



friendship force

CENTRAL VIRGINIA

Changing the Way You See the World

The Ambassador

President's Message

Dave Burns



Happy New Year to our membership and friends of Friendship Force Central Virginia (FFCV) and I hope all of you experience a healthy and prosperous 2014. Wow! 2014 came upon me very quickly and to say I am in awe of becoming President of FFCV is, without doubt, an understatement. As many of you know Linda and I only have been with FFCV for a handful of years and I realize I still have a lot to learn. Having been on the BOD for the past two years and mentored by some truly wonderful and caring folks has helped me immensely in "learning the ropes" and an understanding of what FFCV is all about. Over the past couple of months I have reached out to many past presidents, experienced FFCV members, and many others to find ways we can improve our club. As a result of these discussions, one theme that stuck out was "let's bring fun back to the club". Thus, as I wrote to you after being elected President, my theme is simply: "Getting Back to Having Fun!" While I do not want to repeat what I wrote in December I would like to recap some of the things I think are important

One of my most important duties as President is to insure club members find their membership rewarding and worthwhile. In this vein there are several things we need to do to both retain our current members and recruit new ones. Foremost, is to make our program interesting; that is to give our members the opportunity to travel to interesting and often exotic locations, host folks from around the world, and most importantly form friendships and understand the cultures of those we meet along the way. Also, the club needs to provide a means for like-minded folks to interface with each other, share experiences, and let's face it have a good time.

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Mark These Dates!

Membership Dinner Meeting	Jan 21
FF Leadership Conference	April 2-5
Australian Inbound	May 11-17

As I asked in my December email, the question is how do we do this? In terms of travel or hosting the answer is easy. Not only do we have at least one “outbound” trip to a foreign location(s) each year, but each of us can join other clubs in traveling to many different places. If you like to travel at relatively inexpensive costs join us in our “outbounds”, take a look at what Friendship Force



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Officers and Chairs - 2014

<i>President</i>	<i>Dave Burns</i>
<i>President Elect</i>	<i>Al Colville</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Dale Walden</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Margaret Dryer</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>David Lea</i>
<i>JAG</i>	<i>Linda Burns</i>
<i>Social</i>	<i>Peggy Colville</i>
<i>Programs</i>	<i>Al Colville</i>
<i>Membership</i>	<i>Rob Beck</i>
<i>Fundraising</i>	<i>Dale Walden</i>
<i>Communications</i>	<i>Walt O'Connell</i>
<i>Membership Outreach</i>	<i>Nancy Moore</i>

International (FFI) offers through their catalog of exchanges (http://www2.thefriendshipforce.org/catalog/ffi_listonly.aspx) or check out other FF clubs looking for folks to join them. We also can set up domestic “outbounds” such as an invitation we have from Iowa to go there next year. The possibilities are unlimited.

As for what we do as a club to make things more interesting and “fun” a lot of what happens depends on our membership and how you want to participate in our bi-monthly membership meetings, social events, JAG sponsorship, and other activities. I have already stated that I would like to see less formal meetings and more informal get-togethers such as pot-lucks, small dinner parties, and so on. I can assure you our BOD, Social and Programs Committees, and I, will in the coming months come up with new

ideas on how to do this. Any thoughts you may have on this are most welcome.

I would like to say that retaining, bringing back former members, and acquiring new FFCV members is at the top of my “to do” list. Since my last email in December, several members have stepped forward to become members of the Membership, Social, and JAG Committees. I sincerely thank all of you who did so. These are three areas we need to focus on and I am sure we will be seeing improvements in all of these endeavors. I would also like to say that several “inactive” or former members have stepped up to assist in improving our club. Again, my sincere thanks to all of you! This is not to say we do not need additional help; if you want or can help it certainly would be much appreciated.

There are other issues I would like to address in the coming months such as changing our status from an “Informal Community Organization” to a “Non-Profit Organization”, getting more involved with social media (Meetup, Facebook, Twitter, etc.), and foremost, our financial situation, i.e budget and where money is spent. All of these issues need to be shared with the membership, not just those attending BOD meetings.

Later in this newsletter there will be some comments regarding the membership renewal and application form. I sincerely hope you will remain with us and help us to gain new members. Things will be changing and I want you to be part of our club and work towards world and community friendship. In the coming months I will be asking each of you to find at least one friend or acquaintance who shares our interest in world friendship and would like to be part of our group.

Friendship Force is a great organization and there is no doubt our club can improve but it takes the efforts of all of us to make this happen. In conclusion, I promise I will do what I can to make this an even better club and appreciate the efforts of all of you to make this happen. I am open to any suggestions, concerns, or thoughts on how we can improve what really is a great club.

2014 Membership Dues

Dave Burns

In the December 2013 Communiqué it was stated that FFCV membership dues would be increased in 2014 to \$32 for individuals and \$60 for families, generally an increase of \$5.00 per person. Based on communication with several members I believe we need to explain a little more on why this occurred. If you were at the November General Membership meeting you know that the dues might have to be increased since FFI has increased their membership fee by about \$5.00 per person. We opened the floor to those at the meeting to comment and a request to please let us know their thoughts on what we should do in terms of dues increases. At the time only one member voiced concern, while others agreed that in order to maintain our budget we would have to increase our dues. Subsequent to the meeting nobody contacted the BOD with comments one way or another. At the December BOD meeting, also attended by other non-BOD members, this subject was addressed. After considerable discussion it was determined the only way to maintain fiscal responsibility was to increase our dues and all in attendance agreed to this. Having discussed this with a number of representatives of other clubs in New Orleans, I think we are in the majority of what other clubs are doing---and many have dues much higher than ours---and it is the best interest of our club to go along with the increase. If you have concerns, please feel free to discuss this with me or other members of the BOD.

The Membership Renewal application is attached to the end of the newsletter. Please complete it and bring it along with your 2014 dues to the January dinner meeting or mail it to David Lea, 139 Stribling Ave., Charlottesville, VA 22903.

January Dinner Meeting

Al Colville

Our next bi-monthly membership meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 21st at the Elks Club in Charlottesville. (At the foot of Pantops take Rt. 20 approx. ½ mi to Darden Towe Park. The Elks is on the left). We start at 5:30 pm with a short social hour followed by a buffet dinner and a membership meeting afterwards. The main purpose of these meeting is to get us all together for some social time and to find out what is going on with our Club. Our bi-monthly meetings are important since they are one of our primary ways to share information about Friendship Force opportunities, decisions being made by the BOD, and other activities of importance to all members.

In the future we would like to vary our meetings in a number of ways. We expect to try different venues, different themes, different days and times, etc. All of this will be discussed at our session on January 21st and we welcome your input and ideas. In fact, the main theme of this next Membership Meeting will be a free and open discussion on where our Club is headed over the next year or two. We are always looking for ideas on persons to hear, things to do and places to visit. Please join us on the 21st and share your ideas with rest of the Club.

And here is what you must do to reserve your spot on January 21st. Please click on the link below and let us know whether or not you can join us for our next Membership Meeting. Add your name to the list and check the form that says you will attend. If more than one of you will be joining us, please enter both names separately so that we can get a count. Then click on SAVE to send your reservation to us. Please note that this will be a commitment on your part to pay the cost of the meal for that evening, which will be \$17 per person. The link for this is:
<http://doodle.com/fne79dtbe3x729cn>

Membership Committee Report

Rob Beck, Chair

We started 2014 with 60 registered members. An updated Membership Roster was sent to all club members of record in December, 2013. Thanks to all members who have been providing us with positive responses, updates and corrections for the next edition of the Roster.

Welcome to Willow Drinkwater (willowdrinkwater@aol.com), Judy Lesiak (jel22950@gmail.com) and Eileen Seaman (snabe@comcast.net) who joined the Membership Committee. We are looking for more committee members to aid in an expanded program for 2014. Please contact Willow, Judy or me (rbecklm@gmail.com) with your interest or questions.

Our first tasks include: updating the membership application forms and procedures; renewing as many current members for 2014; and at the request of the club board, surveying current club members and potential new member sources, then reporting to the board recommendations on how to best reach out to those audiences and grow our club.

Please note at the end of this News Letter you will find a 2014 Members Renewal & Interest Survey form. Please complete it and return it and your membership payment for 2014 as directed on the form. Your attention to this task is appreciated as we must use that data to update our records with Friendship Force International.

Social Committee

Peggy Colville



On December 14th we had 28 people come to enjoy our 2013 Christmas Luncheon at the Ashlawn Grill. In attendance were two past presidents with their spouses and one possible new member guest.

I would like to thank Margaret Dyer for providing the beautiful poinsettias for our door prizes and Linda Gehle for playing the piano and making our tables look festive and beautiful. Everyone had their pictures taken by Al Colville by the Christmas tree. These can be seen at our January 21st membership meeting. Dave started his year as our President a little early by leading some of our members in the 12 Days of Christmas. Laughter, good food and great times were the order of the day. Thanks to all!



Your Social Committee would like to make 2014 a "Get to know one another" year and want to get your input on some new ideas. Just to get your juices flowing – we were thinking on the lines of small dinner parties rather than always having a costly dinner. One thing that was brought up during our past BOD meeting was a "Mystery Dinner" that will be explained at our next meeting. But for now I would like to ask all you members for any ideas you would like to suggest for this coming year – please be creative – and funny if you will – all ideas are welcomed. We really want this to be a warm – getting to know one another year as we work together in making friends around the world. Let me hear from you – peggy-smith1@hotmail.com or 434-589-2844.

Fund Raising

Dale Walden, Chair

Volunteering for events at NTelos Pavilion has been the primary source of revenue for our Club. Volunteers check ID affirmation, dispense wine, beer and soft drinks at various "Fridays After Five" as well as some ticketed events by well-known performers. (Beach Boys Concert in 2013) This usually involves from six to twelve FF volunteers for about 5 hours of work, who get paid hourly, and all moneys go to our Club's fund. When we are notified that we are scheduled for an event, I will contact our members for volunteers. Occasionally we will be given short notice and will have a very short time to seek out volunteers.

This is a great way for our Club to raise funds and recruit new members. If you have any suggestions for other fund-raising activities, please let me know. With this in mind, I would like to know 1) who would like to volunteer and 2) who would like to be placed on the 'short notice' list (... as short as 24 hours).

This is a great way to have fun, spend some time with fellow FFCV members, meet new people, enjoy great concerts for FREE and raise money for our Club. I am looking forward to hearing from you! Call me (434 975-3591) or sign up at the next meeting!

IAG School

Linda Burns, Chair

The current basic course (3-months) students we are sponsoring are scheduled to graduate on Feb 13, 2014. These include two students; 2nd LT Garbold from Mongolia and CPT Kanno from Japan,

sponsored by Walt & Patsy O'Connell and Molly Anthony, respectively. All members are invited and encouraged to attend the graduation ceremony.

Three new basic course students will follow quickly behind them and will arrive on Feb 17, their graduation date will be May 8. As usual I am looking for sponsors for these students; if interested please let me know. The students include Moldova - Elena Milceno, Bulgaria - name not available, and Egypt - name not available.

The current graduate course students (10-months), are scheduled to graduate on May 22, 2014. These include Haytham Ahmed from Egypt, Hakan Kandar from Turkey, Josef Daskal from Israel and HyunJung Yoon from Korea; sponsored by Dave & Linda Burns, Al & Peggy Colville, Dale Walden, and Rob & Elizabeth Beck, respectively. Again, all are invited to attend. I just need to know in advance who will be attending, as we need to get car passes.

I am also happy to report that we now have at least three members who have stepped forward to be on the JAG Committee and I look forward to working with all of you on what is an important and rewarding experience. I would really like to see more of our members getting involved in the JAG sponsorship program, whether as sponsors or on the committee, and if you are interested, please let me know.

I'm interested in having a graduation party in May for our 10-month students. Any suggestions would be appreciated. (Linda Burns, 434-589-8724 or toeheadva@yahoo.com)

Outreach Committee

Nancy Moore, Chair

The main focus of the Outreach Committee is to advise the membership when an FFCV member may need support due to an adverse situation such as illness, injury, or loss of a family member/loved one. In most cases food, transportation, running errands or a card would be appreciated. **It is imperative that privacy be respected**, however, so please ensure that such acknowledgement will be welcomed.

It was decided at the BOD meeting on January 7th that birthday cards will no longer be sent by the Club as that information will be included in The Ambassador.

Please contact me if you become aware that one of our members needs our help –
Phone: 434-978-7966; email nancymoore85@yahoo.com

2013 International Conference in New Orleans, LA **Nov. 23-25**

Dave and Linda Burns

The FFI sponsored World Conference was a great success for FFI, the Baton Rouge FF Club who put it together, and the over 700 folks (from 30+ countries) who attended it. Bob & Dee Schwagerl, Arlene



and Lee Young, and Linda & I represented our club. The overwhelming comment we can make about this and other World Conferences is that they are extremely informative and a great way to meet FF folks and understand what FF is all about. If you can, try to attend them in the future. Without going into details, which can be found at the FFI website, it provided all of us the opportunity to: meet with the FFI folks based in Atlanta and other FF members; to reunite with old friends we've met on exchanges; to attend some really good and informative workshops; to experience some outstanding conference-sponsored entertainment; and to get acquainted with Bourbon Street, the French Quarter, and the rest of New Orleans. As mentioned, please check out the FFI website for conference details

http://www.friendshipforce.org/index.php/conference_2013



Upcoming Exchanges

2014 Inbound from Blue Mountain, New South Wales, Australia. (May 11-19)

Bob and Dee Schwagerl, EDs

THE AUSSIE'S ARE COMING!

Along with spring Australians of the Blue Mountain club will arrive on May 11th and depart on May 19th. Current numbers total fifteen (15) Ambassadors made up of six (6) couples and three (3) single ladies. One of the single women is Colleen McCombie, the Exchange Director, and she will be staying with us. The total housing requirement therefore totals eight (8) home hosts.

Club members that will volunteer to assist with pick up on arrival is a critical need. The group is scheduled to arrive at the Richmond airport at 12:35 P.M. on May 11th. This will require seven (7) cars assuming one is a van. Departure presents no problem since they will be leaving via train from Charlottesville.

Plans call for the combining of the welcome and farewell dinner into one gala pot luck affair. This will give everyone in the club the opportunity to participate and enjoy the experience of developing new friendships. The location of the dinner will be at a members home.

Please attend the January meeting and let us know your interests and how you would like to participate. Sign up forms will be provided. Let's show the Aussies what a Virginia welcome looks like!

2014 Outbound – Tamworth, Australia/New Plymouth, New Zealand (October)

Dave Burns, ED

I have been in contact with the EDs at both locations and each is looking forward to our visiting them. There has been a major change in the timing of this trip. These trips were set up to coincide with the FFI-sponsored World Conference in Auckland, NZ on 14-16 Oct. Whether or not you plan on attending the conference, we are scheduled to be with the New Plymouth, NZ club from 17-24 Oct, and then fly to Australia to spend 24/25 Oct-31Oct/1Nov with the Tamworth club. This will allow those

with friends or others in Australia to spend time with them. Right now only nine FFCV members have expressed interest in the exchanges and we need about double that amount to make the trip(s) worthwhile. I should point out that neither attendance at the World Conference nor homestays with both clubs is required to participate in the trip. Also, if you know of someone who is not a member, but would be interested in participating, they can be invited. International exchanges do not require participants be members of FF. If you are interested, contact Dave Burns (smokieinva@gmail.com, 434-589-8724). The exchange application is at the end of the newsletter.

April FF Regional Leadership Conference, Harrisburg, PA

Dave Burns

Our Region Field Director Barbara Macken will be leading this year's conference which will be held April 2-4 with a 3-day homestay in Harrisburg possible for those interested. In the past this conference was primarily for club presidents or their representatives from the various clubs in the Northeast Region, but this year has been expanded to include former leadership, committee chairs and those seeking future leadership roles of clubs in the region. Dale Walden plans on representing our club; if you also are interested please let me know soon.

I have asked Barbara Macken to see what can be done about combining clubs in our region in outbound exchanges and to otherwise have more interfaces with them in the future. For example, a reciprocal three-day trip to homestay with the New York club. This topic is something I expect to be discussed at the Leadership Conference. With this in mind the following are where clubs in the region will be going in 2014. I've also included the clubs in North Carolina since they are relatively close to us. I've already been contacted by the New Hampshire club to see if we have anybody interested in joining with their club on its trip to Brazil in October. If you are interested in any of these trips you should contact the club via here: <http://www2.thefriendshipforce.org/exchanges/search.aspx>

Northeast Region Clubs

Southern New Jersey to Tauranga - Western Bay of Plenty and Western Waikato, New Zealand	10 Mar
Connecticut to Richmond, USA	1 Apr
Southern Connecticut to Urla of Greater Izmir, Turkey	1 Apr
Greater Binghamton, to La Libertad, Peru	1 Jun
National Capital Area to Manchester, UK	1 Sep
Long Island to Sao Jose do Rio Preto and Sao Paulo-ABC Brazil	1 Oct
New Hampshire Seacoast to Curitiba and Santo Angelo, Brazil	1 Oct
Richmond to Itanhaem, Brazil	1 Nov
Greater Harrisburg to Mount Gambier and Murray Bridge, Australia	7 Nov

North Carolina Clubs

Raleigh to Hertfordshire, UK	1 Jun
Central North Carolina, to Chisinau, Moldova	1 Sep

If you want to make new friends in other places but these exchanges won't work for you then consider joining other exchanges. Check out

http://www2.thefriendshipforce.org/catalog/media/ffi_catalog_2013.pdf


http://www2.thefriendshipforce.org/catalog/ffi_listonly.aspx

<http://www2.thefriendshipforce.org/catalog/default.aspx>

<http://www2.thefriendshipforce.org/exchanges/search.aspx>

Member News

Birthday Query	
Cheryl Kasper	1/6
Harriet Kuhr	1/14
Judith Lesiak	1/15
Helen Moyer	1/31
Leslie Wensel	2/17
Walter O'Connell	2/28



Going to Volunteer at our Fundraising Events?

Get your uniform - White Woman's Short Sleeve FFCV shirt - brand new size Medium (more like a size 12 dress top) Bargain priced at \$15. Write mollyanthony087@gmail.com for pick-up

Anniversaries	
Leslie and David Wensel	2/2
Arlene Hanson-Young and Leydon Young	2/7



Do you need a name tag or business cards?

Drop an email to Walt
(walt.oconnell@gmail.com)
and let him know what you need.

2014 Calendar Meetings and Events

January	7	BOD Meeting, 3:00 pm (Dryer's)
	21	Bi-Monthly General Membership Meeting
February	11	BOD Meeting 2:00 pm Schwagerls'
	13	JAG School Basic Students Graduation, JAG School
	17	New JAG School Basic Students Arrive (sponsors needed)
	TBD	Social Event TBD
March	1	Newsletter Input to Walt
	11	BOD Meeting 3:00 pm (TBD)
	TBD	Bi-Monthly General Membership Meeting
April	2-5	FF Regional Leadership Conference – Harrisburg, PA
	8	BOD Meeting 3:00 pm (TBD)
	TBD	Social Event TBD
	TBD	Newcomer Orientation
May	3	Newsletter Input to Walt
	6	BOD Meeting 3:00 pm (TBD)
	8	JAG School Basic Students Graduation, JAG School
	11-17	Australian Inbound
	22	JAG School Graduate Course Graduation, JAG School
	TBD	Bi-Monthly General Membership Meeting (maybe in conjunction w/Inbound)
June	10	BOD Meeting 3:00 pm (TBD)
	TBD	Social Event TBD
July	5	Newsletter Input to Walt
	8	BOD Meeting 3:00 pm (TBD)
	TBD	Bi-Monthly General Membership Meeting
	TBD	JAG School Graduate Course Students Arrive, Meet and Greet
August	12	BOD Meeting 3:00 pm (TBD)
	TBD	Social Event TBD
September	6	Newsletter Input to Walt
	9	BOD Meeting 3:00 pm (TBD)
	13	Bi-Monthly General Membership Meeting (Picnic)
October	14	BOD Meeting 3:00 pm (TBD)
	14-16	Friendship Force International Conference, Auckland, NZ
	17-31	Outbound New Plymouth, NZ and Tamworth, Australia
	TBD	Social Event
November	1	2015 Newsletter Inputs/2015 BOD Slate sent to Walt
	11	BOD Meeting 3:00 pm (TBD)
	18	Annual General Membership Meeting/Election of BOD
December	9	BOD Meeting 3:00 pm (TBD)
	13	FFCV Christmas Party

Show Your Club Logo with Custom Merchandise



You now have the ability to purchase quality merchandise with our club logo *embroidered* on it from Queensboro. Some of us have purchased this merchandise in the past and have found it to be very good quality.

We have our own “store front” that uses our approved logo and ordering products through it is quite easy. Go to <http://ffcv.qbstores.com> and to see the selection of products. To make a purchase, set up an account and then select from the products available, specifying your size and color preference.



A flat fee of \$6.50 per order applies regardless of the order size so team up with a friend and consolidate your orders.

Queensboro offers many more products than we have placed in our store front. If you are looking for something in particular you can view their entire site at <http://www.queensboro.com>. You can order directly from that site but you won't have access to our logo. If you see an item you would like with the logo, let Walt know (walt.oconnell@gmail.com, 434-591-0532) and he will add it to the store front.



AMBASSADOR APPLICATION AND AGREEMENT

A Friendship Force Exchange offers an opportunity for people from different parts of the world to share their lives with each other in the spirit of friendship. The success of the experience depends on the extent to which participants can build friendships, exercise flexibility, adapt to unforeseen difficulties, and promote understanding.

The following information is needed to help Friendship Force International and Exchange Directors select Ambassadors who are representative of their community or region. In the event the applicant is not able to meet in person with the exchange director, you will be asked to provide references and other supporting documentation. Detailed information also helps us match Ambassadors with host families. Each applicant must complete and sign the Application and Agreement. We appreciate your cooperation.

General Ambassador Information		
1. Name as shown on passport:		
2. Contact Information		
(a) Address:		
(b) Home Phone:	3. Gender: (click here to select one)	6. Marital Status: (click here to select one)
(c) Cell Phone:	4. Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy)	7. Passport Expiration Date (mm/dd/yy)
(d) Email:	5. Passport Number:	
Ambassador Personal History		
8. Please note any languages you speak other than your own and your proficiency (Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor)		
Language: (click here to select one)	Language: (click here to select one)	
9. Career Information		
(a) Are you currently working? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	(b) Occupation (previous if retired):	
10. Interests and Hobbies:		
11. Have you participated in a home stay (or similar) before? Yes: (click here to select one) <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
12. Are you currently a member of a Friendship Force Club? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
If yes, which one?		
13. (a) Do you smoke? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (b) Do you mind if your host smokes inside the home? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		

14. Are you comfortable with pets living inside the host's home? Yes No

Health and Mobility

15. (a) Participation in a Friendship Force home-stay may require a greater level of physical activity than an Ambassador is accustomed to, such as carrying luggage, climbing stairs, riding public transportation, and walking longer distances, among others. (For more specific health and mobility requirements for this exchange, please ask the Exchange Director for the Health and Mobility Checklist from the host club.) Are you capable of these activities? Yes No

If no, please elaborate:

(b) Do you have any particular diet, health, medical or allergy issues that require special consideration? Yes No

If yes, please specify (e.g., vegetarian, allergy to penicillin, allergy to animals, high blood pressure).
Ambassadors may be required to provide supporting medical documentation to be accepted on the exchange.

(c) Please provide a reference that your Exchange Director or FFI may contact to verify your ability to participate fully in this exchange (preferably the last ED you traveled with):

Reference Name:

Relationship:

Contact Number:

Email:

Contact Information

16. If traveling with someone else, please complete below. Each applicant should submit an application.

Name:

Relationship:

Age:

Name:

Relationship:

Age:

17. Contact in case of emergency:

Contact 1 Name:

Relationship:

Phone Number:

Email:

Contact 2 Name:

Relationship:

Phone Number:

Email:

Personal Mission Statement

Friendship Force International considers each Ambassador and Host to be a "Citizen Diplomat," a person committed to improving international relations through people-to-people diplomacy during and after the exchange.

To help judge your application, please write briefly in the space below a personal goal that you wish to accomplish through this exchange. Think about how you can keep these personal and institutional relationships alive after you return home and share your goals with us here:

FRIENDSHIP FORCE INTERNATIONAL

AMBASSADOR APPLICATION AND AGREEMENT

Friendship Force International was founded in 1977 with a single mission: to promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people. A nonprofit organization, Friendship Force International is active in more than 50 countries, promoting friendship and goodwill through an extensive program of homestay exchanges. In consideration of his/her selection, the person signing this Agreement ("Ambassador") agrees to the following:

1. The Ambassador Fee entitles the Ambassador to participate in a specific exchange and covers only the items specified in the itinerary. The schedule of payment of Ambassador Fees must be observed.
2. The Ambassador recognizes that connected with any travel there are risks of loss, damage, and injury to persons and property, and the Ambassador is willing to assume and bear those risks. The Ambassador also recognizes that he/she is responsible for failure to comply with any law of any country visited. Therefore, the Ambassador, in consideration of his/her selection by Friendship Force International, agrees to and does hereby release, indemnify, and hold harmless Friendship Force International (which shall include the directors, officers, and employees thereof, as well as its volunteer workers) from all claims, actions, and causes of action based upon or by reason of any loss, damage, or injury to the Ambassador's person or property, arising out of or in any manner connected with any aspect of the exchange program or by reason of the Ambassador's failure to comply with any law in any country in which he/she may travel in connection with the exchange program. Friendship Force International shall have no liability or obligation to return the Ambassador to his/her home community if the Ambassador should miss the return trip due to illness, injury, failure to report to the airport at the prescribed time, or for any other reason.
3. All Friendship Force Ambassadors are required to secure adequate travel and medical insurance to cover emergencies during the exchange. No travel, health, or accident insurance is provided by Friendship Force International, although one may be recommended. This requirement can be fulfilled through the Ambassador's existing insurance policy if it covers international travel, including emergency repatriation, or through a separate travel insurance policy. All travel will be subject to regulations and limitations contained in the ticket(s) issued to the Ambassador.
4. Any request for cancellation of this agreement must be made in writing to the local Exchange Director and forwarded to Friendship Force International. If an Ambassador cancels more than 60 days before departure, FFI will refund all FFI Ambassador Fees and Host Club Program Fees paid. If an Ambassador cancels 60 days or less prior to the departure, FFI will not refund the ambassador fee paid. If FFI cancels an exchange, all FFI Ambassador Fees and Host Club Program Fees paid will be returned to Ambassadors.

If this agreement is not for a club-to-club exchange, please consult your FFI Program Coordinator for cancellation and refund policy.

5. Friendship Force International may cancel this agreement if it is unsuccessful in establishing an exchange which satisfies the goals of Friendship Force International for any reason, including cancellation of or unacceptable changes to the airline arrangements or failure of the local committee to recruit the required number of Ambassadors. In such cases, the Ambassador Fee will be refunded except the \$25 portion designated as non-refundable.
6. If Friendship Force International is making travel arrangements for your exchange, any price increase for transportation will be passed on to the Ambassador until the time that the full Ambassador Fee is received at the international office of Friendship Force International in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. After that time, no increase will be passed on to the Ambassador, except in the case of carrier or routing changes beyond the control of Friendship Force International.

7. The Friendship Force Ambassador hereby agrees to follow the provisions stated above and: a) to accept travel arrangements as arranged by Friendship Force International, where applicable b) to participate fully in the homestay, c) to pay the Ambassador Fee when due, d) to accept the decision making authority of the Exchange Director during the exchange, and e) to accept that the exchange is a public event and that the photograph and name of the Ambassador may be used by the local and national media and Friendship Force International in its publications.

8. Upon acceptance of the Ambassador into the exchange program, this Agreement shall become effective and binding upon Friendship Force International and the Ambassador, and shall be governed by the laws of the state of Georgia, USA. No representations, or statements, whether oral or written, other than those contained herein, shall be binding on Friendship Force International. In the event the Ambassador fails to abide by any of the terms and conditions of this agreement, Friendship Force International may terminate this Agreement without any penalty or liability to Friendship Force International.

Ambassador Pledge:

My main objective as I join this exchange is for cultural understanding and friendship. My health is good enough to keep up with the group activities planned and I know I will be responsible for carrying my own baggage.

As an ambassador, I am aware that my actions reflect on the club and the country from which I travel. I promise to conduct myself in an exemplary manner. I understand the Exchange Director of this exchange has been given authority by the Friendship Force headquarters to lead and conduct this exchange for the best interests of all parties concerned. The Exchange Director has the authority to remove any person from a host home who is not in compliance with the goals of Friendship Force International. In case there is need to use hotels as auxiliary housing, or a need for a single room on the add-on part of the exchange, I will bear the expense.

I have read the Ambassador Agreement provided with this Application and accept its terms.

I hereby agree to secure adequate travel and medical insurance for the duration of the exchange.

I certify that I am 18 years of age or older and have completed this application to the best of my knowledge and believe it is true.

***Signature of Ambassador
Guardian***

Date

Signature of Parent or

If Ambassador is under 18 years old, both signatures are

required.

Ambassadors under 18 must travel with a parent or guardian. Ambassadors under 16 must be hosted together with a parent or guardian.

Name of guardian for youth under 18: _____



2014 Friendship Force Central Virginia
Membership/Renewal Application

**CHANGING THE WAY YOU
SEE THE WORLD**

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

County*: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Phone (land line): _____

**Note: in city = C'ville; else Albemarle*

Cell: _____ Preferred Badge Name: _____ New Member Sponsor _____

For Family Application: Partner's Name: _____ Email: _____

Partner's Cell: _____ Preferred Badge Name: _____ Children Under 21 _____

We like to recognize our members on their special days if you choose (month and day only, we overlook the year).

Your birthday: ___/___/___ Partner's birthday: ___/___/___ Anniversary: ___/___/___

It is important that you have a good understanding of The Friendship Force, what we do, and what to expect. The Web site for Friendship Force International is a good source of information about the history and mission of our organization. Please review the information at www.friendshipforce.org, paying particular attention to the tabs "Who We Are /History and /Mission" and "FAQs" and our club at www.ffc.avenue.org. If you don't have access to the Web, please contact a member for information about our FFI and our club.

To make our club successful, all members contribute as they are able to our various activities. Please check the activities in which you would like to participate or learn more about in 2012.

Are you willing to:	On which Committee(s) would you like to serve:	
	You	Partner
Be a home host?		
Be a day host?		
Host a small dinner party (6-10)?		
Host a large group dinner, 20 or more people?		
Help with fundraising?		
Work on Community Projects?		
Sponsor a JAG student?		

What areas of the world are of particular interest for an Exchange? (Please check off your preferences for 2013-2014)
 Asia___ Canada___ Europe___ Eurasia___ Latin America___ Middle East___ Africa___ South Pacific___ USA___

Annual Dues: \$32 for single, \$60 for a household. Please include a check made out to **FFCV with your application**. Please submit application/renewal and dues to our treasurer, David Lea, 139 Stribling Ave., Charlottesville, VA 22903 or at a meeting

BOD Meeting Minutes

The January 7, 2014 Board Meeting was held at the Dryer's resident, 830 Charter Oaks Dr. Charlottesville, VA at 3:00pm. President Burns welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. The meeting focused on reviving committees, updating officers and committee chairs of their duties as found in the Standing Rules, Policies and Procedures Manual and planning for the year ahead. The details of the next Bi -Monthly Meeting can be found in the Ambassador, as well as this year's inbound from Australia and the outbound to New Zealand & Australia, also the FFI International Conference to be held in New Zealand. The meeting was very busy and productive. The next Board Meeting will be held at the Schwagerl's resident 685 Starfield Dr. Keswick on February 11, 2014 at 2:00pm. All are welcome to attend.