



friendship force

CENTRAL VIRGINIA

Changing the Way You See the World

The Ambassador

Ed note: 2015 is shaping up to be a busy year for us. As a result, this edition of the newsletter is quite lengthy. It does contain lots of information however and I hope you take the time to read it all. Of particular interest is Freddie Bacher's account of her recent trip to Ireland, the outbound exchange to Brazil, the April Regional Conference in New Hampshire, and our January dinner meeting. Also, please remember to complete your membership renewal application (so we can be sure we have your current information) and submit it with your 2015 dues.

*In friendship,
Walt*

President's Message

Dave Burns



Happy New Year everybody!
Cannot believe it is already 2015 and want to wish all of you a healthy, happy and prosperous new year and hopes that our Club's accomplishments are as great as 2014. Next, I would like to thank all of you for having the confidence in me and the rest of your Board of Directors (BOD) to vote us in for another year. As I'm sure most of you know having a President and a complete BOD serve more than one year is unprecedented in Friendship Force Central Virginia (FFCV) and although this will mean a lot of work for us, we are all willing and looking forward to serving our Club. We started 2014 with the general theme of bringing back fun to FFCV and I think we accomplished this; and the theme for 2015 will be to continue on this path.

This coming year will be interesting as there are some new policies Friendship Force International (FFI) will be introducing such as more themed exchanges, shorter stays with clubs, and more domestic exchanges which will make it easier for many to participate in the program. In the past few weeks I have received correspondence from both FFI and the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Region Director explaining what is on the horizon and invitations for our membership to participate in various exchanges

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<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page</u>
President's Message	1
January Membership Meeting	2
Regional Conference	3
Social and Programs Committee	5
Fund Raising	5
JAG School	5
Outreach	6
Do You Want to Go On an Outbound	6
Member News	7
Calendar	8
Dreams Come True	9
Letter from FFI	12
Brazil Outbound	14
Merchandise	17
BOD Meeting Summaries	18

Mark These Dates!

Annual Meeting	Jan. 24
Wine Tasting	Feb. 21

(http://catalog.thefriendshipforce.org/index.php/catalog/all_list/) the FFI World Conference in Vancouver, BC this coming August <https://www.etches.com/ehome/friendshipforcewc2015/228057/> and the Regional Conference in New Hampshire in April, described later. All of these activities are open to the entire FFCV membership.

A fairly new development for our club is that we have been selected to participate in a regional themed exchange that will focus on the Civil War. The exchange, probably to be held in September/October 2016, will include Friendship Force clubs in Harrisburg, PA, Charleston, WV, Washington, DC, hopefully Richmond, VA, and FFCV. Right now the plan is for a nearly 3-week long exchange with ambassadors moving from club to club to spend several days at each exploring Civil War related battlefields, museums, historic structures and the like. FFCV will be responsible primarily for the battlefields in the Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania area, and facilities and activities in the Shenandoah Valley and Appomattox. We envision ambassadors will be here for four or five days before moving on to Richmond, which we also may be involved in. Of interest to our membership is that in the lead-up to this exchange each club will be running short two- or three-day rehearsals of their tour segments where other regional club members will act as ambassadors. For us that means possible trips and homestays to Gettysburg, Antietam, Harpers Ferry, Charleston, the Greenbrier, and Civil War related activities in the Richmond and Washington, DC areas. I will be providing more information on this at our next bi-monthly meeting and in the coming months.

Agreement has been reached with the Friendship Force Santa Barbara, CA club to visit us in October, with a reciprocal visit to their club probably in 2016. As mentioned at the Annual Membership Meeting this past November, we will need an Exchange Director and Treasurer for the exchange and your volunteering to do so would be very much appreciated!

I would like to pass on that I have been notified that our club will have both outbound and inbound international exchanges in 2016, and we should receive formal notification of what clubs are involved in the near future. Hopefully I will have this information before our bi-monthly meeting later this month; if not, will pass this on to the membership when I do receive it.

Finally, please take the time to complete your membership renewal form and send it in as soon as you can. The form is attached to the end of this newsletter. And one last word, if you possibly can please volunteer to help out on our various committees. Thanks much, and again, very much looking forward to leading FFCV forward in 2015.

JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, January 24th, at Shadwell Restaurant
(near the Hilton Garden Inn on Pantops)

The dinner meeting will begin at 6:00 PM. We will be ordering from the menu with prices ranging from \$10 to \$24.

**Please respond to the doodle poll
which you will receive shortly
to make your reservation.**

FFI MID-ATLANTIC AND NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Proudly hosted by Friendship Force of New Hampshire Seacoast

FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY APRIL 17, 18 & 19, 2015

Portsmouth, New Hampshire
<http://www.portsmouthnh.com/thingstodo/>

“Charting Our Course”



THE CONFERENCE

Our three-day, 2-night Conference venue is
at Sheraton Portsmouth Harborside Hotel
<http://www.sheratonportsmouth.com/>

New Hampshire's premiere Seacoast destination, Portsmouth is the perfect setting for workshops, dining, entertainment, tours and making or renewing friendships!
FFI Atlanta Staff will be presenting some exciting new initiatives.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE -- \$180 per person

Fee includes workshops, conference sessions, snacks, tours, entertainment AND meals!
Meals included: Saturday and Sunday Breakfast; Saturday Break, Lunch and Dinner

HOTEL COSTS

	Single	Double	Triple
Double or King Non-Smoking Including 9% tax	\$173.31	\$173.31	\$184.21
Shared cost		\$86.65 2 per room	\$61.40 3 per room

Conference events begin Friday evening and close Sunday noon.
Cut-off date for reserving rooms guaranteed at the above rate is 5 pm March 24, 2015
Group rates are available for 3 days pre or post event.

Need a roommate? Willing to share? Let us know on the registration form.
(We'll try to help make sharing arrangements if you call us before you contact the hotel.)

Room Reservations: <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=1501020044&key=2428FEDA>
Copy and paste the link above to register online or call 603-431-2300, ask for reservation center.

OPTIONAL EVENTS

Post-Conference. 3-night Homestay in the New Hampshire Seacoast

You are invited to experience the special hospitality of Friendship Force of the New Hampshire Seacoast members who look forward to showing you many exciting and beautiful attractions in the area, including historic Portsmouth & Maine Seacoast.
April 19-22, 2015 Cost: \$25 per person

For more information contact Chairpersons: Donna Rinaldi 603-742-3144 donna@dssadmin.com
Jim Verschueren 603-343-4652 jd.verschueren@gmail.com



FFI MID-ATLANTIC AND NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

REGISTRATION FORM TO BE COMPLETED AND MAILED

Friday, Saturday & Sunday, April 17, 18 & 19, 2015

YOUR CLUB NAME: _____

NAME(s) _____

ADDRESS _____
Street City State Zip Code

EMAIL _____ **PHONE(S)** _____

Post- Conference Homestay APRIL 19, 20 & 21:

Yes, I want to join the fun! _____ (Maximum capacity 20, first come, first served)

Questions: Contact Donna Rinaldi 603-742-3144 donna@dssadmin.com

I will be sharing a hotel room with: _____

Need a roommate? _____ Willing to share a hotel room? _____
(We'll try to help make sharing arrangements if you call us before you contact the hotel.)

Please note any special dietary needs: _____

Conference: No. of people ____ **@ \$ 180 per person =** _____

Homestay: No. of people ____ **@ \$ 25 per person =** _____

TOTAL AMOUNT: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: FRIENDSHIP FORCE NH SEACOAST

MAIL CHECK AND THIS FORM TO:

**Donna Rinaldi
13 Riverdale Ave
Dover, NH 03820**

An additional packet will be sent after your registration is received.

Hotel arrangements are your own responsibility.

Room Reservations: <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=1501020044&key=2428FEDA>

Copy and paste the link above to register online or call 603-431-2300, ask for reservation center.



Social and Program Committees

Peggy Colville and Al Colville

Just wanted to say “Thank You” to everyone who supported our Christmas cocktail gathering. We had 29 members and guests attending and thanks to all of you for laughing at our silly production of Cinderella. If you missed it, you missed out on some wild get-ups. Thanks to Linda and Dave Burns, Rob Beck, Dale Walden, Al Colville, Bob Schwagerl and Paul Hokanson (best curtain ever) for hanging yourselves out there to be laughed at.

Thanks also to Pam Hokanson and Deb Winslow who have agreed to work with me on the 2015 Social Committee. We hope to meet soon – so if you have any suggestions for events you would like have happen – we would love to hear from you ASAP.

Our first Membership Meeting of 2015 will take place on Saturday, January 24th, at Shadwell Restaurant near the Hilton Garden Inn on Pantops. The dinner meeting will begin at 6:00 PM. We will be ordering from the menu with prices ranging from \$10 to \$24. We will be polling you soon to find out if you will be able to join us for this session. We do need to have an accurate count for the restaurant before the event takes place so please respond to our poll one way or the other.

And another “heads up” for you all. Our social event for next month will be an “International Wine Tasting” to take place on the afternoon of Saturday, February 21st. Please mark your calendars for this should be an exciting event. More details to follow.

Fund Raising

Dale Walden, Chair

Our fund raising program was very successful in 2014. Not only did we raise a record amount for our club but many members got to have some fun and enjoy an evening or a free concert.

Thanks to all members for making 2014 a record year for volunteering and fund raising. We are looking forward to an even better year in 2015!

JAG School

Linda Burns, Chair

Several FFCV sponsors hosted their JAG students for Thanksgiving and I have received very positive feedback on the visits. I’m sure the students had never participated in a Thanksgiving dinner and it will be something they never will forget. A sincere thank you to those of you who were able to participate!

In December myself, Dave and a number of sponsors attended the First Annual Holiday Dinner with Larry and the JAG students. It was held at the Abbott Dining center in the Darden School. A good time was had by all, with lots of conversation and interaction with the students.

Be thinking about becoming a sponsor in 2015. Believe me, it is such a rewarding experience, just ask any of the membership who have been sponsors in the past. If you need more information, please contact Linda Burns - 434-589-8724.

Outreach

Linda Burns, Chair

We had a couple of members in November that were ill. They were called and cards sent.

In January, a couple of members are scheduled to undergo surgery. I have spoken and/or sent cards to each of them. Right now, they do not need help in their homes.

The Outreach Committee is here to recognize members that are ill, have had an accident, going in for surgery, a death in the family etc. They will be called and/or a card sent. I will find out if there are other needs and let the members know.

If you know of members who are ill/injured or may need any type of assistance, please let me know - Linda [434-589-8724](tel:434-589-8724).

Do You Want to Go On an Outbound Exchange?

Many members aren't able to participate on our club's outbound exchange but would still like to enjoy this great benefit of membership. It is easy to do. Most exchanges sponsored by other clubs have space available for members of other clubs to join them. Several members of our club have done this and can report excellent experiences. If you are interested, here is what you do:

1. Select an exchange from the many that are available and posted, even those originating in another country. Click [here](#) to get to a page where you can explore many of the exchanges available to you.
 2. Contact the Exchange Director to check for space available and whether they are interested in your joining the exchange
 3. Complete the Ambassador Application and send it with a deposit to the ED. If the ED is doing their job, they will also request a recommendation from our club president. Click [here](#) and select Exchange Documents to access the Ambassador Application and other documents.
-

Member News

LOST & FOUND

With the most recent past exchanges and various Board meetings requiring the transportation of food, I've managed to lose two (2) aluminum metal trays with a lip on one end, approximate size 12" X 14". They come in handy and if you find them in your inventory I would appreciate a call. THANKS!

Dee Schwagerl 434-984-1490



*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.

The minutes of the BOD meetings and copies of the Ambassador Newsletter are available on our Web site, www.fcc.avenue.org

2015 Calendar Meetings and Events

<u>Month</u>	<u>Ambassador Input Due</u>	<u>BOD Meeting</u>	<u>Bi- Monthly</u>	<u>Social Event</u>	<u>Other</u>
January	11	13	24		
February		10		17 21	
March	8	10	21		
April		14		21 25	17-19 Regional Conference
May	10	12	23		
June		9		16 20	Blackfrier's Theater Staunton
July	12	14	25		30 Intl Friendship Day
August		11		18 22	Picnic TBD
September	6	8	19	7	Labor Day
October		13		20 24	Inbound Santa Barbara TBD
November	8	10	21		Annual Membership Meeting
December		8		15 19	Christmas Party

Dreams Come True

Freddie Backer



It all began mid-summer when I was planning a tour of Ireland beginning in Dublin on Oct. 12 with two days built in beforehand to accomplish a mission I had been dreaming of for years. As it turned out, Oct. 10 and 11, 2014, turned out to be red letter days when my life came full circle. At age 82, I checked off the last items on my ``bucket list.”

I was born in 1932 in Dublin because my father, Frederick Augustine Sterling, a career diplomat, was appointed the first U.S. envoy to what was then known as the Irish Free State. I spent the first two years of my life living on the grounds of the embassy. Early on in my father’s tenure my mother Dorothy chanced upon a lovely abandoned 18th century manor house during a walk one day. With vision and thoughts of future remodeling work, she deemed it most suitable to serve both as our legation’s building and as a personal residence yet imposing enough to represent our country. As an adult I first returned to Dublin in 1953 when I visited my friend Marguerite Matthews, whose father was then serving as U.S. ambassador to Ireland, but I was unable to see her at the ambassador’s residence. We spent one amusing evening with Eamon de Valera, one of the leaders of Ireland’s struggle for independence from the United Kingdom who eventually served many terms as head of the government. His only reason for surviving execution as a rebel was because his mother was American and he held a U.S. passport. By now a retiree, he enthralled us with ghost stories and spoke fondly of my parents. According to news clippings, he was one of the guests at my christening in Dublin. After my father’s death, I found a letter from de Valera among his memorabilia and personal documents. Among them was a four-page, hand-written letter from June 1928 answering my father’s official invitation to the legation’s 4th of July reception. That, I thought to myself, was a real treasure to be kept safe. And so it was until this year when it was gifted and personally handed over to the National Library of Ireland (NLI).

Having requested an appointment some months before with Colette O’Flaherty, head of archival collections at NLI, I received a nice communique back from her stating that they would be ``delighted” to accept my offer of de Valera’s letter and was ``fascinated” by his view that accepting the invitation would place him ``in a most embarrassing dilemma.”

``[A]cceptance would mean direct social contact with our opponents,” de Valera wrote. ``Your Excellency will remember that a bitter civil war has only recently been ended. That the issue was whether the independence of our country which had been gloriously re-proclaimed after of servitude of seven centuries and a half, should be again surrendered and whether we should again accept allegiance to the British Crown or not . . . while refusal might easily be misconstrued into a gesture of unfriendliness towards the government and people of the United States.”

Accompanied by my son Michael, I met with Ms. O’Flaherty Oct. 10 to deliver de Valera’s letter by hand. After we finished our business, the thoughtful and articulate archivist gave us an interesting tour of the building, which included the magnificent Dome Reading Room. A leisurely stop at the exhibit of famous Irish poets and authors concluded our visit to the National Library. Our next appointment at 4 p.m. with the U.S. Embassy’s Charge d’Affaires Stuart Dwyer had unplanned extraordinary outcomes.

First Michael and I went through the expected security check in the guard house where we turned over our electronic devices, saw our passports inspected, and waited for clearance. A Marine Corps

guard eventually escorted us up an inclined path bordered by primroses. The round building's modernistic decoration suggested the application of curvilinear concrete lattice work which had no architectural connection with the rest of the neighborhood comprised of foreign embassies housed in Georgian mansions.

But a warm welcome greeting awaited us from Leslie Martin, the charming protocol officer with whom I had been emailing for months. Escorted to the second floor, we entered a large room with comfortable chairs where the pleasant secretary's chatter revealed an unnerving knowledge of who I was, my place of birth, and the purpose of my visit with Mr. Dwyer, who was the acting head in the absence of a Senate-confirmed ambassador. Months before, President Obama had nominated Kevin O'Malley to serve as U.S. ambassador to Ireland but he was confirmed only recently and had arrived in Dublin just two days prior to my trip. I had requested a meeting with Mr. O'Malley, but, due to the ambassador's late arrival and packed schedule, I was told that was not possible. Also, Ms. Martin said she could not take me on the pre-arranged tour of the residence because the O'Malleys had just moved in.

After a few minutes of waiting, in walked tall and debonair Mr. Dwyer, who showed us to his nearby office where we were again comfortably seated. My son spotted a huge wall map of Maine and easy and light conversation sprung from this common topic because Mr. Dwyer hails from there and my son had taught at Maine Maritime Academy. I related my reasons for visiting Ireland and then gave him copies of long-ago newspaper clippings of my father's arrival, the residence in its original state, and my birth and christening. I also gave him a reproduction of de Valera's letter.

On two occasions Mr. Dwyer left the room, first saying that he had to see what the ambassador was up to and the second saying in effect that it would be a shame for the ambassador to miss the chance of meeting with me. He soon reappeared and with Mr. O'Malley in tow. Introductions were made, the official photographer appeared, and we were arranged to stand by the Stars and Stripes and have our pictures taken.

After looking over copies of the articles I brought, the ambassador excused himself. He returned shortly after and asked us if it would be convenient for us to come to his residence the next morning at 9:30 and said his wife would gladly give us a tour of their home. My heart made a giant leap of joy! In the space of a moment, my life's dream would all come true. I had returned to Dublin after many years, met and talked to the man who now was in the post my father once held, and tomorrow I would again stand in the residence where I spent the first years of my life. I pinched myself. Could it really be true?

On Oct. 11 I awoke with trepidation but upon opening the curtain found it to be a beautiful day. After eating a renowned and hearty Irish breakfast, my son and I engaged a taxi for the ride to the ambassador's residence. Our cabbie informed us we were lucky to get such an early start as the long, broad avenue on which we were traveling soon would be closed to traffic to facilitate a national marathon.

The drive to the ambassador's residence, known as Deerfield House and situated in the 1,750-acre walled Phoenix Park, is rather long. The park is home to soccer, football, cricket, rugby, and polo fields; lakes, ponds, and woods; and gardens and a zoo. There are herds of deer and a large system of trails for bicycling, running, and horseback riding. But there are only two houses: the residence of the U.S. ambassador and the home of the Irish president.

At last we arrived at the entrance of an impressive white gated structure. The Irish guard met us to inspect our passports, the cabbie's license, and the vehicle tags and to look into the opened hood

and trunk. After each check he disappeared into the gate house. Finally we passed muster and the gates opened.

The long driveway led uphill to the white painted residence in front of which there was a large circular bed of blooming red, white, and blue flowers. We saw a face peering through the glass lights which border the brightly painted red door. It was the major domo or butler who warmly welcomed us in and, this time, I was less amazed when this gentleman already knew who I was and my connection to the house. He asked us to sign the new ambassador's official guest book and I found my name was to be the first entry.

We were then ushered into the cozy wine red library. While waiting, we admired a view of the seemingly endless lawn flanked by the occasional ancient oak tree and set against the distant Dublin mountains. A few minutes later, Mrs. O'Malley appeared holding the news clippings given to her husband the day before. She graciously escorted us through the public rooms that included an enormous dining room with a table that could seat dozens of guests. All the rooms were hung with sparkling Waterford crystal chandeliers.

We next toured the upstairs and were taken to see the guestrooms. Entering the smaller blue room, a strange feeling came over me and I instinctively knew it was the room where I had been born and where I had spent my toddler years. Being the fourth child and the only girl in my family, it was only logical that this nursery was located adjoining the master quarters. As was the practice in those days, the older boys were relegated to the third floor with the nannies and the domestics.

Our tour ended in the formal walled garden where we were warmly greeted by the ambassador. We were aware the O'Malleys were in a hurry to get to an engagement in town, so I quickly gave him another old news clipping. This clipping showed my father elegantly attired, holding gloves in one hand and his silk top hat in the other, standing three steps up but at the same height as the Charles Lindbergh. The famous aviator was dressed in what looked like a rumpled suit and held a casual pork pie Panama hat. The caption below explained that my father, as U.S. minister to the Irish Free State, had just come from Buckingham Palace where he introduced Lindbergh to the king.

Ambassador O'Malley said it was a striking coincidence because back in his hometown of St. Louis he was commissioning a bust of Lindbergh. I imagine that the sculpture of this favorite native son of St. Louis ultimately will be placed alongside those of Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy, first seen opposite the house along an ivy covered wall.

The ambassador and I shared another connection: my grandfather, too, was from St. Louis. He was the first person in the United States to manufacture hydraulic bricks which, by chance many years ago, I recognized in a Sarajevo, Bosnia, sidewalk by their incised "Sterling" stamps.

After returning to the house where I was born 82 years earlier, I then was ready to explore for the first time the country that once had been my home and where my father ably served as U.S. envoy for 5 years. With that beginning, I then spent several more days with my son and other family members and friends traveling along the Emerald Isle's southern and western coasts. Our encyclopedia of a guide recounted fascinating tales of history, agronomy, and culture as we traveled from one town to another. Having just experienced only a small part of Ireland with its jovial and friendly people only whets the appetite to perhaps someday see more of the land of my birth.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2015, I am
Yours in friendship,

Freddie



friendship force
INTERNATIONAL

Dear Presidents, Club executives and Club members,

As you will recall, outgoing Chairman, Jack Mullen, wrote to all club presidents on October 6, inviting your views on three measures your Board was proposing to set FFI on a sustainable course. You responded with useful feedback and suggestions, in all 176 responses from 135 clubs, by and large well distributed geographically thus adding validity to the feedback. Here is how you responded and the steps and timetable leading to implementation.

1. Fill-the-seat policy - In a nutshell, you gave a robust 84% endorsement to the introduction of a fill-the-seat policy whereby under-subscribed exchanges must be listed on the FFI catalogue 100 days before departure. This measure is so critical to the achievement of our mission and the growth and sustainability of FFI that we will pilot it as of 2015 with a starting date of April 1st that will give the Atlanta office a chance to provide detailed guidelines. It will not be perfect the first year, we will have to learn along the way, but the sooner we make a start, the sooner we will reap the results. A few points to respond to questions and suggestions:

1.1 Defining a full exchange for the purpose of this fill-the-seat policy - A full exchange will be defined by the hosting capacity of a club, subject to a maximum of 25. The requirement to post under-subscribed exchanges on the FFI Catalogue 100 days before departure will apply to international exchanges only.

1.2 Hosting capacity -. The most recent listing will be provided in late January from the process of the 2016 planning exercise. For multi-club exchanges, the hosting capacity of the smaller club will determine the overall hosting capacity. Expanding hosting capacity will take far more effort and creativity and will be addressed under the 2015-2018 Strategic Plan.

1.3 Giving priority to regional or same-country club members: Many of you have cited the successful website and regional specific efforts such as 'E-Flyer' models and national council groups put in place by FF leaders in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Brazil as a way of publicizing under-subscribed exchanges and giving priority to same-country clubs or regional members in filling such exchanges. This approach is encouraged and we have asked the responsible leaders to put together a short document outlining the steps to take to set up a focused website or 'E-Flyer' and run it effectively with the anticipated availability of such a document by the end of February.

1.4 Lead time for listing under-subscribed exchanges in the FFI catalogue. The great majority of respondents agree that 100 days before departure date is about right. This step will require vigilance on two counts: a) that clubs set definite exchange dates earlier in the process; and b) that host clubs confirm programs ahead of the 100 days. FFI program managers will work with you to meet those targets by focusing on communication.

1.5 Minimizing Exchange cancellations: In addition to the '100 days' listing policy, in order to minimize exchange cancellations, Exchange Directors (be they Host or Ambassador ED's) will be required to contact and alert FFI (ideally your Program Manager or the Planning Manager) BEFORE cancelling an exchange on their own. The sooner FFI is informed of a possible exchange cancellation, the better the chances to save that exchange and avoid the disappointments engendered by such cancellations.

2. E-membership - The proposed introduction of an e-membership also got a strong 73% endorsement with many respondents commenting that 'we have to move with the times'. This being said, vetting the applicants and clarifying the responsibilities and privileges of e-members are so critical to our mission that implementation of this initiative will be postponed to January 2016. A full e-membership policy will be announced at the Vancouver International Conference in late August, 2015.

3. Adopting an equitable user-fee policy for domestic/in-country and EU inter-club exchanges – 77% of respondents agree that applying user fees to all exchange ambassadors is the most equitable way of supporting overhead costs. Likewise, you have told us that \$10 a night strikes a reasonable balance between sustaining the organization we love and favouring in-country cooperation. Accordingly, the Board will endorse this revised fee as part of a comprehensive fee review at the March Board meeting for implementation in January 2016. At that meeting, the Board will also review what constitutes a domestic exchange. Before we conclude, let us say that a few individuals questioned whether setting a sustainable course is not at risk of overshadowing our mission to build friendship and peace around the world. The Board decided to take action and seek your input precisely because club-hosted exchanges are losing ground to other FF programs while 80% of you indicated in the June Survey that home hosting is paramount to your interest in FFI and paramount to the achievement of our mission. This made clear to us that numerous opportunities to participate in exchanges were being missed for lack of better planning, better communication and better inclusiveness. On behalf of your CEO and the Board, we thank you for the efforts you have made to engage your club members in this search for sustainable solutions to the challenges we face. We stand a far better chance of sustaining our mission of friendship and peace by opening up to diversity in exchange participation and thus ensuring economic sustainability.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Mullen, Outgoing Chair, FFI Board of Directors

Cécile Latour, Chair, FFI Board of Directors, as of January 1, 2015

Friendship Force of Greater Harrisburg

Outbound Exchange– Brazil 2015

April 18- April 25 Piracicaba, Sao Paulo State

April 26-May 3 Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais State

May 3- 8 Optional Post Exchange Rio de Janeiro



Warm Sunshine, Warm Hospitality in Brazil

We have partnered with the National Capital (DC) club for this two week exchange. Piracicaba is located in beautiful countryside along a river with segmented waterfalls. During the exchange we will visit a sugar plantation, enjoy traditional food in outdoor cafes along the river, and get to know this university town with our hosts. The second exchange week will be in vibrant Belo Horizonte in Minas Gerais State, one of the sites for 2016 Olympics. Belo Horizonte is known for its architecture. There we will see the Inhotim botanical and contemporary sculpture garden and get to know the culture, art, history and important architecture of the city.

After the exchange we are offering a post exchange to Rio de Janeiro where we will stay in the Copacabana area and have English speaking guides for tours which will include the Christ the Redeemer statue, Tijuca National Park, the beaches, Sugarloaf Mountain, and the old city. We will see samba dancers and sample traditional food.

We are now accepting **applications**. Maximum capacity for this exchange is 20 ambassadors. If you are interested in going on this exchange, please complete and submit the attached application. Alternatively you can access the application on the Friendship Force International website. Please send the application to Beth Klein

525 Ridgeview Drive
Dillsburg, PA 17019

Cost for the two exchange weeks in Brazil is \$1,360. This includes transportation from the Sao Paulo airport to Piracicaba, airfare to Belo Horizonte and a hotel in Sao Paulo between the visits. It includes all FFI and club fees as well as some contingencies for unexpected costs that, if determined to be less in the final analysis, will be refunded to ambassadors. International air fare is on your own.

The extension to Rio will cost \$1,200 which includes airfare from Belo Horizonte to Rio, 5 hotel nights, airport transfers, and tours with English speaking guides, daily breakfast and some dinners. .

Payment: When you receive notification later this month that you have been accepted for this exchange, you will be asked for a deposit of \$400. The remanding balance will be divided into two payments that will be due in January and February.

A **visa** is required for Brazil, the application can be filled out at <https://scedv.serpro.gov.br/frscedv/index.jsp>. When it has been submitted the process can be completed at the Washington DC consulate.

For more information call or email Beth Klein of the Greater Harrisburg Friendship Force at 432-7918, cell 215-7533, email bethk27@verizon.net.

Piracicaba and the Piracicaba River pedestrian bridge



Belo Horizonte Sao Francisco de Assisi



Inhotim

Rio de Janeiro



Club Details

Piracicaba

Latin America, Brazil

Official club name: The Friendship Force of Piracicaba

Closest major airport: Guarulhos Airport (180 km far from Piracicaba)

About the region: Piracicaba is crossed by a river called Piracicaba with a nice fall, has about 350 thousand inhabitants, it is considered a big town, has many industries, one particular University, two Colleges of two State Universities, an Engineering college and a nurse School, where students coming from many Country States and some from foreign countries take their education. Weather is uniform showing a maximum average of 38o C in a few summer days and minimum average of 18o C in winter nights and mornings. At afternoon, temperature raises to 27-28o C even in winter. The best time to visit Piracicaba is March-April or September-October We have tourist places, sugarcane industries and sugarcane plantations. The FF Piracicaba Club members like very much to receive Ambassadors of foreign exchanges and feel happy to show our town, our culture and our way of life.

Club Details

Belo Horizonte

Latin America, Brazil

Members: 40

Website:

Date Founded: 1/9/1996

Official club name: Friendship Force Belo Horizonte

Closest major airport: TancredoNevesAirport located 50 km from the BH in Confins with easy access

About the region: Belo Horizonte is located in southeastern Brazil with 800 m. of altitude in mountainous regions and away from the sea. The climate is mild with temperatures between 13 c. in winter and 30c. In the summer. Belo Horizonte is a city about 110 years old with daily cultural and artistic life. BH has a large network of bars and restaurants with different cooking options, including the mining food. The city is rich in attractions that blend history, beauty, leisure and culture. The complex of Liberty Square with the Palace of Liberty, the seat of government of Minas Gerais, with the influence of French architecture, the Museum of Mineralogy in its collection that contains 3 thousand of the major minerals extracted in the world than beautiful gardens with water source. The Pampulha complex that houses a large lake, the church of San Francisco of Assisi, The Museum of Art, the House of Ball Tennis and Yacht Club which is in March of modern architecture in Brazil. In the region of Pampulha is the football stadium, with capacity for 74 thousand people and Mineirinho with capacity for 24 thousand people which hold concerts and sporting events. Belo Horizonte has a park has 50 species of trees, a hundred orchidarium, lake and bandstand plus toys and a children's theater. The Mercado Central BH offers wide variety of cheeses, jams, herbs, veduras, fruits, meats and crafts is the place to see people and show a bit of culture in Minas Gerais. HBS also offers a large number of Catholic churches, museums and zoo in huge green area.

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://ffcvgbstores.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.

FFCV Board/Committee Chairs Meeting
Tuesday November 11, 2014
Burns Residence – 5 Austin Drive, Lake Monticello

Attendance: President Dave Burns, President Elect Al Colville, Vice President Dale Walden, Treasurer David Lea and Secretary Margaret Dryer. Committee Chairs: Peggy Colville, Linda Burns, and Rob Beck.

Call to Order: A quorum being present the meeting was called to order at 2:30pm by President Dave Burns. He thanked all the committees that worked so well while most of the Board was at the FFI World Conference and/or exchanges the last month.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer David Lea reported that there is \$5,684.62 in the bank. A check for \$250 to the Literacy Volunteers has not as yet been sent. The Legacy Fund was discussed. A motion was moved and seconded, **“I move that we not spend any money for the Legacy Fund for this year.” The motion was adopted.**

Secretary Report: The minutes from the September 16, 2014 were adopted as presented.

Unfinished Business:

Nominations Committee: Committee member Al Colville reported that all the officers have consented to run for a second term, and recommended the titles for President Elect and Vice President be changed to 1st Vice President and 2nd Vice President, respectively. Retentions of the current Board and title changes will require changes to the Club Bylaws which will have to be approved by the Club membership. The Board then discussed what changes would be necessary and it was determined a revised set of bylaws would be presented to the membership at the first bi-monthly membership meeting in January.

2015 Budget Committee: Treasurer David Lea presented a draft of the 2015 budget. Some alterations were made and some line items were removed and reallocated to the Reserve Fund which may be used as needed. After much discussion the balanced budget will be revised as directed.

Rules and Procedures Manual: A draft of the Manual was presented by Chair Margaret Dryer. There are still some items that need discussion. With the changes to the Bylaws there will need to be some editorial changes to the Manual.

2016 Multi-Club Civil War Theme Exchange: President Burns reported that FFI is planning an exchange which will involve all the clubs in our region to contribute a few days to this exchange. Further information will be sent later in the year.

2015 FFI World Conference: President Burns reported that the Conference in Auckland went very well and next World Conference will be held in Vancouver, Canada from August 28 to 31, 2015. The 2016 Conference will be in Marrakech, Morocco. Highlights of the Conference were FFI’s desire to see clubs provide shorter “theme based” exchanges and that FFI is in the process of partnering with Road Scholar, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) and several other organizations that may be beneficial to our club. FFI will send our club a briefing they have presented to OLLI personnel which we should be able to use to meet with UVA OLLI personnel.

2016 Outbound/Inbound Request: President Burns reported that he held discussions with the individual at FFI responsible for setting up exchanges and there is a very good chance our club's request for exchanges in either Canada, Europe or Latin America in 2016 will be honored. He further stated he had met with the president of a new club in Taipei, Taiwan and there is a possibility our club may be invited to go there in the future.

New Business:

2015 Club Direction: President Burns wishes to continue working on the issues not completed in 2014 i.e. obtaining a non-profit organization status, and to enhance club membership. have better communications with the membership. He is suggesting the Communications Committee be redefined with other people that have the skills in electronics. This subject will be the main topic of discussion at the next Board meeting.

Committee Reports:

Social/ Programs Committee: Chair Peggy Colville reported that the Christmas Party will held at the Ashlawn Grill on Sunday, December 14, 2014 from 2:00 to 5:00pm. The Cost is \$18 per person.

Annual Meeting: Al Colville reported that the meeting is being planned for November 15th at the Elks Club. The cost is \$13 per person. Election of Officers will be held at this meeting.

Membership Committee: Chair Rob Beck reported that at present we have 40 members.

Membership Outreach Committee (Sunshine): Chair Linda Burns reported that a donation was made to the Albemarle SPCA in memory of Nancy Moore.

Communications Committee: The November issue of the Ambassador will be sent out this week.

Fundraising Committee: Chair Dale Walden Reported that we received a check for our participation in the Beer Fest. She suggested that we look into the United Way Day of Volunteering.

JAG School: Chair Linda Burns reported that there is a new student coming from Indonesia for three months. She is asking hosts to invite their students for Thanksgiving Dinner if possible.

Announcements: The next Board Meeting will be held at the Dryer home on December 2, 2014 at 2:00pm.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Secretary,
Margaret Dryer

FFCV Board/Committee Chairs Meeting
Tuesday December 2, 2014
Dryer Residence – 830 Charter Oaks Dr. Charlottesville

Attendance: President Dave Burns, President Elect Al Colville, Vice President Dale Walden and Secretary Margaret Dryer. Committee Chairs: Peggy Colville and Linda Burns.

Call to Order: A quorum being present the meeting was called to order at 1:10pm by President Dave Burns.

Treasurer Report: President Burns reported for Treasurer Lea. A check for \$150 to the Literacy Volunteers has been sent. A motion was moved and seconded, **“To send the Literacy Volunteers the remaining funds in the line item.”** The motion was adopted.

Secretary Report: The minutes from the November 11, 2014 were adopted with the correction to the Annual Meeting date from 18th to 15th.

Unfinished Business:

Christmas Party: Chair Peggy Colville reported that a doodle pole invitation had been sent to the membership. The party will be on Sunday December 14th at the Ashlawn Grill from 2:00 to 5:00pm with a cost of \$18.00 per person. The committee is planning some entertainment with the assistance of the members.

2015 Budget Committee: President Burns that finished budget will be sent to all the membership.

Bylaws, Procedures Manual: Chair Margaret Dryer will work to have the changes to the Bylaws ready for the bi-monthly meeting in January 2015. The Procedures Manual is nearing completion.

The Way Ahead for 2015: President Burns presented a draft of the 2015 calendar for discussion and input. During the discussion a motion was made and seconded **“To purchase a popup club banner.”** The motion was adopted. The discussion included possible outbound and inbound exchanges.

Committee Reports:

Social/ Programs Committee: Chairs Peggy and Al Colville will work on some of the suggestions presented during the meeting for the coming year. A motion was made and seconded, **“To purchase a new projector.”** The motion was adopted.

Membership Committee: President reported that chair Rob Beck will not be able to continue as chair of this committee. He will be looking for a replacement. He has two possible candidates.

Membership Outreach Committee (Sunshine): Chair Linda Burns was given the names of individuals that were ill. She will respond with cards.

Communications Committee: The deadline for the next Ambassador is January 11, 2015.

Fundraising Committee: Chair Dale Walden will work to update our tri-fold for the coming year. President Burns will ask Willow Drinkwater to update our Facebook page.

Announcements: The next Board Meeting will be held at the Dryer home on January 13, 2015 at 1:00pm.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Secretary,
Margaret Dryer

FFCV Annual Meeting

November 15, 2014

The Annual Meeting was held at the Elks Club. President Burns called the meeting to order after everyone had eaten. He thanked everyone for attending. There were 28 attendees at the Annual Meeting.

Treasurer David Lea gave his report that there was \$5,684.62 in the bank. However this amount is subject to change as there were some items to be paid and there have been some additions to be adjusted (such as today's meeting).

The Nominations Committee report was given by Al Colville. He announced that the present Officers had consented to run for a second term. The President asked for nominations from the floor, hearing none he closed the floor to nominations. The president called for a vote for the election of Officers. The vote was a unanimous positive vote. The newly elected officers are: President Dave Burns, President Elect Al Colville, Vice President Dale Walden, Treasurer David Lea and Secretary Margaret Dryer.

Budget Committee Chair David Lea reported that the committee focused on a balanced budget. There have been some line item changes and we will be working from a reserve fund. When the document is finalized it will be sent to the membership.

The Procedures Manual is still being edited. The Bylaws will need some changes. These should be ready for membership vote by the next bi-monthly meeting.

FFI is planning a Multi-Club Theme Exchange for 2016 that we may be involved in. There will be a meeting in December or January hosted by FFCV to discuss this.

The Outbounds for 2016 will be to locations IN Canada.

Social Chair Peggy Colville reported that the Christmas Party will be held Sunday, December 14 from 2:00 to 5:00pm at the Ashlawn Grill at Lake Monticello. The cost will be \$18 per person.

A number of ambassadors from the Outbound New Zealand/Australia Exchanges spoke enthusiastically about their wonderful experience.

Secretary,
Margaret Dryer