

Friendship Force Lincoln Board Minutes
Walt Library, 6701 S. 14th Street
January 5, 2026 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Members present: Judy Keetle, Arlene Rea, Ann Quinlan, Carol Johnstone-Hornig, Milt Bayer, Gayle Bayer, Marilyn Watson, Janet Walters, Maxine Maul, Sylvia Crilly, Julie Albrecht, Eloise Hiatt

Members excused: Pat Novak, Vicki McDonald

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by President Judy Keetle. The reading of the Friendship Force Pledge followed. A quorum was present.

Minutes: Milt Bayer moved and Marilyn Watson seconded to accept the minutes of December 1, 2025 as printed. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Milt Bayer reviewed the Monthly Cash Flow, Balance Sheet and Income Statements, which will be filed for audit.

The cost for the Holiday Party was \$347.23 which was paid.

No report of interest, as Bank Statements pending.

A check for \$36.00 will be reimbursed to Phyllis Arth for pins for the Australia trip

Check for \$35.06 paid to Gayle Bayer for Courtesy costs

Milt reported he has received dues from 46 members, and 9 members have promised to pay the \$50 FF dues for 2026. Members that have decided to drop their membership with Friendship Force Lincoln are as follows:

Lois Kate	MaryJo Shibata	Brian Ridenour
Kay Straub	Sara Stephenson	Bill Behmer
Pat King	Barb Wittstruck	

President's Report:

Judy Keetle stated that past-president, Arlene Rea, vice-president, Ann Quinlan and president, Judy Keetle, will be working together as a team with decision making regarding Friendship Force Lincoln club.

Ideas Judy suggested for activities in 2026 as possibilities are as follows:

Book Club

Day trips

Game Night

Trivia Night

Needle Work Group

Wine tasting or Winery Tours

Judy will send an e-mail to the membership inquiring about interest in the above activities that will focus on cultures and peoples around the world.

Judy thanked Maxine Maul for her great job with the Passport this year. Maxine suggested that Passport should be a quarterly publication, the group was in agreement with her suggestion.

Judy attended the Midwest Leaders Meeting via zoom and the 2027 Journey Host availability form was due on December 14, 2025.

Judy also informed the board that Allison Lindsey's husband had passed away.

Action Item: Midge Dublinske resigned as Journey Coordinator for the Crane Journey due to health issues.

Eloise Hiatt moved and Julie Albrecht seconded that Arlene Rea be named Journey Coordinator for the Crane Journey, March 9-13, 2026. Motion passed.

Arlene Rea moved and Milt Bayer seconded naming Eloise Hiatt as Co-Coordinator for the Crane Journey. Motion passed.

Standing Committee Reports:

Breakfast & Conversation - Marilyn Watson

Discussed possible time change for breakfast to 9:00. Marilyn will contact Stauffer's regarding the room we reserve to see if available for the time change. Will continue with the 8:30 meeting time until further notice.

Diversity & Service - Janet Walters

Spice Drive went very well, collected spices total value of \$500.00. Plus \$200.00 cash donations. The next gathering will be at Phyllis Arth's home, January 20, 2026, 6:00. FFL members are invited to learn Mahjong at the Asian Center.

Journey Resource Coordinator

Winnipeg, Manitoba/Niagara, Ontario journey, June 2-23, 2026- Cancelled
Crane Journey, incoming- March 9-13, 2026

St. Louis Journey- out-going, more information is pending.

Social

Christmas Party- All felt it was a great gathering, lots of fun.

New Business:

No new business

FFI Zoom Meeting:

A meeting was opened via Zoom at 3:00. Jeremi Snook, CEO and Allison Lindsey, of FFI discussed the reason for the increase in dues for 2026. The

need to adjust the dues is the result of several issues. FFI will be celebrating it's 50th Anniversary in 2027.

Action Item:

A motion was made by Julie Albrecht and seconded by Ann Quinlan that the \$70.00 needed to make up our \$100 FFI per member dues will be transferred from the Scholarship Fund to the General Fund to cover the difference between 2026 dues already paid and the now \$100 FFI dues. (this is basically a one-time \$70 scholarship to each FFL member for 2026). Motion passed.

President Judy Keetle will be sending an email to the general membership with information about the changes in our dues and ways to pay dues in 2027.

Upcoming 2026 dates:

January 10, Saturday, Breakfast & Conversation @ Stauffers, 8:30

January 20, Tuesday, Small Diversity Group Gathering, Phyllis Arth's home, 6:00

February 2, Monday, FFL Board Meeting @ Walt Library, 2:00

February 14, Saturday, Breakfast & Conversation @ Stauffers, 8:30

March 2, Monday, FFL Board Meeting @ Walt Library, 2:00

March 9- March 13, Monday-Friday- Incoming Crane Journey

March 14, Saturday, Breakfast & Conversation @ Stauffers, 8:30

March 31, Tuesday, Small Diversity Group Gathering

April 24-April 27, Friday-Monday, North American Regional Conference, Memphis

June 30, Tuesday, Small Diversity Group Gathering

September 18-September 26, Friday-next Saturday- COIL/Open World-Hungary, topic: Local Leadership

TBD- Annual Meeting in August or September

TBD- Holiday Party in December

Meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Johnstone-Hornig, Secretary

