



Mountain Friends

Volume 24, Issue 12

December 2024

FFWNC Club Website: www.ffwesternnc.org

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

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

President's Message

"Unity to be real must stand the severest strain without breaking."

--Mahatma Gandhi (from Internet search)

I am looking forward to a holiday season with less focus on politics and with good wishes to my friends of various faiths and political leanings. In Friendship Force, we are asked to remain less embroiled in specific stances and more committed to peace and friendship. Sometimes easier said than done, but it is our mission.

We have new FFWNC leaders coming in for 2025. I think it will be a Board that will find new ways of proceeding, developing viable ways to expand interest and activities among more of our members, and remembering that peace begins within our own Club. Thank you for all the member support in 2024, and join me in welcoming the new leadership and Board.

Harriett Hilton, 2024 FFWNC President

Message from Nancy Wood – 2025 Incoming FFWNC President

Hello Everyone!

I am excited and looking forward to serving as your Board President for 2025. It will be my pleasure to get to know you as we serve one another as ambassadors of peace.

As we say goodbye to 2024, please take a moment to personally thank Harriett Hilton for her leadership over the past year. She has spent untold hours behind the scenes, making things come together. As well, please thank retiring Board members Susan Harvey, Diane Tokarski, Gerri Gurbuz, and Nancy McGaughy. Their keen insight and input was invaluable and much appreciated. And many thanks to you for hosting two inbound journeys two months in a row last spring! Whew!

Allow me to make a plug for 2025. It begins with an important club event you don't want to miss...the determination on where we want to journey as a club in 2026. We very much want and need your input, so plan to be present at the January 19th General Meeting.

Wishing you and yours a joyous holiday season.

Nancy Wood, 2025 FFWNC President

November – January FFWNC Activities

“Pass the Spoon” - November 7th.

Ten members enjoyed a Pass the Spoon dinner at Thai Spice on November 7th. Our next restaurant event will be in February 2025, with Diane Tokarski as hostess. Look for the specific date and location in the January Newsletter.



2025 Membership/Renewal Dues

If you have not yet mailed your 2025 dues to the Club's P.O. Box, please remember that the due date is December 31st. In January, we will be compiling our 2025 Membership Directory, based on paid memberships.

The annual membership fee is \$50.00/person, and a new member name tag is a one-time fee of \$15.00. The membership/renewal application form at the end of this newsletter can be mailed with your check to FFWNC, P.O. Box 384, Hendersonville, NC 28793 or given to Treasurer Chuck Tokarski at the December 13th Holiday Party at Souther Williams Winery. When you change a phone number or an email address, we would like to know so we are able to maintain accurate contact information for you.

November 17th General Meeting Recap

Our November 17th General Meeting was held at the First United Methodist Church in Hendersonville. The Nominating Committee presented the Slate of 2025 Officers and Directors, and Membership approved this slate. At this meeting, Ginger Zemp moved to nominate Susan Gaston as a 2025 Director and Chuck Tokarski seconded the motion. The motion was accepted. Below is the list of the approved 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 Gaston
Susan Neil
Ginger Zemp

2025 – 2026 Club Directors

Kay Manley
Warren Resen

2025 – 2027 Club Directors

Larry McGaughy
Chuck Tokarski

Ginger Zemp, one of our thirteen journey ambassadors, presented a detailed and engaging summary of the September journey to Romania. She provided a lovely slideshow featuring the Romanian countryside, churches and castles and spoke of the Romanian culture and the new friendships the ambassadors brought home.

Susan Harvey (along with video presentations from Harriett Hilton and Nancy Wood, who were unable to attend the November 17th General Meeting) presented an overview of the FFI North American Conference, which took place October 7 – 9 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

FFWNC Holiday Party - Friday, December 13th – 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 13th 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.

Happy Hour Resumes –
Thursday, January 16th – 4:30 pm - Trailside Brewing Company

We are back to our regularly-scheduled 3rd Thursday of the month Happy Hour. We will toast the New Year at Trailside Brewing Company, 873 Lennox Park Drive, Hendersonville, NC 28739. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Next General Meeting – Sunday, January 19, 2025 –
3 – 5 pm, First United Methodist Church – Hendersonville

Our first 2025 General Meeting will be held at the First United Methodist Church, 204 Sixth Avenue West, Hendersonville. Please remember to bring a dish to share, your own plate, cup and cutlery...and please wear your name tag.

Next Book Club – Friday, January 24, 2025
1:30 pm – The Buzz

We will discuss *Man's Search for Meaning* by Viktor Frankl. Kay Manley will host this session at The Buzz, 225 S. Grove Street, Hendersonville, NC. For details, please contact Gerri Gurbuz.

-- The FFWNC Book Club is held quarterly on the 4th Friday in January, April, July and October and always welcomes new members. --

--Confirmed Upcoming Journeys for 2025--

Dallas Fort Worth – Inbound Journey

May 13 - 19, 2025

Nancy Wood and Harriett Hilton are the inbound journey co-coordinators for the Dallas Fort Worth inbound journey. They are in need of home, dinner, and day hosts for up to ten Fort Worth Ambassadors. Recently, many inbound ambassadors have been singles, which means we often need more home hosts than in previous years to accommodate the home host requests. Sign-up sheets for hosts in all capacities will be available at the January 19th General Meeting.

Western Michigan Club – Outbound Journey

September 18 – 24, 2025

Ginger Zemp and Ellen Brazauskas are our outbound journey co-coordinators for this journey. The itinerary is in the development process. One of the suggested journey activities is attending the Grand Rapids Art Prize Festival. If you have never visited Western Michigan, this will be an excellent opportunity to experience life with locals. Please contact Ellen Brazauskas or Ginger Zemp, if you wish to be added to the ambassador list. Several Club members have already indicated interest in participating.... Come join them.

A 2025 Pending Option

Mid Atlantic Outdoor Activity Journey

(Special Club-to-Club Event)

Susan Harvey and Nancy Wood are working with the Richmond, Virginia and other nearby clubs on this potential journey. Stay tuned for more details as they come together. Please, if you have interest in this type of journey, please let Susan know.

Also, remember that all FFWNC members are encouraged to visit the FFI website to see what FFI journeys are available. Club members Harriett Hilton, Nancy

Wood and Susan Harvey have researched journey possibilities on the FFI website and would be happy to share their very positive experiences doing so.

If you have not yet visited the FFI website (<https://friendshipforce.org>) once you get into the site, you will need to go to “Members” and create a user name (your email address) and a password. When you are into the Member section, go to “Journeys” on the left side of the page and click. This will open all available journeys.

Sad News

It was with a heavy heart that Ellen Brazauskas learned that Dave Evers, a former FFWNC member, passed away in October. Mary, his wife, reached out to her recently and shared this sad news.

Mary is a former Board member and served as Treasurer for the Club. In addition, Mary and Dave were active members of the Club and hosted many dinners for ambassadors who visited FFWNC on numerous journeys.

If anyone wishes to reach out to Mary, her address is 356 Kenilworth Road, Asheville NC 28805

December Events

- Friday, December 13th – 3:00 pm – FFWNC Holiday Party – Souther Williams
- Tuesday, December 17th – 5:00 pm – Board Meeting & Social for 2025 and 2024 Board Members – Harriett Hilton’s home

January Events

- January 14th – 10:00 am - Board Meeting at IAM
- January 16th – 4:30 pm - Happy Hour at Trailside Brewing Company, 873 Lennox Park Drive, Hendersonville, NC 28739.
- January 19th – 3 pm - General Meeting at First United Methodist Church, 204 Sixth Avenue West, Hendersonville, NC 28739
- January 24th– 1:30 pm – Book Club at The Buzz, 225 South Grove Street, Hendersonville, NC 28792 Kay Manley will lead the discussion on her selected book *Man’s Search for Meaning* by Viktor Frankl. For details, please contact Gerri Gurbuz.

-- *The FF Book Club is held quarterly on the 4th Friday in January, April, July and October.*

December Birthdays

22 –Susan Neil

25 – Nancy McGaughy, Don Reback

Newsletter Deadline

If you have club news for the newsletter, please submit your information to our *new President, Nancy Wood no later than the 15th of the month.*

Proposed FULL 2025 Calendar Year for FFWNC
(Subject to change, as year progresses)

Updated: 11/12/24	
<p style="text-align: center;">January</p> <p>1/14 (Tues) - Board Meeting – 10am - IAM 1/16 (Thur) - Happy Hour – 4:30pm – Trailside Brewing Company, Hendersonville, NC 1/19 (Sun) - General Meeting – 3-5pm – 1st United Methodist Church 1/24 (Fri) – Book Club – 1:30pm – The Buzz - <i>Man’s Search for Meaning</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">February</p> <p>2/11 Tues – Board Meeting – 10am – County Ext. Office, Hendersonville 2/20 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm – TBD</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">March</p> <p>3/11 (Tues) - Board Meeting – 10am - IAM 3/20(Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm - TBD 3/16 (Sun) - General Meeting – 5-7pm – 1st Methodist Church</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">April</p> <p>4/8 (2nd Tues) – Board Meeting – 10am – Cty Ext Office 4/17 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm – TBD 4/25 (Fri) – Book Club – 1:30pm - TBD</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">May</p> <p>5/13-5/19 (Tues – Mon) - INBOUND JOURNEY – FORT WORTH 5/15 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm TBD 5/18 (Sun) – Fort Worth Farewell and General Meeting – 5-7pm – TBD 5/20 (3rd Tues) – Board Meeting – 10am – TBD</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">June</p> <p>6/10 (Tues) – Board Meeting – 10am – Cty Ext Office 6/19 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm - TBD</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">July</p> <p>7/08 (Tues) - Board Meeting – 10am - IAM 7/12 (Sat) – Annual Picnic – Noon – Mills River Park 7/17 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm - TBD 7/25 (Fri) – Book Club – 1:30pm – TBD</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">August</p> <p>8/12 (Tues) - Board Meeting – 10am – Cty Ext Office 8/21 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm - TBD</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">September</p> <p>Dates TBD - OUTBOUND JOURNEY – Western Michigan 9/9 (Tues) – Board Meeting – 10am - IAM 9/18 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm - TBD 9/21 (Sun) - General Meeting – 5-7pm – TBD</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">October</p> <p>10/14 (Tues) - Board Meeting – 10am – TBD 10/16 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm - TBD 10/24 (Fri) – Book Club – 1:30pm – TBD</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">November</p> <p>11/11 (Tues) – Board Meeting – 10am - IAM 11/16 (Sun) – General Meeting – 3pm Election of 2025 Officers - TBD 11/20 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 1:30pm - TBD</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">December</p> <p>12/12 (Fri) – Club Holiday Party – 3-5pm - TBD 12/16 (Tues) – Board Holiday Party - TBD</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)