

**Friendship Force Lincoln Board Minutes**  
**January 6, 2025**  
**Walt Library Conference Room, 2:00 p.m.**

**Members present:** Arlene Rea, Midge Dublinske, Ann Quinlan, Milt Bayer, Gayle Bayer, Judy Keetle, Phyllis Arth, Janet Walters, Maxine Moul, JoEllen Polzien, Pat Novak

**Members excused:** Vicki McDonald, Julie Splichal, Marilyn Watson

**Members absent:** Bruce Keim, Carlene Keim, Julie Albrecht

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m. by President Arlene Rea following the reading of the Friendship Force Pledge. A quorum was present.

**Minutes: Maxine Moul moved and Milt Bayer seconded to accept the minutes of December 2, 2024, as corrected. Motion carried.**

**President's Report:** Arlene Rea reviewed the calendar for 2025. The annual meeting will be held on September 21, 2025. The report of the outbound journey to Indonesia will be later in the meeting. New member reception will be held in February in years when there are new members. No reception scheduled for 2025.

Arlene reviewed the survey that will be sent to members to invite their participation. Suggested editorial changes included adding Speakers' Bureau Coordinator and eliminating specific news outlets from the Feature Article Writer description.

Distributing board minutes to all members was suggested as a means of keeping members informed about FFL activities and opportunities. Another suggestion was to connect with Cause Collective, an organization of local non-profits. *Annual dues for an organization the size of FFL would be \$225.*

**Vice-president's Report:** Midge Dublinske reported that the FFI website is updated frequently so members can check on journeys and get additional information. The Outbound Journey Request form for 2026 is due in February.

**Treasurer's Report:** Milt Bayer called each member who has not yet renewed and reported that currently there are 51 members. Four members have chosen not to renew. He presented the December Monthly Cash Flow, Balance Sheet and Income Statement. These reports will be filed for audit.

### **Committee Reports**

- a. **Journey Resource Coordinator** – Pat Novak – Journey Coordinator is needed for Outbound Journey to Sarasota, FL, November 4 – 9, 2025. Pat is coordinating arrangements for Columbia Cascade Inbound, September 23-30, 2025.
- b. **Indonesia Journey Coordinator** –Maxine Moul – Lack of response from the hosting clubs is causing concern. Discussion centered around expectations and standards for home hosting accommodations. Maxine will follow up with FFI. In addition she noted that two of the Mongolia COIL delegates are interested in starting a FFI club in

- their area.
- c. **Open World/COIL** – Julie Albrecht and Judy Keetle – No report
  - d. **Open World Anniversary** – Vicki McDonald – No report
  - e. **Membership** – Marilyn Watson – Members are needed for the committee.
    - i. **Courtesy:** Gayle Bayer and Milt attended the memorial for long time member Richard Spencer. Gayle sent two get-well and one sympathy card.
    - ii. **Directory:** No changes
    - iii. **Online Greetings:** JoEllen Polzien continues to send greetings to members who request this opportunity for a connection with the club.
  - f. **Publicity** – Maxine Moul reported that getting information in the Neighborhood Extra has been a challenge because of change of leadership at Lee Enterprises. Using social media and connecting with the International Visitors bureau are possibilities.
  - g. **Social** – Thanks and compliments to Julie Spichal for the Holiday Lights Tour.
  - h. **Passport** – Deadline for the February *Passport* is January 24, 2025.
  - i. **Breakfast and Conversation** – Marilyn Watson. Next breakfast is January 11, 2025.
  - j. **Historian** – Year-end reports are due to Phyllis Arth. Send electronically.
  - k. **Scholarship** – Midge Dublinske – Scholarship forms are in Addendum #2 in the Policies on pages 15 – 16.
  - l. **Diversity/Community Service (DCSC)** – Janet Walters – Representatives from the ECHO Collective Outreach will speak on the organization following today's meeting. *(Note presentation summary following these minutes.)* The committee chairs will meet on January 8<sup>th</sup> to schedule and plan the agenda for the first DCSC meeting in 2025.
  - m. **Facebook and Website** – No report
  - n. **LEO** – No report -- The next LEO will be in March, 2025.
  - o. **Ad Hoc Day Trips** – Judy Keetle – A trip to Wymore and the Welsh community was suggested as the next day trip.
  - p. **Announcements**

January 11 – Breakfast and Conversation, 8:30 a.m. Stauffer's Café and Pie Shoppe,  
5600 S 48<sup>th</sup>

June 25-July 8 – Java Journey Outbound

September 23 – 30, – Columbia Cascade Inbound Journey

November 4-9 – Sarasota, Florida Outbound Journey

The meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Quinlan, Secretary

### ***Diversity and Community Service Committee Presentation***

*Janet Walters and Phyllis Art introduced Jessica Geibers, ECHO Collective Creative Programming Associate, and Bia Espinoza, a participant in the ECHO Collective entrepreneurship program. Bia has started her own business, Susa's Sweets and Balloons. Janet ordered a specialty cake from Bia's business which FFL board members enjoyed while hearing about the work of the collective with immigrant women (new Americans), helping them to market their skills and learn from one another and community mentors.*

