

Friendship Force CR-IC Board Minutes Wed Dec 6, 2023 Via Zoom 8:30 AM

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Present: Patty Potter, Carol Burke, Christine Allen, Connie Williams, Judy Frascht-Miner, Mary Stull, Joanie Lacayo, Nancy York, Shirley Rosencrans. **Absent:** Sharon Bowers, Marilyn Bengé

1. **Secretary's Report**—Connie noted in the Nov 8 '23 minutes, item 4 C 6 that the term **ambassadors** should be changed to **delegates**, as that's the correct term for Open World representatives. Judy made a motion to make the change, Joanie seconded it. Motion approved.
2. **Treasurer's Reports**- Christine: Joanie made a motion to add newly-elected 2024 treasurer, Sharon Bowers as the 2nd signer to the FF checking account and remove the 2023 treasurer, Christine Allen. Connie seconded motion. Motion approved.
3. **Committee updates:**
4. **Membership**- Carol- about 40 have paid so far, with Patty reporting a few more checks have arrived at the PO ready for deposit. Because a dues increase was announced & the newsletter just came out last week, notices will be sent to non-renewing members next week. We have 73 members, including those receiving free memberships. That's the number we will need to pay for and report to FFI.
5. **Journeys 2024** Connie & Judy:
Connie: Open World 2023 with Kosovo – Delegates from the Gjilan region of Kosovo will be here March 15th-23 with the theme of Economic Development of Small and Medium Sized Municipalities. Agriculture & tourism are the main industries. The city has about 55,000 people, while the whole region is about 1 million. Some hosts have already been contacted. We will need contacts in Iowa agriculture & small cities to make the program most meaningful. Sioux City is a sister city of Gjilan.
Connie also reported that the Whova site from the World Conference has removed most content, but Debbie Powell has said some may soon be available on the FFI website. Connie is also trying to arrange an outgoing journey to Kosovo. She needs to firm up who wants to go there.
Judy: The Des Moines trip to Xalapa, Mexico April 16th has several openings. An outbound journey for our club to Edmonton is planned for August 19-26. Jerry & Carol Burke are Host Coordinators. Judy has proposed an early October date, before North American Regional Conference for the incoming from Oregon's Willamette Valley but has received no response. A Host Coordinator is still needed for this. A Host Coordinator is also needed for the Outgoing journey to Milwaukee following the conference, October 9-12. Judy is redoing the request forms for Incoming Journeys.
2025 Plans: Most likely candidates seem to be Peru & New Hampshire.
6. **Communications:** Mary—She has updated the Board of Directors for 2024, the FF officers 1985-2024, and FF Journeys. Connie asked about putting some of our photos on the My FFI website. Jerry Burke said he could help with that.
7. **Old business:** Mary moved that we give the \$100 donation from the Edmonton group to the Catherine McAuley Center. Carol seconded; motion approved.
8. **New Business:** Discussion about World Friendship Day & whether to hold it during Open World visit. Board agreed to separate the two because the OW visit comes over the weekend of St. Patrick's Day & Spring Break, which will hinder the ability to get

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student participation from local colleges & universities. Decided to hold a Zoom general meeting January 21. Possible speakers include Jeremi or Allyson from FFI on starting a club in Kosovo, other ways of experiencing Friendship Force. We will hold World Friendship Day on Feb 25. Possible locations include the Marion or Hiawatha public libraries, or Salem Methodist Church. We can have a potluck, with FF providing a hearty meat & vegan main course. For the All-Iowa Picnic, it was suggested to appoint a committee, of which Joanie agreed to serve on, to call other clubs to find an appropriate date, possibly in June. The Homestead Welfare Club may be a good location.

9. Mary Carson expressed serious reservations about being able to fulfill her duties due to the instability of her internet connection & her unfamiliarity with what's going on with FF. She felt it best to resign. Other possible candidates were suggested. Nancy will pursue.
10. **Meeting adjourned.**