



# The Friendship Force of Ottawa

## Annual General Meeting

### Minutes



Monday, December 8, 2025

Riverside United Church

3191 Riverside Drive, Ottawa

Call to Order: 11:21 a.m.

1. Welcome Joan Kinnie - President

As President of the Friendship Force Ottawa chapter for the past year, Joan thanked the many members who contributed to a highly successful 2025. This included the Board members, the many volunteers who participated in the inbound and outbound journeys, members who were involved in the club's social activities and the members who worked on our Cap Com which all our members up to date on the club's activities.

Joan also gave a special welcome to those in attendance who are not members of the club but have joined us for our luncheon.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: To accept the agenda as presented.

Moved: Kathy Hatherill; seconded: Janice Leroux. Approved and carried.

3. Approval of AGM minutes of October 30, 2024

Motion: To accept the minutes of October 30, 2024.

Moved: Alain Dawson; seconded: Pierrette Benoit. Approved and carried.

4. Board Reports

Prior to the meeting, all members were sent reports from the Board's officers and asked to read them.

- President's Report – Joan Kinnie

Joan read her annual report which had been distributed by email. There were no questions from club members.

- **Treasurer's Report – Colin Leech**  
Colin had sent out a detailed Treasurer's report. He said there were several minor corrections. The club had 13 new members and 25 associate members this past year.  
Colin reminded members that we have a very healthy surplus of over \$7,000 and we do not have to worry about the coming year. He also added though, that we can expect our fees to FFI in Atlanta to increase; American club fees are increasing in January 2026.
- **VP Journeys – Barbara Davignon**  
Barbara could not attend the annual general meeting. Joan Kinnie presented her report.  
Barbara had distributed a very thorough report to all the club members. Volunteers for the 2026 inbound journeys are still needed. Petra Friedrichson is heading up the Inbound Western Carolina Inbound Journey (June 8 – 14, 2026) and Pierrette Benoit is heading up the Inbound Western Colorado Inbound Journey (September 21 -28, 2026). Volunteers in various capacities are required such as day, night and dinner hosts, welcome and farewell organizers, etc.
- **VP Memberships – Lynne Deachman**  
Lynne reminded members of the very successful year recruiting new members to the club. Thanks largely to referrals from our club members, thirteen new members have joined.

## 5. Other Business

- **Adjusted Financial Review 2023 – 2024 – Elizabeth Ford Reviewer**  
Elizabeth said that following her review, there was nothing to be concerned about. There were a few administrative changes to be made. As Elizabeth will be the Treasurer for the club for 2026, someone else will have to do the 2024 -2025 Financial Review.
- **FFI Changes Coming – Joan Kinnie**  
Joan gave a detailed account of the changes that are coming.  
In February 2025, The Board Members of Friendship Force International (FFI) made that decision that FFI must evolve from being primarily a socially conscious travel organization to a movement that inspires global connections, learning and

peace-making. It will be a worldwide movement of inspired people building bridges for a more friendly world. The mission will not change – promoting world peace and understanding by creating friendships across the barriers that separate people.

This transformation is built on three pillars:

- Strengthening intercultural connections and friendships,
- Education and training on becoming better global citizens and
- Inspiring community and organizational partnerships

The 2024 -2026 strategic plan called ‘our path forward’ has identified four critical priorities:

- Expanding our global reach (membership framework that works across different economies,
- Ensuring member safety (verifying identity through modern outline systems),
- Building financial resilience (diversifying our revenues beyond journey dependent income) and
- Achieving equity (adjusting dues to reflect economic realities in different countries).

This will be a three-year period of implementation:

- Phase 1 – 2026 dues will remain the same for Canada and other countries except for the U.S.A.
- Phase 2 – 2027 will see the rest of the clubs transitioning to research-based dues and structures using the local currency and payment options.
- Phase 3 – 20228 will see equity and innovation and a journey fee structure review and refinement based on global impact data.

Joan mentioned that this was a lot for club members to absorb. FFI has prepared a video called ‘Movement for Peace’ and the Board will see if it can get the video for club members to view.

Question raised about the associate membership fees for our club. FFI will have to look at whether this option will continue, and it may be in jeopardy. Club members will be kept informed.

6. Election of Board of Directors 2025/2026 – Wendy Adams

The 'Nominating Committee' was comprised of Anna Rochon, Pierrette Benoit, Jaap Schouten and Wendy Adams.

The current board members for 2024 – 2025 are:

President: Joan Kinnie	VP Journeys: Barb Davignon
Secretary: Vivien Runnels	VP Membership: Lynne Deachman
Treasurer: Colin Leach	Past President: Anna Rochon
Director-at-Large: Valerie Wright	Director-at- Large: Pierrette Benoit

Four board members are not returning, and the club thanks them for their service. The board members not returning are:

Director-at-Large: Valerie Wright	Director-at- Large: Pierrette Benoit
Secretary: Vivien Runnels	Treasurer: Colin Leach

The 'Nominating Committee' recruited the following FFO members who are willing to stand for election for the coming year, a mix of experienced and new members for the board. They are:

Secretary: Michael Curran	Treasurer: Elizabeth Ford
Director-at- Large: Gail Sherman	Director-at- Large: Lorraine Chartrand

No other nominations were received.

The proposed slate of board members for 2025 – 2026 are:

President: Joan Kinnie	VP Journeys: Barb Davignon
Secretary: Michael Curran	VP Membership: Lynne Deachman
Treasurer: Elizabeth Ford	Past President: Anna Rochon
Director-at-Large: Gail Sherman	Director-at- Large: Lorraine Chartrand

Motion: FFO Membership accepts the proposed slate for the Friendship Force Ottawa Board of Directors for the year 2025 -2026.

Moved: Jaap Schouten; seconded: Mary Jane Kelleher. Approved and carried.

Motion: Annual General Meeting for FFO be adjourned.

Moved: Marie-France Horton; seconded: Pierrette Benoit. Approved and carried.

Meeting adjourned: 12:06 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Ian L. Wilson      December 9, 2025