



# Mountain Friends

Volume 25, Issue 2

February 2025

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

As you have read, President Jimmy Carter passed away on December 29, 2024. While Friendship Force was founded by Wayne Smith it was introduced by then President Jimmy Carter. It was March 1, 1977 at a White House gathering of state governors when Jimmy Carter asked them to identify a volunteer who would serve as State Director for the Friendship Force in their state. A simple request with profound consequences that has changed lives both here in Western North Carolina since 1979 when our club was founded and all over the world.

Originally a journey was called an exchange. You may still hear it called that. And to this day it truly is an exchange. An exchange of my view for yours. Seeing the world through my host's eyes. An exchange of heart, seeing what my host values and holds dear. An exchange of fear for acceptance toward a new city, country and peoples who I did not know. An exchange of closed-mindedness for curiosity, openness and gratefulness.

Friendship Force journeys invite you to be more than just a tourist. You are invited to open your heart and life in a manner that builds friendships and makes the world a much smaller and less scary place. Thank you for being that catalyst for change here in Western North Carolina. You make a difference.

*Nancy Wood, FFWNC President*

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## New Member Spotlight



A big welcome is extended to our new FFWNC members, who attended the January 19<sup>th</sup> General Meeting!

In order, left to right, are: Peter Cooper, Lisa Breton, Marti Wilmering and Sue Davis. Please be sure to introduce yourself to them, when you next see them.

***\*\*Remember to wear your name tag to the General Meetings, so new folks can get to know you.\*\****

## FFWNC Activities

### Happy Hour at Trailside Brewing Company - January 16<sup>th</sup> –



Our January Happy Hour was very well attended. It was good to see everyone and we enjoyed socializing with our Friendship Force friends.



## Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> General Meeting Recap

In two short hours, we welcomed new members, received updates on our 2025 journeys - the May Fort Worth Inbound and the September West Michigan Outbound, learned about a special October Mid-Atlantic Adventure Journey that's in the works, and confirmed Ottawa, Canada as our Outbound for 2026.



We broke into small groups to discuss how to find new members and also brainstormed ideas for future club activities. A delightful time of sharing culminated in a delectable potluck and a presentation on Costa Rica. Whew! Plan now to attend our next General Meeting on Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **Next General Meeting – Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup> – 5 – 7 pm First United Methodist Church, Hendersonville**

We will meet at the First United Methodist Church, 204 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue West, Hendersonville, NC at 5:00 pm. *Enter the building through the portico entrance.* Program details will be in the March Newsletter.

### **Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> – “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 5<sup>th</sup>. If you plan to attend and have yet to RSVP, please let Diane Tokarski know **by January 31<sup>st</sup>**. ¡Hasta la vista!

## **Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting – Change of Venue**

The Board will be meeting at 10:00 am on Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, at the Community Foundation Office, 401 North Main Street, Suite 300 (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor) Hendersonville, NC 28792. There is an elevator, if you would rather ride up, instead of using the stairway.

## **Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup> – Happy Hour - 4:30 pm**

We will meet at St. Paul Winery, 588 Chestnut Gap Road, Hendersonville, NC 28792 at 4:30 pm on February 20<sup>th</sup>. Please feel free to bring whatever munchies you might like to enjoy with your wine/beverage. At this time of the year, St. Paul Winery does not have a food truck on the premises.

## **FFWNC Book Club**

Yep, FFWNC has a book club. What do we read? We enjoy a variety of genres. Each book club member has an opportunity to choose the book and host where we will meet-- either their home or maybe a coffee shop. The host shares some information about the book/author before we discuss it.

It's a fun time of sharing impressions and getting to know club members. Can't find time to read the book? No worries, as most are available in audio format. Watch the club monthly newsletter or contact Gerri Gurbuz for details.

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

## **-- 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, so we often need more home hosts than previous years to accommodate the home host requests. Please contact Nancy Wood or Harriett Hilton if you have yet to sign up but would like to be a home, dinner or day host for this journey.

## Western Michigan Club – Outbound Journey September 18 – 24, 2025

Ginger Zemp and Ellen Brazauskas are our outbound journey co-coordinators for this journey. 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.

### 2025 Pending Mid Atlantic Outdoor Activity Journey (Special Club-to-Club Event)

Susan Harvey and Sarah Poppenhouse are working with the Richmond, Virginia and Raleigh, NC Clubs to coordinate a special outdoor adventure journey for the members of our area to take place in October 2025. The journey would include a three or four-night home stay with the clubs in Richmond, Raleigh and our club.

Check back next month for more details. Please, if you have interest in this type of journey either as a host or an ambassador, contact Susan Harvey.

### Open Journeys

Ready to travel but want to stay close to home? There are three journeys in our area with open slots: Knoxville, TN, National Capital Area (WDC) and Memphis, TN. Check out the journey details on the FFI website and send in your application. You won't be disappointed.

### Club Member Birthdays

#### February Birthdays

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

#### March Birthdays

1 – Carol Mullen  
19 – Chuck Elston

### Newsletter Deadline

If you have club news for the newsletter, please submit your information to Nancy Wood no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> 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)**

<b>Updated: 1/18/25</b>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>January</b></p> <p>1/14 (Tues) - Board Meeting – 10am - IAM            1/16 (Thurs) - Happy Hour – 4:30pm – Trailside Brewing Company, Hendersonville            1/19 (Sun) - <b>General Meeting</b> – 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;"><b>February</b></p> <p>2/5 Wed – Pass the Spoon –12:30 pm – Taco Fiesta – Horseshoe            2/11 Tues – Board Meeting – 10am – <i>Community Foundation, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 401 N. Main St, H’ville.</i>            2/20 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm – St. Paul Winery, Hendersonville</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>March</b></p> <p>3/11 (Tues) - Board Meeting – 10am - IAM            3/20 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm - TBD            3/16 (Sun) - <b>General Meeting</b> – 5-7pm –First United Methodist Church</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>April</b></p> <p>4/8 ( 2<sup>nd</sup> 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;"><b>May</b></p> <p><b>5/13-5/19 (Tues – Mon) - INBOUND JOURNEY – FORT WORTH</b>            5/15 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm TBD            5/18 (Sun) – Fort Worth Farewell and <b>General Meeting</b> – 5-7pm – TBD            5/20 (3<sup>rd</sup> Tues) – Board Meeting – 10am – <b>Cty Ext Office</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>June</b></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;"><b>July</b></p> <p>7/08 (Tues) - Board Meeting – 10am - IAM            7/12 (Sat) – <b>Annual Picnic</b> – 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;"><b>August</b></p> <p>8/12 (Tues) - Board Meeting – 10am – Cty Ext Office (<b>Tentative</b>)            8/21 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm - TBD</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>September</b></p> <p>9/9 (Tues) – Board Meeting – 10am - IAM  <b>9/17-9/24 - OUTBOUND JOURNEY – Western Michigan</b>            9/18 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm - TBD  <b>TBD (Sun) - General Meeting</b> – 5-7pm - TBD</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>October</b></p> <p>10/14 (Tues) - Board Meeting – 10am – Cty Ext Office (<b>Tentative</b>)            10/16 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm - TBD            10/24 (Fri) – Book Club – 1:30pm – TBD</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>November</b></p> <p>11/11 (Tues) – Board Meeting – 10am - IAM            11/16 (Sun) – <b>General Meeting – 3pm</b>            Election of 2025 Officers - TBD            11/20 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 1:30pm - TBD</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>December</b></p> <p>12/12 (Fri) – <b>Club Holiday Party</b> – 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)