

2023 Annual Meeting Minutes
Saturday, October 21, 2023, 9:05 a.m.
Online Zoom Meeting

1. **Call to order and welcome:** Sedahlia Crase, President, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.
2. **Determination of Quorum:** Secretary Epplin verified that a quorum was present. There are 39 members in FFCI in 2023, and 18 were present, meeting the requirement of 25% present. Those present were: Corry Bertelsen, Marybeth Buchele, Alta and Jerry Byg (Co-Treasurers), Dorothy and Dennis Dake (Newsletter), Margaret Epplin (Secretary), Peggy Faden, Ann Hein, Ginny and Stu Huntington, Carole Magilton, Joan Mathews, Judy Mongin, Barbara Schwarte, Bob Strahan and Kueier Chung, Lynne Van Valin

3. Approval of Agenda

Joan Mathews **made a motion** to accept the Agenda. Stu Huntington **seconded. Motion carried.**

4. **Moments of Remembrance:** Crase led moments of silence for members Diane Byrne and Roger Bertelsen, who passed away in 2023. Members present expressed many ways that both of these members have enriched our lives and our FF club. Corry Bertelsen has video of Roger's service and will send the link to anyone who wants to view.
5. **Approval of minutes** of Annual Meeting, October 8, 2022.

Joan Mathews **made a motion** to approve the minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting. Stu Huntington **seconded. Motion carried.**

6. Officer and Committee Annual Reports

a. Treasurers' and Membership Report (Alta and Jerry Byg, Co-Treasurers)

Long Island Inbound Journey: Deposits were made in the amounts of \$10.00, and \$100.00 for the welcome dinner and farewell dinner and \$75.00 from Quad Cities for banquet room rental at the Amanas. Disbursements were made to Corry Bertlesen (\$494.79), Marcia Thompson (\$238.10) and Ron Mowers (\$58.75) for expenses for the welcome dinner and farewell dinner. Debit card transactions were made to the John Wayne Museum (\$300), Iowa Quilt Museum (\$120), State Fair tickets (\$275), room rental at the Amanas (\$191), CopyWorks (\$432.10), Madison County (\$472.01), Dorothy Dake (\$334.36) and Lynn Avant (\$278.20).

So far, receipts from the Long Island Inbound Journey total \$3,127 and expenses submitted to date total \$3,208.42.

Western Montana Outbound Journey

Deposits: Payments were received from Marsha Novak (\$500) and from Richard Schroeder(\$500). FFCI checks were sent to FFI (\$2,200) and FF Western Missoula (\$3,025). A check for \$110 was sent to the Missoula club as a donation to a nonprofit of their choice.

The Journey checking account balance is \$2,368.58.

Alta and Jerry Byg paid \$500 each for the trip to Missoula but were unable to go due to a medical emergency. Sedahlia Crase was able to find replacements for the Bygs from other clubs. \$25 of the \$500 is nonrefundable. The FFCI ByLaws specifically detail how the remainder should be refunded, and the Board will follow the ByLaws guidelines.

General Account checkbook: As of July 8, 2023, the General Account checkbook balance was \$4,789.09. Since there have been no activities requiring payments from the General Account since July 8, the August 30 General Checking Account balance remains at \$4,789.09.

Membership: As of August 30, 2023, 41 membership dues have been received. FFI dues will be paid in December for 41 members.

Epplin **made a motion** to approve the Treasurer's Report. Dennis Dake **seconded**. **Motion carried.**

b. Communications Committee

- i. **Information Technology:** Margaret Epplin, Website Manager reported that the website is up to date and all the minutes are stored there, as well as the ByLaws and Policies and Procedures. Crase asked that Secretary Epplin include a link to the website with the September and Annual Meeting minutes.
- ii. **Newsletter:** Editor Dennis Dake would like Missoula, Montana Outbound Journey pictures for the November newsletter as well as a letter from President Crase. He has pictures of the Long Island Inbound which he will include in the November newsletter. He will also include an article requesting volunteers to fill officer positions in FFCI for 2024. Dennis requests that pictures be sent to him by email as jpg files. Epplin, Mongin, and Crase volunteered to send 3 pictures each from the Missoula Montana Outbound. Crase will submit pictures from the World Conference for the newsletter after the November edition.
- iii. **Publicity:** position not filled.
- c. **Activities Committee** Corry Bertelsen reviewed the 2023 activities, including, but not limited to: several LEOs, a mystery dinner, Holiday party, All Iowa Picnic, Diane Bryne's memorial, Long Island Incoming meals prepared by FFCI and activities, Roger Bertelsen's memorial service where the Belles of Iowa State (FFCI members) sang. Corry Bertelsen, Charene Starcevic, and others coordinated a variety of small groups of members who carried out amazing programs.
- d. **Nominations Committee:** The Board hopes to present a slate of officers at the December 2 Holiday Party. FFCI needs members to serve on the Board. Crase shared that at the World Conference clubs discussed that getting officers is a challenge everywhere--in some clubs, officers stay in positions for 10 years--and clubs are using unique ways, such as shared officer positions, to get the officer responsibilities covered. FFCI used the "shared position" model for activities in 2023, with Corry Bertelsen and Charene Starcevic making activity suggestions, and other small groups carrying out the planning and implementation of the activities (6c above). Lynne Van Valin shared how Joan Herwig mentored her to coordinate the journey to Costa Rica.
Epplin informed the membership that she will have to step away from the Board in 2024. Crase shared that she will not be able to serve as President again, but she will serve as Past President and help the new President in any way.
Crase noted that, if FFCI can get members to accept officer positions, the club is healthy and will be successful.

7. President's Report

a. Areas in Need of Improvement

- i. No World Friendship Day celebration held in 2023
- ii. No retreat for Board or members
- iii. No entertainment or educational program at Annual Meeting
- iv. Only one member attended 2023 World Conference in Croatia.

b. Positive Events

- i. Officers of President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Publicity were elected or appointed in 2023.

- ii. Hosted successful Inbound Journey for the Long Island NY FF Club.
- iii. Completed a successful Outbound Journey to FF of Western Montana in Missoula.
- iv. Many successful and well-attended FFCI activities were held throughout 2023 (see 6d above).
- v. President Crase attended the 2023 FF World Conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

c. Looking Ahead

- i. The FFI North American conference will be held in Milwaukee in 2024, possibly late September or early October. All members are encouraged to attend.
 - ii. Members are encouraged to sign-in to the FFI portal to see what is happening at FFI and to access all the journeys. The website link is my.friendshipforce.org/users/signin.
 - iii. FFI is sponsoring cruise ship groups. FFers go on a regular cruise but are in a small group on the ship. Interested members are encouraged to visit the FFI website.
 - iv. Be the Bridge, the 2021 initiative to help FFI bridge with other organizations, seems to be currently on-hold by FFI.
- c. As noted in the Nominations Committee report (6d above), there are no nominations presented at this Annual Meeting. All members are encouraged to thoughtfully consider nomination to an office to continue the mission of Friendship Force in Central Iowa. Please contact President Crase expressing interest.

Joan Mathews **made a motion, seconded** by Carole Magilton, that, if officers are not elected at a special meeting at the December 2 Holiday Party, officers may be approved either by email vote to FFCI membership or by a Board vote. **Motion carried.**

8. Other

- a. Crase noted that she subscribed for a month on Zoom for \$17 for this Annual Meeting.
- b. Judy Mongin noted that she will host the FFCI holiday party at 11:30 on December 2 at Village Cooperative, 2525 Bobcat Dr. Charene Starcevic, Marcia Thompson, Corry Bertelsen, and Carole Magilton will help Judy set up. Sedahlia Crase, Margaret Epplin, Ron Mowers, and Lynne Van Valin will help clean up. Corry Bertelsen will send a flyer requesting attendees bring a white elephant gift and a dish they are proud to share (especially a main dish). There is plenty of wine left from the Long Island Incoming Journey meals. Dot Dake has plenty of green placemats left from the Long Island Incoming Journey and will inform Marcia Thompson.

All members are encouraged to bring guests who might be interested in joining Friendship Force. All attending are required to RSVP so that the Committee can set up for the correct number of attendees.

9. Motion to Adjourn

Judy Mongin **made a motion** to adjourn. Dennis Dake **seconded**. **Motion carried.** The next social event for FFCI will be the Holiday Party discussed in 8b above.

Margaret Epplin
Secretary