

# 2026 Minutes

## FF Southwest Florida Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2026

Present: Kim Cullinan, Jo & Jack Cooley, Mary Montagne, Joanne & Richard Collins, Diane Gooding, Bev & Dennis Haggerty, Jane McDonald, Susan Hills, Kathleen Davey, Michelle Kemps, Carol & Chris Nasby, Terese Libby, Joanne MacPeek

Guest: Wendy Fowler

1. Terese welcomed new members Kathleen Davey, Susan Hills, Suzy Riddle, Jan Murphy, Lois Hillman

2. Recitation of the Friendship Force pledge.

3. Treasurer's report:

General account: \$2016.47

Incoming: 1526.70

Outbound: 2639.70

Total: \$6182.87

4. Dues: FFSWFL dues are \$15 and can be paid by check to FFSWFL and given to Jane McDonald. FFI dues are \$100 and can be paid online. Terese reviewed how to pay FFI dues.

5. Journeys:

a. FF Baku, Azerbaijan. Inbound. November 8-13, 2025. JCs Michelle Kemps and Marcia Ellis

b. FF National Capitol, Washington DC. Inbound. February 1-7, 2026. JCs Carol Nasby, Susan Hills, Kathleen Davey. A special thank you to Kathleen Davey for sponsoring the welcome brunch.

c. FF Cornwall, UK. Outbound. May 18-25, 2026. Pre-trip Wales, UK. Post-trip Scotland, UK. JC Joanne Collins

d. FF Eastern Club of Sri Lanka. August 2026. JC Maureen Butt. Send \$100 deposit to Maureen if interested.

e. North American Regional Conference. April 24-27, 2026. Hyatt Centric Hotel, Memphis, TN. Post-trip cruise the Mississippi to New Orleans.

6. Social Events

a. Jan 17: Memorial service in Bonita Springs for Luvvy Kovacic.

b. Jan 21: 15 members are going to Mote Aquarium. Diane Gooding.

c. Feb 15: The Play That Went Wrong. 2pm Ft. Myers. Carol Nasby.

d. Feb 22: Red Sox game. Kim Cullinan.

e. Nov 2026: Inbound. A club from Indonesia

7. Terese asked club members to vote for 2027 outbound destinations.

8. Meeting was adjourned.

Terese gave a presentation on the FF Napa Sonoma Valley journey with a pre-trip at

Crater Lake National Lodge in October 2025.  
Lunch: Athenian Restaurant in N. Fort Myers.  
Marcia Ellis  
Secretary FFSWFL

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**Friendship Force of Southwest Florida**

**General Membership Minutes**

**February 20, 2026**

A general meeting was held at the North Fort Myers Library beginning at 10 am.

1.

*Welcome New Members & Guests with Introductions*

Terese Libby, president, welcomed guest Joy M. Perez from Fort Myers, who told us that her friend from Washington DC Capital Group urged her to come to our group. She is a current member of Servas US International and a retired educator. (She later completed the Membership Form, joined our local club and will join FFI once the information is given to her on how to apply on-line.)

2.

*Friendship Force Pledge recited by all*

3.

*Treasurer's Report*

Jane McDonald, treasurer reported that as of 2/20/26, the club has \$1,834 in its General Fund; \$2,586 in its Inbound Account; \$4,871 in its Outbound Account, which is currently being spent on the Cornwall, UK Journey. Recently the club wired funds to Cornwall for its 14 Ambassadors' club fees and will pay FFI its portion in March. Total is \$9,292.

4.

*Update on Inbound and Outbound Journeys*

- Carol Nasby, Host Coordinator, reported that we had a very successful Inbound with National Capital Club with a new venue agenda that was very well received.
- Joanne Collins, Journey Coordinator, reported that all fees as budgeted have been collected by 14 ambassadors who are going to Cornwall and everything is in motion for a great visit. This destination is in high demand and recently she was contacted by 2 Australians who wanted to go with our club. They are now on a Wait List containing 6 hopeful applicants.
- All Club Morocco Opportunity in October 11-25, 2026 – Some club members who may go and are interested are Lois Hillman, Mary Montagne and new member as of today, Joy Perez.
- Memphis April 24-27, 2026 Regional Conference – Terese is attending a strongly urges all who might have an interest to go.
- Maureen Butt, Journey Coordinator, discussed plans for Sri Lanka. We are no longer going with the New Jersey Club. We plan on 6-8 ambassadors from our club to go in October 2026. There will be a pre-trip to Singapore for 3-4 days. It is about a 3-4 hour flight from Singapore to Columbo, Sri Lanka. We expect to do the home visit with a club on the east side of the island. After that, we are looking at tours for a post trip that will include a safari to visit the elephant/jaguar park, a beach visit with optional snorkeling, a train ride to see the tea plantations and visits to historical landmarks. Tours are very inexpensive; e.g., participants should plan on a \$1,200 budget for a

6-7 day guided tour including some meals and all accommodations. She urged club members to contact her if they were interested.

5.

#### *Membership*

Terese Libby and Joanne Collins, Membership Chair, discussed the fact that we have a 55% reduction in membership this year as a result of FFI changing the fee structure to \$100 annually. We had 36 members. Now we have only 17. It is a sad state of affairs.

There was a motion from the floor, "Since the club has a small amount of money given to it in tribute of Luvvy, the membership chair, at her discretion, will offer a those who have not rejoined, a matching offset of club dues. This opportunity will be available until March 1, 2026"

Discussion occurred and Kathleen Davey suggested asking those members why they have not joined FFI. There were comments that we need to educate members on the value of the national organization and the fact that those who do not join will be suspended on March 1 and will not be able to host or go on journeys. Joanne Collins expressed that through the years our club has tried so hard to obtain and retain club members and we do not want to lose so many. Perhaps an offset in funds could help in persuading some of them to rejoin. Joanne agreed she would contribute \$100 to the fund and Terese said she also would contribute. The club currently has \$50 in the general fund from Luvvy's tribute. Eventually the motion was seconded and motion passed.

#### *New Business*

March 13 – In lieu of a meeting, we will celebrate International Friendship Force Day by having a **Pot Luck Picnic** at Lakes Regional Park, Fort Myers from noon to 2 pm. Bring an international dish to pass and your own "picnic basket" of plates, napkins and utensils.

April 15 – Trip with lunch to Solomon's Castle

7.

*Presentation*

Terese gave the presentation on Travel Insurance and we all went around and discussed our travel tips. The meeting adjourned at noon and a great lunch was enjoyed by some members at a little Australian café, Café YOU.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Collins

Acting Secretary for Marcia Ellis

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FFSWFL Board Meeting  
March 23, 2026

Present: Judy Carson, Terese Libby, Susan Hills, Jane McDonald, Marcia Ellis, Joanne Collins, Carol Nasby.

1.

Call to Order at 4pm

2.

Minutes were approved from the Jan 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

3.

Susan Hills will convene the April 17<sup>th</sup> general meeting. Margie Kang will be presenting Italian culture. Joanne will load PP on the computer and Jane will assist Susan with it at the meeting.

4.

Welcome to 3 new members! Joanne needs to add them to the portal so they can join FFI.

5.

December Holiday party will be at Judy's clubhouse. Potluck or catered dinner was discussed. The general consensus was catered.

6.

Calendar for summer:

No business meetings May to September.

Summer social events: Pop golf, Ft. Myers: lunch at boat house; game day at

Terese's in May; August ice cream social. Judy is going to find an Italian restaurant for lunch after the April meeting.

October meeting: report on FFI regional conference and Cornwall journey

November meeting: report on Sri Lanka journey

Dec 13 is the holiday party. Discussion on catering vs potluck. Several spoke up for catering since it is a holiday and people are busy. Judy will look into a menu and pricing.

7.

Indonesia inbound update from Carol. Nov 8-13. So far there are 4 ambassadors signed up. Visas take 3 months.

8.

Regional representative updates. New branding for FFI. Logo colors are changing. Must transition by 2028.

New FFI member handbook coming soon.

International conference changing location and date due to political concerns.

9.

Jane is working on a budget form for inbound and outbound journeys. She will email the new form to the Board for review.

10.

Treasurer's report: Balances on FF SWFL accounts (does not include recent new members - Linda (have check), Marge & Jim (awaiting their check):

General = \$1,939.64

Inbound = \$2,266.20

Outbound = \$3,693.06

11.

Meeting adjourned at 5pm

Marcia Ellis, Secretary

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FFSWFL Membership Meeting

April 17, 2026

Guests Present: Mary Sebahar, Donna DeBree, Donna Cary, Barb Hoenes (joined today), Keith Ransom, Karen Doyle, Marty Schoonheim (joined today)

Members Present: Joanne & Richard Collins, Marcia Ellis, Kathleen Davey, Susan Hills,

Jack & Jo Cooley, Dianne Gooding, Bev & Dennis Haggerty, Carol & Chris Nasby,

Margie Kang, Jane McDonald, Wende Fowler, Linda Smidt, Joy Perez,

1. Susan Hills welcomed new members and guests.

2. Jane gave the treasurer's report.

General fund \$2200

Inbound fund \$2266

Outbound fund \$3693

3. Upcoming dates:

April 24-27 FFI North American Regional Conference in Memphis

May 18-24 Outbound journey to FF Cornwall

Oct 11-25 FFI global journey to Morocco

Nov Inbound journey FF Banjarmasin, Indonesia

Dec Holiday party

4. There will be no meetings May-Sept.

5. Diane Gooding reported on social committee activities.

May 8 Game day at Terese Libby's house

Aug 7 Ice-cream social at Linda Supakoff's house

Look for Pop Golf in summer. Date TBD.

6. Meeting adjourned.

Margie Kang gave a presentation "Italy, Then and Now".

Marcia Ellis, Secretary

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FFSWFL Board Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2026

Present: Marcia Ellis, Terese Libby, Carol Nasby, Susan Hills, Kathleen Davey, Judy Carson, Jane McDonald

1. The meeting minutes of March 23 were approved.
2. November journey discussion – Motion made to invite Cornwall & Bursa clubs.  
Nov 8-13.
3. Terese suggested hosting new member coffee at a local restaurant. There was discussion about mixing a new member welcome with game day.
4. Game Day is May 8 th at Terese's home. She plans to call several new members to invite them to attend.
5. Mentoring new members: Carol made assignments for people to mentor new people. Assignments below.
6. Carol wrote new member orientation document which she will send via email for board review. We will plan to post on our website.
7. It was noted there is a need for adding new policies to our documents & website. Marcia will put together the membership committee procedures. She will email them for the board's review prior to the next meeting.
8. Terese suggested adding to the new member application that the new member must be involved in a committee or activity.
9. Conference ideas, PP on FFI website LINK
10. Next monthly membership meeting in Oct. There will be a report on the FF Cornwall journey.

11. Monthly activities: June 19 - Pop Stroke Mini Golf, July TBD, Aug 7 Ice cream social, Sept no meeting, Nov 16 book club, Nov 20 membership meeting, Dec 13 holiday party.

12. Next board meeting will be at 10am Monday June 15.

Marge and Jim DeWitt of 1203 Shelby  
Parkway,Cape Coral FL

Judy Carson

Wendy Fowler of 2174 Briant Street,  
North Port Fl

Diane Gooding

Linda Harrell of 16056 Waterleaf  
Lane,Fort Myers Fl

Terese Libby or maybe Kim

Cullinan

Barbara Hoenes of 3465 Melissa Ct,  
Punta Gorda FL

Jack and Jo Cooley

Joy Perez of 1533 Cricket Lane Ft Myers

FL

Terese Libby

Marty Schoonheim of 7522 Sika Deer

Way Ft Myers

Terese Libby

Linda Smidt of 85 Vivante Blvd #8532,

Punta Gorda Fl

Kathleen Davey

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