



friendship force
OTTAWA



Summary notes of the General meeting at Riverside United Church on September 11, 2023.

The majority of the meeting was spent updating members on our club's progress and providing information about activities. Although a recording of the meeting is available as well as notes, members are strongly encouraged to come in person to the general meetings.

President Anna Van Adrichem Rochon wished everyone welcome and asked if members remembered where they were on September 11, 2001.

- CapCon – our newsletter which members received recently (September 9, 2023) has much information. Thanks were extended to Shirley for her work on the newsletter. Joanne Curran is taking over again (with help from Wendy).
- Sign-up sheets are available, for i) Costa Rica outbound, ii) inbound from Peru in 2024 (likely November) and iii) dinner club. No dates for outbound/inbound have been set yet. We should be hearing very shortly and members will be advised of the dates.
- Journeys:
 - Sacramento cancelled their Spring trip. We cannot accommodate them in the Fall (three activities is too much for one period)
 - FFO didn't get any response from other domestic clubs
 - There are many undersubscribed journeys and members might want to check these out. There are lots of opportunities available other than through FFO. For example, Individual Journeys are not organized by FFO.
 - Coordinators for outbound Costa Rica are Joan Kinnie and Julie Breeze.
 - The Costa Rica - \$50 deposit is part of the fee. It has nothing to do with the club treasury but is applied to the journey. The fee is refundable before a certain date if you don't go. It's an expression of commitment.
 - Inbound (Peru) will likely be September/October 2024
- Journey Hosting. We try to spread out the hosting etc., not to overburden anyone. We hope everyone will play a role in inbound and outbound journeys.
- Holiday Lunch December 14th 2023 at noon at this location (Riverside United Church). More information to come.

- FFO Board positions - There will be a couple of positions available in November and December - VP Journeys and the President's role. Please talk with Anna if you are interested in taking on one of these or other roles as well to help you get your feet wet.
- Friendship Force Website for ALL information my.friendshipforce.org is THE LOCATION FOR ALL INFORMATION FFO AND FFI. **Please take the time to look and see the information.** If you need help to access, please ask. We will be transitioning from the old FFO site to the new site – it will have everything you want to know about FFO.
- Treasurer's report – Colin Leech A deficit of \$1000 was predicted, however, we are doing better than expected (donation from Perth, Australia group; funds unspent as yet; discontinuing Zoom account; free or low cost meeting places; no costs for refreshments etc..) We are still in this year's budget, and we are also hoping to break even.
- FFI membership fees (2024) are increasing from \$25USD to \$30USD. We will also be increasing our membership fee to meet our costs.
- Room bookings. FFO currently has a credit with Tom Brown Arena (related to Covid closure). Treasurer thinks it was about \$165 or \$175. Michael will investigate another location.
- Pins FFO has about 120 pins available. They're a revenue neutral item (cost \$4.25 and sell \$5). It seems that a lot of clubs have stopped giving pins, but many people are keen collectors. A show of hands demonstrated that the majority were not interested in pins.
- VP membership Joan Kinnie has had some personal contact with many individuals who showed an interest in our organization. She will contact local organizations. Please let her know if you are interested in volunteering with her. Anna will be doing an upcoming presentation re FFO in Kanata.
- The Friendly Wanderers – is an FFO group providing opportunity for members to present their travels
- Dinner Club -Please sign up for dinner club or contact Claire Fortin. We have a great time at these dinners.
- Bridge Eve Elliott (with Bob and Claire ...) quite a few seem to be interested in Bridge. Look for information from Eve Elliott in the near future.
- Walking club Thanks to Julie Breeze for the fantastic walking tours and the regular communications.
- A request was made to send out previous meeting minutes.
- FFO Activities and ideas Do you have any suggestions?
- Solo group – everyone is welcome. Shayla Mindell is the coordinator.
- A question was asked concerning the etiquette with reconnecting with people you have met previously through Friendship Force. It was suggested that if you're looking for accommodations etc., to be sensitive in your approach and feel out the information. Fees are payable to FFI (\$7 a night) It's emphasized that if members want to keep FFI going – we need to continue to pay fees when appropriate.
- The Final Strategic Planning Workshop is today. (the date of this meeting).

Meeting closed at 2:04pm. Some members stayed for catch-up with others.