



PASSPORT

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August 2024

Annual Meeting Will Focus on By-Laws Changes, Election of Officers for 2025

The FFL Annual Meeting will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, September 22 at Walt library, 6701 S. 14th St. Club members and individuals from the Muslim community will share experiences from the liaison between the FFL diversity committee and individuals in the Muslim community. The diversity committee strives to foster greater understanding of various cultures and build relationships with ethnic groups in the area. Sweet treats from a local Middle Eastern store will be served as the stories are shared. Hopefully some will wear gorgeous apparel from their heritage.

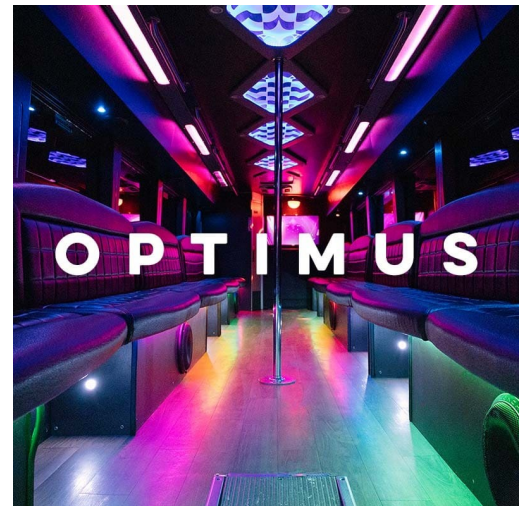
The agenda including the election of officers and approval of changes to the By-Laws. Reports from committees will be distributed prior to the meeting for review and to be voted on during the business portion of the Annual Meeting. Hear reports of the accomplishments of the past year and exciting plans and journeys for the upcoming year.

Get Ready to Party! See Lincoln's Holiday Lights with a Special Tour

Let the Good Times Roll at the FFL holiday event on December 8. Elite Tours party bus will pick us up at the Seacrest Field parking lot, 72nd and A Street, at 6:30 p.m. for a two hour tour of Lincoln's best residential holiday light displays. A hot chocolate bar will warm your tummy, along with sugar cookies for a tasty treat.

Dig out your ugly sweater or accessories that celebrate your favorite holiday; you may win an award. There will also be drawings for gift cards and prizes.

Reserve your spot by mailing a check for \$20 per person, made out to FFL, to Julie Splichal, 215 E. 9th St., #2, Crete, NE, 68333 by November 9. The bus has a limited capacity so it's never too soon to put your check in the mail for first come first serve reservations. If you are unable to drive at night, arrangements can be made for transportation.



From the FFL Board, August 2024

By Midge Dublinske, Vice-President

Greetings!

There is never a dull moment if you are a Friendship Force of Lincoln member.

Even though the Board of Directors did not meet in July, our dedicated members were busy engaging potential new members and attending club activities. Want to be involved in the club? It's easy to take advantage of the newsletters and communications from Friendship Force of Lincoln and Friendship Force International to be informed of upcoming events. Please check out the websites at www.friendshipforcelincoln.org or www.fflincoln.org and www.my.friendshipforce.org.

Preparations are underway for the Annual Meeting on September 22, 2024, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Bess Dodson Walt library. Julie Splichal and the social committee have a wonderful experience planned. Action items for the meeting include the election of officers for 2025, secretary and treasurer's reports. The Diversity and Service Committee plan to include a brief update on their work with Lincoln's Muslim Community.

Bruce and Carlene Keim are chairs of the LEO committee and hosted several LEO experiences at Heyoya and Shogun in Lincoln, and Hacienda Jalisco in Hickman. The food was excellent, and the conversations and experiences were enjoyed by many club members. There may be another LEO this fall, yet to be arranged.

Breakfast with club members on the second Saturday of each month at Stauffer's Restaurant at 8:30 a.m. continues to be a favorite among the "early-birds" hosted by Marilyn Watson. Please consider attending these social events.

Once again, a heartfelt thank you to the committee members and chairpersons for all their work throughout this entire year. As a club we continue to find ways to make a difference in the lives of others and to support our community. I write this on behalf of President Arlene Rea who is dealing with a family medical issue.

**Vice-President,
Midge Dublinske**

Make Plans Now for a Journey to Java, Indonesia June 2025

**By Maxine Moul,
Journey Coordinator**

The international Journey for Friendship Force of Lincoln to Yogyakarta and Bogor, Indonesia has been scheduled for June, 2025. Several conflicts developed for our Ambassadors from Lincoln and Milwaukee, and our Java hosts and Friendship Force International agreed to the one-year postponement from June 2024.

Several Lincoln members have already indicated an interest in participating in 2025, as well as members of other clubs. Our hosts have put together great potential itineraries, and I am looking forward to experiencing those. Our host clubs at Yogyakarta and Bogor are currently confirming the exact dates for each city

Please let me know if you are interested in this 2025 Journey by emailing me at mmoul1@allophone.com

Time to Elect Officers for Friendship Force of Lincoln 2025

A slate of officers will be presented at the FFL Annual Meeting on September 22, 2024, at the Bess Dodson Walt Library from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Nominations from the floor will be accepted if the member is willing to accept the nomination and to perform the duties of the office.

The Nominations Committee approved by the Board of Directors includes Julie Albrecht (Chair), Bruce Keim, Kathryn Neyens, Julie Splichal and Betty Starr. Current nominations for offices are: President, Arlene Rea; Vice- President, Midge Dublinske; Secretary, Ann Quinlan and Treasurer, Milt Bayer.

Thank you to the committee for their work and thank you to the current officers for their dedication to serve and to be nominees for office.



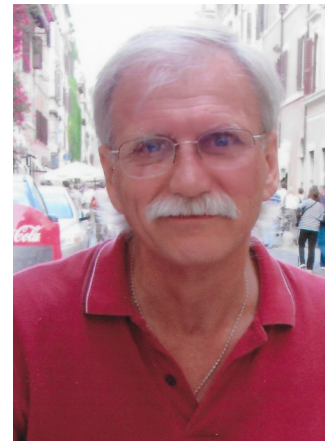
Arlene Rea



Midge Dublinske



Ann Quinlan



Milt Bayer

FFL Bylaws Changes to be Voted on at Annual meeting

By Midge Dublinske, Bylaws and Policies Committee Chair

Changes to the Bylaws will be presented to the membership for approval at the annual meeting on September 22, 2024 at the Walt Library, from 2-4 p.m. If you are unable to attend and would like further explanation of the changes to the Bylaws, please contact Midge Dublinske, Committee chair at midge.dublinske@gmail.com or 402-560-2884.

A special thanks goes to the Bylaws and Policy Committee: Arlene Rea, Judy Keetle, Ann Quinlan, Midge Dublinske and Brian Ridenour for all of their work. The process took many months, with input by the Board of Directors.

FFL Road Trip to the Winnebago Pow Wow July 27

By Judy Keetle

Photos by Gayle Bayer

Five members of the Friendship Force of Lincoln drove to Winnebago, NE on July 27 to attend a few hours of the weekend-long 158th Annual Homecoming Celebration at the Winnebago Veterans Memorial Park. Gayle and Milt Bayer, Susan Greiger, Marilyn Watson, and I arrived in time to enjoy Indian tacos for lunch and stroll through the arts and crafts booths before the Grand Entry started at 1:00.



Several veterans carrying American flags led the Grand Entry procession of Natives of all ages dressed in beautiful regalia dancing around the Pow Wow grounds to the beat of drums. The temperatures were in the 90s, while we sat in covered bleachers in a grove of trees to watch the festivities. We got to enjoy a lot of dancing and drumming, introductions of the Pow Wow royalty, an honoring ceremony for a recently deceased woman, and a tiny tots competition dance.



Happy Birthday to our FFL Club Members

Heusel, Gary	21-Sep	Scott, Laurie Ann	29-Oct
Keetle, Judy	21-Sep	Bayer, Milt	31-Oct
Tonack, De	22-Sep	Ridenour, Brian	2-Nov
Beam Callaway, Cherrie	1-Oct	Heusel, Karen	4-Nov
Keim, Bruce	17-Oct	Purtzer, Lois	16-Nov
Splichal, Julie	27-Oct		

Diversity and Community Service Committee Notice of Upcoming Events

By Janet Walters, Diversity and Community Service Committee Co-Chair

The following are events you may wish to attend in August and September. Mark your calendars.

8-23-2024 to 8-24-2024 My Big Fat Greek Festival 11a.m. until 9 p.m.
950 N. 63rd, Lincoln, NE 68505 with handicap parking in front of church.

A celebration of Greek culture and cuisine at the annual My Big Fat Greek Festival. Enjoy the silent auction, delicious food, live musical performances and traditional dances. Cash and credit cards accepted. Admission is free to the public.

www.mybigfatgreekfestival.com or Facebook page

9-7-2024 Second Small Group Gathering with Mahe Naseem and some Muslim friends
Saturday, September 7, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. at the home of Phyllis Arth, 5103 Sherman St., Lincoln, NE 68516 A new FFL member, Mahe Naseem, and her friends will be joining FFL members to get to know each other. This will be a unique opportunity for all. RSVP to Janet Waters by text at 402-202-4055 if you plan to attend.

9-14-2024 Latino Festival 2024

September 14, 2024 at Antelope Park in Lincoln, NE offering delicious food, beautiful music and performances, resources and vendor booths, and more. Admission is free.

Looking for a Few Good Journey Leaders

By Pat Novak, Journey Resource Chair

Judy Keetle, San Diego Journey Coordinator, had a great agenda for a September 30 domestic journey by San Diego club members. Unfortunately the visit was cancelled when too few from San Diego signed up for the Journey

Instead, in September 2025, Friendship Force Lincoln will welcome the Columbia Cascade Friendship Force to our community.

In November 2025 the Friendship Force of Lincoln will be traveling to Sarasota, Florida.

The responsibilities and applications for both outbound and inbound journey coordinators are found at FFLincoln.org (About FF Lincoln, Club Resources, Procedure and Application.) If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me, Pat Novak mutanu123@yahoo.com – and I will try to address them.

If you are interested in serving as journey coordinator for either of these 2025 exchanges, let me know. I am aware these are a year away and I don't have much information from either club, but it would be nice to have an idea of who might be interested ASAP. The final decision rests with the Board and once an individual is selected, I will let the respective candidate know and the inter-club communications can begin.

Friendship Force International Shares Video for All Members

**By Dorina Mahler,
Lincoln member**

I enjoyed the message from Jeremy Snook, FFI President, and Donna Simek, FFI Chair of the International Board of Directors. Here are the key actionable items from the video:

FFI has unanimously decided to invite members to participate in implementing key initiatives that will shape the future of FFI via member driven teams.

First initiatives whose implementation will be member driven:

1. Creating a new member orientation program.
2. A fund development plan that promotes legacy giving.
3. Global leadership assembly to coordinate best practices.

FFI members are encouraged to

1. Apply to be on a team
2. Volunteer to provide feedback as a tester
3. Financially support new initiatives with donations

Calendar September to December 2024

September

- **9-September** FFL Board Meeting, 2 pm at Walt Library, 6701 S. 14th
- **14-September** Breakfast and Conversation, 8:30 am at Stauffer’s Café, 5600 S. 48th
- **22-September** FFL Annual Meeting, 2 pm, Walt Library, 6701 S. 14th

October

- **5-October** Breakfast and Conversation, 8:30 am at Stauffer’s Café, 5600 S. 48th
- **7-10 October** FF North American Conference, Milwaukee

November

- **9-November** Breakfast and Conversation, 8:30 am at Stauffer’s Café, 5600 S. 48th
- **8 – 16 November** Open World, Mongolia

December

- **8-December** Holiday Party

LEO Lunches, Dinners Feature Ethnic Foods

By Bruce and Carlene Keim, LEO Co-Chairs



Our first summer LEO was Monday, June 24 at Shogun Japanese Steakhouse at 3700 South 9th Street at 5 p.m. They put on quite a show with the meal.

Just a couple of weeks later, we had an out-of-town dinner in neighboring Hickman, NE at Hacienda Jalisco, 1204 Park D, on July 10 at 5 p.m. The restaurant is new to the community. From traditional dishes like tacos and enchiladas to savory fajitas and refreshing margaritas, Hacienda Jalisco is a go-to spot for those craving a taste of Mexico.



The chef at Shogun was a showman and served tasty entrees from the grill.

FFL Things to Know — August 2024

Birthday Acknowledgment

JoEllen Polzien sends out birthday greetings to those who have volunteered to give their birth dates. She can be contacted at H: 402-483-1112 C: 402-202-6924 jwpolz1@gmail.com

Courtesy

When an FFL member achieves something noteworthy, is ill, experiences the death of a loved one, etc., let Gayle Bayer, FFL Courtesy Chair know so she can send a card. bayergayle@gmail.com cell 531-207-6042

Day Trips

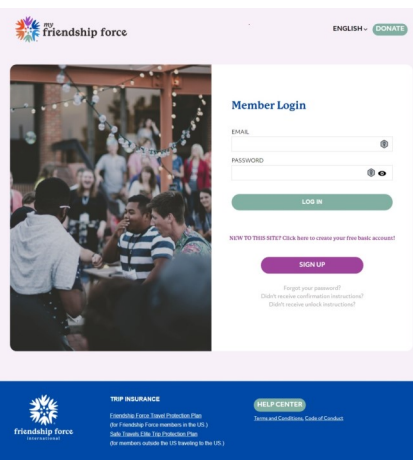
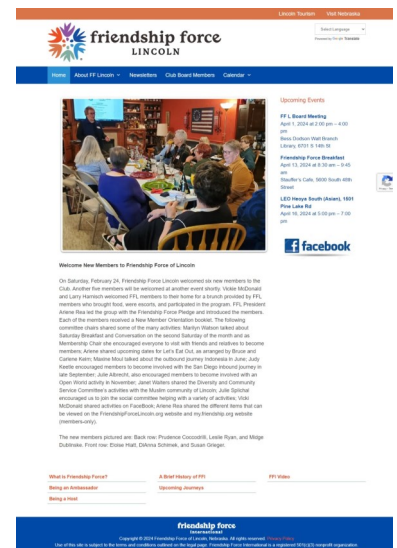
If you have ideas for a day trip where members of Friendship Force of Lincoln can learn and enjoy the company of those with like interests, please contact Judy Keetle, jkeetle2@gmail.com, Cell 402-432-0830

Friendship Force International – Individual Journeys

FFI has started a new program. Individuals can contact FF members who have volunteered to host individuals or families visiting their town. A list of interested FF members willing to host is kept by FFI. This is an effort to meet the needs of FF members who are unable to participate in scheduled club-to-club journeys. The host and the traveler(s) decide how the journey will be structured.

Friendship Force Lincoln’s website:

www.friendshipforcelincoln.org It has been updated by Arlene Rea, Midge Dublinske, Pat King, and Jim Ecklund. The previous updates, except for the calendar, were before COVID. You will find the listing of the members of the Board of Directors, important upcoming dates, the ambassador application form, the FFL membership form, a listing of clubs in Friendship Force International, and more.



Member-only Website.

If you have not been receiving notices of journeys, book clubs, pen pals, etc. from Friendship Force International (FFI), you may not have logged on the members-only website. Go to my.friendshipforce.org. Enter your name and e-mail address. Then click on SIGN-UP. Follow the steps.

Membership

If you know of someone who might be interested in learning more about Friendship Force, get their contact information to Marilyn Watson, Membership Chair. mkwats@windstream.net Cell 402-730-3340 The Membership Form can be accessed on friendshipforcelincoln.org under FFL Lincoln, Club Resources and is also on page 12 of this Passport issue.

Speakers Bureau

If you know of a group that would like a short program about Friendship Force, contact Arlene Rea. Also, let her know if you would be available to give programs to community groups.

The Friendship Force of Lincoln Membership Application
Friendship Force International and Friendship Force of Lincoln dues
\$50 per person

Date: _____ New Member _____ Renewing Member _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Number: _____ Mobile Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Birthday: Month ___ Day ___. Would you like to receive an electronic birthday greeting? Y N

Does Friendship Force of Lincoln have your permission to use your photograph in brochures, media articles, website, Facebook, etc. to promote the Organization? Y N

New Members receive a complimentary name badge. Circle your choice: Pin Magnetic

Ways I can help: (Circle as many as you like)

Club supporter

Inbound Home Host

Activities Committee

Inbound Dinner Host

Open World (COIL) Committee

Journey Coordinator

Computer/Internet Skills

Officer Nominating Committee

Diversity & Community Service Committee

Passport Newsletter Formatting

Feature article writer for Passport or Neighborhood Extra

Speakers' Bureau

Social Committee

Future Officer

Other _____

Make check payable to: Friendship Force of Lincoln.
Send to Friendship Force, PO Box 30334, Lincoln, NE 68503