



# friendship force

Changing the Way You See the World

# The Ambassador

### Officers

President	Al Colville*
First Vice President	Linda Burns*
Second Vice President	Monica Notaro*
Treasurer	David Lea*
Secretary	Pam Hokanson*
Directors	Rob Beck*, Margaret Dryer*

\*Board Member

### **Committee Chairs**

Event Chairman	Patty Sclater
Fund Raising	Monica Notaro*
JAG	Linda Burns*
Membership	Peggy Colville
Outreach	Linda Burns*
Exchange	Dave Burns*
Communications	Walt O'Connell*

January, 2017 Volume XXV, No. 6

# President's Message

Al Colville

Well we have an exciting and important activity scheduled for this month. To mark the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Friendship Force International organization, our local



club is holding a special event on March 19<sup>th</sup>. In addition to having a social gathering for our current members, we are inviting our Past Presidents to join us in celebrating the history of the Friendship Force of Central Virginia, once known as the Friendship Force of Charlottesville. We also expect a number of potential new members to be there to learn about our history and the wonderful Inbound and Outbound Exchanges we have had over the years. More specific details on this event appear later in this newsletter and I hope to see you there!

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# **Events Committee in Action**

Patty Sclater, Chair

Our chapter got off to a delicious start, with a pot-luck soup 'n salad meal at Nahor Clubhouse on February 19<sup>th</sup>. At that time, we outlined planned events for the year. We have tried to schedule events around a variety of venues and dates as well as type of activity. Hopefully you can participate in many of these events and, of course, guests are welcome.

Along with chapters across the world, FFCV will be celebrating FFI's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On Sunday afternoon, March 19<sup>th</sup>, members and past presidents will reminisce over past inbound and outbound exchanges. Looking forward, we want to share the message of friendship and goodwill. Please take this opportunity to invite guests who are interested in FFI's aspiration toward global understanding and peace.

The March 19<sup>th</sup> celebration will be at Tavern on the Green at Spring Creek - Clubhouse Way, Gordonsville, VA 22942 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The club will provide heavy hors d'oeuvres, tea and water. If you prefer stronger libations, a cash bar will be available.

We'll have displays of previous exchanges. If you have pictures to share, send them electronically to Walt O'Connell (walt.oconnell@gmail.com), who is putting together a DVD. If you have gifts,

purchases, etc. that you would be willing to share on these displays, please let Peggy Coleville know (434.589.2844).

If you haven't already responded to the doodle, please do so right away, as we need to give Tavern on the Green a final count by Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> (http://doodle.com/poll/w5dk5k6e4aqffsga). Feel free to contact me with any questions you have about the event (434.981.8963). April sees some of our members participate in an outbound journey to Mundo Maya, Mexico. Back home, we'll have another popular Mystery Dinner on May 13<sup>th</sup>. In June, we'll be at Cunningham Creek Winery on the 15<sup>th</sup>. In July (date to be determined) we're off to Blackfriars Playhouse for a tour and play as well as lunch in Staunton.

Al and Peggy Colville and Dave and Linda Burns will be representing our chapter at FFI's World Conference in Manchester, England August 24 – 28. The annual JAG students' picnic will be hosted by Wayne and Betsy Brady at Lake Monticello. There will be boat rides and a potluck meal, along with an opportunity to meet the international JAG students.

We are hosting visitors from Cornwall, UK for a stopover visit Oct. 17 - 18. This is followed by an inbound journey from Russia October 21 - 28.

It's back to Staunton on November 9 to observe glass blowing and try your hand at making an ornament, if you wish. We'll also take in lunch. Further details will be forthcoming, as developed. Margaret and Mark will once again host us for the annual Christmas Party. It will be at their Charlottesville residence on December 16. What a great way to end the year.

# Membership Chairman's Report

Peggy Smith Colville, Chair

We have a year full of wonderful opportunities for you to enjoy this wonderful club as well as share it with your friends and neighbors who might want to join us. First on our list, which is right around the corner, will be the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party to be held at the Tavern on the Green on March 19<sup>th</sup>. This will be a wonderful time to invite your friends, as we hope to have some of our Past Presidents in attendance, will be showing archives and pictures from members of our club who have traveled the world over and will be giving a short overview outlook on the club's future travels.

After this, your next opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors to join us will be in June when we go to the Cunningham Creek Winery. Next, if you like the arts, please join us in Staunton at the Blackfriars Playhouse for a tour and lunch. This is another event where guests are encouraged. Of course one of our best gatherings will be held in September when we go to the Brady's home for our Annual JAG Students Picnic. Always a fun time had by all and another great opportunity for your guest to see one our biggest outreach programs. November brings another opportunity for invites when we travel to Staunton for a Glass Blowing demonstration and lunch. Last but not least we will be holding our Christmas Party celebration at the Dryer home in December. This is always such a great time of the year to have people come and visit with us as we celebrate friendships and the ending of a good year together.

So as you can see your Events coordinator, Patty Sclater, has really put together a year full of activities where you and your friends can enjoy themselves and see what we are all about. We hope

you will take advantage of these activities by attending and bring your friends, as we try to enlarge our club and by doing so, bring in new and creative new activities. Any questions please feel free to call me 434-589-2844 or e-mail me at peggysmith1@hotmail.com.

# News from FFI

As we enter our 40th year, we know that some change and growth is necessary for the health and future of our organization. We hope that you, our members, will embrace these small adjustments in terminology in order to highlight and continue supporting the mission of promoting global understanding across the barriers that separate people.

# New Tag Line

The tag line has been changed from "Changing the way you see the world" to "Experience different views. Discover common ground."

# Journeys

We often hear that calling our travel and hosting programs "exchanges" is confusing, since the word no longer directly explains the programs we offer. We strongly feel that a more transformational term - "journey" - is better suited to the amazing programs our members plan and experience. You will see this new term (planning a "Journey" instead of an "Exchange") used throughout our new website and in FFI communications and materials.

# Ambassador Coordinator and Host Coordinator

In line with our incorporation of the word "journey," we also have altered the term Exchange Director to now be called "Ambassador Coordinator" and "Host Coordinator." Not only does the term "coordinator" translate well into the many languages spoken by our members worldwide, but we also believe it reflects the variety of work that our dedicated ambassador and host leaders undertake in planning a Friendship Force Journey.

# Mission-Focused Itineraries

For each Journey listed on the catalog, there will be an expanded Itinerary section highlighting the mission of FFI and especially our people-to-people focus of travel and hosting. We want to encourage new members to participate by giving them more clarity about what to expect on a Friendship Force Journey.

In support of this makeover, FFI has also released a new promotional video (https://vimeo.com/194675995) and Web Site (https://www.friendshipforce.org/). We will be incorporating these changes into our club material as well.



# Cabin Fever Setting In?

Need to Get Away? Be sure to check the journeys available on the Friendship Force Web site. <u>https://www.friendshipforce.org/journeys/</u>



# Check out our Facebook Page

https://www.facebook.com/FriendshipForceofCentralVirginia/

# Dues are Due

It's that time again... time to renew your membership in the Friendship Force of Central Virginia! We have had a busy and fun year, and next year looks very busy as well. You won't want to miss a bit of it.

So take the time to complete your membership renewal application located at the end of this newsletter (it helps us keep your contact info up-to-date as well as have a lasting record that you paid your dues.) and mail it to David Lea – his address is at the bottom of the application.

Looking forward to having you with us for another fun and adventurous year

# **JAG School**

Linda Burns, Chair

We had three people, Judith Lesiak, Dave and Linda Burns, attend the graduation of our Basic student, Seiya Yasuda. It was very nice as we, the FFCV, was recognized not only by the student but also by the Dean. If you would like to go to a graduation, please let me know.

I received an email from Larry at the JAG School of the students that will be coming in the future. For the Basic Course, 19 June thru 7 September, we have students from Egypt, Indonesia and Mongolia.

For the Graduate Course, 7 August thru 30 May, we have students coming from Afghanistan, Egypt, Korea and Israel. If you are interested in being a sponsor, please contact me.

To our current sponsors, please keep in mind that graduation is coming soon, probably in May. You might want to get together with your student before that time.

# **Journey Committee**

### Dave Burns

The big news is that we recently received our journey (formerly exchange) assignments for 2018 and we got exactly what we asked for which was two weeks in the Far East, and in May 2018 we will be visiting two clubs in Japan, one close to Tokyo and the other near Kyoto. Also, we will be hosting another Australian club, this one from Bundaberg, located where the Great Barrier Reef begins. Considering many of us have friends we hosted from the Sunshine Coast of Australia several years ago, we may be able to set up a memorable future journey involving both of those clubs. However, before discussing those journeys a short update on what is going on this year.

2017 Outbound: Mondo Maya de Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico, April 2017: Seven FFCV members will be participating in this journey and everything is ready to go except for getting our bags packed. Wish more of you could have participated in the trip, as all of us will also be spending some additional time in Cancun, preparing for our stay with our new Mayan friends.

2017 Inbound: Nizhny Novgorod and Kirov Oblast, Russia, October 2017: I remain in contact with the two Russian EDs (Tatyana and Oksana) and we have set the date of the exchange to be 21-28 October. At present they still have 10 members interested in participating in the exchange, and in discussions with our regional director and FFI, we have set a limit of 20 ambassadors for the journey and will offer vacancies to members of other clubs in our region first before opening the trip up to the rest of FFI. As previously mentioned I will be the Host Coordinator (formerly Exchange Director) for the journey and want to thank Bob Harris and Dale Walter for offering to assist me in planning the visit. That is not to say I will not be looking for additional help, so do not be surprised if you hear from me!

2017 Stopover: Cornwall, UK, Oct 2017. As some of you are aware, we have been approached by members of the Cornwall, UK club to host several of their members during a short stopover with our club on 17-19 October (two nights stay). Apparently they will have been on a journey to North Carolina and going to Dulles Airport. Our understanding is there will be four couples and three singles, thus we are going to need five or six members to house them during their stay. Your BOD agreed to support the stopover with the understanding that we would like for them to host our club sometime in the future.

2018 Outbound: Mie and Ota-Gunma, Japan, May 2018: This should really be an exciting journey and here's hoping many of you will participate. President Al Colville has volunteered to act as Ambassador Coordinator (formerly known as "Exchange Director") for the journey and is in contact with the hosts. A preliminary check of airline costs suggest a roundtrip ticket to Tokyo from Dulles is about \$900-\$1200 but that obviously could change one way or another over the next year. The following is what is available on the FFI website in regards to the two clubs, note both clubs can host up to 15 ambassadors:

Mie

- Official club name: The Friendship Force of Mie
- Closest major airport: Central Japan International Airport (NGO)
- **Cost of transportation** between the airport and our city: by high-speed ferry: 2,470 yen per person (~\$21.50), A 10% discount applies to groups more than 15 people.
- The maximum number of Ambassadors our club can host: 15
- About the club: The Friendship Force of Mie was chartered in September of 1989. We have approximately 40 members from 30 families. Nearly half of the members live in Tsu city, the capital of Mie prefecture, where we generally have monthly meetings and exchange activities. The other half of the members lives in the surrounding areas. Usually we host one or two inward exchanges and have one outward exchange every year.
- About the region: Mie prefecture is located almost at the center of the Japanese main island on the Pacific Ocean side, blessed with not only a variety of natural beauty from the mountains to the ocean but also a variety of good food. Due to its close proximity to Nara and Kyoto, the old capitals of Japan, this region historically had been an important part of the culture and economy. These backgrounds make this region attractive and worth visiting. (Among the sightseeing spots, Ise Shrine, Ise-ShimaNational Park, the Ninja Residence, the Akame 48 waterfalls and Gozaisho mountain are famous.)
- About the exchanges: We want our members and the ambassadors to get to know each other over the language and culture barrier. That is our priority but we often schedule a couple of sightseeing days and a visit to the mayor of Tsu city and a school. We always hold a welcome or farewell party. Please talk directly to our ED for details. Our ED will give you some practical suggestions.

Ota-Gunma

- Official club name: The Friendship Force of Ota-Gunma
- Closest major airport: TOKYO NARITA
- Closest regional/ local airport: TOKYO / NARITA Airport.
- **Cost of transportation** between the airport and our city (based on 20 people) by bus: about 4,300 yen / person (~\$37.50). By Train: We have. But very difficult to use for beginner
- Maximum number of Ambassadors our club can host: 15 people
- About the club: Our club consists of 22 families Age of the members is 70 years old from 50 years old
- **About the region**: Ota city is north of Tokyo, about 80 Km. (Ota city, Gunma prefecture), the northern part of Gunma is a mountainous area. There are a lot of volcanoes. Therefore we have many hot springs.

2018 Inbound: Bundaberg, Australia, October 18: This will be the third club from Australia we have hosted in the past four years, and based on our experience with the previous Australian ambassadors and what is on the Bundaberg website we should be hosting a lively bunch and be in for a good time. Recommend you go to the FFI website and check out the club's website:

https://friendshipforce.azurewebsites.net/clubs/bundaberg/ Don't know about anybody else but I'm already prepared to request a reciprocal visit there!

2018 Mid-Atlantic & Northeast Regional Journal Assignments

Another way our members can experience an outbound journey is to participate with one of the clubs in our region to visit the places they have been assigned. The following is a list of all the clubs in our region and their assignments for 2018. Contact information for each of the clubs is located on the FFI website.

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF:	OUTBOUND	INBOUND
1. RICHMOND, VA	None	None
2. NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA	2/18 Christchurch, Taupo,	4 or 5/18 Regional Conference
	Wellington (Stopover), New Zealand	11/18 Ottawa, Canada
3. CHARLESTON WEST VIRGINIA	None	None
4. CONNECTICUT	2/18 Kapiti Coast & New	None
	Plymouth, New Zealand	
	11/18 San Antonio, Texas USA	
5. SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY	4/18 Campias & Belo Horizonte,	6/18 La Serena, Chilie
	Barzil	
6. GREATER HARISBURG	5/18 Nizhny Novgorod, Russia	None
	10/18 Greater Hamilton &	5/18 Greater Hamilton &
7. NEW HAMPSHIRE	Niagara, Canada	Burlington, Canada
SEACOAST		
8. SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT	None	6/18 La Serena, Chile
9. CENTRAL VIRGINIA	5/18 Mie & Ota-Gunma, Japan	10/18 Bundaberg, Australia
10. LONG ISLAND	6/18 Flathead Valley, USA	5/18 Greater Hamilton & 10/18 Burlington, Canada
	10/18 Cape of Good Hope, South Africa	9/18 San Diego County, USA

# <u>Outreach</u>

Linda Burns, Chair

We were sorry to hear that Ranny Reynolds mother passed away. Our condolences went out to him.

We spoke with Barry Doucette and he said Mary Ann was recuperating nicely. I hope she is home now. I left a message but have not heard from them, maybe on vacation? Also, I spoke with Patsy O'Connell. She came home from the hospital but is still having some issues. Continue keeping her in your prayers.

Margaret Dryer is going in for knee surgery in May. Our thoughts and prayers will be with her. I left a message with Ann Beardon to try and find out any information she may have on Pete Almonte. I heard he has moved to New York to be closer with his children and I am trying to get an address.

If you know of any other member who needs an "outreached hand" please let me know. You can contact me @ toeheadva@yahoo.com or 434-589-8724

Concerned about traveling in these uncertain times? You might want to check out this article <u>http://www.wendyperrin.com/7-keys-traveling-without-fear-despite-terrorist-attacks/</u>

# Help Wanted

We are getting organized for 2017 and one of our goals is to encourage our members to play an active role in the affairs of the club. While some positions require a bit more time and effort (such as Exchange Director) there are many that only require a couple of hours a month (e.g. contributing to the newsletter, helping maintain our Web page, helping to plan an event, or working on one of the committees. You will find that if you participate actively you will have a lot more fun and add your ideas to making our club even better.

If you are interested in making a difference and getting a better return on your investment, contact one of the directors or committee chairs. They are listed on the front page of the newsletter.

We are looking forward to hearing from you.

# 2017 International Conference



For the official conference Web site click <u>here</u> or visit <u>https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/index.php?eventid=209170&</u>

# 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, <u>www.ffc.avenue.org</u>

The BOD meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend. We welcome you participation



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David Burns Barry Doucette Elizabeth Beck Linda Burns Pam Hokanson Betsy Brady Patricia O'Connell Barbara Drinkwater Paul Hokanson	3/11 3/12 3/24 3/25 3/29 4/13 4/24 4/26 4/27	

# 2016 Calendar Meetings and Events

<u>Month</u>	<u>BOD</u> <u>Meeting</u>	Event Date	<u>Events</u>	<u>Participants</u>
March	7	Sun, 3/19	FFI 40th Anniversary, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., Tavern on the Green	FFCV Members, Their Guests and Public (New Member Initiative)
April	4	Tues, 4/18 - Tues, 4/25	Outbound Exchange to Mundo Maya, Mex.	FFCV Members
May	2	Sat, 5/13	Mystery Dinner	FFCV Members
June	6	Thurs, 6/15	Cunningham Creek Winery - Details TBD	FFCV Members, Their Guests (New Member Initiative)
July	11	TBD	Blackfriars Playhouse Tour, Play, Lunch - Details TBD	FFCV Members, Their Guests
August	7	Thurs, 8/24 - Mon, 8/28	FFI World Conf. Manchester, UK	Al and Peggy Colville, Dave and Linda Burns
September	5	Mon, 9/4	JAG Students' Picnic - Brady Residence, Lake Monticello	FFCV Members, Their Guests and JAG Students & Family
October	3	Tues/Wed 10/17-18 Sat, 10/21 - Sat, 10/28	Stopover Visit from Cornwall UK Inbound Exchange from Russia??	FFCV Members, Their Guests
November	7	Thurs, 11/9	Glass Blowing, Lunch in Staunton - Details TBD	FFCV Members, Their Guests
December	5	Sat, 12/16	Christmas Party - Dryer Residence, Charlottesville	FFCV Members, Their Guests

# Show Your Club Logo with Custom Merchandise



your orders.

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

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.gueensboro.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.



Embroidery

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# **BOD Minutes**

### Friendship Force Central Virginia Inc. Regular Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Tuesday, February 7, 2017 Clubhouse at Villages at Nahor, Palmyra, VA

### **Board Members Present:**

President Al Colville, First Vice President Linda Burns, Second Vice President Monica Notaro, Secretary Pam Hokanson, Dave Burns, Margaret Dryer

### **Board Members Absent:**

Treasurer David Lea, Rob Beck, Walt O'Connell

### **Guests:**

Membership Chair Peggy Colville, Mundo Maya ED Deb Winslow, and Events Chair Patty Sclater

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm by President Colville. **President's Comments:** Al would like to see us increase our membership this year.

### Secretary's Report:

The January 10, 2017 FFCV, Inc Board of Directors Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.

### Treasurer's Report:

Approval was postponed as the treasurer was not present.

### Old Business:

### Mundo Maya Exchange:

- 7 members from our club are going along with 4 from DesMoines, IA, and 5 from other clubs.
- Linda needs to get a check from the treasurer for \$1155 to send to FFI

### New Business:

### FFI 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

We will hold a celebration at Tavern on the Green in Spring Creek on March 19 from 2:00-4:00. We will show the CD from FFI as well as having a map marking all of our inbound and outbound exchanges. We are asking for pictures from our exchanges and different gifts received from other clubs that can be be displayed. Several members will speak about our club and the various activities. We want to open it to the public in hopes of gaining new members. Patty Sclater will submit articles to various newspapers and on the local TV stations to publicize the event.

**Russian Inbound Exchange** is still scheduled tentatively for October 21-28 with 10 ambassadors. We are still waiting for their response.

**Possible Inbound Exchange:** We received a request to host 9 people from FF Cornwall, UK on October 17-18. Those present were in favor of hosting them with a request that they will offer to host our club sometime in the future.

### Committee Reports:

**Communications**: No report. All was going to contact Dale to see if she had done anything about nominating our club for a Club of the Year Award. It was also suggested that we recognize Walt for all of his work in putting together our newsletter.

**Events**: Patty presented the calendar of events for 2017.

**Exchanges**: Dave reported that FFI would like us to consider hosting special short exchanges around a theme. Suggestions for our area would be the Civil War, the Presidents, and wine and craft beer industry.

**Fund Raising**: No report. It was mentioned that we consider setting up a charity committee under fundraising to consider recommending donations to both local and international charitable organizations.

JAG: Graduation is Thursday, Feb. 9, 2017.

**Membership**: Peggy asked to be informed of different festivals in the area where we might have an information booth to publicize FFCV in our area.

Outreach: Mary Ann Doucette is recovering from knee surgery.

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, Mar. 7 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm at the Villages of Nahor Clubhouse

Meeting was adjourned at 3:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Hokanson, Secretary



### 2017 Friendship Force Central Virginia

Membership/Renewal Application



Name:		Email:	
Address:		City:	
	State: ZIP:	Phone (land line):	
Cell:	Preferred Badge Name:	New Member Sponsor	
For Family Application	n: Partner's Name:	Email:	
Partner's Cell:	Preferred Badge Name:		_ Children Under 21
We like to recognize ou	r members on their special days if you choos	e (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 or our organization. Please review the information at <a href="https://www.friendshipforce.org">www.friendshipforce.org</a>, paying particular attention to the tabs "Who We Are /History and /Mission" and "FAQs" and our club at <a href="https://www.ffc.avenue.org">www.ffc.avenue.org</a>. 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 2017. (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.