

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

****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

****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
		<u>\$3453 inbound fund</u>
		\$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 have 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

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 25th if lunch or 26th 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 13th in the newsletter.
16. Meeting adjourned 11am.

M. Ellis