



Mountain Friends

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January 2025

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

January... typically a month for resolutions and/or new beginnings. For FFWNC, it ushers in a new Board, bringing together new members and seasoned veterans. It's a time to take stock, to dream, to assess, to intentionally set direction, to try new ways of doing, and most of all, to seek to enjoy the journey with you.

At the January General Meeting, you'll hear about my November club-to-club journey to Costa Rica with FF Ottawa; vote on where you'd like to journey in 2026 and enjoy an opportunity to provide your input into the Membership, Publicity, Social, and Journey Committees. Don't be bashful, your Board needs your thoughts and suggestions. If you are unable to make the meeting, please shoot me a text, an email or give me a call. I'd love to get your input.

Friendship Force members believe "a world of friends is a world of peace." We choose to promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people. That all begins right here in Western North Carolina with you. Thank you for being a member of FFWNC. Thank you, in advance, for joining us Sunday, January 19th, to make your voice heard.

Happy New Year!

Nancy Wood, 2025 FFWNC President

New Member Spotlight

A big welcome is extended to our newest FFWNC members:

Sheila Dunn – Introduced to FFWNC by Ginger Zemp.

Sue (Susan) Davis – Susan Gaston was Sue's connection to FFWNC.

Lisa Breton – Chuck Elston discussed FFWNC with Lisa while working at an election polling place.

Marti (Martha) Wilmering – Marti is an FFI referral and also came to know more about FFWNC through Sarah Poppenhouse.

Please remember to wear your name tag to the General Meetings and make a point to personally welcome these ladies when you see them.

January & February FFWNC Activities

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 where there is plenty of seating and parking. Looking forward to seeing you there!

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

As mentioned in Nancy's message, our January General Meeting will be full of Club news and will be a good way to begin the New Year. *As usual, this will be a pot luck dinner, so bring a dish to share, as well as your own eating utensils, plate, and glass—and please wear your name tag.*

First United Methodist Church is located at 204 6th Avenue West, Hendersonville, NC. Enter the building through the portico entrance.

Friday, January 24, 2025 – FFWNC Book Club

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.* –

Wednesday, February 5th – “Pass the Spoon” – 12:30 pm

Taco Fiesta in Horseshoe

How about having a delicious Mexican lunch? Our next “Pass the Spoon” event will take place at Taco Fiesta on February 5th. If you plan to attend, please let Diane Tokarski know by February 1st, either by email or by phone.

¡Hasta la vista!

Focus on Open Journeys

Got an itch to travel? Look no further than my.friendshipforce.org where, at the moment, you'll find information regarding these open journeys. But don't hesitate, open slots go fast. So click on the link to fill out your application today. Nothing ventured, nothing gained! The following are a few journeys to check out:

Club-to-Club: Australia, Sri Lanka, Japan

Special Journeys: Armenia & Georgia, Cambodia & Vietnam, Cuba, Guatemala, India, Mexico, Morocco, Portugal & Spain, Tunisia, Massachusetts, Memphis

If you have not yet visited the FFI website, once you get into the site, you will need to 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.

-- Upcoming Journeys for 2025—

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

Nancy Wood and Harriett Hilton are the inbound journey co-coordinators for the Fort Worth inbound journey. They are in need of home, dinner and day hosts for up to ten 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 17 – 24, 2025**

Ginger Zemp and Ellen Brazauskas are our outbound journey co-coordinators for this journey. 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. A good number of 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 to coordinate this potential journey. Stay tuned for more details as they come together. Please, if you have interest in this type of journey, let Susan know by email.

FFWNC Grant Fund

Thanks to a generous donation from a member, a grant fund was established last year for journey scholarships, \$1,000 for international club-to-club journeys and \$500 for domestic club-to-club journeys.

The application form is simple to complete, and no personal financial information will be required to apply for these grants. Applicants must have been a FFWNC member for one (1) year and have participated in club service (i.e., served on the Board, served on a committee, helped with journeys, etc.) Applicants may apply once every three years.

There is a 3-member committee that will review all applications and make award decisions. *At this time, there is one outbound journey to Western Michigan to take place in September, 2025, for which applications will be accepted.* Applications are to be submitted to Journey Grant Committee, P.O. Box 384, Hendersonville, NC 28793.

This is a wonderful opportunity to help members with the rising cost of travel.

Recap on December 17th Holiday Party at Souther Williams Winery

A great turnout of Club members enjoyed the afternoon at Souther Williams and had an opportunity to wish one another Happy Holidays. There was plenty of appetizers, cookies and drink for all to enjoy.



Sad News – The passing of Jo-Ann McGowan Grimes

Jo-Ann Grimes was a long time FFWNC member, a lifelong Asheville native, and was active in FFWNC. She participated in outbound journeys, was a dinner host, etc. Please keep her in your thoughts.

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. --

Club Member Birthdays

January Birthdays

3 – Warren Resen
13 – Jeanne Resen
15 – Lisa Breton
22 – Sue Davis

February Birthdays

2 - Peter Cooper, Ginger Zemp
12 - Judi Wondolowski
25 - Becky Elston
28 - Jan Partin

Newsletter Deadline

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

2025 Meeting Calendar

MEETING DATE	EVENT	TIME
Sunday, Jan. 19	General Meeting	3:00 pm
Sunday, Mar. 16	General Meeting	5:00 pm
Sunday, May 18	General Meeting & Farewell Dinner	5:00 pm
Saturday, July 12	Annual Picnic-- Mills River Park Pavilion	12:00 Noon
Sunday, Sept. 21	General Meeting-TBD	5:00 pm
Sunday, Nov. 16	General Meeting	3:00 pm
Friday, Dec 12	Holiday Party	3:00 pm
Tuesday, Jan. 14	Board Meeting	10:00 am
Tuesday, Feb. 11	Board Meeting	10:00 am
Tuesday, Mar. 11	Board Meeting	10:00 am
Tuesday, Apr. 8	Board Meeting	10:00 am
Tuesday, May 20	Board Meeting	10:00 am
Tuesday, June 10	Board Meeting	10:00 am
Tuesday, July 8	Board Meeting	10:00 am
Tuesday, Aug. 12	Board Meeting	10:00 am
Tuesday, Sept. 9	Board Meeting	10:00 am
Tuesday, Oct.14	Board Meeting	10:00 am
Tuesday, Nov. 11	Board Meeting	10:00 am
Tuesday, Dec. 16	Board Meeting	TBD

General Meetings are usually held on the third Sunday of alternate months, starting with January. Meeting locations vary and will be announced on website posts and in the monthly newsletters.

Board Meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of the month. Please check the FFWNC website and the monthly newsletter for Board Meeting locations.

Monthly Calendar of Events

Third Thursday – Happy Hour at a local brewery/winery – Chuck Tokarski

Fourth/last Friday, Quarterly – Book Club – Gerri Gurbuz

“Pass the Spoon” Lunch/Dinner – Bi-monthly, dates and hosts vary

FFWNC 2025 Full Year Calendar at a Glance
(Subject to change, as year progresses)

Updated: 12/18/24	
<p style="text-align: center;">January</p> <p>1/14 (Tues) - Board Meeting – 10am - IAM 1/16 (Thurs) - Happy Hour – 4:30pm – Trailside Brewing Company, Hendersonville 1/19 (Sun) - General Meeting – 3-5pm – First 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>2/5 Wed – Pass the Spoon –12:30 pm – Taco Fiesta – Horseshoe 2/11 Tues – Board Meeting – 10am - IAM 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 –First United 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 style="background-color: yellow;">5/13-5/19 (Tues – Mon) - INBOUND JOURNEY – FORT WORTH</p> <p>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 – Cty Ext Office</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 (Tentative) 8/21 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm - TBD</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">September</p> <p>9/9 (Tues) – Board Meeting – 10am - IAM 9/17-9/24 - OUTBOUND JOURNEY – Western Michigan 9/18 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm - TBD TBD (Sun) - General Meeting – 5-7pm - TBD</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">October</p> <p>10/14 (Tues) - Board Meeting – 10am – Cty Ext Office (Tentative) 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)