



2026 March FFWM newsletter

From FFWM <FFwesternmichigan@88357545.mailchimpapp.com>

Date Sat 2/28/2026 8:39 PM

To Marcia Ellis <marcia.ellis@wmich.edu>

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friendship force

WESTERN MICHIGAN

<https://www.friendshipforcewmich.org/>

March 2026



Dues

All,

If you have not yet paid your dues (\$100) to FFI and plan to, please do so!

Membership in FFI has many benefits including taking journeys to other clubs and use of the myFFI website. If you have any technical difficulty paying your dues, contact Pam Sackett (tulikivi@msn.com). Instructions below may help.

If you do not join FFI, you can join our local club to keep meeting up with friends and joining in our club activities! Simply bring a \$10 check to our next LEO.

2026 Journeys

Journey Assignments

Inbound: May 4-10. FF Tallahassee FL and FF Central Arizona. JC: Pam Sackett (tulikivi@msn.com). Activities will include the Chihuly exhibit at Meijer Gardens and a performance at the Gilmore Festival!

Outbound: October. FF Oklahoma City. JCs: Loie Dye-Gustafson and Marcia Ellis. They are accepting ambassador applications now.

Download the [Ambassador Application](#). *Cowboy culture, oil wells and a Museum of Osteology!!!* Please send your application to Loie... Email completed form to wordpictures@gmail.com.

Outbound: July 11-Aug 7. Iringa, Tanzania JCs: Louise Potratz (LPL4@hotmail.com), Nancy Draayer, Lisa Fisher. Waiting list only.

Journey forms can be downloaded from our website [HERE](#).

Next LEO



It's nearly LEO time again!
 You know the date and time: March 12 at 12 noon
 In celebration of St. Patrick let's
 Try an Irish Restaurant:
McGonigle's Pub
 3512 E. Main St.
 Kalamazoo
 RSVP to lynhargreave@gmail.com
Go raibh maith agat



February 12th LEO



15 members met for a potluck and Lyn Hargreave gave a presentation on how to utilize myFFI website.

Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be March 18, 2026 at 7pm.
 Typically board meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month. We will announce the dates and times through this newsletter.

Any member interested in attending please notify Louise Potratz at LpL4@hotmail.com. You will receive an invitation to the meeting which is held via Zoom. You don't even have to leave your house!

See Who Is Traveling

Pam and I left home late September, a day before our guests Lisa and Ginger from FFWNC departed, to house sit in Athens GA for two months. Our plans to stay in Florida till after Christmas changed when we found a last-minute opportunity to go to Thailand with Overseas Adventure Travel. It was our first time traveling with OAT. The itinerary was from Bangkok to Chaing Rai. We added nine days on our own. We visited a national park and Ko Sichang, an island without cars. We explored the Chaing Rai area on a scooter and spent a couple extra nights in Bangkok.

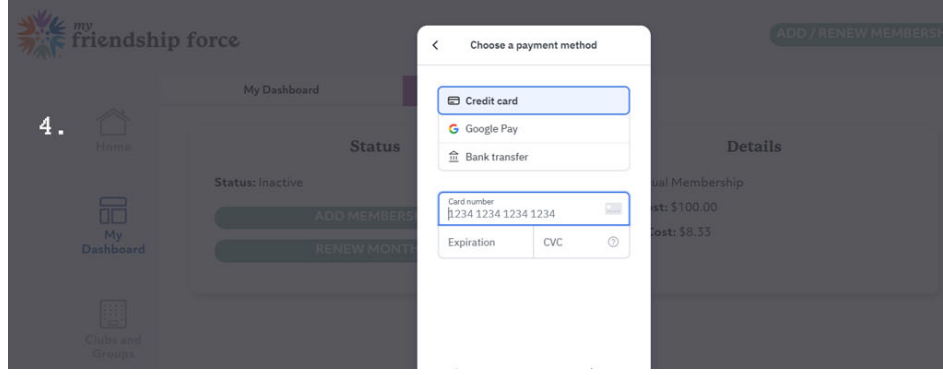
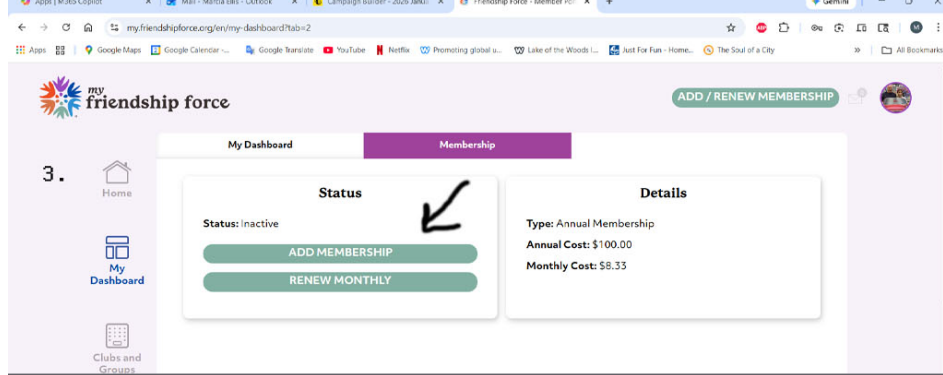
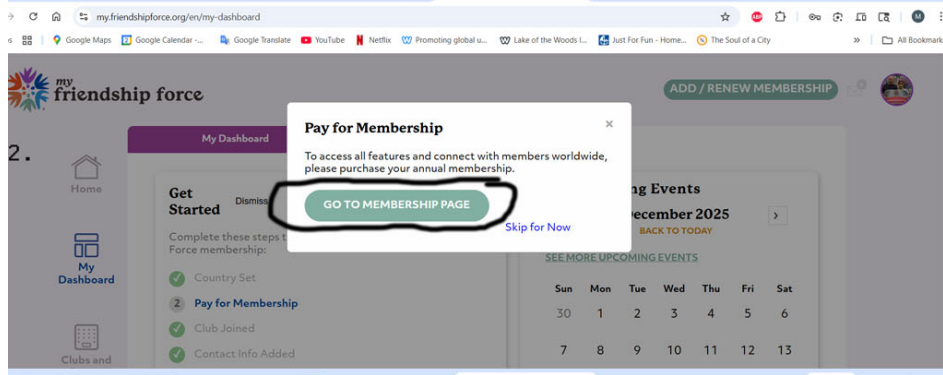
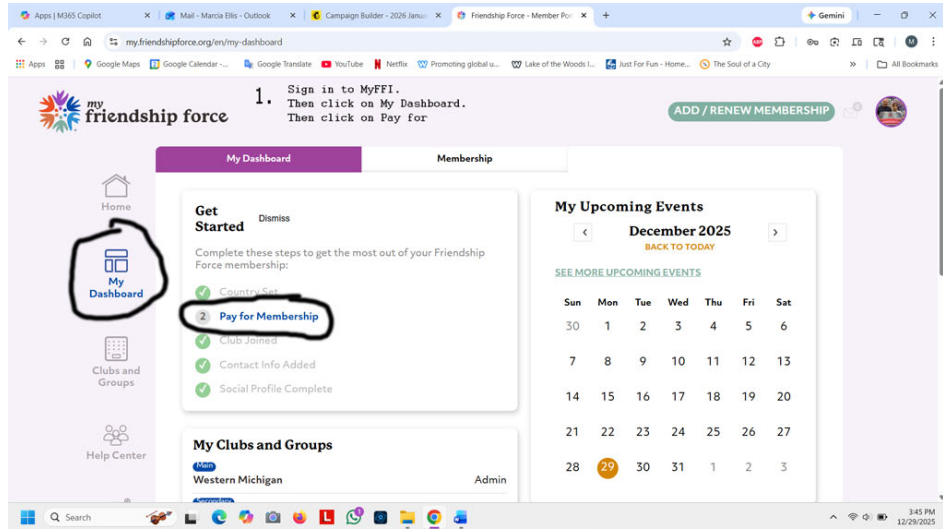
The trip included a full circle moment on the drive home, when we stayed with Lisa in Hendersonville NC. We called Lisa when we realized we would be passing through Hendersonville and she invited us to come for dinner and spend the night.

Stan Sackett



How To Pay FFI Dues

Sign in to your MyFFI account and click on My Dashboard on the left. Then follow the screen prompts as pictured below.



Travel Opportunities

Click the links below to review a catalog of Special Journeys that are currently being offered by other FFI clubs. Perhaps there is a journey that interests you!

Go [HERE](#) to see all group journeys. (You must be signed in to myFFI).



Contribute to the Newsletter

Would you like to contribute something or share a travel experience in this newsletter? If you are willing to share your adventures, a photo, or anything related to travel, cultures, places you've visited, please email your article to Marcia Ellis at ellism@wmich.edu.

My FFI

The members-only portal, my.friendshipforce.org, is the go-to place for news, journey opportunities, payments, virtual experiences and all other member-relevant information. If you have not yet signed up, click [Word](#) or [PDF](#) for detailed instructions.



FFWM Newsletter
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