



# Mountain Friends

Volume 24, Issue 11

November 2024

FFWNC Club Website: [www.ffwesternnc.org](http://www.ffwesternnc.org)

FFWNC Mailing Address: FFWNC, P.O. Box 384, Hendersonville, NC 28793

FFI Website: <https://friendshipforce.org/>

## President's Message

*"Resilience is a precious skill. People who have it tend to also have three underlying advantages: a belief that they can **influence life events**, a tendency to **find meaningful purpose in life's turmoil**; and a conviction that they can **learn from both positive and negative experiences.**"*

--Amanda Ripley from the Internet

In these last weeks, we have all, to varying degrees, turned to resilience. Yes, I was inconvenienced by no power and no water for days, but compared to so many tragedies encountered by area residents, as an event, this was a nonoccurrence.

I watched a friend, Ron Farsetti, accompanied by his handicapped wife, Sharon, twice drive a 27' truck full of supplies up to Western North Carolina from Hilton Head, SC. They brought over 50,000 amazing donations from themselves personally as well as from others from the Hilton Head Rotary Club, other SC Rotary Clubs, and other SC organizations. Ron and Sharon believed they could (and DID) influence life events amid destruction.

Sarah, a home health assistant in my neighborhood, told me that she had taken her own horse and mule up to bring sick people down from inaccessible areas plagued with landslides. Sarah took food and medical supplies to those in need.

Sarah embodied meaningful purpose in life's turmoil. Reflect on what you have learned from Helene's positive and negative experiences. Share your resilience and help others however you can. You may not have a 27' truck or a horse, but you have kindness and gifts that are capable of helping someone.

In the Milwaukee airport, there is a “Recombobulation Area.” Knowing how folks feel once they have passed security, someone knew that a place to pause and regather oneself and belongings was needed. In much more difficult ways, Western North Carolina has been “recombobulating” for over three weeks and continues to do so. Allow your assistance or your space to be a haven that others can use to gather themselves back together.



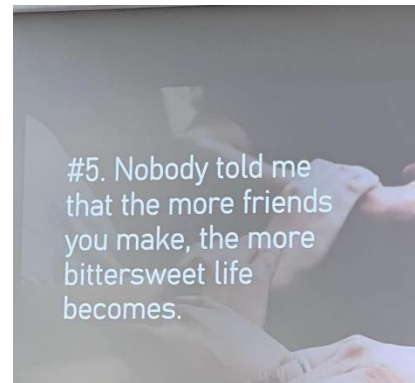
*Harriett Hilton, 2024 FFWNC President*

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## Report on the FFI American Conference Oct. 7, 8, 9 – Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Susan Harvey, Nancy Wood and I attended this conference. We came away inspired by the input from speakers and members from across the country. There were 200 attendees from the US, Canada and Mexico.

Nancy commented that in his opening address, CEO Jeremi Snook talked about the six things nobody told him about FFI. Slide #5 hit home. As the worldwide membership ages out, this becomes a reality.



My major takeaway was that maintaining and growing membership is crucial to FFI’s continuation, and we all need to be involved in its sustainability. Journeys and the modest yearly fee comprise the totality of the organization’s revenue. To retain FFI’s mission, Peace through Friendship, we need to grow membership and participate in journeys. Making adjustments in local clubs and inbound

journeys, more carefully matching ambassadors with hosts, and emphasizing our own regions, not just tourists' attractions, are ways to accomplish this.

We were able to meet members from both our 2025 inbound and outbound clubs, which made the three of us even more excited about future journeys. My hope is that more of our FFWNC members participate in each of these journeys in the coming year.



*FFI CEO Jeremi Snook, is the center speaker.*

## October 17<sup>th</sup> – Happy Hour at Guidan Brewery

Fourteen members came to enjoy the lovely Thursday fall afternoon. There was lots of conversation and jocularity.



***\*\*Please note: Due to the upcoming hectic holiday season, Happy Hour will not take place in November and December, but will resume in January.\*\****

## 2025 Membership/Renewal Dues and Name Tag Fee Increase

As the cost for food, paper goods, room rental, etc., and the price of name tag production has increased, membership/renewal dues for 2025 will be increasing to \$50.00 per person (increase of \$5.00) and the cost of name tags will be \$15.00 (increase of \$3.00) per name tag. The membership/renewal application at the end of this newsletter as well as the one on our website reflects this update.

## November & December 2024 FFWNC Activities

### “Pass the Spoon”

#### Dinner on November 7th - 4:30 pm - Thai Spice in Hendersonville

As Hurricane Helene managed to interrupt everyone’s lives, the Pass the Spoon dinner date has been changed to Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, **4:30 pm**, at Thai Spice.

Thai Spice is located at 220 S. King Street, Hendersonville, NC 28792. Jeanne Resen has arranged this dinner, and it will be an excellent opportunity to reconnect with members. Let Jeanne know if you are coming by emailing her. Last minute walk-ins are always welcome, but it will be helpful to know how many plan to attend so that a sufficient number of tables can be reserved.

### November 17th General Meeting 3:00 pm – First United Methodist Church

***\*\*\*Please note the time switch for the meeting, due to winter darkness and the time change.\*\*\****

Our meeting’s speaker will be Ginger Zemp, who will present her overview of our club’s September journey to Romania. Her enthusiasm about Friendship Force journeys and her professional presentation skills will help club members appreciate the value and the rewards of Friendship Force’s international journey connections.

At the November General Meeting, our hard-working Nominating Committee will present the proposed slate of 2025 FFWNC officers and directors. The election will take place at this meeting.

Listed below is the 2025 nomination slate:

### **2025 Board Officers**

Past President – Harriett Hilton

President – Nancy Wood

President Elect – *Vacancy*

Secretary – Tessa Levizon

Treasurer – Larry Harvey

### **Club Directors**

#### **2025 Club Directors**

Susan Neil

Ginger Zemp

#### **2025 – 2026 Club Directors**

Kay Manley

Warren Resen

#### **2025 – 2027 Club Directors**

Larry McGaughy

Chuck Tokarski

Please bring your 2025 membership renewal check and your completed renewal application to the meeting. It is important to have your current information, especially if there have been changes to your mailing address, phone number or email address. We want to be able to contact you about events and Club news! A renewal form can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Friendship Force, as a local club and as an organization, is dependent upon membership and involvement.

*\*\*Please remember to bring a dish to share for the November pot luck meal as well as your own plate and eating utensils.\*\**

**Save the Date - Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> -  
FFWNC Holiday Party – 3:00 – 6:00 pm  
Souther Williams Winery**

We will gather for some holiday cheer and fellowship at Souther Williams Winery, 655 Hoopers Creek Road, Fletcher, NC 28732 on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm. Appetizers (courtesy of the Board) and a few bottles of wine will be provided by the Club. Please save the date and plan to attend.

**--Upcoming Journeys for 2025--**

**Dallas Fort Worth – Inbound Journey  
May 13 - 19, 2025**

Our club has received confirmation that the Dallas Fort Worth Club will be visiting us in May 2025. *We are in need of inbound journey coordinators as well as home, day, and dinner hosts.* Please check your calendars and plan to participate in the journey. Sign-up sheets will be available at the November 17th General Meeting.

**Western Michigan Club – Outbound Journey – Fall 2025  
Dates to be determined**

Please consider participating in this outbound journey. The Western Michigan Club visited us in April, 2024.

An application for the JC position for the Western Michigan outbound journey has been received, and an additional member has expressed interest in becoming a Co-Journey Coordinator for this journey.

**Possible 2025 International Journeys**

Consider joining another club for an international Friendship Force journey. If you are interested in visiting Sri Lanka, there are options with the Austin Club to Galle, Sri Lanka, starting February 1, 2025 (Journey 25036), a FFI Special Journey related to Sri Lanka Wildlife (Journey 25048) starting March 1, 2025, or with the Hamburg, Germany Club to Ambalangoda, Sri Lanka (Journey 25202) according to FFI. For more information, please contact Kimberly Fraser.

By visiting the FFI website, you will find these and many other options open to Friendship Force members. If you have not yet used the FFI website, once you get into the site you will need to go to “Members” and create a user name (your email address) and a password for yourself. Once you are into the Member section, go to Journeys on the left side of the page and click. This will open up all possible FFI journeys.

### November

- Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> – 4:30 pm – Pass the Spoon – Thai Spice
- Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 am – Board Meeting – IAM
- Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> – 3:00 pm – General Meeting - Election of 2025 Officers & Romania Overview – First United Methodist Church, Hendersonville

### December

- Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> – 3:00 pm – FFWNC Holiday Party – Souther Williams
- Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> – 5:00 pm – Board Meeting & Social – Harriett Hilton’s home

### November Birthdays

- 10 – Ivan Beggs
- 9 – Rob Ebert

### Newsletter Deadline

If you have club news for the newsletter, please submit your information to Harriett Hilton at [hhilton2011@gmail.com](mailto:hhilton2011@gmail.com) *no later than* the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

### FFWNC 2024 General Meetings & Board Meetings Schedule

MEETING DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
Sunday, Nov. 17	General Meeting & Election of 2025 Officers	3:00 pm	First United Methodist Church Hendersonville, NC
Friday, Dec. 13	FFWNC Holiday Party	3:00 pm	Souther Williams, Fletcher, NC
Tuesday, Nov. 12	Board Meeting	10:00 am	IAM
Tuesday, Dec. 17	Board Meeting & Social	5:00 pm	Harriett Hilton’s home.

## 2024 FFWNC Calendar

FFWNC 2024 Events Calendar	
<p><b>November</b></p> <p>11/7 (Thurs) “Pass the Spoon” – 4:30 pm – Thai Spice, Hendersonville</p> <p>11/12 (Tues) – Board Meeting – 10am - IAM</p> <p>11/17 (Sun) – <b>General Meeting</b> -- Election of 2025 Officers – 3pm – First United Methodist Church, Hendersonville</p> <p><b>No Happy Hour in November.</b></p>	<p><b>December</b></p> <p>12/13 (Fri) – <b>Club Holiday Party</b> – 3-5 pm – Souther Williams, Fletcher, NC</p> <p>12/17 (Tues) – Board Meeting &amp; Social – 5:00 pm Harriett Hilton’s home</p> <p><b>No Happy Hour in December.</b></p> <p><i>(Happy Hour to resume in January.)</i></p>





friendship force  
WESTERN  
NORTH CAROLINA

## Membership Application / Renewal

**Send to: Treasurer, FFWNC, P.O. Box 384, Hendersonville, NC 28793**  
(Separate Application per person)

### PLEASE CHECK ONE:

- New Membership w/badge \$65 **per person** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Renewal Membership \$50 **per person** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Associate (if you are a member of another FFI club and pay that club's full dues) \$15 **per person** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Application \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Year joined FFWNC \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday - Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about Friendship Force of Western North Carolina? \_\_\_\_\_

Friendship Force is a volunteer organization. Our success depends upon member participation.

### AREAS YOU ARE WILLING TO SERVE:

- \_\_\_\_ Board of Directors or Officer
- \_\_\_\_ Committee Chair (i.e., Hospitality, Membership, Publicity, Newsletter)
- \_\_\_\_ Journey Coordinator
- \_\_\_\_ Hosting – home, dinner, day \*

*\*Please visit the FFWNC website at: <https://ffwesternnc.org/being-a-friendship-force-host/> to learn about home, dinner and day hosting opportunities.*

(REV 9-22-24)