

Friendship Force Lincoln Board Minutes
August 4, 2025
Walt Library Conference Room, 2:00 p.m.

Members present: Midge Dublinske, Ann Quinlan, Milt Bayer, Gayle Bayer, Maxine Moul, Janet Walters, Bruce Keim, Julie Splichal, Pat Novak, Vickie McDonald, Julie Albrecht, Judy Keetle

Members excused: Arlene Rea, Phyllis Arth

Absent: JoEllen Polzien

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Vice-president Midge Dublinske following the reading of the Friendship Force Pledge. A quorum was met.

Minutes: Bruce Keim moved and Julie Splichal seconded to accept the minutes of June 2, 2025. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Milt Bayer presented the Monthly Cash Flow, Balance Sheet and Income Statements. The reports will be filed for audit. Discussion on cost of replacement name badges.

President's Report: Condolences to Arlene Rea on the passing of her sister.

Highlights from report on Midwest Leaders meeting e-mailed 7/29:

- The FFI North American Conference will be held in Memphis, TN, April 24-26, 2026 followed by the Festival on the Mississippi, a Mississippi riverboat cruise, April 28-May 6. Registration opens September 1
- World Conference scheduled for April/ May 2027
- Discussion regarding interviewing and vetting new members, referrals for journeys, home inspections for hosting
- Sharing of club activities: suggestion that Lincoln share the Diversity and Community Service Committee's work in Memphis
- Iowa club is doing an independent cranes journey similar to the Kansas journey in June.

FFL club activities from 2020-2024 were updated and submitted to the Nebraska Historical society.

Vice-presidents Report: Midge Dublinske sent updated bylaw Article IV Finance to members clarifying dues payments, attended planning meetings for COIL and annual Christmas party, hosted orientation for new member Sylvia Crilly, continues to update FFL calendar dates for activities and meetings.

Committee Reports

- a. **Membership** –Arlene has updated the Membership Orientation book. New member: Carol Johnstone-Hornig
 - i. **Courtesy** – Gayle Bayer sent a card to Arlene Rea..
 - ii. **Directory** – Most current update as of May 30, 2025.
 - iii. **On-line greetings** – No report.

- b. **Publicity** – Maxine Moul reminded members to take photos of events during the COIL activities for use in future newsletters/publicity.
- c. **Social** – Julie Splichal reviewed plans for the annual meeting. Dessert will be served in lieu of a potluck. Chris Sayre from the Nebraska Humanities Council will be performing. The Christmas party will be at the Quilt Museum, December 6, 2 – 4 p.m. featuring a cookie exchange and scavenger hunt.
- d. **Passport** – June **Passport** announced the annual meeting date.
- e. **Breakfast and Conversation** – Marilyn Watson noted that the question for Saturday's breakfast will be on how to encourage a more diverse group. Some of the COIL participants may attend.
- f. **Day Trip** – No report.
- g. **Historian** – No report.
- h. **Scholarship** – No report.
- i. **Diversity and Community Service** – Janet Walters detailed report was sent on 7/31. Highlights include: Meeting with representatives from the Asian Community and Cultural center to build connections; building trust given the current climate; offering small group gatherings in members' homes on the 5th Tuesdays the first year as a part of Welcoming Week.
- j. **Facebook and Website** – Vickie McDonald will post information and photos.
- k. **LEO** – The next LEO will be at 5:00 p.m on August 26th at Villa Amore Italian Restaurant by the Country Inn and Suites on North 27th Street
- l. **COIL** – Julie Albrecht and Judy Keetle reviewed the schedule for the COIL Romanian delegation on Local Legislatures from August 8 – 16. FFL members are invited to the welcome dinner at the Crete Library on Sunday, August 11th. Delegates will tour Crete from 4 – 6 p.m. followed by dinner and the Romanian delegates' presentation. Julie Splichal has made arrangements in Crete and is taking reservations for the dinner.
- m. **Journey Resource Coordinator** – Pat Novak presented detailed plans for the Columbia Cascade journey including participants photos and bios, home hosting assignments and reservation form for FFL members to participate in various scheduled events. A menu for the farewell dinner was selected and small group dinners were scheduled for Sunday, September 28th. Pat will need reservation forms from FFL members by August 21st.
The Sarasota journey is set with 7 FFL members and 5 from Birmingham, AL.
- n. **Nominations Committee** – Report under New Business.

New Business

Julie Albrecht presented the nominations committee report. Proposed candidates for 2026: Co-presidents Judy Keetle and Arlene Rea, vice-president Ann Quinlan, secretary Midge Dublinske, treasurer Milt Bayer. **Pat Novak moved and Janet Walters seconded to accept the slate as presented. Carried.**

Midge Dublinske noted that the current bylaws do not address co-presidents so a vote to suspend or change the bylaws will be necessary before electing the slate of officers.

Announcements

August 8 – 16 –COIL Delegation from Romania. Theme: Local Legislatures

August 9 – Breakfast and Conversation at Stauffer's, 8:30 a.m. Bring a guest.

September 8 – FFL Board Meeting, Walt Library, 2-4 p.m.
September 13 – Breakfast and Conversation at Stauffer's, 8:30 a.m. Bring a guest.
September 21 – Annual Meeting 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., Walt Library
September 23 – 30, – Columbia Cascade Inbound Journey
October 6 – FFL Board Meeting, Walt Library, 2-4 p.m.
October 6 – 13 – FFI Festival on the Mekong Journey
November 4-9 – Sarasota, Florida Outbound Journey
December 6 – Christmas party at the Quilt Museum 1 – 4 p.m.
April, 2026 – North American Conference, Memphis, TN

**Marilyn Watson moved and Milt Bayer seconded to adjourn the meeting at 3:30 p.m.
Carried.**

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Quinlan, Secretary