

Friendship Force Lincoln Board Minutes

Walt Library, 6701 S. 14th Street

February 2, 2026. 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Arlene Rea, Anne Quinlan, Leslie Ryan, Pat Novak, Sylvia Crilly, Eloise Hyatt, Phyllis Arth, Janet Walters, Milt Bayer, Gayle Bayer, Julie Albrecht, Judy Keetle, Maxine Moul, Carol Johnstone-Hornig, Julie Splichal

Member Excused: Vicki McDonald

Call to Order- President Judy Keetle called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Friendship Force Pledge- All

Roll Call- Quorum- 15 members present

Approval of January 5, 2026 minutes Carol Johnstone-Hornig, Secretary

Milt Bayer moved, Anne Quinlan seconded the minutes be approved as printed.

Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report- Milt Bayer, Treasurer

Extensive discussion with Milt reviewing the 2025 Budget and final report.

2026 Budget

Questions about the Scholarship Fund, payment of the FFI dues for 2026, the club utilizing the Scholarship Fund.

The Budget Committee moved and Julie Albracht seconded that the 2026 Budget be approved as printed. The motion passed unanimously.

Audit of the 2025 books will be conducted 2/12/2026 by Dorothy Anderson and Dee Tonak. The treasurer's report will be filed for audit

President's Report- Judy reported on the Midwest Leaders Mtg. Via Zoom. They reported several groups held World Friendship Day Celebrations. Also discussed purchasing 1 year of Travel Insurance, much cheaper and worth looking into. Ann and Judy will be attending the American Regional Conference in Memphis, TN, 4/24-27/2026. FFI World Conference celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Friendship Force will be held in 2027 in Strasberg, France, date to be determined. 2026 Journey Marketplace Timeline will be moved from 100 days to 6 months out.

Standing Committee Reports-

Breakfast & Conversation- Leslie Ryan reported that after checking with the manager at Stauffer's, keeping the current time at 8:30 a.m. would work best for all.

COIL- Julie Albrecht reported that Local leaders from Hungary will be coming to Lincoln, 5 delegates and 1 facilitator, September 18-26, 2026. We are still awaiting further details, however, Julie said the information typically comes 6 weeks out. Topic- Local Leadership

Diversity & Service- Janet Walters shared the Spice Drive was very successful. Two small group gatherings were held at Phyllis Arth's home, reported a great turnout. A request was made after Lisa Guill, Director of Communications at the Asian Community & Cultural Center, Lisa explained that Staff members volunteer to transport persons and attend these

gatherings during their off hours. Janet thought as a thank-you for their time, Gift Cards/Gift Baskets could be given to the staff who help with this process. The Board members agreed.

Historian – Phyllis Arth reported the 2025 report will be ready any day now.

Journey Resources Coordinator- Pat Novak

Crane Journey-incoming- Arlene Rea, reported plans are being finalized.

St. Louis Journey- out-going- Journey Coordinator needed

L.E.O.- Six dinners have been scheduled in 2026.

Wed. March 18th at 5:00, Japon Bistro, 3520 Village Drive

Thurs, April 23rd at 5:00, El Chaparro Mexican, 900 South 13th

Tues, May 19 at 1:00 for lunch, Main Street Market, in Milford, NE, 115 Hwy 6

Thurs, June 25th at 5:00, Asian Taste, 501 West A Street

Sat, July 18th at 11:30 for lunch, Ginger Grill, 6055 Apples Way

Mon, Aug. 24 at 5:00, Pinoy Style Filipino American, 1601 Q Street

Membership- Sylvia Crilly and Eloise Hiatt, discussion about attracting more young people and diversity, possibly “newly” retired folks. Eloise stated they are planning to update the Website and produce an updated brochure that we can share with possible new members.

Passport Newsletter- Maxine Moul shared the next Passport Newsletter will be mid March. The deadline to turn information into Maxine is March 10th.

Social- Julie Splichal discussed consideration the FFL General Meeting be held in Crete in September and the Annual Meeting be held on August 9, requesting we reserve the 2 meeting rooms at the Walt Library. Judy Keetle said she would request the reservation.

Upcoming dates

Feb, 14, Sat – Breakfast & Conversation @ Stauffer’s

March 1, Sun – World Friendship Day

March 2, Mon – FFL Board Meeting @ Walt Library, 2:00

March 9-March 13, Mon-Fri – Incoming Crane Journey

March 14, Sat – Breakfast & Conversation @ Stauffer’s

March 31, Tues – Small Diversity Group Gathering

April 24-April 27, Fri-Mon – North American Regional Conference, Memphis

June 30, Tues – Small Diversity Group Gathering

Sept 18-Sept 26, Fri-next Sat – COIL/Open World – Hungary, topic Local Leadership

TBD – Annual Meeting in August or September

TBD – Holiday Party in December

Meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Johnstone-Hornig, Secretary