



# Mountain Friends

Volume 26, Issue January 2026

Dick Weaver, editor

## President's Message

Dear Members,

Welcome to new and not so new members of FFWNC 2026. It's time that I take a proper place at the table as the President of FFWNC. I make no excuses, rather I move at the frequency of knowing that all things will pass and my time for playing around in this position has ended. I'm committed to making this club fit the mold it has been handed. I hope that by learning more about FFWNC members, going on journeys and attending the April conference, that I can better serve.

I want to ensure that members who have decided that FFI is no longer part of their life's path that we acknowledge your service, your time and most importantly your dedication to world peace.

As we step into 2026, we stand at a moment of transformation — not as a challenge to endure, but as an opportunity to redefine who we are and what we can accomplish together. Change is never easy, but it is the birthplace of growth, creativity, and renewed purpose. This year, we are moving forward with courage, collaboration, and the shared belief that our club's best chapters are still ahead of us. Every voice matter, every effort counts, and every step we take strengthens the foundation for the journeys and friendships yet to come. Together, we will turn this season of change into a season of possibility.”

Year of reflection, tradition, and change

Your participation during this transition will be your legacy and allow future members to experience Friendship Force for themselves.

*Tessa Levizon*  
FFWNC President

<b><i>January at a Glance</i></b>	<b><i>February at a Glance</i></b>
<p>1/13 (Tue) - <b>Board Meeting</b> 10am – Jackson Park, 1000 Jackson Park Road, Hendersonville, N 28792</p> <p>1/23 (Fri) - <b>Book Club</b> 1:30pm - <i>The Rose Code</i>, by Kate Quinn, hosted by Harriett Hilton at 65 South Kuykendall Court, H'ville</p> <p>1/18 (Sun) - <b>General Meeting</b> 3-5pm – brown bag, Middleton Place Clubhouse, 2001 Middleton Pl, Clubhouse, H'ville</p> <p>No <b>Happy Hour</b> or <b>Pass the Spoon</b> in January</p>	<p>2/10 (Tue) - <b>Board Meeting</b> 10am – Community Foundation, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 401 N. Main St, H'ville</p> <p>TBD - <b>Happy Hour</b></p> <p>2/13 (Fri) - <b>Pass the Spoon</b> hosted by <b>Gerard Stramm</b> at 11am Moose Café, 570 Brevard RD Asheville</p> <p>No <b>General Meeting</b> or <b>Book Club</b> in February</p>

## December Recap

FFWNC held its annual Holiday Party on December 14 with 31 members in attendance.



## January Board Meeting

**Tuesday, January 13th** at 10am – 1000 Jackson Park Road, Hendersonville, N 28792

## January General Meeting

**Sunday, January 18th** at 3 – 5pm – Middleton Place Clubhouse, 2001 Middleton Place, H'ville

Plan to be at the January General Meeting. We will begin the meeting at 3 pm and finish by 5 pm. This is **not** a potluck dinner-- bring a snack for yourself, or brown bag if you choose, including your own plates, cups and eating utensils.

There will be **no Happy Hour or Pass the Spoon** in January.

## Quarterly Book Club

**Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>** 1:30 pm – Hosted by Harriett Hilton

We will discuss *The Rose Code* at Harriett's home, 65 South Kuykendall Court, Hendersonville, NC 28739, on Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 1:30 pm. Enjoy the reading. If you have questions, please contact Harriett. The Book Club meets quarterly on the fourth Friday in January, April, July, and October. New members are always welcome to join the group.

## Save the Dates – 2026 North American FFI Regional Conference, April 24 – 27, Memphis, TN

Interested in learning more about FFI and meeting member/friends from Canada and Mexico? Look into attending the FFI 2026 North American Regional Conference in Memphis, Tennessee. Visit the FFI website to learn about how to register for the conference and other related information. You will need to log on to the website at: <https://my.friendshipforce.org> with your password. Consider attending – it will prove to be a very worthwhile experience. **Please let Tessa Levizon know if you plan to attend.**

## 2026 FFWNC Board Members

President: Tessa Levizon

President Elect: vacant

Past President: vacant

Secretary: Kay Manley

Treasurer: Susan Harvey

Directors 2026 Susan Gaston and Marti Wilmering

Directors 2026 - 2027 Sue Davis and Larry McGaughy

Directors 2026 – 2028 -vacant

## Club Member Birthdays

### January

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

### February

2 Ginger Zemp  
25 Becky Elston  
28 Jan Partin

## Newsletter Deadline

This newsletter was prepared by Tessa Levizon and Dick Weaver. If you have Club news for the next newsletter, please submit your information to Tessa Levizon *no later than* the 15<sup>th</sup> of the prior month, e.g. the February newsletter deadline is January 15. If your pet peeve is reading documents or newsletters with grammar errors, then please step up and help edit the newsletter.

## Monthly Calendar of Events

**Now is a good time to set-up your calendar for the year.**

**General Meetings** are usually held on the **third Sunday of odd months**.

**Happy Hours** are usually held on the **third Thursday** at a local brewery.

**Board Meetings** are usually held on the **second Tuesday**.

**Pass the Spoon** (lunch/dinner) is usually held on **even months**; dates and hosts vary.

**Book Club** usually meets **quarterly on the fourth/last Friday** (Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct).

**Annual Picnic** – July at the general meeting.

**Holiday Party** – December

## Social Media and P.O. Box

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

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

FFWNC Facebook Page (coming soon):

FFI Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1419216651619189>

FFWNC Mailing Address: FFWNC, P.O. Box 384, Hendersonville, NC 28792





friendship force  
WESTERN  
NORTH CAROLINA

## Membership Application / Renewal 2026

**A separate application is required for each member**

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

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

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Birthday: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Circle One: New Member Renewal

**\*\* 2026 Annual Friendship Force Membership Fee is due no later than January 18, 2026\*\***

Annual Membership Fee for Friendship Force International Membership (per person)	<b>\$100</b>
Annual Membership Fee for FFWNC Club (per person)	<b>20</b>
<b><i>(Annual FFWNC Membership Fee of \$20.00 is waived for 2026.)</i></b>	<b><i>-20</i></b>
Associate Member Fee <b>\$15</b> (Club Name: _____)	
(If you are a member of another FFI club and pay that club's full dues)	
FFWNC New/Replacement Nametag Fee <b>\$15</b> (to be worn at all FF events)	_____
(This is a required one-time fee for all new FFWNC members.)	
<b>Total Due</b> ----->	_____

**\*\*Payable to FFWNC and send to Treasurer, FFWNC, P.O. Box 384, Hendersonville, NC 28793**

**As a volunteer organization each Friendship Force member is asked to serve.**

**Select two or more areas of interest.**

Board of Directors: (President, Secretary, Treasurer) **Encircle**

Committees: (Membership, Nominations, Hospitality, Social, Publicity, Special Events, Policy & Procedures, and Newsletter) **Encircle**

Journey (Co-Coordinator), Journey Host (Home, Dinner, Day) **Encircle**

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