



Mountain Friends

Volume 25, Issue 6

June 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 from Tessa Levison

Leadership is rarely a smooth path, and I anticipate the hurdles that come with guiding an organization forward. However, with a clear vision, unwavering standards, and the collective strength of our members, I am prepared to face these challenges head on. Together we will continue to uphold the values and progress that define FFWNC.

In friendship,

Tessa Levison
FFWNC President

Message from Nancy Wood

Whew! May was a busy month for our club. We enjoyed a delightful journey from eight Fort Worth ambassadors. Many thanks to all of you who were able to be involved. Do you know their parting comments included the joy of having so many members involved with day hosting and attending the Happy Hour with them? And they loved the two nights where members hosted small dinners. To our home hosts and everyone involved in making the journey a success, please accept our thanks.

In future news, the Board met recently to approve our journey matches for 2026. They include two outbounds to Napa, California and Ottawa, Canada. Two inbounds from Tarapoto, Peru and Orlando, Florida. Yay! What a lovely mix of places in the world from which to meet new friends and experience life different from our own.

And, finally, a sad goodbye. I cannot thank you all enough for welcoming me into the club two years ago. While I now reside in Cedar City, Utah, know I continue to be a member of the Club and, in fact, remain on the Board through the end of 2025. So, while not physically present, I'll continue to stay involved as much as possible from a distance.

In my place, Tessa Levizon is excited to finish the year as your Board President. Tessa comes to the role with many life experiences and ideas. Her open Secretary position will be filled by Ginger Zemp. Please welcome Tessa and Ginger to their new positions on the Board.

In friendship,
Nancy Wood
FFWNC Past President

June Club Activities

Board Meeting – Tuesday, June 10th - 10:00 am

The next Board meeting will be held at 10:00 am on Tuesday, June 10th, at the Henderson County Extension Office, 100 Jackson Park Road, Hendersonville. Members are always welcome to attend.

Happy Hour – Thursday, June 19th - Stone Ashe Vineyard – 4:30 pm

Stone Ashe Vineyard is located at 736 Green Mountain Road, Hendersonville, NC 28792. Please let the staff know you are with Friendship Force, as we have a reservation there for 4:30 pm.

July Club Activities

**Tuesday, July 8th Board Meeting –
Location TBD**

**Saturday, July 12th - Next General Meeting & Annual Picnic
Mills River Park Pavilion – 12:00 Noon**

Plan to attend the Annual Picnic on July 12th at the Mills River Park Pavilion. As has been Club tradition, baked and fried chicken and beverages will be provided, but bring a dish to pass, along with your own plate, cup and cutlery...and remember to wear your name tag

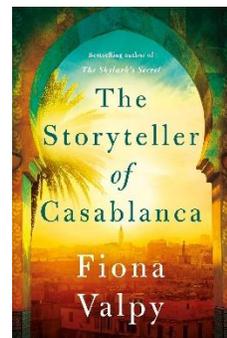
**Thursday, July 17th – Happy Hour - 4:30 pm –
Location TBD**

**Friday, July 25th – Book Club - 1:30 pm –
at the Tokarski home**

The FFWNC Book Club will discuss *The Storyteller of Casablanca* by Fiona Valpy, to be hosted by Diane Tokarski at her home.

The book is historical fiction set in Casablanca, during pre and post WW2 as well as in current times. Please RSVP to Diane by Friday, July 18th, if you plan to come.

For details, please contact Gerri Gurbuz, FFWNC Book Club Chair.



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

Pass the Spoon - Early August – Date to be determined

Eleven Club members met at Three Chopt on June 4th for a tasty lunch. Harriett Hilton was the lucky winner of “the



spoon,” and will be the next Pass the Spoon host. A date for the event in early August will soon be set and published in the July newsletter.



Call for Journey Coordinators – Susan Harvey

We have FOUR, yes four journey matches for 2026!!! We need coordinators to organize and plan those journeys to make them happen.

- Inbound international from Tarapoto, Peru. Dates TBD, tentatively in May.
- Inbound domestic Orlando. Dates TBD, tentatively in August.
- Outbound international to Ottawa, Canada. Dates TBD, tentatively September.
- Outbound domestic to Sonoma, Napa, California. Dates TBD, tentatively March.

Coordinating a journey is a great way to learn about the people and places we are exchanging with. You are the point person in determining the content of the journey. It is challenging but fun and a great way to experience a journey. Plus, as an incentive, there is a stipend of \$250 for inbound coordinators and \$500 for outbound international journey coordinators. If there are co-journey coordinators for a given journey, the stipend shall be shared equally.

The Ambassador/ Host Coordinator is one of the most important Friendship Force leadership roles. It is also one of the most rewarding. As an Ambassador or Host Coordinator, you are the “face” of FFI. As Coordinator for a Journey, you are responsible for planning the Journey, recruiting ambassadors/hosts, and leading the experience. Haven’t taken the Journey Coordinator training? No problem, we

will be scheduling one soon. Plus, there are plenty of “veteran” coordinators to help you.

If you are interested, please apply to Susan Harvey, Journey Committee Chair. [Click on this link](#) to access the Journey Coordinator application.

—Remaining Journeys for 2025—

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

There are still a few slots available for this outbound 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 for details.

2025 Mid-Atlantic Outdoor Activity Journey Special Club-to-Club Event – October 6 – 16th

The dates are October 6th - 16th, 2025. FFWNC will be the last Club visited on the tour, hosting for just three nights, October 14 -16.

The hosting responsibilities will be less than usual and will be a great opportunity for new Club members to give it a try. For details about participating and/or hosting opportunities, contact Sarah Poppenhouse or Susan Harvey.

Club Member Birthdays

June Birthdays

Sheila Dunn
8 Harriett Hilton
14 Teri Kayne
18 Ellen Brazauskas
24 Tessa Levison

July Birthdays

4 Larry Harvey
5 Sarah Poppenhouse
23 Marlene Beggs, Susan Harvey
28 Larry McGaughy, Chuck Tokarski

Newsletter Deadline

If you have Club news for the newsletter, please submit your information to Tessa Levison *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: 6/5/25	
<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 – Community Foundation, 3rd Floor, 401 N. Main St, H’ville. 2/20 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm – St. Paul Winery, Hendersonville</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">March</p> <p>3/11 (Tues) - Board Meeting – 10am - IAM 3/20 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm – Dry Falls Brewing Company, Hendersonville, NC 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 – Henderson Cty Ext Office 4/9 Pass the Spoon – Biscuit Head – 11:30am Asheville 4/25 (Fri) – Book Club – 1:30pm — <i>11/23/63 by Stephen King</i>, Southern Streams Coffeehouse – Ellen Brazauskas, Host</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 Boodas Brewing Company, Hendersonville 5/18 (Sun) – Fort Worth Farewell and General Meeting – 5-7pm – Middleton Place Clubhouse 5/20 (3rd Tues) – Board Meeting – 10am – Henderson 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 – Stone Ashe Vineyard, Hendersonville, NC</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">July</p> <p>7/08 (Tues) - Board Meeting – 10am -TBD 7/12 (Sat) – Annual Picnic & General Meeting – Noon –Mills River Park 7/17 (Thurs) – Happy Hour – 4:30pm - TBD 7/25 (Fri) – Book Club – 1:30pm – <i>The Storyteller of Casablanca</i> by Fiona Valpy– to be held at the Tokarski home</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 9/18-9/24 - 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) 10/6-10/16- INBOUND & OUTBOUND JOURNEY – Mid Atlantic Outdoor Activity 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)