



# friendship force

## CENTRAL VIRGINIA

Changing the Way You See the World

# The Ambassador

## President's Message

*Dave Burns*

First off I want to say this will be a lot shorter than what I had to say last time around. Without delay, want to thank all of you who attended the Bi-Monthly membership meeting in January, and want those of you who could not attend I understand you had other issues to deal with that night. Just want everybody to know that I think our Club is headed in the right direction and we have made a great start in getting back to where we once were. Again, thanks to all of you for your interest in our Club and making it a fun thing that we can all participate in.



At the present time I believe our number one priority is getting prepared for our incoming group from Australia and I want to thank all who stepped forward to home host, day host, and to host a small dinner party. Also, a sincere thank you to the Schwagerls for leading this effort; I'm sure it will be a great success.

Another thing we need to do this coming year is to help out our Social and Membership Committees. If you have any ideas on possible social events or bringing new members into our Club please voice your comments. I'll leave this up to those running those committees but if you have any ideas please contact the chairs of these groups

Again, I do not want to over emphasize the point, but as I said in my earlier comments, we all have similar interests in international goodwill and the focus of our Club should be in channeling these interests into being a team focused on this interest. I recognize that overseas travel is becoming more and more expensive and it is difficult for many of us to go wherever the winds blow. Overseas travel is certainly available through ours and other club

Mar, 2014  
Volume XXIII, No. 2

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### Mark These Dates!

Membership Dinner Meeting	Mar 15
FF Leadership Conference	April 2-5
Gordonsville Garden Week	April 26
Australian Inbound	May 11-17
FF World Conference and NZ/Australian Outbound	Oct 14-31

outbounds and those that FFI offers, but there are many other ways to interact with FF folks through our domestic travel program. In my opinion, while not focusing on and understanding foreign cultures and people, we need to take advantage of these options. At present these include potential trips to New York and Iowa as well as hosting folks from Alabama. Let's do what we can do and have fun doing it!

One last word! If you have not sent in your renewal form and paid dues for 2014, please do so. We really want all of you to be with us this coming year!

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## **March Luncheon Meeting**

*Al Colville*

March 15th - We will be holding our bi-monthly membership meeting beginning **at noon** at the Shadwell Restaurant, just off of the 250 By-pass on Pantops, near the Hilton Garden Inn. After the lunch and a brief business meeting, we will travel a short distance up the hill to the Kluge-Ruhe Museum for a tour of their Aboriginal Art Collection. We will need to know how many of you plan on attending these two events so we can give each location a count. Please be on the lookout for our "Doodle" survey poll coming soon.

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## **The Aussi's are Coming!!!**

*Bob and Dee Schwagerl*

It's around the corner! The Blue Ridge Mountain Club of Australia will be arriving to us on Sunday, May 11th arriving at the Richmond Airport at 12:05 P.M. Dee and I will meet them by bus and deliver them for meeting with their hosts at the Giant Supermarket on Pantops Mountain, eta (estimated time of arrival) at approximately 2:20 P. M.

A sign up and registration from for the week's activities included at the end of this newsletter provides for a number of new venues. Especially note the coach bus tour of Jamestown and Yorktown. The full day tour provides the comfort of coach travel and the admittance to both the Yorktown Battlefield and the Jamestown Settlement. Signing up for the Keswick Winery Tour provides for wine tasting, a complimentary wine glass and a box lunch (optional). This provides a lovely setting overlooking the vineyard. Should the weather not cooperate the activities will be moved inside to the oak cask storage room. The farewell Pot Luck Dinner requires only a dish contribution for admittance. If you are hosting or not, the entire club is invited. Contact Margaret Dryer regarding what is needed (434-978-7021). We would also encourage your participation in attending the City of Charlottesville Mayoral Reception. This provides us with a real opportunity to show the flag of Friendship Force of Central Virginia.

As always, any questions? Give Bob or Dee a call 434-984-1490

## **Need Help for Small Dinner Parties for Inbound Exchange**

*Peggy Colville*

In mid-May, we have 15 Ambassadors coming in from Blue Mountain Australia. So far, the following people have agreed to host small dinner parties for these folks – Molly Anthony, Linda & Dave Burns, Elizabeth & Rob Beck and Patsy & Walter O'Connell. We still need THREE more dinner hosts to handle this sized group. Would you consider having a dinner party for four people (a Home Host couple and two Ambassadors) on either Monday, May 12th or Tuesday May 13th or Wednesday May 14th? I would also love to have one extra home in case of some last minute emergency. For all you new members of FFCV, this is always an enjoyable evening-sitting around after the meal talking with visitors about their country and club as well as getting to know YOUR own club members. Please call Peggy Colville (434-589-2844) and let me know which night you would be able to host for us. THANK YOU

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## **Outbound: New Zealand/Australia**

*Dave Burns*

Nothing new to report on our Outbound to New Zealand and Australia in October but we now have Paul and Pam Hokinson, Bob and Dee Schwagerl, Al and Peggy Colville, Barry and Mary Ann Doucette, Linda Gehle, Deb Winslow, and Linda and I planning on going on this Outbound. Also, there are two ladies from the Sacramento FF Club that would like to join us. Still room for others so let me know if you might be interested. Remember, this is in conjunction with the FFI World Conference in Auckland, and while anyone going on this Outbound does not have to attend the Conference or vice versa anyone who wants to go to the Conference should sign-up for it as soon as they can. Registration can be found here: <http://www.cvent.com/events/friendship-force-world-conference-2014/event-summary-b33559b2107847c69cfe2e3656806eec.aspx>

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## **Outbound New York**

*Dave Burns*

As previously discussed the New York FF Club has invited us to visit them sometime this year, with a possible reciprocal visit to us in the future. Bob Schwagerl has volunteered to be our de facto ED for this trip and will be getting together with the NY FF club president at the regional conference in April. If you want to participate in this endeavor please contact Bob and/or me. This will be a great chance to meet our fellow regional FFI members and spend a bit of time in New York.

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## **Inbound, Alabama**

*Dave Burns*

By now I would hope you have heard that the Friendship Force Huntsville, Alabama Club would like to visit us this year, preferably in September. A "Doodle" poll has been sent out to the membership and if you have not replied please do when you can. That club, maybe something like 12-16 folks,

really wants to visit Central Virginia and if at all possible I would like to accommodate them. If you have not responded to the poll or would rather contact me or any of the other BOD members with your comments or thoughts please do. I need to let their club know whether or not we can accommodate them by mid-March or so.

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## **Opportunity**

*Susan Roberts*

The Blue Ridge Virginia Chapter of the United Nations Association ([www.una-brc.avenue.org](http://www.una-brc.avenue.org)) features Ambassador Paul Hare talking about the United Nations and On The Front Lines on March 16, 2014 at 3:00 p.m., Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church, 717 Rugby Road, Charlottesville, VA, 22903. All are welcome to the free and open meeting. Contact [sgwroberts@gmail.com](mailto:sgwroberts@gmail.com) or 434-409-0264.

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## **... and Still Another Opportunity**

*Mary Ann Doucette*

For anyone wishing to honor and help our brave military men and women who have served or are serving our country, there are many opportunities available.

With the VA Charlottesville Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) at Pantops, you can become a volunteer. You may come when you choose – any day Monday thru Friday 10A.M. to 4 P.M. Come as often or as little as your time permits. You will be required to attend a 4 hour training course in Richmond and then return 1 time to get your credentials. Then you're ready to sign up and go to work. Most needed are volunteers willing to make reminder calls for appointments. The Veterans really appreciate our calls.

You can also save grocery coupons to send to military families overseas. The Albemarle Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution have adopted a base in Japan. The PX honors the coupons for 6 months beyond the expiration date. Bring them to a meeting or send to Mary Ann Doucette. This is called "Project Patriot".

The Albemarle Chapter DAR also collects toiletry items e.g. toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, shampoo, small hand lotion and small hand soap. We make up toiletry kits for the Veterans and they are distributed several times during the year at the Clinic. Many of our local veterans are homeless and really appreciate these gifts. If you wish to donate items contact Mary Ann Doucette.

There are many ways to thank our Veterans and those currently serving our Country. A hand made thank you card placed in these toiletry bags is also a nice contribution. We welcome your participation in any of these projects!

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## **2014 Membership Dues**

*Dave Burns*

If you haven't yet renewed your membership in FFCV for 2014, please do that now. We have a great year ahead of us with opportunities to participate in both inbound and outbound exchanges along with social programs that will be both fun and interesting.

Dues for 2014 are \$32 for a single and \$60 for a couple. It will help us if you complete a membership renewal form so we can verify all the important information (phone, email, address, etc.) on our records. Click [here](#) to get to the application or pick one up at the Luncheon on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Send the application and dues to our Treasurer, David Lea, 139 Stribling Ave., Charlottesville, VA 22903 or bring it to the luncheon.

Don't miss out on the fun! Renew your membership now!

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## **Social Committee**

*Peggy Colville*

Deborah Winslow, Eileen Seaman, Al Colville and myself met and outlined some ideas for social events and membership meetings for the year. From the start let me say – we are open to any suggestions on topics you would like to see discussed at any membership meetings and any activity you would like to see our club participate in. Some locations and detail information will be forthcoming. With that said here is a **Tentative** schedule for 2014:

March 15<sup>th</sup> - Luncheon Meeting - See the announcement earlier in this Newsletter.

April 26<sup>th</sup> – Gordonsville Garden Week – Willow Drinkwater will be giving us the details on this activity at our March meeting and we will get that material out to you soon afterward.

Late May - After the Inbound Exchange has finished, we will hold a membership meeting to discuss our experiences during that Exchange. Date, time and place to be announced.

June – either the 14<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> we will be going to Carysbrook Performing Arts Center to take in a play “Pinching Petunias” by local author and columnist, Langdon Mason. Deb Winslow will talk about this activity at our March meeting.

July 19<sup>th</sup> will be the date for our Annual Summer Picnic – location to be announced. The FFCV will provide the main dish and beverages - with members bringing the sides and desserts.

August – We are planning on having a “Mystery Dinner” – Peggy Colville will be explaining this activity closer to that date.

September – At our membership meeting, we plan to have a discussion on Safety and Security considerations while we are at home and while we are traveling, especially in foreign countries. Date, time and place TBA

October 4<sup>th</sup> – Wine Tasting trip.

November – Membership meeting plans have not been finalized at this time.

December 13<sup>th</sup> – will be our Annual Christmas Dinner – location to be announced.

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## **Fund Raising**

*Dale Walden, Chair*

I have not heard anything yet from NTellos Pavilion and I will be passing a sign-up sheet for volunteers at our next dinner meeting. Please sign up to volunteer at the concerts with your fellow FFCV members for camaraderie, fun, to hear some great concerts and raise money for our club.

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## **JAG School**

*Linda Burns, Chair*

I am happy to announce that the JAG Committee now has a "Committee" of six members. Our first meeting was on January 30th. The committee members are: CJ Greene, Elizabeth Beck, Eileen Seaman, Nancy Moore, Freddie Bacher and myself.

We first went over what the JAG school's purpose and mission was, what part the FFCV JAG Program played in this and what our committee would and could be doing. Some members are new to FFCV as well as the JAG Program and what is involved in FFCV's sponsorship program.

We then discussed the first item we needed to attend to; finding sponsors for the incoming students on February 17th. At the time, there were three inbound students but just recently we learned only one student from Moldova would be arriving. Her sponsor is Patricia Sclater, who I am happy to report recently rejoined FFCV. Welcome home Patty!

Finally, we discussed possibly having activities coordinated by the committee to include all the students. Initially, we would like to have a going away gathering for all our students before they leave in May. I am coordinating with the JAG School sponsor for a good date. We are looking to hold it around the 18th of May. If anyone is interested in helping out, please let me know. Graduation is May 22nd.

Graduation for the November students was scheduled to be held on February 13th. But, because of the inclement weather, our sponsors were unable to make it. However, the sponsors were in contact with their student before they returned home. Thank you so much for all you did.

Anyone interested in the JAG program can contact me, Linda Burns, [toehadva@yahoo.com](mailto:toehadva@yahoo.com) or 434-589-8724.

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## **Outreach Committee**

*Nancy Moore, Chair*

The primary mission of the Outreach Committee, as stated in the Bylaws, is to provide support, if needed, when there is an illness or death of a member or in his/her family. In addition to a card, a phone call will now be made to see if there is some form of assistance the Friendship Force can provide such as transportation or meals. . **It is imperative that privacy be respected**, however, so please ensure that such acknowledgement will be welcomed.

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

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## **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>

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## **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:

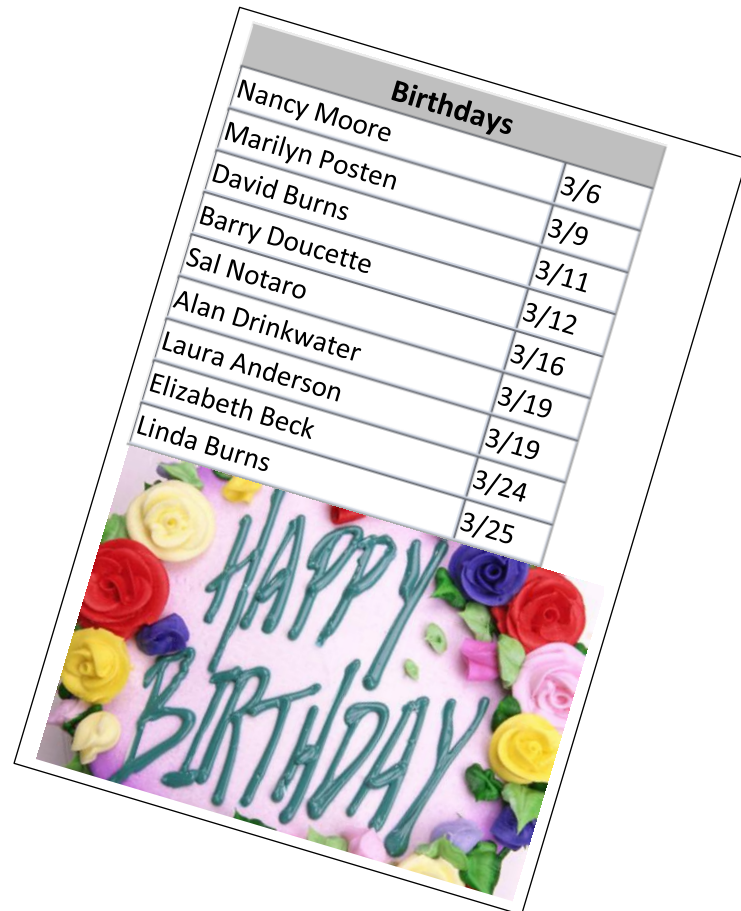
1. Select an exchange from the many that are available and posted, even those originating in another country. Click [here](#) to get to a page where you can explore many of the exchanges available to you.
2. Contact the Exchange Director to check for space available and whether they are interested in 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



**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



*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.ffc.avenue.org](http://www.ffc.avenue.org)



## 2014 Calendar Meetings and Events

March	11	BOD Meeting 3:00 pm at Dale Waldens, 2118 Shepherds Ridge Road
	15	Bi-Monthly General Membership Meeting Noon at Shadwells with tour of Kluge-Ruhe
April	2-5	FF Regional Leadership Conference – Harrisburg, PA
	8	BOD Meeting 3:00 pm (TBD)
	26	Gordonsville Garden Week
	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)
	14 or 21	Carysbrook Performing Arts Center play “Pinching Petunias”
July	5	Newsletter Input to Walt
	8	BOD Meeting 3:00 pm (TBD)
	TBD	Bi-Monthly General Membership Meeting and Picnic
	TBD	JAG School Graduate Course Students Arrive, Meet and Greet
August	12	BOD Meeting 3:00 pm (TBD)
	TBD	Mystery Dinner
September	6	Newsletter Input to Walt
	9	BOD Meeting 3:00 pm (TBD)
	13	Bi-Monthly General Membership Meeting with Safety and Security Program
October	4	Wine Tasting
	14	BOD Meeting 3:00 pm (TBD)
	14-16	Friendship Force International Conference, Auckland, NZ
	17-31	Outbound New Plymouth, NZ and Tamworth, Australia
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



Embroidery

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.gbstores.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.



Embroidery

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](mailto:walt.oconnell@gmail.com), 434-591-0532) and he will add it to the store front.

BLUE MOUNTAIN AUSTRALIA  
ACTIVITY RESERVATION FORM

A NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES ARE PLANNED FOR THE EXCHANGE AND REQUIRE ADVANCE REGISTRATIONS AND DEPOSITS. PLEASE INDICATE BELOW THE ACTIVITY IN WHICH YOU WISH TO PARTICIPATE AND RETURN THIS RESERVATION WITH YOUR CHECK TO:

Dolores Schwagerl  
Inbound Treasurer  
P. O. Box 418  
Keswick, Virginia 22947

**ALL RESERVATIONS BY April 20, 2014 PLEASE**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Cost pp</b>	<b># Attending</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
Monday, May 12 <sup>th</sup>	Mayoral Reception	n/c		n/c
Tuesday, May 13 <sup>th</sup>	Tour Frontier Museum	\$8		
	Box Lunch	\$10		
Wednesday, May 14 <sup>th</sup>	Tour Monticello	\$24 *		
	Box lunch	\$10		
	Keswick Winery Tour & Tasting	\$10		
Thursday, May 15 <sup>th</sup>	Bus Tour Jamestown & Yorktown	\$10		
Friday, May 16 <sup>th</sup>	Tour Montpelier	\$34**		
Saturday May 18 <sup>th</sup>	Farewell Pot Luck Dinner	Bring a dish***		
<b>Total Enclosed</b>				<b>\$</b>

\*residents of Albemarle and Charlottesville have free admittance.

\*\* Hosts driving their guests and not touring the house are at no charge.

\*\*\* Please fill in the number attending, do not include guests.

Name(s) : \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_