



friendship force
OTTAWA



FFO General Meeting Notes SUMMARY

Wednesday, September 11, 2024 1:30pm

Riverside United Church, Riverside Drive, Ottawa, ON

1) Welcome and introduction

President Anna Van Adrichem Rochon thanked everyone for coming out and noted the full business agenda and a presentation.

2) Treasurer's Report - Colin Leech

We are currently under budget as a result of savings made. The current membership fee is \$65. Membership fees are collected in November and early December of the year.

3) Membership fees and Christmas dinner

The dinner was planned for December 3 2024, however, please note this update to the general meeting: **The AGM and Christmas/Holiday party on December 3rd has been moved to October 30, 2024. It will be at Riverside United Church with Leatherworks catering.**

4) VP Journeys - Joan Kinnie

- a. Nor Peru (October 2nd to 9th October). Joanne Curran and Eugenie Prevost were coordinators for Nor Peru. **UPDATE PLEASE NOTE: Nor Peru has been cancelled as an inbound since the ambassadors could not get their travel visas.**
- b. Costa Rica outbound journey. All is planned and ambassadors are ready to go. (Julie Breeze coordinator)
- c. Bursa, Turkey inbound had to cancel because of difficulties getting visas.
- d. Inbound 2025. Kern County, California club will be visiting from May 3 to May 10, 2025.
- e. Lake Volta, Ghana in 2025 outbound. Options for outbound journey dates – March or between August and November 2025. Joan will chat with those interested.
- f. June 12-June 18 2025 Missoula and Medicine Hat, Alberta outbound.

Valerie Wright, was introduced. As a brand new member, she offered to be a day host coordinator for Nor Peru.

5) Tote bags

Board members have been looking for ideas and opportunities to introduce FFO to others. Marie-France Horton and Mary Jane Kelleher have been looking at tote bags which would carry the FFI/FFO

logo. After discussion about the design, timing and purchase of the tote bags, Anna suggested an email to go out to all members, and they can order if there are sufficient numbers to make an order (50 bags minimum).

6) Membership - Marie-France Horton

FFO has 86 members. The article about FFO published in 55+ magazine got some responses.

Anna noted all FFO members have received an email about a potential second type of membership – associate membership - which is being considered. Discussion followed with both supporting and non-supporting views presented for a variety of reasons. The group was encouraged not to make the decision today as this is the first discussion (outside the board discussion).

ACTION: The discussion will be tabled, and the membership will be surveyed.

7) Dinner club

Claire Forting asked members to respond to her email that she sent earlier about the dinner club, and would very much appreciate a response by Friday September 27th, 2024 as she is ready to start the planning. Later replies will also be appreciated.

8) Closing remarks.

Anna said that she truly appreciated that people read the materials and have thought about and presented their opinions. Please watch for more to come on the membership discussion.

Meeting was closed at approximately 57 minutes, followed by an introduction to the guest presenter.