



friendship force
OTTAWA



The Friendship Force of Ottawa

General Meeting Notes: April 19, 2023

Amica Westboro Park, 491 Richmond Rd., Ottawa.

President Anna Van Adrichem-Rochon opened the meeting at 1:30pm to a room full of Friendship Force Ottawa (FFO) members.

The meeting was opened with thanks extended to all those in attendance and to Amica for not only hosting us in the meeting room, but also providing us with coffee, muffins, and donuts.

As previously noted in FFO communications, including CapCon, our FFO newsletter, the agenda for the meeting included short presentations by members of the executive team on their area of responsibility, and provided a general opportunity for members to ask questions.

- i) President
 - Anna drew our attention to the fact that there is always lots of interesting information and events listed on the members' website My Friendship Force.org.¹ https://my.friendshipforce.org/en/users/sign_in Everyone that participates in a journey must be registered to sign in to the website. Recently, FFO member Rosemae Blackwood was highlighted on the opening page of My Friendship Force with an article she wrote about a journey that she participated in to Washington DC, USA.

¹ Friendship Force International, the parent organization's website, <https://friendshipforce.org/>

If you are looking to find a Journey that has open space you can check the Friendship Force Canada website at <https://friendshipforce.ca/> or the Friendship Force International Catalog using the link on my.friendshipforce.org.

Other things that you might find interesting on the My Friendship Force website is a new form of FFI travel called “Individual to Individual” Journeys, Spanish classes, book club and more. Go and explore my.friendshipforce.org.

- The Executive Team of Friendship Force Ottawa continues to meet on a regular basis over Zoom. At a recent meeting the team tabled and passed a motion that there would be only one type of membership. In other words, those that take part in activities organized by Friendship Force Ottawa, such as hiking, book club, art appreciation, dinner club and bridge, pay the membership fee of \$55. This decision was met with applause by those attending the general meeting.

ii) Secretary – Vivien Runnels

- Vivien Runnels was away therefore President Anna presented her notes which introduced Vivien and her roles as Secretary. Ian Wilson was the previous secretary. Vivien joined Friendship Force in 2019 just before the Covid-19 pandemic. She volunteered as a member-at-large with the FFO Board before she became Secretary in December 2022. She has participated in one Friendship Force outbound – to Edmonton with FFARC (Capital Region Club). She assisted as a day host with the Edmonton inbound in 2022, and she is looking forward to the upcoming Perth inbound. She will be going to New Zealand in October/November with New Zealand Global. There will be two short homestays and one longer tour of New Zealand farms, and Vivien expects to see a few sheep!
- Vivien’s role as the club’s Secretary are to participate in Board meetings and decision-making, record board meeting notes and summarize them for FFO members. She also liaises with FFO’s archivist for record keeping (Alain Dawson), and maintains some journey documentation for reference purposes. If you have any questions, please contact Vivien at runnels5@rogers.com

iii) VP Membership - Joan Kinnie

- Joan K. welcomed Sam Ledner, a returning member, and a possible new member. Janet Robertson, who was in attendance, has since joined the club.
- Joan would like to get ideas from present members in an email about the reasons they joined Friendship Force Ottawa and how Friendship Force Ottawa has enriched or benefited their lives. She would like to take these stories and make them into articles that can be shared with various local magazines or newsletters or even made into a booklet. Joan can be reached at joan@kinbon.ca

iv) VP Journeys – Joan Grégoire (away therefore report presented by Anna)

- Joan G. reported on all current journeys inbound and outbound.

Inbound from Perth, Australia from June 1-8, 2023. 15 Ambassadors will be arriving with 2 ambassadors from New Zealand. Mary Jane Kelleher and Janet Wilkinson are Coordinators. They and their committee have been working very hard to complete all the work necessary to welcome this group.

Outbound to Cottbus, Germany from June 25-July 2 2023. Julie Breeze is the Coordinator for this journey. The participants have purchased their flights and are pretty much ready to go.

Inbound from Northern Colorado from Sept 20-27, 2023 — We will have 5 couples and 7 solo women arriving for this journey. We need day hosts, night hosts, dinner hosts and a few committee members to help us make this a success. There were sign-up sheets at the table. Members present were asked to sign up even if they had signed up a few months ago at the Christmas Lunch. If you missed signing up please contact Joan at cjgregoire@sympatico.ca

Outbound to Surabaya and Malang, Indonesia from October 18-31, 2023. This is a double Journey with a post journey for some to Bali. Joanne Curran is the Ambassador coordinator for this journey. It is fully subscribed but you can be put on a wait list if you contact Joanne at jocurran5@gmail.com

- 2024 journey choices will be coming soon from Friendship Force International

v) Treasurer - Colin Leech

Colin reported that there has not been that much change from the previous report sent to members.

- The club is looking for good places for meetings. Desired characteristics for a meeting place include the availability of parking, a central location, and economical, i.e. low cost. The Tom Brown Arena is no longer available since its use as a respite centre/shelter during Covid-19 pandemic: its future is unknown.

If members have any ideas, please send them to the executive. Some suggested seniors' (retirement) residences. Some of these do expect people to go on a tour, however, others offer many pluses including coffee, sweets, etc. since they are aware that many in the club are their target audience.

vi) Member at Large - Shirley McKey

Shirley is away for now. She has been doing a wonderful job of our Quarterly newsletter, CapCon. She will be giving up this role and Joanne Curran has agreed to take it on again.

vi) Member at Large - Linda Miller Nesbitt

Linda will be working with Richard Hatherill on making updates to the Friendship Force Ottawa website.

vii) Meeting Wrap - Anna Van Adrichem-Rochon

- Anna noted there will be vacancies on the Executive team at the end of this year. Do you have an interest in being part of the decision-making team? If so, please contact her at presidentffo@gmail.com
- Jaap Schouten has been making updates to the club's Facebook page for many years. He is ready to pass the role to someone else. Please let Anna know if this would be of interest to you. presidentffo@gmail.com
- Friendship Force Ottawa has decorations, flags and other items that are being stored at a former member's home. Barb Smith offered to look after these things. Thank you, Barb.
- Coffee and Tea and all the items that were used at the Tom Brown Arena for our breaks are currently stored in a member's garage. These items need to be moved somewhere else. Again, if you have the space, please let Anna know. presidentffo@gmail.com

- On a final note, Donna Nicholson has made sets of note cards with local pictures for the loot bags for the Perth inbound. Thanks, Donna!
- Thanks to all for attending. Our meeting ended at 2:33pm.