



friendship force

CENTRAL VIRGINIA

Changing the Way You See the World

The Ambassador

Ed note: This edition of the Ambassador includes a proposed modification to the bylaws that will be put to a vote of the membership at the March meeting. Included also is a member renewal application. If you haven't yet paid your 2015 dues, please complete the application (so we can be sure we have your current information) and bring it along with your dues to the March meeting or send it to David Lea (instructions on the application). We don't want you to miss out on any of the activities that will be happening in 2015!

Walt

President's Message

Dave Burns



Greetings everybody! Thankfully, February has come to an end and I, like many of you, are quite glad to see it go. Ugh! Hopefully by the time you read this, the snow will have finally melted and signs of spring are beginning to appear. With that said, lots going on with Friendship Force of Central Virginia (FFCV) and in the next couple of paragraphs I hope to summarize some of the more important issues that have arisen since the last Ambassador.

First off, I'd like to say I'm very happy over how many of you participated in the January bi-monthly membership meeting and the February social event. Thanks much to Peggy Colville and her committee for putting together both and for setting up what appears to be an excellent program for the rest of the year. Also, I'm proud to say that Dee Schwagerl has stepped forward to volunteer to be our new Chair of the Membership Committee. Dee brings a tremendous amount of experience to this position and has some excellent ideas on how to acquire new members and to retain those already in our Club. I know Dee has already spoken to a number of

March, 2015
Volume XXIV, No. 2

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Mark These Dates!

March Meeting	Mar. 21
Regional Conference	Apr. 17-19
World Conference	Aug. 29-31

you and I'd like to thank all who have sent in their membership renewal forms and dues.

As I announced at the January bi-monthly meeting the folks at Friendship Force International (FFI) announced exchanges for 2016 and we were selected to spend two weeks in Russia, one week at Kirov and a follow-on week at Nizhnyy Novgorod (formerly known as Gorkiy). Both cities are located east of Moscow along the Trans-Siberian railway and are loaded with historical and important sites and places of interest. FFI has recommended the exchange occur in May, and I have written to both clubs but have not heard back from them as yet. As for hosting, we have been assigned to host ambassadors from the Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada club. I have been in contact with the exchange director (ED) for their club and we are trying to work out when to schedule the exchange. The club will also be visiting the Hudson Valley, NY club. I know their preference is September/October which is a bit problematic as that could conflict with another exchange we will be involved with then.

I mentioned this in earlier Ambassadors but our participation in a multi-club Civil War-themed exchange is moving forward and to be honest is keeping several of us quite busy. The exchange includes clubs in Harrisburg, PA, Charleston, WV, Richmond, the National Capital Area, and us. Al Colville, Bob Schwagerl, newcomer Bing Spitler, and I currently are the FFCV planning committee for the exchange and Bing Spitler, a Civil War expert and author, will be ED. Planning for the exchange began in earnest in January and envisions a 19/20 day tour with up to 20 ambassadors touring such places as the battlefields at Gettysburg, Antietam, Manassas, and Fredericksburg area; museums in Harrisburg, Appomattox, and Richmond, Hollywood and Arlington Cemeteries, Ford's Theater, and numerous other Civil War-related sites. Right now it appears the exchange will begin in mid-September 2016. We will have the ambassadors for four or five days and will be responsible for showing them sites in the Shenandoah Valley, battlefields in the Fredericksburg area, and historical sites in Appomattox. Our planning committee currently is trying to put together an agenda for these trips and we'll be meeting with reps from the other clubs in early April to work on the overall agenda. Although the exchange is well over a year away, all clubs will be running "rehearsals" of their tours throughout this coming summer which will be open to members of the other participating clubs. So if you've ever wanted to see Gettysburg or visit the Stonewall Jackson and Robert E. Lee sites in Lexington, this might be your chance.

I should also mention that the Santa Barbara, CA club still plans on having an exchange with us this coming October and at least count there are about 14 or so ambassadors planning on coming for what now stands at a five or six day homestay. The outbound ED for that exchange is away until the end of March, so those are the only details I currently have.

Finally, I understand there are still openings for those thinking about attending the FFI Northeast & Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference in Portsmouth, NH on 17-19 April. Hopefully, you have seen the correspondence on this and as you've seen they have a very interesting program set up for us. This is a great chance to meet members of the other clubs in our region and also to hear Joy DiBenedetto describe FFI's new strategic plan and what it will mean to you. Right now, Bob and Dee Schwagerl and Linda and I plan on being there and we'd love for other FFCV members to join us.

Letters to the Editor

Have we Forgotten?

I would like to share two experiences that have happened recently, both having an impact on the health and growth of FFI.

As to the first, many of you in recent years have taken part in our club's efforts to attract new members. Much time, effort and advertising dollars have been spent telling the FFI story. As we look around the room during our meetings, we can see the new faces and be proud of our labors. At the same time, a few days ago, while in the supermarket, I met a long-time devoted member. When I mentioned I would see her at the next meeting, she advised me that she had left Friendship Force. She could no longer drive at night, she felt unable to participate in hosting and we lost a valuable member. Another couple left us because they felt unable to carry their own luggage. A couple, with a wonderful history of participation, left because of personal differences with someone in the leadership. The list goes on and on. As we reach out to new members through our "front" door, we lose many out the "back".

The second experience is sadly outside of our control that that is becoming aware of the passing of Jane Czarniak. Jane loved FFI and all of us loved her. While we cannot avoid our mortality and aging, we can ask our older members to rethink their membership and seek alternatives to resignation.

Our new leadership manual states our objective, to create "...understanding by bringing people together across the barriers that normally separate them." We state again and again, we are not a travel club. We are dedicated to a higher goal if we are not a travel club, then why does our ability to travel decide if we remain a member.

What makes FFI different and important? Our stories, our sharing, our building of relationships. Do older members have anything to impart to newer members? Certainly we do! We can all pass on what we have experienced. We can continue to share our stories regardless of age. Need proof? Ask for the recent CD prepared by Atlanta and listen to stories from all over the world. If we lose faith in the power of our message then perhaps we have become only a travel club. Don't let that happen. Let's not forget the world we hoped to change through Friendship Force.

In friendship,
Bob Schwagerl

MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, March 21st, at Shadwell Restaurant
(near the Hilton Garden Inn on Pantops)

The luncheon meeting will run from 12 noon to 2:00 PM. We will be ordering from the menu. Our guest speaker will be a JAG Student from Korea and we will also be discussing planned activities for the rest of the year.

Please respond to the doodle poll
which you will receive shortly

Changes to the Bylaws

As you know, the board has agreed to continue in their offices for an additional one year term and has recommended that the bylaws be changed so future officers will be able (and encouraged) to do the same. This change will provide ample time for the board to plan and implement a program in an orderly manner.

This change to the bylaws requires approval by the membership. The revised bylaws are at the end of the newsletter and the significant changes included are:

Under Article IV, Officers, in the Bylaws:

- *We have changed the titles of two of the elected officers from President Elect to FIRST VICE PRESIDENT and Vice President to SECOND VICE PRESIDENT.*
- *We have changed the Term of Office. Please read the change.*

Other changes included were cosmetic and corrections and had no material impact.

You are encouraged to read the proposed bylaws and at the March meeting ask any questions you may have and be prepared to approve them.

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!

VIGMUN I: Virginia Inter-Generational Model United Nations

Introduction

The Inaugural Virginia Inter-Generational Model UN Conference --VIGMUN I-- seeks to provide an environment where high school students, college students, and adults will all have the opportunity to share not only their individual view but also the view of their generation on international topics that bind the world together.

This conference is a training conference. No prior experience is required; research and training will be supplied both before and during the day of the conference.

Cost

\$10 per delegate, Scholarship available for delegates unable to pay fee. Please contact David Poist at dhpoist@cstone.net

The payment may be given on the day of the conference.

Date

March 21st 2015

Location

Zehmer Hall, 104 Midmont Lane, Charlottesville, 22904

Committee

World Health Organization

Topic 1: Isolating MERS-CoV

Topic 2: Medical Education in Third World Countries

Schedule

9 – 10:30am: Registration

10:30 – 11:15am: Opening Ceremony

11:15am – 12pm: Lunch break

12 – 1pm: Committee Training

1pm – 3pm: Committee Session I

3pm – 3:30pm: Break

3:30pm – 5:30pm: Committee Session II

5:45pm – 6:15pm: Closing ceremony

Features

Delegates will have the unique opportunity to participate in committee with both College MUN delegates and high school MUN delegates. In this setting, a delegate will not only be able to learn about parliamentary procedure, foreign relations topics, but also the views held by different generations.

Additionally delegates will also be able to enjoy the following:






- Opening Address given by noted surgeon, Tom Daniel
- Hour long MUN training session prior to the beginning of committee
- Complementary lunch
- Opportunity to see the beautiful UVA Grounds

Application Link

Please apply for VIGMUN I at <http://tinyurl.com/avigmun>

Contact Information: Susan Roberts sgwroberts@gmail.com 434-409-0264

**Friendship Force of Greater Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, USA
INBOUND DOMESTIC EXCHANGE PROGRAM ITINERARY May 13-20, 2015**

<p>Wednesday May 13, 2015</p>	<p>Flexible Arrival Day. Ambassadors will be greeted at Harrisburg Train Station or Harrisburg International Airport (MDT) by home hosts. Dinner with home hosts.</p>  <p align="center">Sunset over the Susquehanna River</p>
<p>Thursday, May 14, 2015</p>	<p><u>HARRISBURG:</u> Tour one of our nation's most beautiful state capitol buildings followed by a walking tour of downtown Harrisburg. Lunch and entrance to other sites included.</p>   <p>EVENING: Welcome Dinner</p>
<p>Friday, May 15, 2015</p>	<p><u>GETTYSBURG</u> Civil War History will come to life at the National Park Service's Visitors Center. Lunch at Dobbin House Tavern – built in 1776 and once a stop on the Underground Railroad. Afternoon tour of the Gettysburg Battlefield.</p>    <p>EVENING: Dinner with home hosts or other</p>

<p>Saturday, May 16, 2015</p>	<p>Free Day with day hosts who will be your tour guides as you experience more of South Central Pennsylvania. Be sure to include your hobbies and interests on your ambassador application. Learn more about Friendship Force of Greater Harrisburg at www.friendshipforcepa.org</p>
<p>Sunday May 17, 2015</p>	<p>Free Day to spend with your home hosts</p>
<p>Monday, May 18, 2015</p>	<p><u>Lancaster</u> : Tour an Amish farm, quilt shop and experience Pennsylvania Dutch cuisine</p> <div data-bbox="289 688 1383 940"> </div> <p>Evening: Dinner hosting with FF Greater Harrisburg Club Members</p>
<p>Tuesday, May 19, 2015</p>	<p><u>HERSHEY</u> – Visit to Chocolate Town, USA and learn about the life and legacy of Milton S. Hershey which could include a tour of the Milton Hershey School, Hershey Theater, Hershey Rose Garden, Chocolate World, The Chocolate Story or Hotel Hershey, lunch provided at a local restaurant</p> <div data-bbox="289 1276 1338 1499"> </div> <p>Evening: Farewell Event</p>
<p>Wednesday May, 20, 2015</p>	<p>DEPARTURE DAY: Ambassadors depart for home or for other ventures</p> <p>OPTIONAL: Morning - tour the Harley Davidson plant.</p>

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FRIENDSHIP FORCE of GREATER HARRISBURG - 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 select Ambassadors who are representative of their community or region. Detailed information also helps us match Ambassadors with host families. Each applicant must complete and sign the Application and Agreement. We appreciate your cooperation.

1. Name as shown on passport _____
(last) (first) (middle)

2. Address _____
(street address)

(city) (state) (zip / postal code) (country)

3. Telephone: Home: (_____) _____ 4. Work: (_____) _____

5. Cell: (_____) _____ 6. E-mail: _____

7. Date of Birth ____ -- ____ -- ____ 8. Birthplace _____
(day) (month) (year) (state) (country)

9. Sex: Male Female 10. Marital Status: Single Married 11. Do you have a valid passport? Yes No
(circle one) (circle one) (circle one)

12. Passport Number _____ 13. Expiration Date _____
(day) (month) (year)

14. Please note any languages you speak other than your own and circle your proficiency in that language.

Language _____ Excellent Good Fair Poor

Language _____ Excellent Good Fair Poor

15. Career Information (previous if retired): _____

16. Interests and Hobbies:

17. Please circle where you have previously traveled:

Africa Asia Europe Latin-America Middle-East North-America Russia/NIS South-Pacific None

18. Please circle if you have participated in a FF home stay (or similar) program before: As a host As a visitor

19. Are you currently a member of a Friendship Force Club? (circle one) Yes No

If so, which one? _____

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To assist with home-host matching:

20. Do you smoke? Yes No (circle one) Do you drink alcohol? Yes No (circle one)

Are you willing to attend church services with your home hosts? Yes No (circle one)

21. 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, Are you capable of these activities? (Circle one) Yes No

If no, please elaborate :

22. Do you have any allergies or particular diet, health, or medical conditions that require special consideration?
(circle one) Yes No (If yes, explain i.e. vegetarian, allergy to penicillin or animals, high blood pressure, CPAP machine, etc.)

NOTE: Ambassadors may be required to provide supporting medical documentation to be accepted on the exchange.

23. If traveling with someone else please complete their info below. Each applicant should submit an application.

Name _____ Relationship _____ Age _____

24. 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: _____

25. Person(s) at home to contact in case of emergency. This person should be aware that they may be called upon to accompany you home – should the need arise.

In addition to this application – If you are unknown to me, an email reference is required from your most recent exchange director. Please ask this person to send an email reference to me at lisacordell@embarqmail.com. The ED must attest to your mobility and to your demonstration of being a positive representative (ambassador) of Friendship Force.

Contact:

(name) (relationship to you)

(cell phone) (home phone) (work phone)

Contact:

(name) (relationship to you)

(cell phone) (home phone) (work phone)

Contact:

(name) (relationship to you)

(cell phone) (home phone) (work phone)

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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. It can be a spin-off project (i.e. establishing a sister-school link), a special connection (arranging a return visit by a musician or artist), or just making a lifelong friend. Think about how you can keep these personal and institutional relationships alive after you return home and share your goals with us here:

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 Date Signature of Parent or Guardian Date

If Ambassador is under 18 years old, both signatures are required.

FRIENDSHIP FORCE INTERNATIONAL

AMBASSADOR APPLICATION AND AGREEMENT

Friendship Force International was founded in 1977 with a single mission: to create an environment where personal friendships are established 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.

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4. Any request for cancellation of this agreement must be made in writing to the local Exchange Committee and forwarded to Friendship Force International. If an Ambassador cancels more than 60 days before departure, FFI will refund all

Ambassador 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 Ambassador Fees paid will be returned to Ambassadors.

If this agreement is not for a club-to-club exchange, please consult your Program Coordinator for cancellation and refund policy. In case of cancellation due to illness or death of an Ambassador or an immediate family member, Friendship Force International may require a medical doctor's certificate and airline ticket to process the refund.

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 attend training workshops, b) to accept travel arrangements as arranged by Friendship Force International, where applicable c) to participate fully in the home stay, d) to pay the Ambassador Fee when due, e) to accept the decision making authority of the Exchange Director during the exchange, and f) 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: *I agree to be an Ambassador of goodwill to the country I am visiting and I agree to live in the home assigned to me knowing that the standards of that home may be different from my own and that the host family has a culture or language different from my own. If home hosting is not available, I understand that I will be traveling for the purpose of extending friendship to the citizens of my host country.*

Signature of Ambassador Date Signature of Parent or Guardian Date
If Ambassador is under 18 years old, both signatures are required.

© Revised December 10, 2010 by Friendship Force International, Inc.

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

Thank you for adjusting your calendars to participate in our Social Event last Saturday at "Wine Made Simple". For the ones of you who could not make it or are not wine drinkers, we missed you. We had 15 members and 4 visitors join us. Pam and Paul Hokanson were true to their word – of which I had no doubt after spending a month with them in NZ and Australia – it did not surprise me to see them walk through the door after a long trip from West Virginia to join us. Everyone seemed to have a great time together with wonderful conversations, food and of course great wines. I am sure the house had to restock their shelves after we all left.

The March General Membership meeting will be held on Saturday, March 21st at the Shadwell Restaurant at Pantops on Rt. 250. The time will be from Noon till 2:00 pm. You will be receiving a Doodle Poll soon, as to whether or not you can attend. We will order from their lunch menu upon arrival and will be start the meeting while we wait for our meals. Our guest speaker will be a JAG Student from Korea and we will also be discussing planned activities for the rest of the year.

Happy Trails – Till we meet again - Peggy Colville

Mystery Dinner

Deb Winslow

It is getting close to the time for the Mystery Dinner again. One is planned for Saturday, April 25. Last year was our first event and those who attended only had good things to say.

We will be sending out an email poll toward the end of the month. We will again need to know who will be willing to host with guest bringing side dishes and dessert.

Any questions? Please talk with me at our March business meeting or you can contact me at da.winslow1@gmail.com or (434) 825-5502.

JAG School

Linda Burns, Chair

The JAG school had a graduation ceremony on February 12th for the 3 month students. Our JAG student from Indonesia, CPT Julius Wijyanto graduated. His sponsor, David Lea attended the graduation.

In February, we welcomed two new 3 month students, Yohei Konno from Japan and Zorigt Amarbayar from Mongolia. Marilyn Posten is going to sponsor Mr. Konno and David Lea will be the sponsor for Mr. Amarbayar. Graduation for these two students is May 7th. Graduation for our 10 month students will be May 21st. Sponsors, please put these dates on your calendar. It's a great ceremony to attend. If others are interested, just let me know.

For our Friendship Force bi-monthly meeting in March, we are going to have our Korean JAG student, Min Woo Lee, give a presentation on his country. All international students come with a presentation as they are required to present it at school. They are always entertaining and make you want to visit their country. Please plan to attend.

If you have questions or want more information about the JAG program, please contact me: FFCV JAG Liaison - Linda Burns - toeheadva@yahoo.com or - 434-589-8724.

Outreach

Linda Burns, Chair

If you know of members who are ill/injured or may need any type of assistance, please let me know - Linda - toeheadva@yahoo.com or 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



*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>
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 World Conference in Vancouver 29-31
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

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.



2015 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, Fluvanna, etc.

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 2015. (Partners do separately when your interests diverge). **Do you want to:**

Exchange Activities	Other Club Work and Activities
Go on an Outbound Exchange	Serve on Communications/Publicity (newsletter or press)?
Outbound Exchange Planning Committee	Serve on Fund Raising including Fridays After Five?
Inbound Exchange Planning Committee	Be on Social Program Planning and Organizing?
Inbound Exchange Planning	Help Plan Bi-monthly Club Meeting Programs?
Inbound Exchange Home Host	Serve on Membership Committee?
Inbound Exchange Day Host	Be nominated for Exchange Director
Inbound Exchange Small Dinner Party Host	
Community Activities and Service	
Invite an International Student to Dinner	
Sponsor a JAG student	
Work on a Community Project (e.g., International Refugee Committee, World Friendship Day, or outreach to community?)	

What areas of the world are of particular interest for an Exchange?

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 **FFC with your application**. Please submit application/renewal and dues to our treasurer, David Lea, 139 Stribling Ave., Charlottesville, VA 22903 or at a meeting.

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.

FFCV Board/Committee Chairs Meeting
Tuesday February 24, 2015
Dryer Residence – 830 Charter Oaks Dr. Charlottesville

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 Dee Schwagerl.

Call to Order: A quorum being present the meeting was called to order at 2:05pm by President Dave Burns. He informed the Board that he would be out of town for the next Board meeting and that President Elect Al Colville will preside at the meeting.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer David Lea reported that we have \$5785.75 in the checking account. There was a review of the membership list with instructions to the Treasurer to review with Walt O’Connell the list he has and bring them in alinement.

Secretary Report: The minutes from the December 2, 2014 were adopted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Club Membership Issues: Membership issues were addressed by Dee Schwagerl. She pointed out the problems she has since she does not use a computer. She is willing to make phone calls to those that have not renewed as yet.

Civil War-Themed Exchange September, 2016: There will be a planning meeting on April 11, 2015 with all five clubs involved (Harrisburg, PA; Charleston, WV; Central VA; Richmond, VA and Washington DC) Dave Burns, Al Colville and Bing Spittler (our historian) will attend. We could be hosting about 20 people.

Santa Barbara Inbound Exchange October 2015: They are interested in the Civil War also and it could be an opportunity to try some of the ideas for the 2016 exchange. We are hoping to have Pam Hokanson as ED.

Non-Profit Status: Rob Beck, Chair of the ad-hoc committee’s report was reviewed and a motion was made and seconded **“to defer action until the next meeting on becoming a non-profit.” The motion was adopted.**

Bylaws, Procedures Manual: Chair Margaret Dryer presented and reviewed the revised Bylaws. **The revision was approved by the board and will be published in the Ambassador and voted on at the next Bi-Monthly Meeting of the membership.**

OLLI: Freddie Bacher is meeting with them on March 12, 2015 to discuss their possible involvement with FFCV.

NEW BUSINESS:

Regional Conference: The Regional Conference will be held in New Hampshire on April 15-19, 2015.

World Conference: The World Conference will be held in Vancouver, Canada on August 29-31, 2015.

2015 Exchanges: Outbound to Gorky, Russia and an inbound from Medicine Hat Alberta Canada in October which may not work.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Social/ Programs Committee: Chairs Peggy and Al Colville reports a wine tasting at “Wine Made Simple” on February 21 from 2:00 to 3:30. She is arraigning a Mystery Dinner for April 25 with the help of Deb Winslow. The Bi-Monthly Meeting will be on March 21 between 12 and 2pm at Shadwell.

Membership Outreach Committee (Sunshine): Chair Linda Burns reported that two of our members had surgery and that cards were sent.

Communications Committee: The deadline for the next Ambassador is March 8, 2015.

Fundraising Committee: Chair Dale Walden reported that we had signed up for working “Friday’s After Five” again this year and would accept any of the tasks available.

JAG School: Chair Lynda Burns reported that there two new students that need sponsors. One from Japan and another from Mongolia they are three month students. David Lea said that he had been recognized by his student at the graduation exercises.

Announcements: The next Board Meeting will be held at the Dryer home on March 10, 2015 at 2:00pm.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Secretary,
Margaret Dryer

BYLAWS

THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF CENTRAL VIRGINIA

THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE INTERNATIONAL

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of the organization shall be The Friendship Force of Central Virginia hereinafter referred to as the Club. This name shall not be changed unless permission has been obtained from The Friendship Force International, hereinafter referred to as FFI.

ARTICLE II

Purpose and Objectives

The Club is organized for the purpose of encouraging international friendship and understanding.

The following are the objectives of the Club:

- A. To provide leadership and support for national and international cultural exchange programs. To provide continuity of Friendship Force activities through educational and cultural means.
- B. To increase program awareness by disseminating information to Club members and to interested persons in the community.
- C. To recruit members and maintain an active membership file.
- D. To provide an orderly means of assembling and retaining pertinent records for use in establishing and assisting Exchange Committees.

The Club is not organized and shall not operate for pecuniary gain or profit. No part of the property of the Club and no part of its net earnings shall inure to the benefit of any private individual. The Club shall never be authorized to engage in a regular business of a kind ordinarily carried on for profit or in any other Club activity except in furtherance of the purposes stated above for which the Club is organized. The club shall never engage in attempts to influence legislation, or participate in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office, nor shall any part of its property or any part of the income there from be devoted to such purpose.

ARTICLE III

Members

Section 1. Qualification: Club membership is open to any person who supports the goals and purposes of the Friendship Force and is willing to pay the required annual dues and agrees to abide by these Bylaws and Standing Rules & Procedures of the Club. A member is in good standing having completed a membership

application form and payment of annual dues. Only members in good standing shall be entitled to vote and participate in club business.

Section 2. Annual Dues: The fiscal year of the Club is January 1st through December 31st.

A. The Executive Board with the consent of the membership shall determine the annual dues.

Section 3. Honorary Life Membership: The Executive Board may award Honorary Life Membership, from time to time, to qualified members who over the years have demonstrated long term commitment to the goals of the organization.

ARTICLE IV

Officers

Section 1. Officers: The elected officers of the Club are the President, First Vice President , Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and the Immediate Past President.

Section 2. Term of Office: Each officer shall be elected for a one (1) year term and may run for a second term, but the President may not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms.

Section 3. Vacancies:

A. A vacancy in the office of President shall be filled by the First Vice President.

B. A vacancy in the office of First Vice President shall be filled by the Second Vice President.

C. Vacancies in the offices of Second Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer may be filled by the Executive Board.

Section 4. Duties: The Officers shall perform the duties as outlined in the Standing Rules & Procedures manual.

ARTICLE V

Nominations and Elections

Section 1. Composition:

A. The Nominations Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Board at least five (5) weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.

B. The three (3) member Committee shall be chaired by the Immediate Past President, or in the event of a vacancy in this office, by an officer appointed by the Executive Board. The First Vice President shall serve on this committee and one (1) other member of the Club in good standing.

Section 2. Nominations:

A. The Committee shall prepare a list of nominees who are members in good standing and have consented to be nominated for a one (1) year term of office for the position of President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

B. The report shall be presented at the September Board Meeting or least ten (10) days prior to the Annual Meeting.

C. Nominations shall be accepted from the floor at the Annual Meeting provided that previous approval has been obtained from the proposed nominee.

Section 3. Elections:

A. The election of officers shall be held at the Annual Meeting. Elections shall be by voice vote; however, if there is more than one (1) nominee for an office, the election shall be

- by ballot and shall not be cumulative. In the event of a tie vote, another ballot must be taken. The nominee receiving the majority of votes shall be declared elected.
- B. Elected officers shall commence their duties on January 1st.

ARTICLE VI

Meetings

- Section 1. Regular Meetings: The club shall normally meet every other month beginning in January, but not less than quarterly, on a date designated by the Executive Board
- Section 2. Annual Meeting: The November meeting shall be the Annual Meeting. The President shall designate the time and place for the meeting. A written notice of the meeting must be sent to all members at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.
- Section 3. Special Meetings: Special Meetings of the Club may be called by the President, any three (3) elected officers, or any fifteen (15) members in good standing, with at least one (1) week's prior notice to all the members. Only the business mentioned in the notice may be considered at this meeting.
- Section 4. Quorum: A majority of the voting members present shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VII

Executive Board & Board of Directors

- Section 1. Composition: The Executive Board shall be the elected officers. The Immediate Past President maybe an ex officio member of the Board of Directors as a nonvoting member. Standing Committee chairs are expected upon request to attend Executive Board meetings as nonvoting members.
- Section 2. Meetings: Meetings of the Executive Board shall be called as needed, by the President or any three (3) members with at least five (5) days notice.
- Section 3. Quorum: Three (3) officers shall constitute a quorum.
- Section 4. Duties: The Executive Board shall manage the business of the Club.
- Section 5. Vacancies: Vacancies shall be filled by a majority vote of the Executive Board. an Executive Board member may be removed from his/her post by a majority vote of the Executive Board members.
- Section 6. Board of Directors: The Executive Board may from time to time appoint non-voting members to the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII

Committees

- Section 1. Types:
- A. Standing Committees: The Standing Committees are Membership, Communications, Fundraising, Social, Exchanges, and Membership Outreach.
- B. Special Committees: Special Committees may be called as needed.
- Section 2. Term of Office: The term of office of Committee Chairs shall be determined by

the Executive Board.

Section 3. Duties: **All committee chairs** shall consult with the President, appoint members to their committee, present a list of members to the Secretary, call committee meetings when necessary, report activities to the Executive Board and at the Regular Meetings. The committees shall be governed by the duties as outlined in The Standing Rules & Procedures manual.

ARTICLE IX Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern this Club in all cases in which it is applicable and which are not inconsistent with these Bylaws or Standing Rules that this Club may adopt.

ARTICLE X

Amendment of Bylaws

These Bylaws may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the Club by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the members present, provided that the membership has been notified of the amendment at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting. The adopted Bylaws shall be submitted to FFI.

ARTICLE XI

Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution of this Club to the extent allowed under applicable law, all of the assets of the Club shall be distributed to the Friendship Force, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, provided that the corporation is then in existence and is such a tax exempt organization. If FFI should not be in existence at the time of said dissolution, the assets of the Club shall be sold and the proceeds distributed to another organization organized and operating exclusively for charitable, scientific, literary or educational purpose which shall be determined by the Board of Directors of this Club.

Revised 2015