



## Should FFCI continue to function in 2024?

## Membership meeting to decide on our future!!!

### Calendar of Upcoming Events

February 6, 2024

### LEO and Official

### Membership Meeting

Lunch catered by Hickory Park

12:00 - Noon

Village Cooperative of Ames

2525 Bobcat Drive

## Message from FFCI Co-Treasurers Jerry and Alta Byg

### To: Current Active 2023 Members of FFCI

We would like to report to the members of FFCI that there are individuals who are now willing to become officers to serve on the board of FFCI.

As you all know, our Club has no one serving as Vice President. Also, our Club President and Club Secretary have declined to continue in those offices. Officially, FFCI is without leadership at this time. This situation is not covered in FFCI Club By-Laws or in Roberts Rules of Order. It appears that the appropriate action would be to disband the club as soon as possible since there were no members willing to accept leadership roles.

In lieu of the above, we feel that our best course of action would be to have a special membership meeting to elect officers who are interested in maintaining FFCI as viable club.

We are happy to announce however that **Alta Byg will be willing to be the President, Jerry Byg will continue as Treasurer of FFCI and Marcia Thompson will be willing to be Vice President.**

A member willing to be Secretary is still needed. Please attend the LEO on February 6, 2024 to approve these members as officers.

Dennis,

Can you put a blurb in the newsletter about World Friendship Day? I wish FFCI had enough time to do something for that date, but I don't think it will be possible. Alta Byg (Nominee for FFCI President)

## World Friendship Day: March 1, 2024

**The FFCI Activity Committee**  
**is planning a**  
**Friendship Force LEO/Membership Luncheon**  
**to be held on Tuesday,**  
**February 6<sup>th</sup> at 12-Noon**  
**at Village Cooperative of Ames,**  
**(may have to rescheduled if snow is predicted)**  
**2525 Bobcat Drive, Ames**

**We can enjoy a nice lunch, enjoy seeing one another again after this Iowa weather AND make decisions regarding Friendship Force of Central Iowa. Please come with an open mind and ideas of your own regarding the future of our club. If you decide not to attend and or do not respond to this invitation it will be assumed you agree to whatever decisions are made. Watch for the agenda!**

**Main entree will be catered by**  
**Hickory Park Restaurant and the**  
**“Activity Committee will provide all the rest of the food”**  
**Smoked Turkey, Saucy Southerners, Salad,**  
**Baked Beans, chips & dessert.**

**Cost will be \$5 per person**

**FFCI will be subsidizing the cost of the meal**

**Please email your reservation by Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> to**  
**Charene at: [larcha1623@gmail.com](mailto:larcha1623@gmail.com)**

# *FFCI Membership Meeting: Agenda*

## *Tuesday February 6, 2024*

1. Call to order
2. Nominations:
  - a. President: Alta Byg
  - b. Vice President: Marcia Thompson
  - c. **Secretary: Need a volunteer**
  - d. Information Technology: Need A volunteer
  - e. Treasurer: Jerry Byg (Current)
  - f. Activity Committee: Charene Starcevic, Corry Bertelsen
  - g. Newsletter: Dennis Dake
  - h. Past President: Sedahlia Crase
  - i. Please consider volunteering to help out
3. **Membership: Forms will be provided. Cost is \$40 per person for the year 2024.**
  - a. **We can continue as a club if we get enough interest (20 or more)**
  - b. **The Membership needs to register on My.Friendshipforce.org.**
    - i. Benefits of logging in: Search for travel opportunities (Alta & Jerry)
4. Treasurer
  - a. Amount in general account
  - b. If we do not continue, according to By Laws, all money should be turned into FFI.
  - c. If we continue, we can use that money for our club.
  - d. We do have a suggestion to donate some of the money to Habitat for Humanity
    - i. Jimmy Carter was a big advocate
    - ii. Habitat is building several homes in Ames
5. Vote on nominations:
  - a. We will be voting by paper ballot
6. Activity Committee
  - a. Ideas for upcoming events
  - b. Reports: This is a time for questions/comments rather than recitation of reports.
  - c. Treasurer: Jerry Byg, Treasurer
  - d. **Secretary: Need someone to volunteer**

## Continued: Agenda for Membership Meeting - February 6, 2024

- e. Membership: Forms are available for 2024
  - f. Information Technology (website and Facebook) Need someone to volunteer (previously held by Margaret Epplin)
  - g. Newsletter, Dennis Dake
  - h. Other publicity, need someone to volunteer
  - i. Activities: Charene & Corry
7. Information via Regional Representative's meetings; invitation to all board members to attend mtgs: on 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month, 9-10:
  8. Old business
    - a. Members' use of FFI's membership portal
  9. New business
    - a. Journeys (Incoming & Outgoing)
    - b. Audit
  10. Other issues, concerns, etc.
  11. Adjournment: **Next Board meeting 9:30 a.m. Saturday, March 11, via Zoom.** Bd. Mtgs. remaining in 2023: May 13, July 8, Sept. 9, Nov. 11; annual meeting: Oct. 7 (or 14?)

2024 - 2025

## *FFCI Leaders*

*Let's keep FFCI Going and Growing*



## FFCI OFFICER NOMINEES For 2024

1. President: Alta Byg
2. Vice President: Marcia Thompson
3. Secretary: **NEED VOLUNTEER TO RUN**
4. Treasurer: Jerry Byg
5. Newsletter: Dennis Dake
6. Activity Committee: Charene Starcevic, Corry Bertelsen
7. Membership: **OPEN**
8. Publicity... **OPEN**
9. Historian **OPEN**
10. Communications: **OPEN**

**Contact Alta Byg to volunteer.**

Phone: (515) 450-8397  
altajerbyg@gmail.com

**Help lead FFCI into the future!!!**

## *Past events since our last Newsletter*

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### **REMINISCING: ? YEARS OF HOLIDAY PARTIES**

How many Decembers have we gathered for the Annual Potluck / White Elephant Party? We might need an historian to keep track, but suffice it to say, we've had decades of kicking -off the holiday season with Friendship Force.

Many parties were held at Stone Brooke Clubhouse, with Shirley Shaw coordinating everything. Then we moved to Winsor Oaks, which provided ample parking and an awesome kitchen. There may have been one or two locals in-between, but eventually we landed on Bobcat Drive.

It may have been luck, or perhaps divine intervention, but since Judy Mongin welcomed us and began hosting at the Village Cooperative, we've found a home. Judy also hosted a party for Long Islanders and is soon to host a LEO. We can't thank you enough, Judy!

But Judy couldn't do it alone. She depends on Corry Bertelsen, Marcia Thompson, Charene Starcevic and countless others who make up the volunteer teams of set-uppers and kitchen wizards and of course Stu Huntington the master of ceremonies for the White Elephant exchange. Nothing happens without this joint effort.

Incidentally, one Long Island couple Ivan and Sheila Ziegler, commented on how they admired our club. We asked them why, and they said they couldn't imagine their members pitching in and bringing food and serving and cleaning up. They said they tended to go to restaurants for welcoming and farewell events. Maybe it's our midwestern roots.

So now we're headed for another L.E.O. event at the Village Cooperative on Bobcat Drive, February 6 at noon. Where do we go from here? We hope the answer is clear; we're moving ahead. Pictured are people having fun at the 2023 White Elephant gift exchange.

Dorothy Dake

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Some photos of FFCI members proudly displaying the White Elephant gifts they took home from the Dec. 2, 2023 Holiday Party.



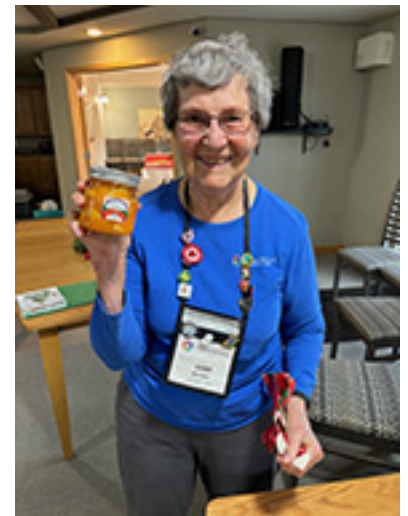
More photos of proud White Elephant gift winners



Sometimes you get a second chance at happiness.



But the first choice also works just fine and “sticks”.



As the White Elephant Exchange continues more wonderful gifts are revealed and you get a second or even a third chance to find the “perfect gift” to take home at the end of the afternoon.



Smiles



Smiles



Smiles - Everywhere.A



A fun way to start each year's FFCI Holiday Season.



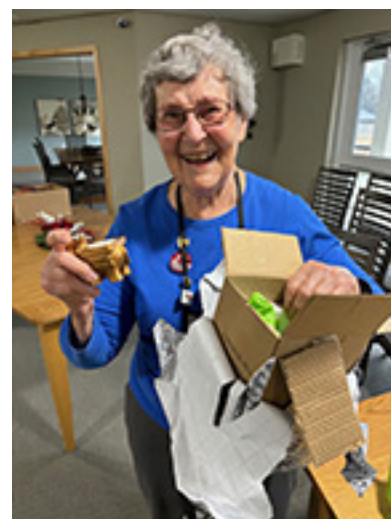
The future of FFCI is in your hands.

Come to the LEO February 6th at noon and lets move FORWARD!!!





Just wait until  
next year's big  
Holiday Party!!!



Below are the FFCI Members who attended the All Iowa Club Picnic, last fall. The future of FFCI is in the hands of club members. RSVP for the meal, discussion and important decisions regarding the future of OUR club on February 6th.





## Outbound Journey to New Zealand by Alta and Jerry Byg

We are back from down under. Jerry and I left USA on October 26 for six weeks to New Zealand and Australia. The New Zealand portion of our trip was an open journey through Friendship Force.

Our first 2 weeks were in the North Island of New Zealand. This part of the trip was a Friendship Force in home stay. We stayed with a lovely couple Shirley & Mark Simpson from Northland FF in Whangarei. We learned about the Moari, which are the first people in New Zealand, we got to visit a grade school where a group of students welcomed us with a Moari song and one member from the Northland FF, who was Moari, sang a reply to the students. She had tears in her eyes since she was forbidden to sing or speak in her native language when she was a school student. The children were almost all barefoot, and they called bare feet mandatory Moari footwear. Moari safety footwear are flipflops.

Our second stay was with Elizabeth Durdin & Neil Saunders from the Wellington Friendship Force club. We went miniature golfing in a unique golf course which was made from recycled metal and rock artwork, this made the experience very special. Since it was a rainy spring in New Zealand, we went Lawn Bowling at an indoor arena, and the competition was fierce. After the winners were determined, we had lunch to celebrate.

At the end of our journey to the North Island, we had a 3-hour ferry ride to Christchurch in the South Island which was spent playing cards and talking to some of our fellow travelers to help the time fly. This journey was advertised as a Global Scenic, Farming & Hosted Journey. The organizer, John Hannah & his wife Elaine joined our bus driver Pete Higinbottom on the bus trip around the South Island. In the South Island, we visited a different farm almost daily. We saw Vegetable farms, Sheep farms, a Stud farm, a Clydesdale farm and a Salmon farm. We got to ride a wagon pulled by the Clydesdales, had tea in the home of a sheep farmer, we got to watch sheep dogs move sheep from one field to another. We got to watch a sheep be shorn and that is just the farming part of the trip. We saw scenery from snow covered mountains, to waterfalls on Milford Sound. We got to see Black swans on Glenorchy Lake, a wild penguin at Hokitida, dolphins swimming around our boat on Akaroa Harbour. We got to see why New Zealanders like Crayfish better than Lobsters, Jerry got to try a White Bait Fish sandwich and at the Redwood Hotel and Restaurant, we got to eat with some of the most welcoming New Zealanders on the trip.



Waterfall at Milford Sound

Our hosts, organizers, and bus drivers were very welcoming and generous with their time and friendship. The experience was all that we could have hoped for. To search for journeys, you just log into My Friendship Force at <https://my.friendshipforce.org/>. Check out all the upcoming journeys at the FFI Journey Catalog.

Alta and Jerry Byg



Black swans on Glenorchy Lake



Mud Bugs at Akaroa

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## Follow up from August Long Island Inbound Journey



On September 9, Dennis Dake FFCI Inbound Journey Coordinator presented a check for \$150 to Patty Yoder, Executive Director of Food at First as a charitable gift from the 15 Ambassadors from Friendship Force of Long Island, New York, who participated in our recent Inbound Journey. This donation is given to Food at First to support their organization's efforts to provide food to the hungry & needy citizens of Ames and surrounding area 365 days per year.