

12/1/2025

FFCNC Annual Meeting and Holiday Party @ Kernersville Community House

Ray Kiszely welcomed members and guests and then introduced Bill Gramley who gave an invocation.

Eleanor Stoller gave the membership report (below).

Members who have paid dues (includes members joining after 6/1/2023)	71
Legacy Members	10
Total Membership Count for FFCNC (not FFI)	81

Welcome New Members During 2024:

Richard and Valerie Briggs
Jill and Nick Dalley
Nancy and Rod Edens
Jim Hanes
Mary and Tom Mascenek
Andi and Ken Ostberg

Currently Collecting dues for 2025 (\$35 per person). Reminder letters were sent to members with the exception of: (1) Legacy Members; (2) New Members Joining after June 30th, whose dues payment covers 2025.

Please pay dues ASAP so we can submit payment to FF International by their deadline.

Marta Rhodes gave the November treasurer's report (below)

November 30 2024 Account Balance Information Wells Fargo ending balance and ledger balance = \$4,994.51 Once checks 2091 and 2093 are cashed, the ledger balance will be \$4,245.01 Expected expenditure in December are recurrent lonos monthly charge and expenses for the annual FFCNC meeting/social event.

Winston Salem Foundation Balance 10/31/24 = \$17,584.51

Don Woodward, communications, shared that after reading the by-laws he realized that others could have been delegated to help with communication duties! One special project that Don initiated was a printable picture directory of our membership.

Sandra Gramley, hospitality chair, encouraged us to offer ideas of what we would like to do in 2025. Lucy Kaplan and Valerie Briggs are joining Sandra's team this year. Ideas for 2025:

- Tour of 2nd harvest bank in WS
- Tour Industries of the Blind
- Visit Generational Center in WS
- Visit Alpaca Farm
- Train trip to tour NC State Capital
- Soup social at Don's friend's home

Roger Poplin, journey coordinator, started his report by reviewing what we did in 2024. Members of FFCNC enjoyed outbound journeys to Knoxville, Dallas and Greater Harrisburg, PA. Martha Brown participated in an FFI special journey to Eastern Europe. The club hosted an Open Word program with delegates from Moldova. Marta and Mary shared their experiences traveling with other clubs.

Schedule for 2025:

- Inbound from Greater Harrisburg—March 31-April 5
- Open World from Moldova in May
- Inbound from Sacramento, CA in June 4-11
- Outbound to Denver, CO in August
- We are on a waitlist for an international outbound journey

2026:

- Friendship Force International always asks our input about incoming and outgoing journeys. The board informed FFI that we wanted one inbound journey for 2026.

- Everyone will be sent a survey to give their first and second choices for an outbound international journey.

Outbound journeys need an ambassador coordinator and inbound journeys need a host coordinator. Members are encouraged to join Roger's team to learn coordinator responsibilities, while helping with these jobs. There is a small stipend for inbound journeys and a larger payment for outbound journeys.

President Report:

Below is the correspondence that Ray received from Veaceslav Toderita about the OW program:

Hello dear Mr. Ray!

Glad to hear from you and I hope you are well!

Regarding the program, as I said before, not once, including when you handed me the certificates, I will not hesitate to repeat myself that those I experienced in North Carolina were among the most wonderful moments of my life for real!

Yes, I returned to the usual regime of life, work, family, megapolis routine, but the impressions that left their mark as a result of my participation in the program divide my life from now on into two; from up to the USA and after the USA. Until now I am overwhelmed with emotions, which I share with all my relatives, friends, colleagues and I hope that this feeling will continue as long as possible.

In the part related to the professional field, it is obvious that the new knowledge and practices that I have acquired will contribute essentially to my career training. Professional exchanges are very useful in any field, but especially in a country the size of the USA. I was absolutely delighted with the professionalism of everyone we had the opportunity to meet, especially the openness and seriousness with which we were approached.

As for the cultural exchange, I have no words! I was warmly welcomed by Roger and Nan. They are fantastic people. People with life experience, from whom I took a lot and would have a lot to learn. They welcomed me as their son and shared the house with me, for which I am grateful. I regret that we didn't have enough time to spend more time, I really would have liked to surprise them with some dishes prepared by me. But I look forward to seeing them in Moldova!

You are all exceptional, you have given me the most precious thing in the world - your time. You were with us every day, you organized the program and all the events perfectly, I noticed a very, very serious approach for us, you worked a lot for this, I am convinced. The day spent at the ocean was simply magical!

As a result, I left the USA with pleasant memories, which is no less valuable and priceless knowledge!

From now on, I will obviously apply what I have learned in practice, I will continue advanced English language courses, I will certainly apply to other programs related to the USA, but most importantly I will insist on the children obtaining their studies in the USA, for quality knowledge and the formation of strong personalities. All of the above are your merits!

Thank you so much for everything, I will never forget you!
Friendship Force Central North Carolina the best team!

Ray then gave a short history of Open World which started in 1991 when the Soviet Union collapsed. The state department started bringing in groups based on occupation to USA from the former Soviet Union. OW was later changed to COIL (Congressional Office of Intentional Leadership) ...although we still use the OW acronym. Ray presented a certificate to Ralph Cauthen for his help with the OW program. There will be another OW program in May 2025 which may be shared with the Raleigh FF club. A certificate in appreciation of her years of service on the Friendship Force board was given to Mary Davis.

Barbara North, as head of the nominating committee, thanked Charles John for his help and then announced the candidates. There are 7 board of directors and they can serve 3 years.

Nominees:

President—Don Woodward

Secretary—Nancy Edens

Treasurer—Marta Rhodes will continue to serve

Communication—Martha Brown

Journey Coordinator—Roger Poplin will continue to serve

Hospitality/social—Sandra Gramley will continue to serve

Membership—Eleanor Stoller will continue to serve

There were no nominations from the floor. Barbara presented the slate to Ray who asked for “ayes” and “nays.” The slate was approved.

Barbara led a standing ovation for Ray for his leadership during covid and beyond.

Meeting was adjourned.

An Addendum to the Minutes of December 1, 2020
Friendship Force of Central North Carolina
To Clarify the Positions of Key Leaders of the Club
For Banking Purposes at Wells Fargo Bank.

Following the Election of Officers during the Annual Meeting on December 1, 2024

The 4 members of the Club that are considered Key Persons and will be issued Debit

Cards and know as Signers for the Wells Fargo Business Account are as follows:

Don Woodward, President
3811 Guinevere Lane
Winston Salem, North Carolina 27104

Marta Rhodes, Treasurer
920 Crafton Creek Drive
Lewisville, North Carolina 27023

Sandra Gramley, Hospitality Social
1400 Falmouth Drive
Lewisville, North Carolina 27023

Eleanor Stoller
5907 Tarleton Drive
Oak Ridge, North Carolina 27310

For written communications to Friendship Force of Central North Carolina please use

The address of the Treasurer: 920 Crafton Creek Drive, Lewisville, North Carolina 27023.

Please remove the following outgoing Club Officers and Former Officers from your list of Key Executives and Signers.

Don Sylvester, Former President
4101 Cascade Drive, Greensboro, NC 27410

Barbara North, Former President
5700 Tanyard Court, Oak Ridge, NC 27310

Anne Barefield, Former President
130 Wareham Lane, Winston-Salem, NC 27106

Laura Graham, Former Treasurer
505 Woodvale Drive, Greensboro, NC 27410

Submitted by Raymond Kiszely, President FFCNC

December 3, 2024
