

**FFCI Board Meeting Minutes - Draft**  
**Tuesday January 20, 2026**

The meeting was called to order by President Alta Byg at 4:05pm. It was a zoom meeting, In attendance were Alta Byg, Jerry Byg, Cheryl Binzen, Dennis Dake, and Dot Dake

Approval of minutes for September 23, 2025 – Approved as submitted

Newsletter: Items to be included in the March/April Newsletter are to be sent to Alta no later than February 17th. [altajerbyg@gmail.com](mailto:altajerbyg@gmail.com)

Membership: We currently have 14 members & 5 associate members. To pay membership; log on to My.Friendshipforce.org or contact Jerry Byg [jabyg@msn.com](mailto:jabyg@msn.com). An updated membership list will be sent mid-February

Treasurer: An updated treasurer's report will be sent mid-February

Activity Committee: To volunteer to organize a get together contact Charene Starcevic at [larcha1623@gmail.com](mailto:larcha1623@gmail.com), Dot Dake at [dotdake42@gmail.com](mailto:dotdake42@gmail.com) or Marcia Thompson at [Marciat\\_ames@yahoo.com](mailto:Marciat_ames@yahoo.com). Current list of planned activities

- a. February - Planned: Coffee at 60 Forward - February 18th at 10 am. *An idea: Chili Cook-off - organizer(s) needed*
- b. March – International Friendship Day March 7 - 10 to 12. Hosts: Alta Byg & Charene Starcevic and *Idea: LEO*
- c. April – *Cinco de Mayo/International Lunch* - Host: Marybeth Buchele & Dot Dake
- d. May – *Pella Tulip Festival-day trip* – Hosts: Park Woodle and Diane Oppedal
- e. June – *All Iowa FF in Quad Cities (possible overnight)* – Hosts: Alta Byg & Charene Starcevic
- f. July – *Bandshell Concert & Potluck*. Hosts: Lynne Van Valin & Co-host needed.
- g. August – *Idea: LEO* – Hosts: Marcia Thompson, Margaret Epplin, Cheryl Binzen
- h. September – *Idea: Your name and ideas are needed*
- i. October – *Idea: Octoberfest* Hosts: Lynn Avant & Kitty Fisher
- j. November – *Idea: Trivia Afternoon* Hosts: Ginny & Stu Huntington
- k. December – *Holiday Party* – Hosts: Charene S. Alta B., Dot D. & Judy Mongin

Journeys:

- Outgoing Journeys for 2026. Outbound Journey to Hamilton and Burlington, Canada #26124. September 10th to the 17th, 2026. Dennis and Alta are coordinators. There will be more details in the March/April Newsletter
- Incoming Journey for 2026. There has been no response from the Southern New Jersey Club so FFCI will not have an Incoming Journey in 2026

- Outbound Journeys for 2027. A request form for an Outbound Journey for 2027 was sent to the club. Given that this is a significant transition year for our FFCI club, the Board will act on this later.
- Inbound Journey for 2027. A request form for an Incoming Journey for 2027 was completed. The club requested an incoming journey from Brazil for 10 people.

FFI North American Conference: Will be held in Memphis, TN US (April 24 to 27th) 2026. Scholarships will be available. Details will be sent mid-February

World Friendship Force Conference: Spring 2027 - will be held in Strasbourg, France

Historian information: Diane Oppedal has volunteered to continue to work on this. If you have items that you think may be of historical significance for our club, please contact Diane [dianeopp@gmail.com](mailto:dianeopp@gmail.com)

Membership Initiatives:

- International Friendship Day. March 7th 10am – noon at the Ames Public Library
- Senior Expo --- will probably be in early May again in 2026
- Additional Ideas? Contact Dennis Dake [ddake@iastate.edu](mailto:ddake@iastate.edu)

Meeting dates:

- Board meeting - March 17, 2026 at 4 pm.
- Board meeting - June 16, 2026 at 4 pm.
- Board meeting - August 18, 2026 at 4 pm.
- FFCI Annual Meeting: November 7, 2026 at 10 am

Meeting adjourned at 5:07

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cheryl Binzen  
FFCI Secretary