

**Friendship Force Lincoln Board Minutes**  
**September 8, 2025**  
**Walt Library Conference Room, 2:00 p.m.**

**Members present:** Arlene Rea, Midge Dublinske, Ann Quinlan, Janet Walters, Bruce Keim, Julie Splichal, Vickie McDonald, Judy Keetle

**Members excused:** Phyllis Arth, Maxine Moul, Pat Novak, Milt Bayer, Gayle Bayer

**Guest:** Carol Johnstone-Hornig

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m. by President Arlene Rea following the reading of the Friendship Force Pledge. A quorum was not met.

**Minutes: Judy Keetle moved and Midge Dublinske seconded to accept the minutes of August 4, 2025. Motion carried.**

**Treasurer's Report:** The Monthly Cash Flow, Balance Sheet and Income Statements submitted by Milt Bayer by e-mail will be filed for audit.

**President's Report:** Arlene Rea thanked Midge Dublinske for taking over responsibilities of the president during the past months. Judy Keetle and Julie Albrecht were complimented on the successful COIL Romania program.

Midwest leaders meeting highlights: Discussion of possible FFI dues increase and lack of communication from FFI in time to adjust local club dues. Discussion of dues will be continuing.

Programming for FFI North American Conference in Memphis, TN in 2026. The Diversity and Community Service committee has been recommended for a possible presentation at the conference.

Arlene is continuing to update the FFL club files for the Nebraska Historical Society. Paper files are preferred as their access will not be affected by changing technology.

**Vice-presidents Report:** Midge Dublinske continues to update the FFI calendar. She suggested that every FFI club has ideas that could be shared at the North American Conference.

**Open Discussion:** Review of annual meeting agenda; finalizing time schedule. Reminder to keep committee reports brief (2 -3 minutes) to ensure time for the program and social time. Reminder to wear nametags at the annual meeting and board meetings.

Future new business for discussion: Bylaws changes regarding co-presidents, term limits, dues, fundraising.

FFL meets the criteria for participation in Give to Lincoln Day. Future new business will include an official vote to participate in 2026.

**\*\*Audit report needs to be approved by e-mail vote before the annual meeting.**

**Motion to approve comes from committee and needs no second. Members were asked to submit their votes by 9:00 p.m. on September 12, 2025.**

**Voting results: 12 in favor, 3 not voting. Motion carried.**

## Committee Reports

- a. **Membership** –
  - i. **Courtesy** – No report
  - ii. **Directory** – Continuing updates
  - iii. **On-line greetings** – JoEllen Polzien will not be doing on-line greetings next year. Consideration on whether to continue this membership service.
- b. **Publicity** – Julie Splichal and Bruce Keim shared news articles from Crete and Syracuse about the Romanian COIL delegation. The Lincoln Journal also had a story about the program.
- c. **Social** – Julie Splichal reviewed plans for the annual meeting. Chris Sayre from the Nebraska Humanities Council will be performing. The Christmas party will be at the Quilt Museum, December 6, 1 – 3:30 p.m. featuring a scavenger hunt.
- d. **Passport** – Deadlines announced: October 8<sup>th</sup> for the issue distributed on October 17<sup>th</sup>. November 10<sup>th</sup> for the issue distributed on November 17<sup>th</sup>.
- e. **Breakfast and Conversation** – COIL participants and hosts were not able to attend the August breakfast because Stauffer's had no electricity due to power outages from the storm the previous night. September breakfast is on the 13<sup>th</sup>.
- f. **Historian** – No report.
- g. **Scholarship** – No report.
- h. **Diversity and Community Service** – Janet Walters reported that enough interest was shown to proceed with plans for four home gatherings for small groups with guests from the Asian Community and Cultural Center and some of the Muslim friends from last year's gatherings. The first social will be on September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- i. **Facebook and Website** – Vickie McDonald reported that posts about the COIL delegation received 24 likes and 3 reposts, including one from Kenya.
- j. **LEO** – Bruce Keim reported that 13 members attended the August LEO. The next LEO will be at Tandoor Indian Cuisine in Williamsburg on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00 p.m.
- k. **Journey Resource Coordinator** – Pat Novak
  - i. Columbia Cascade Inbound Journey final numbers for FFL participation: Welcome dinner = 34, Governor's Mansion = 18, Farewell dinner = 26.
  - ii. Sarasota Outbound Journey – 7 from Lincoln, 5 from Birmingham, AL
  - iii. 2026 Journeys: Need Journey Coordinator for Niagara/Canada, June 16-23, 2026. Iowa City/Cedar Rapids are interested in a Club-to-Club Cranes Journey in spring, 2026. Inbound Journey from Cheyenne, WY in April, 2026.
- l. **Open World/COIL** – Clarification that expenses are paid from a separate COIL account. Crete city officials are eager to participate in future COIL programs.
- m. **Ad Hoc: Nominations Committee** – At the annual meeting Carol Johnstone-Hornig has agreed to be nominated from the floor to fill the position of Secretary.

**Unfinished Business** – At the October meeting the board will vote on whether/how to be involved in the Cranes Journey proposed by the Iowa clubs.

## New Business

**Announcements**

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 Hosting and Activities

October 6 – FFL Board Meeting, Walt Library, 2-4 p.m.

October 11 – Breakfast and Conversation at Stauffer’s, 8:30 a.m. Bring a guest.

October 6 – 13 – FFI Festival on the Mekong Journey

November 3 – FFL Board Meeting, Walt Library, 2-4 p.m.

November 4-9 – Sarasota, Florida Outbound Journey

November 8 – Breakfast and Conversation at Stauffer’s, 8:30 a.m. Bring a guest.

December 1 – FFL Board Meeting, tentatively at Walt Library, 2-4 p.m.

December 6 – Christmas party at the International Quilt Museum 2– 4 p.m.

December 13 – Breakfast and Conversation at Stauffer’s, 8:30 a.m. Bring a guest.

April, 2026 – North American Conference, Memphis, TN

Arlene Rea adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Quinlan, Secretary