

**FFCI Annual Meeting – Meeting Minutes Draft
Saturday, October 26, 2024**

1. Call to order by President Alta Byg at 10:12 am, Saturday, October 26, at the Fireside Room at Northcrest Community.

2. Reading of the mission statement of FFI: To promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people.

3. Determination of a quorum: President Alta Byg

4. Approval of the 2024 Agenda and the 2023 Minutes of the Annual Meeting, 10/08/2023

5. Officers and Committee Reports (received, approved, accepted)

a. Treasurer – Jerry Byg

- Jerry Byg reminded all to pay dues by the end of the year. Yearly dues remain at \$40. The Membership Form includes a photo/video release and must be signed on both front and back.
- Account balances were reported. Treasurer's report was accepted by voice vote.

b. Communications – Margaret Epplin, Dennis Dake,

- Information Technology – Margaret Epplin offered suggestions for efficient use of FFI website and will help anyone who wants to use related sites, including links to news from other clubs, more effectively.
- Newsletter - Dennis Dake reported on frequency of the Newsletter and help with reporting on local FFCI events, photos and other articles of interest. Dennis requests help with identifying and featuring new members.
- Publicity and Membership - The Publicity and Membership Committees currently do not have chairpersons.

d. Activities – Corry Bertelsen, Dot Dake, Charene Starcevic

- Corry presented the Activities Committee report for the year, which included different events and adventures. She also suggested it be included in the Newsletter.
- Dot Dake, Charene Starcevic, and Margaret Epplin will serve on the committee in the coming year.
- Charene Starcevic suggested a calendar be available so members can not only plan ahead on their personal schedule, but also be reminded of what they agreed to do to facilitate the event (i.e. drive, host, bring food, present).
- The annual Christmas gift exchange and lunch will be held at The Village Cooperative of Ames on Saturday, December 7th. Membership will be notified Judy Mongin asks that we arrive at 11:30, not before, so that someone will be there to open the party room. More details on this activity will be forthcoming closer to the date.

- Corry Bertelsen has resigned from the committee and will be replaced by Margaret Epplin.

5. Nominations Report - The following Officers and Board Members have agreed to serve for 2025:

President: Alta Byg
Vice President: Marcia Thompson
Secretary: Cheryl Binzen
Treasurer: Jerry Byg
Historian: Diane Oppedahl
Newsletter: Dennis Dake
Activities Committee: Charene Starcevic, Dot Dake, and Margaret Epplin

6. Presidents' Report - President Alta Byg reported that FFCI had had a successful year in several areas:

- Activities

The Activities committee was thanked for the variety and number of events that kept members involved during the past year. A sign-up sheet for monthly activities in 2025 was circulated among the membership. Some months are blocked off due to World Friendship Day and the Incoming Journey from Brandon, Manitoba, Canada. The club would like to plan a special event for FFCI World Friendship Day.

- New Members

Jean Larson was in attendance and was introduced. Other new members are Janet Gebler and Marty Taylor.

- North American FF Conference

Three members, including Alta and Jerry Byg, attended the conference and participated in several presentations suggesting ways to make a local club better.

- Ideas:
- Break roles into smaller tasks
 - Send birthday cards to members, list birthdays in newsletters (with permission)
 - Send cards to and, when possible, visit people who are ill
 - Interview and write short articles about new members for newsletter
 - Gather information about upcoming journeys for newsletter from My. Friendshipforce.org
 - Post notices and information on Facebook

The conference was unique in its structure for helping local clubs. Members should consider attending the 2025 conference.

- Alta and Jerry Byg presented an informative program on FFCI for OLLIE on October 23 and 30. Attendance was light, but it was a good introduction to FFCI and may encourage more interest and membership.

- Miscellaneous items

Sustainable and ethical travel will be an increasing consideration.

More volunteers are needed to support and encourage the growth of FFCI

Younger people want to see that clubs reflect their values.
Diversity is needed in FFCI.

- Invitations should be extended to international students for dinners and speaking at meetings

Brandon Journey committee plans were shared. Lynn Avant, Diane Oppedahl, and Marcia Thompson are chairing the committee and gave a brief overview of the activities. The committee requested input on a form that also asked for ideas for Outbound Journeys for FFCI. More information will be forthcoming in January, and volunteers for help with both home and day hosting, driving, and meals will be solicited at that time. The visit will be centered in the Ames area, with no trips to Des Moines on the schedule.

The Board will be seeking members to fill the open positions for Publicity and Membership and asked for a motion to attempt to fill the positions if no one volunteers before the Holiday Party. A short business meeting will be held that day to elect the slate of officers presented at the Annual Meeting today.

- Alta Byg shared a mock-up of an FFCI business card that can be passed out to potential members or used for other contacts. The idea was well received and the club will move forward with the project. More information will be available at then next event.

Adjournment: The chair called for further business, and hearing none, adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Thompson
Sub: Secretary Cheryl Binzen

Attendance

Alta and Jerry Byg
Kueier Chung and Bob Strahan
Dot and Dennis Dake
Stu and Ginny Huntington
Lee Molgaard

Lynn Avant
Joan Matthews
Charene Starcevic
Peggy Faden
Diane Oppedahl

Carole Magilton
Margaret Epplin
Corry Bertelsen
Jean Larson
Marcia Thompson