



friendship force
OTTAWA



SUMMARY of FFO Board Meeting MINUTES on March 23 2023 (submitted by Vivien Runnels)

Welcome was extended by President Anna Van Adrichem Rochon to Board members, Joan Grégoire, Colin Leech, Linda Miller-Nesbitt, Shirley McKey, Joan Kinnie and Vivien Runnels (Secretary). Joan Grégoire was unable to join.

- Shirley McKey was sincerely thanked for her work on the newsletter CapCon. Anna also announced that Joanne Curran will be returning to the role of editor after a brief hiatus, and thanked her for her commitment.
- Joanne Curran sent a message to say she was very grateful to the FFO members for their overwhelming response and support to her recent message about an Ukrainian family
- The summary notes of the last meeting distributed to all members included the membership policy in which all members pay the same membership fee, and that FFO activities are limited to FFO members. Some former members have now withdrawn from FFO activities. The Board sincerely regrets their decision to discontinue being members of FFO. The Board re-opened the discussion about the membership policy, and in summary, confirmed the policy. It is membership which facilitate the friendships which keep us together.
- Joan Grégoire's (VP Journeys) report informed us that the outbound journey to Germany in late June, 2023 is down to 8 ambassadors. Julie Breeze the coordinator would be happy to have more. The journey is now in the FFI catalogue.
- The inbound from Perth, Australia in early June and the outbound to Indonesia in October/November are progressing well.
- We expect to hear soon from Northern Colorado regarding their late September inbound. We will need lots of hosts for the Colorado inbound – 5 couples and 10 singles. This inbound is being coordinated by Anna and Joan Grégoire.
- No word has been received as yet from FFI regarding inbound/outbound journeys for 2024.
- There was little financial activity since the last meeting. Colin Leech (treasurer) will look into use of the Square Reader (a device which allows for any type of payment method, including credit card, debit tap and chip & PIN) and noted that about 80% of membership fees currently arrive by e-transfer.

- VP Membership - Joan Kinnie is working on an article on how people feel about being a member of Friendship Force. She welcomes members' contributions.
- No new updates to hiking and bridge activities. As noted previously, Monday chats are now cancelled, and will be removed from the agenda.
- FF Book Club's Shirley McKey reported that Dr. Mike deGagné, a contributor to "Reconciliation and the Way Forward – Collected Essays & Personal Reflections" has willingly agreed to come and chat and answer questions about the book. The date is Thursday April 27th at 12:30pm (please note a change in date).
- Outside the meeting, the Board planned for the general meeting on April 19, 2023 at Amica Westboro Park @ 1:30pm. Coffee and doughnuts will be served. With respect to parking at Amica – members are asked to be aware there is paid (city) parking close by. Members should allow some extra time to find other street parking and walk to the venue. The Board looks forward to seeing as many members as possible.