
2. **Kentucky inbound journey finances reviewed. Many challenges occurred during the week with illnesses and venue cancellations. Kudos to Maureen for a great job!**
3. **Inbound Minnesota week was discussed. Joanne reported on planning progress.**
4. **Carol has invited 3 guests to attend tomorrow's meeting.**
5. **Will plan to have a LEO March 22 at Bahama Breeze.**
6. **Meeting March 15 is at Sue & Rob Linehan's. Carol is looking for a speaker.**
7. **Terese will look for speaker for Oct mtg on physical fitness. TSA agent for November.**
8. **Outbound Minnesota will be opened for other clubs to sign up. Terese is looking at a pre-trip to Duluth.**
9. **Carol has asked some people to be on a nominating committee. She does not plan to be president next year.**
10. **Richard plans to renew our tax status with Florida state before next August.**
11. **Carol does not plan to renew the Meet-up website subscription. We had no new members as a result of a 6 month membership.**
12. **Terese & Judy will run the meetings in April and May in Carol's absence.**
13. **The book club met this week and discussed the book "In a Sunburned Country" by Bill Bryson. There was a lively discussion!**

**M. Ellis**

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FFSWFL General Meeting  
Feb 16, 2024  
North Ft Myers Library

Present: Luvvy Kovacik, Barbara Robinson, Joanne MacPeek, Fred & Mary Giddings, John & Beverly Stuart, Jean Grady, Carol & Chris Nasby, Jack & Jo Cooley, Priscilla & Hugh McShane, Joanne Collins, Sue Linehan, Michelle Kemps, Marcia Ellis, Terese Libby. Can't read one signature.

Guests: Lynda Jarrold, Dianne Gooding, Wes Simms, Lee Fullerton

1. Carol N welcomed to everyone. Several members talked about FF, world peace, cultural exchange, travel, friendship. Guests introduced themselves.
2. Joanne C gave membership report. At this time we have 33 regular and 10 associate members.
3. Minutes are posted on the website of all board and membership meetings.
4. Treasurer's report (submitted via email) was reviewed.  
Membership is \$45 \$2193 general fund  
Associate membership is \$15 \$2265 outbound fund  
\$3453 inbound fund  
\$7911 total
5. Social activities: Book club met this week and discussed "In a Sunburned Country" by Bill Bryson. Next meeting is March 13 when the book "Then Covenant of Water" by Abraham Verghese will be discussed. All members are invited to join in either in person or via digital media. Let Carol know ahead of time.
6. Report on Kentucky inbound: 10 guests and several challenges (illness, surgeries) for Maureen made for an interesting week! Many thanks to Maureen for her service as JC.
7. Next inbound journey is March 3-9. We hare hosting FF Minnesota Twin Cities. Joanne reviewed the activities and brought sign-up sheets. All are encouraged to attend the welcome brunch and farewell party.
8. Next LEO will be March 22, 11:30am at Bahama Breeze.
9. A Florida author, Florence Love Karsner, sent our club 2 of her books ("Even Saints Have Secrets" and "We All Have Secrets". She follows us on FB.

10. Pins are available for purchase. 3 for \$10.
11. Terese gave a report on our next outbound journey to FF Minnesota Twin Cities and FF Northern Colorado. March 15 is the deadline for sign-up for our members and it is open to regional clubs.
12. Marcia & Michelle reported on our next international outbound to FF Sherbrook, Canada. Pre-trip is to Quebec City and includes a stay at an indigenous experience. Post-trip is to Montreal.  
Deadline for sign up is March 1. There currently is a waiting list.
13. Next year journey request was made to FFI for Japan, UK, and Kenya. We are looking at visiting FF W. Kentucky for domestic outbound. Marci will continue to coordinate a weekend exchange with FF Greater Orlando for next fall.
14. Carol discussed independent journeys, available through FFI.
15. Next meetings: March 15 is World Friendship Day. We will have an international potluck at Rob & Sue's home and come dressed for the occasion. Joanne MacPeek will invite a speaker.  
April 12 Marci & Michelle will present on their trip to Morocco.  
May 17 Terese will speak on her trip to the Galapagos Islands. She will contact a trainer to speak on physical fitness for traveling for next fall.  
June and July no meetings  
August is ice cream social
16. FFI Regional Conference is going to be in Milwaukee, WI, Oct 7-9.
17. Our program today: Marci & Michelle presented on the global journey to Taiwan and post trip to Vietnam.
18. Adjourned to lunch at the Shell Factory.

Marcia Ellis, Secretary

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## FFSWFL Board Meeting

March 20, 2024

Present: Carol Nasby, Terese Libby, Marcia Ellis, Michelle Kemps, Judy Carson

1. Carol shared what she learned from the regional meeting this morning. Journey Coordinator assistance from FFI session is recorded and can be accessed. Alison can make personalized application for personalized journey app. People can download and complete for your journey. Milwaukee conference was discussed. There will be leadership training sessions, entertainment. Hotel is \$160/night. Registration is for Oct 7, 8, & 9 is \$250. The matching process will be done by mid-April and will hear by early May. 2025 world conference will be held in Asia somewhere.
2. April meeting is at N Fort Myers library. Lunch after at Vietnamese restaurant on Del Prado.
3. May 18 potluck & game day at Luvvy's.
4. August 9 ice cream social 2pm at Linda Supakoff's.
5. October 18 meeting. Terese will contact someone to talk about travel and health. "Fit for Travel". Judy will secure a location.
6. Halloween party: discussed having Octoberfest instead. Possibly at Sandra's restaurant. Oct 25<sup>th</sup> if lunch or 26<sup>th</sup> if dinner.
7. November 15 meeting: Terese has made contact for TSA travel talk. Judy will arrange N Ft Myers library.
8. December 8 holiday brunch: Cheryl Phelps has reserved a country club.
9. Marci, Terese & Michelle will get together and talk about the FFI North American Conference in Milwaukee.
10. Nominating committee: Sue Linehan will look for replacement for president.
11. Judy made a motion and seconded by Terese that starting immediately we offer a free year of membership to new SWF Friendship Force members. Motion passed.
12. Judy discussed attending markets to attract new members. Carol suggests waiting until fall, a more active time for the club.
13. We will need some more flyers in the fall when we begin actively promoting the club.
14. Terese will run the meeting in April. Carol will get flyers and laptop to Terese.
15. We discussed a kayak, biking, or hiking outing. Michelle bikes every Saturday at Web Lake. We will invite others to join her for April 13<sup>th</sup> in the newsletter.

16. Meeting adjourned 11am.

M. Ellis

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**Friendship Force of Southwest Florida**

**General Meeting**

**April 12, 2024**

**Present: Michelle Kemps, Marcia Ellis, Terese Libby, Jane McDonald, Candis Penley, Leigha Murray, Mary & Fred Giddings, Maureen & Hank Butt, Sue & Rob Linehan, Richard & Joanne Collins, Jean Grady, Judy Carson, Jo & Jack Cooley, Linda Supakoff, Deb Fergenson.**

**Guests: Roy Pearson, Sue Kohlert, Ruth Bosch**

**Terese began the meeting with the Friendship Force pledge.**

**Terese welcomed new members. The new members talked about themselves a bit.**

**Outbound Journeys:**

**June 20-26 FF Twin Cities, Minnesota. Journey full.**

**June 26-30 FF Northern Colorado. Journey full.**

**Sept 3-18 FF Serbrooke, Canada with pre-tour to Quebec City and post-tour to Montreal. Full.**

**We are waiting for 2025 assignments.**

**Upcoming event: Saturday, April 13 meet at Webb Lake for a 10 mile bike ride along the lake.**

**Terese reviewed upcoming meetings.**

**Please read the newsletter for the most up-to-date information and details on upcoming events.**

**Presentation about Morocco by Marci & Michelle followed by lunch at a Vietnamese restaurant.**

M. Ellis

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**June 13, 2024**

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

**1. Discussion of dates for 2025:**

**1.**

**Inbound: FF Manitoba JC is Sue Linehan with a committee. Will try for last week of Feb.**

**2. Inbound: FF Greater Orlando We will receive them the week of March 19.**

**3. Outbound: FF Greater Orlando JC is Marcia Ellis assisted by Judy Carson. We will try to go to Orlando the first week of February for 4 day visit.**

**4. Outbound: FF Napa Valley Sonoma JCis Terese Libby with assistance from Ginny Dooley. Will look at September.**

**5. Outbound: FF Nairobi, Kenya Will ask Maureen to look at October for this journey.**

**2. Michelle, Marci & Terese will attend the October 2024 FFI Wisconsin Regional Meeting.**

**3. Marci gave an update on the FF Sherbrooke journey for September 2024. Two people dropped out. Working on replacing them.**

**4. We can now use Judy's clubhouse for welcome and farewell parties. FFI has an umbrella insurance policy we can use.**

**5. Judy will be the contact person for a luncheon at Sandra's German Restaurant for Oct 24 or 25.**

**6. Meeting programs: Sept TBD. October Exercise for travel. November Global Entry/TSA.**

**M. Ellis**

**FF SW Florida  
Board meeting minutes  
August 21, 2024**

**Present: Carol Nasby, Terese Libby, Judy Carson, Marcia Ellis**

1. There will be no September meeting but there is a LEO at a Peruvian restaurant.
2. October 18 meeting will be lead by Terese. She will review information from the FFI conference in Milwaukee. Terese will report on Colorado and Minneapolis journeys. Judy will reserve a library room. Terese has been trying to get someone from Lee Health physical preparation before a trip but has not heard back from them. Judy will check out a restaurant for after the meeting.
3. Oct 25 LEO will be at Sandras Restaurant in Punta Gorda.
4. November 15: Terese has lined up a TSA speaker.
5. January meeting: Michelle & Marci will present on the Canada journey.
6. New member orientation: Carol will set a date for a meeting... Nov 12, 13, 14? Carol will canvas the new members for availability.
7. Terese has not heard anything from Napa Valley club yet. She continues to communicate with them.
8. Dec 8 Christmas brunch: Location TBD. Cheryl is working on it.
9. Goal: We will try to increase membership in Ft. Myers.

M. Ellis, Secretary

**FFSWFL Board Meeting  
Sept 26, 2024**

Present: Terese Libby, Caroll Nasby, Marcia Ellis, Judy Carson

1. Dispense with the Secretary and Treasurer reports.
2. Richard renewed the non-profit tax exemption.
3. We will have board meetings the 4<sup>th</sup> week of the month.
4. Maureen is full speed ahead on organizing an August journey to Kenya, in 2025, a two week journey with a one week safari in a lodge in a national park, and about a one week homestay in Nairobi organized by her friend there.  
There are 10 people who expressed an interest in this journey. She is consulting with friends who have done this journey to coordinate a great experience for us.



5. Meetings & social events:
  - a. LEO in September will not be cancelled due to the hurricane.
  - b. Meeting October 18 at North Ft Myers Library, Report on Minnesota and N. Colorado journeys. Terese will preside over this meeting.
  - c. LEO October 25 at Sandra's Restaurant at noon
  - d. Meeting November 15 at North Fort Myers Library. Global entry and TSA travel info. Judy will reserve room.
  - e. December Holiday Party date changed to Dec 15 at the Isles Yacht Club in Punta Gorda. We will hold election of officers.
  - f. December new member coffee, the second week of Dec. Joanne & Carol worked on Q&A document for new members.
  - g. January 10th meeting, Michelle and Marci & Terese will report on the Sherbrooke, Canada visit. North Fort Myers Library.
  - h. January 25th LEO and a theater event (musical comedy- Florida rep)
  - i. February, 3-6 Visit the Orlando FF club
  - j. February 14th, Friendship Force Program ? Special social event?
  - k. World wine tasting event?? At someone's home at 5;00, a catered meal?
  - l. February 17th to 23rd, Hosting the Manitoba FF club.
  - m. Feb 28th LEO ?
  - n. March 14th World Friendship Month celebration. International PotLuck
  - o. March 17-20 Host the Orlando Friendship Force Club

**FFSWFL General Meeting Minutes  
Oct 18, 2024**

**Present: Terese Libby, Michelle Kemps, Kim Callinan, Sue Linehan, Judy Carson, Jo Cooley, Jack Cooley.**

**After a short business meeting Terese & Michelle presented the journey to FF Minneapolis and FF Northern Colorado June, 2024. Terese and Michelle served Wild Rice and wore their Bug Hats. They had two 5 pound bags of Wild Rice on display. Decorated the podium with the gifted Conference cloth bag. And of course they had a Miller Bottle Opener for another prop from their brewery tour.**

**They also discussed the FFI North America Conference they attended in Milwaukee earlier this month.**

**Welcomed New Member Kim Cullihan. Years ago she was an active member of the New Hampshire club. Terese and Michelle had an extra FF Conference tumbler and gave it to Kim for being the Newest Member.**

**Lunch was at Misto in Ft Myers, all attended.**

**Marcia Ellis & Michelle Kemps**

**FFSWFL Board Meeting  
Nov 4, 2024 2pm  
via Google Meet**

**Present: Carol Nasby, Terese Libby, Marcia Ellis, Richard Collins, Joanne Collins**

**Absent: Judy Carson**

1. Minutes of previous meeting were approved.
2. Treasurer Report: Richard says it is OK to combine membership dues (\$45) and holiday party (\$26) in one check. Dues are due by Dec 7. Richard suggested increasing the cost for badges. 1 badge costs \$13. Motion carried. See treasurer's report below.
3. Joanne reviewed information going into newsletter.
4. There will be a new member orientation meeting at Carol's house 10am, Dec 6. Carol will send invitations to new members via text.
5. Marci & Terese gave report of FFI North American Conference. See below for report.

**Membership Meetings**

6. Next membership meeting Nov 15. We will have a presentation from a TSA representative.
7. January meeting: Michelle, Terese, & Marci will talk about the FF Sherbrooke journey.
8. February 14, 1pm we will have a world wine & desert tasting event. Carol will ask a new member to co-chair this event.
9. March 14 meeting: World Friendship Month. We will celebrate with an international potluck.
10. April 11 meeting: Carol will ask John McNamee to speak about his trip with FFI India.

LEOs

11. 8 members attended the last LEO. There will be no more LEO's this year.
12. January 25<sup>th</sup> Leo will be a musical at the Florida Repertory Theater. Tickets are still available.

2025 Journeys

13. Maureen is working on Kenya for August.
14. February 3-6 we will visit FF Greater Orlando
15. February 17-23 we will host FF Winnipeg
16. March 17-20 we will host FF Greater Orlando
17. October 6-11 we will visit FF Napa Valley. Terese is working on a prestrip to Crater Lake Lodge.
18. Carol will submit the form to FFI for our best hosting availability times.

Marcia Ellis, Secretary

Treasurer's Report fr Richard Collins

General Account Balance \$ 1583

Inbound \$ 1068

Outbound \$ 2863

Outbound Outstanding Checks, Refunds for Canada Trip

Haggerty \$ 276

Fullerton \$ 100

**General Expenses for Year 2024 to date**

FFI Dues \$ 990 Collected from returning members

Website \$ 104

Constant Contact \$ 177

Ice Cream Social \$ 56

Postage \$ 14

FFI Dues for 5 New Members \$ 150

First Year Free for SWFL

Name Badges are \$13 for one badge; \$12 ea for two or more ordered at same time

Recommend increasing Name Badge Charge to \$13 next year

**Friendship Force International  
North American Council  
October 7-10, 2024**

**Attendance from FFSWFL: Michelle Kemps, Terese Libby, Marcia Ellis**

**First day sessions:**

**Plenary Session: Jeremy Snook, FFI President and CEO gave a talk about things he did not know when he took the position at FFI. He discussed:**

- 1. The simplicity of our name, Friendship Force.**
- 2. The need to modernize our technology (web page improvements in 8 languages, developing and app).**
- 3. Make new friends, but keep the old.**
- 4. Foreign policy: We travel and host to promote world peace and understanding, find neutrality, and bring people together.**
- 5. More friends, more loss.**
- 6. International peace: humans make mistakes. We need tolerance and understanding.**

Paul Bardwil was the keynote speaker. He outlined how FFI has partnered with him and Arte Corte (Cuban organization to improve lives) to provide a Cuba experience for FFI members. FFI is looking to expand this partnership in Cuba. He talked about how teams win who make adjustments (being flexible in FFI language).

## Day 2 workshop takeaways:

Technology is here to stay.

There will be an increased consideration of sustainability and ethical travel (Ex: use public transit, direct flights, shorter distance daytrips).

Diversity will be a future requirement. Clubs need to look like our communities.

Become experts in citizen diplomacy.

Enhancing cultural understanding will be as important locally as internationally.

There is not enough FFI paid staff to support growth so we need volunteer leadership for the future.

Climate change: discussion on how FFI's activities and mission are compatible with a sustainable future and what FFI can do to mitigate or adapt to this threat. Suggestions included using only consumables in the gift bags we give, avoid plastic water bottles, go to state parks, drive less.

Be a better global citizen:

Travel with purpose.

Connect with people.

Embrace discomfort of certainty & risk.

Appreciate people on their terms. Stay open minded.

See inequality for yourself and advocate for the less fortunate

Religion – explore world views through the eyes of others.

