

## **2023 Annual Historian Report, Friendship Force Lincoln**

### **Friendship Force Lincoln - By The Numbers**

**1 Motto:** A world of friends is a world of peace.

**1 of 364** clubs affiliated with Friendship Force International.

FFL celebrated our **43<sup>nd</sup>** year with FFI.

**1** website – [fflincoln.org](http://fflincoln.org)

**1** Facebook page – [facebook.com/FFLincoln](https://facebook.com/FFLincoln)

**1** FFIInternational webpage – [friendshipforce.org](http://friendshipforce.org)

**1** members' only webpage – [my.friendshipforce.org](http://my.friendshipforce.org)

**1** link to all Passport issues - <https://friendshipforcelincoln.org/newsletters/>  
**69** members

**1 Annual Meeting**, September 24, at The Grand Lodge. About **35** attending.

**11 Board Meetings** held the **1<sup>st</sup>** Monday of each month, except July, at Gere Branch Library. **12 -20** usually attend.

### **19 Standing Committees**

**1 Audit** Susan Briggs and Susan Grieger audited financial records for **2022** that were approved by the membership at the annual meeting.

**12 Breakfast and Conversation Sessions**, Linda Kistler shifted chair duties to Judy Keetle. Members met the **2<sup>nd</sup>** Saturday, for all **12** months, at Stauffer's Cafe, **8:30** Saturday mornings. About **6-12** members faithfully attended.

### **1 COIL (Congressional Office for International Leadership)/Open World**

In October, Julie Albrecht directed **6** journalists from the nation of Georgia who studied Open Source Investigative Journalism, meeting with members of Nebraska's traditional and digital media. There were **2** home hosts. In October, the COIL delegates shared information about their club and positions as journalists, over dinner at The Venue. Julie has successfully coordinated Open World visits for about **10** years.

The July COIL/Open World group from Romania was cancelled due to a COIL

programming hold.

**1 FFI Liaison** Laurie-Ann Scott was the field representative.

**1 Historian** Phyllis Arth compiled this Annual Report.

**1 Journey Resource Coordinator** Pat King announced the Outbound Journey to Java, Indonesia for June 2024.

**1 Inbound Special Journey** In August, Arlene Rea coordinated, **8** guests from **5** states and Alberta, Canada focusing on the theme “Farm to Table: Better Living Through Food and Agricultural Innovations.” Participants gave high marks to their experiences. **30** FFL members were directly involved. **30** Community experts presented informative sessions. About **30** people attended the farewell gathering, a wine tasting at Capitol View Winery. Extra funds from this Journey were used to purchase a sound system to be used for future Journey programming and meetings.

**Outgoing Journey** to Connecticut, disappointedly, was cancelled due to Connecticut’s club inability to host.

**5 LEO (Let’s Eat Out)** Co-chaired by Carlene and Bruce Keim. Gathering about every other month, they selected **5** culturally interesting local restaurants, with about **20** members happily attending each meal.

**Membership** Chair De Tonack organized activities. “Speed Traveling,” in March, was enjoyed by about **20** members. They circulated through **7** stations presented by **7** members sharing memories and mementos and travel advice. Also, Marilyn Watson organized “Bunko Afternoon” in April, with **12** players enjoying.

**9 new members were welcomed:** Christine Emra Buckholz, Prudence Coccodrilli, Midge Dublinske, Susan Grieger, Gary and Karen Heusel, Patricia Novak, DiAnna Schimek, Marcia Wallen.

Our Club was saddened by death of Larry A. Kluck, February 14; and Gwen Meister, October 16.

Annual Dues changed to **\$50** per person; **\$30** to FFI/**\$20** to FFL.

**Membership Courtesy** Chair Gayle Bayer sent about **10** cards of encouragement, sympathy and congratulations to members.

**1 Membership Directory** was updated, organized and distributed via email by Alene Rea.

**Membership Facebook** Vicki McDonald reinvigorated our page, providing many photos and reports on activities. She is alert to keeping current with ongoing events. See [facebook.com/FFLincoln](https://facebook.com/FFLincoln)

**Membership On-line Birthday Greetings** – JoEllen Polzien sent **100's** of electronic cards. She sent Jackie Larson musical cards for known birthdays, major holidays, solstices and the equinox.

**Membership Media/ Publicity** – Maxine Moul worked with Channel **8** and the Lincoln Journal Star's Neighborhood Extra to market Lincoln of FFL events. She published **3** lengthy articles in the LJS detailing COIL, the Farm to Table Inbound Journey, the Holiday Party and events anticipated for 2024. Each of the **5** LEO gatherings were also publicized.

**4 Passport Newsletters** Dorina Mahler oversaw the publication and distribution of 4 Passport issues. She formatted two issues, Jim Ecklund formatted the August issue. Maxine Moul formatted the November issue. Dorina found a free program to replace the costly, previous service. The newsletter has become the major source of information for our club.

For past editions, see: <https://friendshipforcelincoln.org/newsletters/>

**Service/Diversity** co-chaired by Nancy Comer and Janet Walters. This was a planning year, preparing for upcoming events.

**Scholarship** was not active this year.

**4 Social events**, chaired by Julie Splichal. The August Farewell Dinner for Inbound Journey ambassadors and members was attended by about **45** people. The September Annual Meeting drew **35** members. The December Holiday Party celebrated the Lunar New Year, featured **2** Lion Dancers and catering by Asian Fusion. About **45** members attended the party. Guests are always welcome.

**Website Maintenance** was handled by Jim Ecklund. He posted newsletters and calendar dates for upcoming events. He continues to keep information current. See <http://friendshipforcelincoln.org>

## **5 Ad Hoc Committees**

**Bylaws/Policies Reviewer** Brian Ridenour, no action taken this year.

**Day trips** were not active this year.

**Nominating Committee** Gwen Meister, Julie Albrecht, Julie Spical, Kathryn Neyens and Marilyn Watson were pleased that the following slate of officers were elected at the September Annual Meeting: President - Arlene Rea, Vice President - Midge Dublinske, Secretary - Ann Quinlan, Treasurer - Milt Bayer.

**3 Speakers Bureau presentations** - 3 talks about FFL given to Lancaster County Chorus and 2 PEO groups, by Judy Keetle and Wendy Horachak.

**4 (TAC) Thursday Afternoon Club** meetings, via Zoom met 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays at 4:30 pm, organized by Dorina Mahler. Initiated during COVID, this social group continued.

## **And Also . . .**

**4 Members attended FFI World Conference** in Dubrovnik, Croatia, in October: Judy Keetle, Arlene and Jim Rea and Betty Starr. During **3** days of workshops, people from **80** nations interacted. Learning took place in formal workshops and social get togethers.

**4** Members joined people from all over the U.S. in August for the **15<sup>th</sup>** Anniversary of the creation of the Linh Quang Buddhist Center, outside of Lincoln.