

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

Members Present:

Julie Splichal, Eloise Hiatt, Marilyn Watson, Arlene Rea, Janet Walters, Maxine Moul, Gayle Bayer, Milt Bayer, Ann Quinlan, Julie Albrecht, Bruce Keim, Judy Keetle and Carol Johnstone-Hornig

Member Excused : Pat Novak, Vicki McDonald

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

Friendship Force Pledge: All

Roll Call: 13 members present

Approval of April 6, 2026 Minutes (attached) : Carol Johnstone-Hornig, Secretary, Marilyn Watson moved, Ann Quinlan seconded the minutes be approved. Unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Milt Bayer, Treasurer

A bill for FFL website from Jim Eckland for \$77.95, was presented which will be paid. Review of the Monthly Cash Flow, Income Statement and Balance sheet for May 2026. Report will be filed for audit.

Milt informed the Board that he will not be at the next Board meeting as he is having surgery the day of the meeting.

President's Report: Midwest Leaders Meeting. FFI will be sending Marketing tools every other month. Online training will be available at myfriendshipforce.org., suggested inviting University students to talk with our group, and to have Zoom meetings with friends in other countries. FFI currently has no incoming journeys to the U.S. in 2027.

Discussion regarding FFL General Membership meeting, we currently have 53 members, Jane Kinsey died, JoEllen Polzein asked to be deleted. Discussion about a calling committee to invite members to the General Meeting, preference of texts or phone calls discussed. Plans for a June picnic with the Omaha FF group, further information to be determined.

FFI North American Conference:

Julie Albrecht and I attended; FFI remains under stress, but holding; fundraising goal of \$5 million, looking for foundations for support and local clubs can do fundraising, too; NEW motto for FFI, "Building global unity through human connection."

General discussion to help encourage FFL membership:

Friendship Force Bingo, bring a guest, mentor new members, Regional Journeys, Network and What's App for journeys.

Standing Committee Reports:

Breakfast & Conversation: Marilyn Watson reported dwindling numbers at our Saturday morning meeting.

COIL: Julie Albrecht, reported Hungary COIL group is coming September 19-26, 2026.

Diversity & Service: Janet Walters reported the Small Diversity Group gathering successful . The next meeting will be at Vicki McDonald's on June 30th.

Journey Resource Coordinator: Eloise Hiatt reported that she and Phyllis Arth will be serving as Journey Coordinators for the Des Moines Journey. It was requested to respond if interested in these journeys by May 15th.

LEO: Bruce reported he was unable to attend the April 23rd dinner at El Chaparro Mexican restaurant, however, Prudence reported 5 members were in attendance and it was lots of fun. The next LEO event will be Tuesday, May 19th, at Main Street Market, 115 Hwy. 6, Milford, NE @1:00 for lunch.

Passport Newsletter: Maxine Moul requested deadline for articles for the Newsletter by June 22nd, the Passport will be out by July 4th.

Social: Julie Splichal discussed ideas for the FFL Christmas Party, possibly attend the Wesleyan Choir Christmas performance at First United Methodist Church, September 20th, COIL event is reserved in Crete at the library and ideas for the Annual Meeting on August 9th. Concerns for educating members about the FFI website, discussion when this could be accomplished, especially since the members will be paying their dues online to FFI in 2027.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

Bridge: Bridge game will be held on Wednesday, May 13th at 1:00, Carol Johnstone-Hornig will host.

New Business:

Action Items:

Announcements:

The June 1st Board Meeting will not be at the Walt Library. Judy will let us know which library we will be using for our next meeting.

Upcoming 2026 Dates:

May 2, Sat.- Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Celebration

May 3, Sun.- Czech Festival

May 4, Mon.- FFL Board Meeting

May 19, Tues.- LEO, Main Street Market, 115 Hwy 6, Milford @ 1:00 p.m. for lunch

June 1, Mon.- FFL Board Meeting

June 6, Sat.- Cultural Bazaar@Asian Community and Cultural Center

June 25, Thurs.- LEO, Asian Taste, 501 West A Street @ 5:00 p.m.

June 30, Tues.- Small Diversity Group Gathering

July 18, Sat.- LEO, Ginger Grill, 6055 Apples Way, 11:30 a.m. for lunch

August 9, Sun.- ANNUAL MEETING

August 16-19, Sun.-Wed.- Outbound Journey to Des Moines, IA

August 24, Mon.- LEO, Pinot Style Filipino American, 1601 Q Street @ 5:00 p.m.

September 18-26, Fri.-next Sat.- COIL/Open World- Hungary, topic Local leadership

October 25-29, Sun.-Thurs.- Outbound Journey to St. Louis

TBD- Holiday Party

Meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Johnstone-Hornig, Secretary

Addendum to the Minutes

On May 13, 2026 the following email was sent to FFL Board Members.

“Friendship Force of Lincoln Board Members:”

Our Annual Meeting is on August 9, 2026

The proposed officers will be voted on at that time.

The Nominating Committee needs to be approved by the Board.

Please email me you(r) vote yes or no to the following:

Nancy Comer, Nominating Committee Chair & former Journey Coordinator

Midge Dublinske (general membership)

Wendy Horacek (general membership)

Bruce Keim (board member)

Arlene Rea (board member)

Thank you for your attention to this matter ASAP

In friendship,

Judy

The twelve people who responded all voted YES

A quorum is 9 people.

Therefore, the 2026 Nominating Committee is approved to find officers for 2027.