



Dear Friendship Force of Northern Colorado,

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. We all have much to be grateful for as we begin another holiday season. We have even had a dusting of snow to get it started!

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at our Holiday Social on December 12, at ElderHaus at 6:00 PM! We will be supping on some delicious soups! There will be fun, fellowship, carols and laughter. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share, a white elephant gift and your good cheer. This year, we will be collecting monetary donations for the Larimer County Food Bank to help our neighbors instead of paying a caterer! Thank you to Susanna Garner and her team for organizing this fun and festive occasion! If you haven't signed up, it's not too late! Contact Susanna Garner and let her know you'd like to join the festivities!

Those of you who were at our November meeting have heard the news that FFI will be changing their membership fees in 2026 in the process of creating a more equitable fee structure over the next three years. The new structure will help sustain the movement that has connected people across the borders that divide us for nearly 50 years. The annual dues will be \$100, paid directly to FFI using the "myffi" portal. Specific directions on how to do this will be in the January newsletter. We can also help you at the January meeting, if you are having difficulty. Don't forget that you can pay monthly (\$8.33), should that work better for you (a check made out to our club is also possible). Remember, you are contributing to something larger than the journeys you take: a movement for peace and understanding across the globe! Please read on for the attached for a letter from FFI. Local dues will remain \$25, payable by check or Zelle.

I wish you a wonderful holiday season, full of friends, family and fun!

In friendship,

Suzi Gossard

Why Your Membership Matters

Oct 29, 2025



When you renew your membership with Friendship Force, you're doing more than putting your your name on our list– you're helping sustain a movement that has connected tens of thousands of people across borders for nearly 50 years.

In organizations like Rotary, Lions, and similar member-based groups, dues are understood as a way of supporting a mission. They're not a transaction or a purchase, they're a commitment to keeping a cause alive and thriving. A cause that their members believe in. The same has always been true for Friendship Force.

From the very beginning, our membership dues have existed to sustain the mission – to keep Friendship Force strong and active, and able to change peoples' lives through cultural understanding. Yet over time as we and the world have evolved, it's understandable that some of our members began to think of dues in more transactional terms; in other words, wondering what their fees get them directly. That's a natural question, especially when so many aspects of life today are framed as services or subscriptions. But in truth, Friendship Force's dues are something more enduring: a shared investment in a mission that benefits us all.



Your membership dues are what fuel this work: nurturing new clubs, supporting volunteers and leaders, igniting new initiatives, and ensuring that our global network remains vibrant and effective for future generations.

By contrast, the nightly journey fee you pay as an ambassador is a fee-for-service: it covers the specific, tangible parts of your travel experience – the support of the clubs involved in that journey, and the coordination that makes each journey successful and special.



Both are essential. *One*

supports the movement, the other supports the moment.

And we know this commitment isn't always easy. For some, the dues can be a real financial stretch, even when the heart is fully invested. That doesn't make anyone less devoted to our mission or less in love with the FF experience; it's a reflection of real life, and we deeply value every member who continues to stand with us in spirit and support.

As we move forward, I hope we can all take pride in the knowledge that our membership is not a transaction. It's a contribution to something larger: a living, breathing movement for peace and understanding in the world.