



friendship force

CENTRAL VIRGINIA

Changing the Way You See the World

The Ambassador

President's Message

Dave Burns



Hi everybody! Hope all of you are doing well and enjoying what is turning out to be a pretty nice spring. As many of you know Linda and I have been on the go for the past several months, but things have finally slowed down and we hope to stay put for the next couple of months. Of the many trips we have recently been on, one of the most interesting was our participation in the FFI Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Regional Conference held in Portsmouth, NH last month and I'd like to start off by saying a few words about that.

Bob and Dee Schwagerl and Linda and I represented our club at the conference and have to say we all had a great time, and it was especially nice to spend time with so many of our fellow Friendship Force members from almost all the clubs in our region. While there were a number of worthwhile topics and issues covered during the conference, the keynote speaker was FFI President and CEO Joy DiBenedetto who gave an in-depth presentation, via video-link, on FFI's new Strategic Plan for 2015-2018. This plan is included later in this Ambassador and I would suggest you take a few minutes to go over the document as there are a number of issues which will impact you as a member. Rather than describe the Plan I'm just going to highlight a couple things I think you might find interesting.

There is now a "Fill-the-Seat" policy in effect where every exchange that is not filled by a club will be posted on the FFI website 100 days before departure. In the past, basically only global, special, and FFI-sponsored trips were posted on the site. Thus, all of us will be aware of vacancies that all FF clubs have which will greatly expand options of where we can travel. If this appeals to you, I'd recommend you regularly check the FFI website to see what is available:

http://catalog.thefriendshipforce.org/index.php/catalog/all_list/. I would also suggest you sign-up for

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Mark These Dates!

May Meeting	May 19
"Spamalot" Theater	June 30
Annual Picnic	July 25
World Conference	Aug. 29-31
Santa Barbara Exchange	October 7

email alerts from FFI, which is free, at <https://app.e2ma.net/app2/audience/signup/79801/21753/?v=a>
As I've mentioned in the past there also will be increased emphasis on short theme-based exchanges, which FFI calls "NextGen". The hope is these types of exchanges will appeal to those who cannot afford to be away for more than 3 or 4 days, and in the case of domestic exchanges will appeal to those who do not want or cannot afford to travel long distances. For example, in the future our club might be able to offer short home stays related to U.S. Presidents, the Civil War, wineries, or hiking and sightseeing in the Blue Ridge. So again, please go over the Strategic Plan and if you have any questions let me know. : Finally FFI provided several handouts, one of which is titled "So you Want to Be an Ambassador", which provides some basic but good tips for those who want to travel; it is included later in this Ambassador.

Another issue I would like to emphasize is our becoming a formal non-profit organization (IRS designation 501C3). As I have mentioned in the past, Rob Beck volunteered to lead the effort in analyzing the pros and cons of doing so, and if found to be positive for the club, to come up with a plan of execution. The bottom line is Rob has done a lot of work on this subject and has briefed your Board of Directors (BOD) twice on his findings, which he found to be highly favorable for the club. As a result, the BOD approved going forward with the plan to achieve non-profit status and incorporating the club with its existing name, recognizing the FFCV membership will have to agree to do so via a formal vote. A version of Rob's briefing to the BOD is included in this Ambassador and I hope you will read it carefully as you will be asked to vote on this issue in an upcoming bi-monthly meeting.

In terms of incoming and outbound exchanges very little has changed since the last Ambassador. We are still scheduled to spend two weeks in Russia next year, and I have requested this happen during the summer months. I have not heard anything from either the EDs there or FFI, so unsure what the status of the exchanges are; will pass this on once I hear something. As for inbounds, I recently heard from the ED for the Santa Barbara club and they plan on arriving here on October 7th, and being here for 5 to 7 days. The number of ambassadors currently is unknown, but with the aforementioned "Fill-the-Seat" policy in effect we could be hosting up to 20 ambassadors. Paul Hokanson will be our ED for this exchange and we will be looking for hosts to come forward in the next couple of months. We are still on the hook for hosting a group from Medicine Hat, Alberta next year, but when this will occur remains up in the air. The other club, Hudson Valley, NY, that was going to host that club before or after they visited us just cancelled their participation so we will have to see what happens. We have asked for the exchange take place during the summer months.

The Civil War-themed exchange we will be sponsoring with four other clubs has been approved by FFI and will occur in September, 2016. The itinerary for the exchange is included later in this Ambassador but in summary we have hosting responsibilities for four days and five nights with one day a "free day" with optional tours, a day to the Shenandoah Valley, a day to the battlefields near Fredericksburg, and a final day at Appomattox. We will need to pick up the ambassadors (no more than 20) in Staunton and have to transport them to Appomattox; buses will be used for the Valley and Fredericksburg tours. Hosts who provide transportation from Staunton and to Appomattox will be compensated for mileage and meals. Those of us involved with planning this exchange will be running "dry run" tours throughout the summer; if you are interested in participating please let me know.

Finally, I'd like to thank my wife Linda who is chair for the program, and all of you who are and have sponsored foreign Judge Advocate General (JAG) officers over the years. Your recognition by the JAG School leadership as Linda has written is well deserved. As all of you know, JAG foreign officer sponsorship is something we as members of FFCV have strongly supported for over 16 years now and I applaud all of you who have been involved. Great job folks!



MAY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, May 19th, at 6:00 PM at Bob and Dee Schwagerl's House
685 Starfield Drive, Keswick, VA.

Cover dish supper

Use the doodle poll (<http://doodle.com/ucyv9rk9gk6gv8k7>) to let us know if you will be attending what dish you will be bringing (Main, Salad, Dessert).

Begin at the Beaver Dam Baptist Church located on Rte. 250. Directly opposite the Beaver Dam Baptist Church, take Beaver Dam Road. After you cross the railroad tracks go approximately 1 1/2 miles and turn right on Starfield Drive. #685 is on the left. Suggest parking on the street which is a dead-end cul-de-sac. If these directions fail you, please call: 434-984-1490

Aid for Nepal Earthquake Victims

FFI is supportive of those who would like to assist the people in Nepal who have suffered from the recent earthquake. While there is a Friendship Force chapter there, FFI is unable to send aid directly to them. They do encourage those who want to help to deal directly with aid agencies. Visit the posting from FFI to learn more.

https://t.e2ma.net/webview/bgo32b/39d74aa67d4e4b103507a12e36926d7e?utm_content=buffer416f6&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer

JAG School

Linda Burns, Chair

The JAG school is getting ready for a graduation ceremony on 7 May for the 3 month students. We are sponsoring two, Yohei Konno from Japan and Zorigt Amarbayar from Mongolia. David Lea, who is sponsoring Zorigt Amarbayar, will be attending the graduation along with Dave and myself.

We have two new 3-month students arriving this month. Aspram Krpeyan, from Armenia and Mwizukanji Namwawa, from Zambia will be arriving on May 11th. They are both females and we need a sponsor for each of them. Please consider being a sponsor. If you have never been a sponsor before, this is a good way to start. When you see how rewarding it is, you will want to move on to a 10-month student.

We have been asked to attend a presentation at the JAG school on May 20th for an appreciation award to our club and to this year's individual sponsors. The Dean and Commander will be presenting these awards to us in their office. They appreciate what we do and we appreciate the opportunity to be sponsors. Many sponsors along with Dave and I will be attending.

Also, on May 21st, we are invited to the graduation of our current 10-month students. Dave and I will be attending as well as most sponsors.

We will probably be getting more students coming in around July/August. Please think about volunteering as a sponsor. You will not regret it!

Outreach

Linda Burns, Chair

I'm glad to report that I did not hear of anyone needing assistance at this time. 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.

Social Committee in Action

Peggy Colville

On April 25th we held another very successful Mystery Dinner – many thanks to Deb Winslow for spear-heading this event. We had two host families: Monica Notaro and her husband Sal and Peggy and Al Colville. The evening brought out a total of fourteen members and one guest for this most enjoyable evening. You could sum this one up with two words -- FUN and YUMMY.

Next we want to turn our attention on the upcoming General Membership meeting to be held May 19th. Please mark your calendar so you will be able to attend to find out some of the changes your Board is discussing and an update on 2015 exchanges as well as our Civil War exchange coming up in 2016. You will be receiving a “Doodle Poll” soon asking for your participation.

On the Horizon – Pam Hokanson is putting together for our June event a trip to the Heritage Theatre to see Monty Python's “Spamalot”. Lovingly ripped off from the classic film “Monty Python and the Holy Grail”, a Tony Award-winning Broadway smash serves up a delightfully outrageous take on the tale of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table and their legendary quest. The show, with music and lyrics by the Grammy winning team of Eric Idle and John Du Prez comes complete with beautiful show girls, killer rabbits, flatulent Frenchmen, and show-stopping musical numbers. You will not want to miss this event so --- mark your calendars now for Tuesday, June 30th at 7:30. More details to follow.

Annual Picnic -Last But Not Least – Don't forget our Annual Picnic coming up July 25th hosted by Barry and Mary Ann Doucette. This will be as always a covered dish event along with Walter's famous "Pulled Pork BBQ". We will be sending out more details closer to the date by way of - Al's famous Doodle Poll to get an idea on what dishes everyone will be bringing so we won't end up with all desserts.

Stay Connected – attend everything you can and ask a friend to come with you. FYI – I welcome and will check out any ideas of any new restaurants for meetings and new fun activities.

IRS 501C3 QUALIFICATION PROJECT

Rob Beck

CURRENT STATUS OF FFCV

1. **Unincorporated**, Virginia, not-for-profit entity.
2. **Chapter (franchise) of FF International** (Atlanta, GA.).
3. **501C4 charity "Inferred"**: FFCV is a chapter of FFI in good standing for more than 10 years and has received an IRS EIN number indicating it is engaged in charitable work.
4. **Revenue & Assets**: Historically Annual Revenue has been under \$25,000 and Net Assets under \$250,000.
5. **Programs are Educational**: Programs include participation in short term living experiences for US persons within the USA and abroad; and, for Non-US persons within the USA. Members act as local volunteer hosts and educators to visiting this area of the USA. Members act as unofficial ambassadors of good will to people visiting the USA and when in exchange groups visiting abroad. FFCV is especially effective in this good will and education function due to its years of providing hosts and mentors to foreign students attending the JAG National Education Program based in Charlottesville, Virginia, (See the FFCV brochures and marketing material).
6. **Records & Administration**: FFCV historically and currently maintains complete financial records, financial statements, and business records (e.g. board of director minutes) for its operations and has maintained for years revenue and assets in excess of expenses and costs.
7. **No Tax Deductions**: FFCV is not an approved IRS 501C3 corporation and therefore donors, sponsors and other supporters cannot deduct funds, assets or services provided to FFCV as deductions against their Federal or state income taxes.

BACKGROUND OF IRS 501C3 PROJECT

1. FFI now encourages chapters to seek 501C3 status.

- 1.1. Historically FFI has not been willing to be a 501C3 charity or to assume responsibility for its chapters.
- 1.2. FFI is now a 501C3 charity, but is still not willing to assume responsibility of its chapters sufficient for them to be 501C3 subparts of FFI. (Our guess: FFI does not want to assume possible legal liability for the operations of its chapters since the FFI has little control of chapters.
- 1.3. FFI national website now has encouraging language and forms to aid in requests of 501C3 status of chapters.
- 1.4. FFI appears to recognize the benefits of 501C3 status

2. 501C3 Status Provides Real Benefits:

- 2.1. Donors, sponsors or other contributor's deductions against Federal and state income taxes.
- 2.2. FFCV volunteers are generally more mature individuals with apparently higher income tax brackets than other, similar, organizations. 501C3status would permit such volunteers to take part or all of their donations of money, assets in kind, and out-of-pocket expenses made to or on behalf of FFCV. (E.G. Out-of-pocket expenses made by exchange sponsors or related to FFCV events.).
- 2.3. Provide a much broader target audience of fund raising. Sponsors are more often more willing to budget funds, product or services to a 501C3 organization because they can take tax write offs beyond just cash donations.
- 2.4. Apparently, some organizations with which FFCV has dealt mistakenly believe FFCV is a 501C3 organization.
- 2.5. FFCV with a more stable structure and operating environment which aids in keeping FFCV a viable organization into the future.
- 2.6. FFCV has in place the financial and related records and reports required by the IRS for 501C3 status.
- 2.7. FFCV revenue and assets are well under the IRS minimum requirements for full Form 990 filings. FFCV can use simple, on-line, computer reports to meet IRS and Virginia annual filing requirements. Therefore, there is not significant increase in administration of FFCV as a 501C3 corporation.

2.8. FFCV has \$1,000 to spend on this project. Cost usually \$3,000 to \$5,000. Substantial saving to go at this time. Future annual operating expenses attributable to maintaining 501C3 status estimated to be \$100.00.

Strategic Plan 2015-2018

Setting FFI on a Sustainable Course

For 38 years now, the Friendship Force has shown that peace and harmony in the world can be cultivated through individual friendships. This milestone bears witness to the enduring relevance of our mission and to the time, energy, and talents each of us devotes to the organization we love. Celebrating those achievements and securing our legacy for the generations to come must now be our unwavering goal.

This Strategic Plan is a response to your recent input on two conclusive sets of documents. Chief findings of the June 2014 surveys showed that 83% love home stays but want lighter tasks for hosts, while exchange participants want more learning, more meaning through action, more diversity, and more flexibility. The more recent policy review endorsed new policy directions and confirmed that club members are willing to embrace inclusiveness in order to set FFI on a sustainable course.

With your full endorsement, this Strategic Plan sets out a vigorous revitalization and sustainability agenda for FFI. What you see below is an executive summary. Defined in numbers, these overarching goals are designed to increase participation in exchanges by 10% over the next three years. This ambitious goal will require full engagement in the activities of the organization.

1st Initiative: Enrich Friendship Force Exchanges:

Revitalize exchanges through:

DIVERSITY: New clubs, thematic exchanges and partnerships in high-demand destinations.

MEANING: Through “Friendship in Action” exchanges with a variety of humanitarian components.

LEARNING: Language learning, professional development, and education exchanges.

FLEXIBILITY: New models, new exchange structures; a more flexible fee structure; a more casual exchange approach for club members, with more “time on your own” and program options with varying prices and degrees of physical challenge.

2nd Initiative: Maximize Exchange Participation & Hosting Capacity:

Friendship Force is all about people meeting people. With this mission in mind, it remains our goal to involve more people as both ambassadors and hosts.

FILL-THE-SEAT POLICY: Beginning April 2015, post undersubscribed exchanges on the FFI online exchange catalog 100 days before departure. Priority to regional clubs and local communities is encouraged.

ONLINE MEMBERSHIP: Beginning January 2016, introduce an e-membership component and a new vetting process.

Launch a consultative process involving creative leaders to deal with declining hosting capacity in Europe, establishing footholds in challenging/emerging destinations, and making use of surplus hosting capacity in the USA and Pacific region.

3rd Initiative: NextGen for Everyone:

NextGen is not about age, it is a state of mind.

Develop NextGen exchanges for active people who seek more involvement, more adventure, and more freedom.

Target active, existing FF participants as well as soon-to-be-retirees and younger generations.

4th Initiative: Leadership Development:

Add field reps where most needed.

Create task forces on a variety of topics.

Encourage clubs to embrace a goal and report progress.

Offer frequent and accessible training from FFI to learn new models, new tools and technology and new skills to reach out to our communities.

Add a one-day component of leadership development to regional and national meetings.

5th Initiative: Branding & Marketing:

Develop a new promotional video.

Initiate a global friendship program.

Include clubs and members in fun global and local community projects and events---such as photo contests and exhibitions---that will raise awareness.

Create opportunities to participate in select high profile, newsworthy events such as the Nobel Prize Laureate festival being held in Atlanta, November 2015.

6th Initiative: Leverage Modern Technology:

Build a new information database with improved functions for member services.

Develop a global online community platform and website.

Improve the usability and functionality of web applications for members.

7th Initiative: Partnerships:

Increase program variety and participation through partnerships with:

Like-minded organizations that share complementary missions.

Revenue generating partners including hospitality suppliers and travel operators, such as cruise providers and land expeditions, which will benefit FFI and its members.
Encourage clubs to explore potential collaborations in the in their own communities.

8th Initiative: Enhance & Secure Revenue Streams:

Define the precise purpose and use of FFI fundraising – this will attract new and diverse donors.

Introduce a digital fundraising platform that will also produce more FFI exposure.

Explore potential for funding through grants.

Link campaigns and partnerships for specific programmatic fundraising purposes.

Formulate an endowment plan.

Continue yearly application for Open World grants.

Taken together, these bold measures will provide the revitalization and financial stability required to secure our legacy for ourselves and for the next generation. These measures and initiatives will require both a dedicated commitment to our collective mission, and a business approach to managing expanding programs in a manner that is financially sustainable.

So You Want to be an Ambassador?

Friendship Force International

What's in it for me?

A chance to travel to distant lands

A chance to make new lifetime friends

A chance to build bridges across cultural divides, to taste what is unique and different, to savor what is the same in all of us

Your roles & responsibilities: 1. Guest, 2. Ambassador, 3. Traveler

1. Guest:

---You will live for 5-7 days with a local host family, learning first-hand about the host culture.

---You will become a part of that family, and share everyday responsibilities

---You should be physically able to walk to a local market, climb steps, travel on public transport.

---Living accommodations vary, be flexible, be accommodating, be understanding---be a good guest.

---Lodging and meals in the home are provided by the host, but they are not your servants, pitch in.

---Being a good guest means expressing gratitude, bring a gift for your home host, bring small gifts for day hosts and host dinner, write a thank you note at the end of the exchange (bring a note card with you)

2. Ambassador:

---You go as a representative of Friendship Force, your country, and your community. Reflect the best on their behalf.

---Learn about their country and share about your own.

---Go prepared to show your very best, be a true ambassador.

---Be open, be tolerant, be respectful.

---Be prepared to participate in ALL host club's programs.

3. Traveler:

---With local citizens as guides, the ambassador is introduced to the best attractions of the region. Have a spirit of adventure, flexibility, and be open to new experiences.

What can you do to make things run smoothly?

---Attend all meetings for your exchange.

---Don't put off for tomorrow what you can do today. It takes time to get a chip card, establish a phone plan, make copies of your itinerary, passport, IDs.

---Be on time, your group is waiting for you; be first, not last.

---Be flexible; don't have expectations, you may be pleasantly surprised.

---Pack light; you will have to carry it, your host may not have a lot of room.

---Write and get to know your host as soon as you can.

---Narrow the gap, cross all boundaries, make a friend.

Communicate: Any problems or concerns, from initial contact with your home host to the end of the exchange, ALWAYS first line of communications is with your ED.

For Participation: Fill out and send all application forms and requested materials to the ED in a timely manner; be sure to acquire travelers insurance; make sure passport is up-to-date.

FINALLY: ENJOY, HAVE FUN, MAKE WONDERFUL MEMORIES & NEW FRIENDS.

Our First Friendship Force Exchange(s)

Pam & Paul Hokanson

We joined Friendship Force about 3 years ago with the hopes of traveling and meeting new people. After hosting and day hosting several couples, we decided to take our first outbound trip last fall. Of course this was not a hard decision because we had always wanted to go to Australia; New Zealand was an added bonus. We had heard that you needed to see both the north and south islands of New Zealand so we began planning with other members from our club who were participating in this exchange. All we can say now is that this trip was one of the best experiences of our lives. It was beyond all expectations!

We knew little about New Zealand and WOW what an incredibly beautiful country – from rain forests to glaciers. We started out in Blenheim – Marlborough wine country, absolutely beautiful and the Sauvignon Blanc was some of the best we've ever tasted. We visited Christchurch, Greymouth, Queenstown, Franz Josef Glacier, Milford Sound, and Dunedin in the south island. Each city of course had its own flavor. Damage from the earthquake was still evident in Christchurch, but also was the resolve of the people to rebuild. We traveled by plane, train, and bus along seacoast and through the mountains. Buses and cars traveled on the "wrong" side of the road, which took some getting used to, but the narrow roads (some with sheer drop-offs along the side) and many one lane

bridges were a little unnerving – just glad we didn't have to drive. The New Zealanders called themselves “Kiwis”, and were the friendliest people I've ever met. We went on to the north island - Auckland and Keri Keri and the Bay of Islands. Again breathtaking beauty! It was an incredible 10 days before we began our homestay. It was their spring and everything was so green and the flowers and shrubs were absolutely beautiful. We saw plants we recognized and saw new and different ones. It was lambing season and it was fun to watch the baby lambs frolicking in the fields. Our host family lived on a hobby farm and two lambs were born while we were there. New Zealand has 4 million people, but 40 million sheep. Our hosts were new to Friendship Force and we were first time hosts. Their club had many activities planned for us keeping us busy and well fed. We enjoyed meeting and interacting with the club members and it truly was a wonderful experience. While we were out at one of the museums, we ran into a couple that had hosted Walt and Patsy O'Connell – small world!

After 3 incredible weeks in New Zealand we are off to Australia for another homestay in Tamworth, the country music capital of Australia. This time our hosts were long time members of Friendship Force and experienced hosts as well as planners of the many activities. They also kept us busy and well fed. The weather was hot and dry, reminding me of Arizona. We also saw different trees and shrubs. I loved the purple jackaranda trees. We also saw many kangaroos and got to pet koalas – a real highlight. The birds were extremely colorful. Again an incredible week! We topped it off by spending 3 wonderful days in Sydney. The harbor was beautiful and never stopped – day or night. We visited the Rocks, Bondi Beach, and had an amazing tour of the opera house. This truly was a trip of a lifetime!

Every trip is an adventure and this one was no exception. First of all the relationships we formed and friendships made were the best part. We got to know members of our own club so much better and truly shared experiences and fun, much of the time with a glass or two of wine. We also learned Linda Gehle graduated from Valparaiso University a couple years ahead of us. We also learned a few practical things too. It was difficult packing for 5 weeks that involved every change in season hot and cold. New Zealand airlines are very strict about the weight limits of your luggage – we had our carryon luggage weighed at every airport. Thank you to others for the travel tips and next time will pack considerably lighter. Looking forward to the next time...

Civil War-Themed Exchange FFCV Responsibilities

Dave Burns

The following is a draft of the itinerary for the September 2016 Civil War-themed exchange FFCV will participate in. Other clubs involved include Harrisburg, PA, Charleston, WV, Richmond, VA, and National Capital Region.

Day 9 – Pick-Up Ambassadors in Staunton (Wednesday, 9/28)

5:00 p.m. Arrive at Mrs. Rowe's Restaurant
http://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant_Review-g58210-d518917-Reviews-Mrs_Rowe's_Restaurant_and_Bakery-Staunton_Virginia.html
Ambassadors are greeted by **Central VA hosts**. After dinner, travel to Charlottesville with home hosts.

Day 10 – Flex Day with Options at your own cost (transportation provided) (Thursday, 9/29)

1. Tour 'Monticello' the plantation home of Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence yet himself a slave owner, <http://www.monticello.org> [with lunch at Michie Tavern](http://www.monticello.org) <http://www.michietavern.com>, or
2. Visit three local wineries, including those owned by Donald Trump and musician Dave Matthews with lunch at Trump Vineyards, or
3. Walking tour of historic Charlottesville and University of Virginia with lunch on Downtown Mall, or
4. Relax with home hosts, do laundry, etc.

6:00 pm Potluck dinner at Palmyra United Methodist Church or TBD with power point presentation to discuss the program itinerary in preparation for this segment of the exchange. Introduction about the biography and personal interest story about James Madison Cutts.

Day 11 – Battlefields and the significance of the Shenandoah Valley: (Friday, 9/30)

Website: <http://www.shenandoahatwar.org/Visit-the-Valley/Visitors-Guide>

- 8:15 am Meet at muster point of Pantops Shopping Center in Charlottesville
- 8:30 am Depart by bus or POV to Harrisonburg
- 9:30 am Arrive at the Hardesty-Higgins House Visitor Center in Harrisonburg with tour of the Center and guest speaker(s) discussing role and significance of the Shenandoah Valley in the Civil War. Hosts to provide box lunches to be consumed at the Center or while on tour in the Valley.
- 11:30 am Depart Harrisonburg for tour of the Valley with brief stops at the Turner Ashby Memorial, Cross Keys, Port Republic and Elkton (all related to Stonewall Jackson's 1862 Valley Campaign), before driving north through the eastern Valley between Massanutten Mountain and the Blue Ridge Mountains to Luray; turning west over Massanutten into New Market.
- 3:30 pm Arrive New Market and visit the Virginia Museum of the Civil War and New Market Battlefield. New Market and the western part of the Valley were the primary sites for Jackson's 1862 Campaign, Confederate General Early's Spring and Summer 1864 Campaign, and Union General Sheridan's 1864 Valley Campaign.
- 5:00 pm Depart for the Southern Kitchen Restaurant in New Market for dinner (5 minutes from the Battlefield)
- 6:15 pm Depart Southern Kitchen Restaurant for ride through western Valley to Charlottesville.

7:30 pm Arrive Pantops Shopping Center in Charlottesville/or TBD for transport to hosts.

Day 12 - Tour of Fredericksburg, VA Area Battlefields (Sat 10/1)

<http://www.nps.gov/frsp/planyourvisit/index.htm> and <http://www.nps.gov/frsp/wilder.htm>

7:45 am Meet at muster point of McDonald's Zion Crossroad

8:00 am Depart by bus or POV to Fredericksburg

9:30 am Arrive in Fredericksburg, visit the Chatham House that overlooks Fredericksburg. Drive to Union "left flank" and to the Visitor's Park museum at Mary's Heights. Visit the "wall".

10:30 am Depart Fredericksburg for Chancellorsville. View a 10 minute video at Visitor's Park and a short walking tour of the spot where Gen Stonewall Jackson was shot. Drive around the battlefield for a guided tour.

11:30 am Depart Chancellorsville for lunch at McDonalds and tour of the Wilderness

12:30 pm Travel 3 miles to Saunder's Field (Battle of the Wilderness). Continue to drive around the battle of the Wilderness describing the two days of battle there.

2:30 pm Leave Wilderness and drive about 20 miles south to Spotsylvania Court House Battlefield. Stop at Park shed to review the battle and what we are looking at. Move on to other parts of the battlefield and then leave.

5:00 pm Arrive at Pantops Shopping Center, Charlottesville/or TBD for transportation to hosts.

7:00 pm Dinner with hosts

Day 13 – The Civil War Ends – the Surrender at Appomattox Courthouse on April 9, 1865 (Sunday, 10/2)

Website: <http://www.nps.gov/apco/index.htm>

8:15 a.m. Meet at muster point of Pantops Shopping Center, Charlottesville

8:30 a.m. Home hosts transfer ambassadors to Appomattox Courthouse with brief stop at New Hope Church to view trenches dug by Confederate General Longstreet's men.

10:00 a.m. Tour Appomattox Courthouse and grounds.

1:00 pm Farewell lunch with FF Central VA hosts at Babcock House

2:30 p.m. Ambassadors board charter bus for trip to Richmond with ED Lynn Pappas

Fund Raising

Dale Walden, Chair

A group of FFCV volunteers staffed the Draft Beer Truck Friday at Friday's After Five on April 28th. It was chilly and we dodged some rain but had a good time anyway. The schedule for this summer has not been presented at this time but will be out soon. Thank you to all the FFCV members who volunteered, as it is our only venue for raising funds. Volunteering at these events (including concerts) is great fun and a chance to meet so many nice people!

Seacoast Friendship Force Club hosts conference



Friendship Force club presidents put noses "to the grindstone" at Dover's Woodman Museum.

PORTSMOUTH — Friendship Force of the New Hampshire Seacoast recently hosted the Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference for Friendship Force members from clubs as far south as Virginia.

Held at the Sheraton Harborside Hotel, the conference featured training sessions for exchange directors, information on using social media for club promotion, and walking tours of several of Portsmouth's most interesting sites and areas. About 50 members from nine different clubs enjoyed warm Seacoast hospitality.

Friendship Force is an international organization of almost 400 clubs around the world. Headquartered in

Atlanta, members commit to the mission of building international understanding and world peace through people-to-people exchanges among clubs. The

organization will soon celebrate its 40th anniversary. More than 5,000 individuals travel annually on exchange visits among clubs.

Friendship Force of the New Hampshire Seacoast hosts two groups per year and travels internationally once each year to visit another club. In June 2015 the club will host 15 Australians, followed in September by a similar size group from New Zealand. In recent years the club has hosted clubs from Turkey, Japan, Brazil and Germany. These "ambassadors" from other countries stay in member homes and come to know our region through daily activities organized by club members.

For more information about Friendship Force locally visit www.ffnh.org or internationally www.friendshipforce.org. The local club meets monthly at 6:00 p.m. on the sixth of each month. Contact president Jim Verschueren for information on meeting locations, jd.verschueren@gmail.com.

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.ffc.avenue.org

2015 Calendar Meetings and Events

Month	Date	Event
May	19	Bi-monthly meeting Schwagerl Residence, Keswick at 6 pm. Details in the newsletter
June	9	BOD Meeting
	30	"Spamalot" Heritage Theater, UVA at 7:30 pm
July	12	Articles for Ambassador due
	14	BOD Meeting
	25	Bi-monthly meeting/picnic at the Doucette Residence, Crozet, time TBD
	30	International Friendship Day
August	11	BOD Meeting
	18-22	World Conference in Vancouver
September	6	Articles for Ambassador due
	7	JAG Labor Day Party
	8	BOD Meeting
	19	Bi-monthly meeting
October	7	Santa Barbara Inbound begins
	13	BOD Meeting
	20-24	Social Event TBD
November	8	Articles for Ambassador due
	10	BOD Meeting
	21	Annual Membership Meeting
December	8	BOD Meeting
	15-19	Christmas Party TBD

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://ffc.v.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 March 10, 2015
Dryer Residence – 830 Charter Oaks Dr. Charlottesville

Attendance: President Elect Al Colville, Vice President Dale Walden, Treasurer David Lea and Secretary Margaret Dryer. Committee Chairs: Peggy Colville, Rob Beck, Bob Schwagerl and Dee Schwagerl.

Call to Order: A quorum being present the meeting was called to order at 2:05pm by President Elect Al Colville. He informed the Board that there has been an increase in membership and that he is hoping to see this continue.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer David Lea reported that we have \$5913.75 in the checking account.

Secretary Report: The minutes from the February 24, 2014 were adopted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Club Membership Issues: Chair Dee Schwagerl reported that she has had some success in membership renewal with the phone calls that she has made. The list was again reviewed and updated. She will continue in this vain.

Brochure: The question can up as to do we need more. It was suggested that as many members that wish to have some to give to prospective members may request them. This would be addressed at the next bimonthly meeting.

Non-Profit Status: Chair Rob Beck gave a very informative presentation of the pros and cons of the issue. It will cost us \$1000 to go forward with incorporation and non-profit status. Rob was directed to present a specific proposal on non-profit status at the next board meeting.

Bylaws, Procedures Manual: Chair Margaret Dryer reported that the bylaws revision was published in the Ambassador and will be voted on by the membership at the Bimonthly Meeting.

NEW BUSSINES:

Regional Conference: The Regional Conference will be held in New Hampshire on April 15-19, 2015. President Burns, Linda Burns, Dee and Bob Schwagerl will be attending.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Social/ Programs Committee: Chairs Peggy and Al Colville reports that the wine tasting at “Wine Made Simple” was a success. The Mystery Dinner will be April 25. Deb Winslow will be in charge of it. There will be information in the Ambassador and a doodle pole sent out to the membership. The Bi-Monthly Meeting will be on March 21 between 12 and 2pm at Shadwell. The 4 new guests from the wine tasting will be invited to the meeting as our guests.

Fund Raising Committee: Chair Dale Walden reported that she will be sending out assignments soon. She reported that Deb Winslow would be her backup person for these events.

Announcements: The next Board Meeting will be held at the Dryer home on April 14, 2015 at 2:00pm.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.

Secretary,
Margaret Dryer

FFCV Board/Committee Chairs Meeting
Tuesday April 14, 2015
Dryer Residence – 830 Charter Oaks Dr. Charlottesville

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

Call to Order: A quorum being present the meeting was called to order at 2:10pm by President David Burns. The President thanked Al Colville for chairing the meeting last month.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer David Lea reported that we have \$5945.75 in the checking account. The membership list was reviewed and revised.

Secretary Report: The minutes from the March 10, 2015 were adopted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Non-Profit Status (501C3): Chair Rob Beck proposed that the Board go forward with the plan as presented in February 18, 2015. The board approved going forward with the plan to achieve non-profit status and incorporating the club with it's existing name. The Club will be seeking incorporation followed by applying for 501C3 non-profit status.

Civil War Them Exchange 2016: The President and the First Vice President reported that the exchange is moving forward. It is planned for 20 days in September 2016. The Exchange Director is Lisa Cordell. All five clubs will be participating. There are 20 ambassadors registered for the exchange. Our Club will host for 4 days and 5 nights.

Santa Barbara, CA Exchange 2015: President Burns reported that they are expected from October 7 to 12, 2015. The Exchange Director is Paul Hokanson. So far there 16 ambassadors coming.

Regional Conference: The Regional Conference was held in New Hampshire On April 15-19, 2014. President Burns, Linda Burns, Dee and Bob Schwagerl attended. There is a new strategic plan focusing on shorter team based exchanges.

World Conference 2015: The world conference will be held in Vancouver, Canada August 2015.

2016 Exchanges: The proposed Russian outbound has not contacted us. The Medicine Hat Club form Alberta, Canada is planing to come in the spring (May-June) of 2016.

Brochures: President Barns reported the purchase of 200 brochures. He directed Treasurer Lea to send a check for \$52.00 in payment.

Bylaws, Procedures Manual: Chair Margaret Dryer informed the Board that no further changes will be made in either Bylaws or Procedures Manuel until we have been incorporated and have non profit status.

NEW BUSSINES:

Compensation: The president presented for discussion the possible compensation for hosting and exchange director activities. The subject is open and will be discussed at the next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Social/ Programs Committee: Chairs Peggy and Al Colville reports the Mystery Dinner will be April 25. Deb Winslow will be in charge of it. There has been a poor response and it may be cancelled. The next Bi-Monthly Meeting in May will be on a Tuesday night and will be announced. The July Picnic will be held at Mary Ann and Barry Doucette's home. The June outing is being planed by Pam Hokanson at the Four County Players.

Fund Raising Committee: First VP Al Colville reported that there were 15 persons responding to the request for participants for the Friday's After Five.

JAG School: Chair Linda Burns reported that FFCV will receive a Certificate of Appreciation from the JAG School, as will the sponsors of the JAG students. These will be presented on May 20th a day prior to the May 21, 2015 graduation.

Announcements: The next Board Meeting will be held at the Colville home on May 12, 2015 at 2:00pm.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Secretary,
Margaret Dryer