



# friendship force

## CENTRAL VIRGINIA

Changing the Way You See the World

# The Ambassador

## President's Message

*Dave Burns*



Greeting everybody! First off I would like to apologize for not getting this newsletter out to you sooner, but as you likely know, a number of your Board of Directors (BOD) and Committee chairs were gone for most, if not all, of October with some of us not returning until early November. Now it is time to get back to work and to let all of you know what is going on with FFCV. Most importantly I hope to see you at our annual meeting on the 15th as this is when you will have a chance to vote in your new BOD and find out what is planned for the next year or two. Also, all of you should know that your BOD has decided to change our bylaws in regards to the composition of our future boards and how long board members may remain in their positions. Details of these changes will be given to you at our annual meeting. As any changes to the bylaws requires a vote for or against by the membership it will be up to you as to whether or not these changes will be adopted.

Al and Peggy Colville and Linda and I attended the Friendship Force International (FFI) World Conference in Auckland, New Zealand last month and will discuss what transpired at the annual meeting. The primary highlight, from my point of view, is that we will be seeing many more theme-based relatively short home stays, on the order of 3-4 days, offered by many foreign and domestic clubs. FFI is pushing all clubs to start going this route and many of us participated in a brain-storming session to come up with ideas. Based on our location and local resources, FFCV might someday be able to offer short home stays focusing on the US Presidents from the Charlottesville area, winery tours, hiking in the Blue Ridge, the Civil War, water sports on the Shenandoah and local waterways, and so on. Another highlight of the conference was that FFI is joining forces with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, better known as OLLI. As many of you know OLLI is very active at the University of Virginia and hopefully FFCV will start participating with the program there in the near future. In the coming weeks I will be working with FFI to find out how we should proceed.

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### Mark These Dates!

Annual Meeting	Nov. 15
Christmas Party	Dec. 13

In addition to the Colville's and Burns's, ten of your club members and a couple from New York also participated in home stay exchanges in New Plymouth, New Zealand and Tamworth, Australia. In addition to the Colville's and Linda and I, members who participated in the home stays included Paul and Pam Hokanson, Mary Ann and Barry Doucette, Linda Gehle, and Deb Winslow. Both home stays were really great with no problems to speak of and I'm sure all of us had a great time. Plenty of new friends and some great experiences all the way around. I'm hoping to have some of our travelers document their experiences in upcoming Ambassador editions, but in the meantime I'm sure everybody is willing to share their insights with you at the annual meeting or future get-togethers. And oh yes, it must be pointed out that Deb Winslow also participated in two additional home stays while in New Zealand!

As for our future outbounds, although we do not yet have a formal trip planned for 2015 I did have a lengthy discussion with FFI personnel responsible for scheduling future exchanges and as the membership requested our priorities for club travel in 2016 are Canada, Europe, and Latin America. The FFI folks are pretty positive in us getting what we want and I told them if possible we would like to have at least two weeks in whatever geographic region we are selected for which would mean visiting at least two different clubs. Exchanges will not be selected until early next year so keep your fingers crossed.

Before concluding, I would like to say it has been a privilege and honor to have served as your club President over the past year. I honestly believe we are heading in the right direction and it has been a lot of fun watching FFCV come back together again. Two weeks of hosting groups from Australia and Alabama, respectively, participation in two outbounds to the other side of the world, a solid social program, great membership support for the JAG Program, and a very successful fund-raising program have made this a very good year. Thank you one and all!

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## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**SATURDAY – NOVEMBER 15TH - 1:00PM-4:00PM**

**ELKS' CLUB - 389 ELK DRIVE, CHARLOTTESVILLE**

**JUST NORTH OF FREE BRIDGE NEAR DARDEN TOWE PARK**

Menu -- Heavy Hors d'oeuvres - Lemonade/coffee/water

Cash Bar will be provided - Price \$13.00 pp

## **Nominating Committee Report**

*Walt O'Connell*

The bylaws require that the nominating committee present a slate of officers in advance to the General Membership Meeting. After much discussion the BOD has decided to propose a change to the by-laws regarding the election and term of office for the officers to better align our practice with that of other clubs and to create more stability in our leadership.

The proposed change will increase the term of office for officers from one to two years. The change will also eliminate the implied succession from Vice-President to President-Elect to President. The office titles will change from Vice-President to Second Vice-President and from President-Elect to First Vice President. The responsibilities of each office will remain the same.

These proposed changes will be drafted into the by-laws and presented for member approval.

In anticipation of approval by the membership, all of the existing officers have agreed to remain in their office for another year. A new election of officers will be scheduled for November, 2015.

## **Social and Program Committees**

*Peggy Colville and Al Colville*



### **Annual Christmas Party**



Sunday – December 14<sup>th</sup> – 2:00pm-5:00pm  
Ashlawn Grille, 41 Ashlawn Blvd., Lake Monticello

Menu –Smoked Salmon-Spinach Dip-Fruit & Cheese Trays-Stuffed  
Mushrooms-Dessert – Coffee/Water – Cash Bar will be provided –  
Price \$18.00 pp

Come and have some fun with the rest of us at this annual holiday event.  
We think you will enjoy it!

*Go straight after entering the main gate from Rt. 618. Tell the guards  
you are attending a function at the Ashlawn Grille.*

**PLEASE BRING A DONATION OF CANNED OR  
NON-PERISHABLE FOOD FOR THE FOOD BANK**

## **Fund Raising**

*Dale Walden, Chair*

FF did volunteer for "top of the hops" beer festival at N'tellos.

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!

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## **JAG School**



On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, there was a JAG graduation ceremony for students in the short course. Batbayar Khadbaatar from Mongolia, sponsored by Patty Sclater, was the only international student and made a brief speech. Our FF chapter was recognized for our support of the international JAG students at the ceremony.

On Monday, 10 November, a new 3 month student arrived from Indonesia, Yulius Winjayanto. His sponsor will be David Lea.

**Batbayar Khadbaatar**

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## **Do You Want to Go On an Outbound Exchange?**

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

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

3. Complete the Ambassador Application and send it with a deposit to the ED. If the ED is doing their job, they will also request a recommendation from our club president. Click [here](#) and select Exchange Documents to access the Ambassador Application and other documents.

## Member News



*Do you need a name tag or  
business cards?*

Drop an email to Walt  
([walt.oconnell@gmail.com](mailto:walt.oconnell@gmail.com))  
and let him know what you need.

The minutes of the BOD meetings and copies  
of the Ambassador Newsletter are available on  
our Web site, [www.ffc.avenue.org](http://www.ffc.avenue.org)

## 2014 Calendar Meetings and Events

November	15	Annual General Membership Meeting/Election of BOD
December	2	BOD Meeting 1:00 pm at the Dryer's
	13	FFCV Christmas Party

## Show Your Club Logo with Custom Merchandise



You now have the ability to purchase quality merchandise with our club logo *embroidered* on it from Queensboro. Some of us have purchased this merchandise in the past and have found it to be very good quality.

We have our own “store front” that uses our approved logo and ordering products through it is quite easy. Go to <http://ffcvgbstores.com> and to see the selection of products. To make a purchase, set up an account and then select from the products available, specifying your size and color preference.



A flat fee of \$6.50 per order applies regardless of the order size so team up with a friend and consolidate your orders.

Queensboro offers many more products than we have placed in our store front. If you are looking for something in particular you can view their entire site at <http://www.queensboro.com>. You can order directly from that site but you won't have access to our logo. If you see an item you would like with the logo, let Walt know ([walt.oconnell@gmail.com](mailto:walt.oconnell@gmail.com), 434-591-0532) and he will add it to the store front.

**FFCV Board/Committee Chairs Meeting**  
**Tuesday September 16, 2014**  
**Dryer Residence – 830 Charter Oaks Drive, Charlottesville**

**Attendance:** President Dave Burns, President Elect Al Colville, and Secretary Margaret Dryer. Committee Chairs: Peggy Colville, Walt O’Connell, Linda Burns, Rob Beck and Dee Schwagerl.

**Call to Order:** A quorum being present the meeting was called to order at 3:10pm by President Dave Burns. He thanked Monica Notaro and Dee Schwagerl for a successful exchange with the FF Huntsville, Alabama Inbound exchange.

**Treasurer Report:** President Burns reported for the Treasurer. There is \$6,226.53 in the bank. A check for \$250 to the Literacy Volunteers has not as yet been sent.

**Secretary Report:** The minutes from the August 12, 2014 were adopted as presented.

**Committee Reports:**

**Social/ Programs Committee:** Chair Peggy Colville reported that the Mystery Dinners held on August 23<sup>rd</sup> was a success. The committee is planning for the Christmas Party to be held in December. She is has a tentative date with the Elks Club for December 13<sup>th</sup> and will check with the Ashlawn Grill also.

**Annual Meeting:** Al Colville reported that the meeting is being planned for November 18<sup>th</sup> at the Elks Club. Election of Officers will be held at this meeting.

**Membership Committee:** Chair Rob Beck reported that Newcomers Club will hold their open house meeting on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. He asked for clarification on the dues procedure for after September membership.

**Membership Outreach Committee (Sunshine):** Linda Burns has been appointed as chair of the committee due to the death of Nancy Moore. She asked Secretary Dryer to mail the cards she had ready for the month of October.

**Communications Committee:** Chair Walt O’Connell reported that the deadline for the November issue is November 10<sup>th</sup>. Please send your information to him as soon as possible. Information on the Christmas Party and the list of Nominees for Election will be sent out on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Fundraising Committee:** President Burns reported for Committee Chair Dale Walden that there is a Beer Festival at the Pavilion on Saturday September 20<sup>th</sup> and we will need help for that.

**JAG School:** Chair Linda Burns reported that four of the six JAG students attended the Bi-Monthly Meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Two of them Naa Akwei-Aryes - Ghana and Halil Berberer - Turkey from Turkey presented a side show about themselves and their countries. The next group of students will be arriving soon and we need more hosts to participate.



**Unfinished Business:**

**Inbound Huntsville, Alabama 2015:** Dee Schwagerl Treasurer for the exchange gave her report. There were 14 Ambassadors instead of the original 16. Dee gave her report and there are some issues to finalize the report. Dee will review them with Exchange Director Monica Notaro.

**Outbound New Zealand & Australia** Exchange Director Dave Burns reported that there are a total of 12 Ambassadors on the exchange and they are ready to go.

**2016 Exchange Choice:** President Elect Colville reported the results of the pole sent to the membership. The most popular answer was Canada. The results will be sent to FFI.

**2015 Nomination Committee:** President Burns appointed Chair Willow Drinkwater, President Elect Al Colville and Walt O'Connell to the committee. There was some discussion on a possible Bylaws change in reference to the title of President Elect.

**Procedures Manual:** Chair Margaret Dryer said that there was nothing to report. President Burns will send her the recommendations he has received.

**New Business:**

**2015 Budget Committee:** President appointed Treasurer David Lea , Walt O'Connell, Rob Beck and Margaret Dryer to the committee. The committee will meet in October.

**Inbound FF Santa Barbara, CA Request:** The President had a request from FF Santa Barbara, Ca to visit FFCV in the fall of 2015. They would be going to Hartford, CT first and then to FFCV. More information will be available after the New Zealand exchange.

**Announcements:** The next Board Meeting will be held at the Burns home on November 11, 2014 at 2:00pm. There will be no FFCV Board Meeting in October.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Secretary,  
Margaret Dryer