



friendship force

CENTRAL VIRGINIA

Changing the Way You See the World

The Ambassador

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President's Message

Al Colville



Whew! We have just completed two of the most busy and hard-working events in the recent history of our club. Our participation in the Five Club Civil War Exchange and the hosting of the Open World program for a group from Tajikistan have both been completed with great success. Our club should be very proud of the results achieved in these two programs. Planning for the Civil War Exchange stretched back over almost two years with Dave Burns and Bing Spitler carrying the load, working with the folks from four other Friendship Force Clubs. Fortunately, Monica Notaro was able to jump in and help complete the task over the last several months, acting as the Exchange Director for the local events. They all deserve a huge round of applause for their efforts in making this such a successful program. The evaluations were outstanding. We also owe our many thanks to Bob Harris for stepping in and agreeing to manage the visit by a small team from Tajikistan who wished to study the election process in our country. This was requested by the Open World Program that is sponsored by the U.S. Congress. For some years now, they have been sponsoring these types to visits to help former Soviet Bloc

November, 2016
 Volume XXV, No. 6

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Countries understand various aspects of life in America. Bob very capably headed a great team assembled a great team from FFCV, including Dave and Linda Burns and Rob Beck. Well done team!

Events Committee in Action

Peggy Colville, Chair

Save the Date!

Our annual Christmas party will be on Dec. 17th at Mark and Margaret Dryer's. This event will be catered by Deb Winslow. If you have attended other events that she has catered for us you know this will be memorable.

Please bring a non-perishable food item for the local food bank.

More details will follow



My First Outbound Exchange

Linda Gehle

In October, 2014, I traveled to Australia and New Zealand on my first outbound trip with Friendship Force of Central Virginia, staying with single women in both countries. The stay with these women as well as the whole trip was totally beyond my expectations – it was fabulous in every way! Not only did I get to experience a little of life in Tamworth, Australia, but also I was able to establish a wonderful friendship with Cathy, my host, in her lovely home. I had my own spacious room and bathroom attached which I loved, and was with a great conversationalist to boot! She drove me everywhere and went to all events that she could. When she couldn't, she arranged for someone else in the club to take care of me. I was wined and dined and treated royally. She even took me to the "dollar" store there before leaving, per my request, so that I could find some inexpensive souvenirs! The whole club there was extremely accommodating, friendly and well-organized and took us to many interesting places that I would never have seen had I visited there on my own or with a tour.

My stay with Diane in New Plymouth, New Zealand, was equally wonderful. Along with having my cup of hot tea ready every morning at breakfast, she made sure that I traveled everywhere with the group, even when she couldn't go, and she had a very comfortable and attractive bedroom and private bath for me, too. I was able to meet her two grade-school-age grandchildren one afternoon

when she needed to be home for them after school, and I had delightful conversations with them. The sheep and cattle farms/ranches we visited were amazing, and our hosts were well-organized and thoughtful as they showed us around the area. Of course, Mt. Taranaki, the center of their area, was spectacular! I was thrilled with Diane's many flower gardens with the unusual plants that I had never seen.

An unexpected bonus from these trips was a visit from Mary of the Gold Coast, Australia. She had stayed in my home a year before when visiting my town with a club from Australia. After my FF stay in Tamworth, she drove 8 hours from her home in the Gold Coast and took me touring around other parts of Oz that weren't included in the Tamworth visit! We went to the Eumundi Market a long ways northeast of Tamworth on Wednesday, the only day it's held, the Margaret Ollie art museum, the Sunshine Coast and then on to Steve Irwin's Zoo outside of Brisbane so that I could see all the unusual wildlife there, including petting a koala and other animals. We ended up at her lovely home in the Gold Coast where I had a nice swim in her pool, and she even hosted a dinner party for me!

I could go on and on, but suffice it to say that this trip was truly a major highlight of my life, and if it weren't for Friendship Force, I would never have had these experiences or met these great people! As a single person, I felt well cared for and treated royally as if I were "family," although I was halfway around the world! I had great companionship in the homes of the natives and on our tours. This is amazing considering all of us were strangers in the beginning. I feel that I was able to meet the ambassador pledge of promoting cultural understanding and friendship. I can't wait to go again!

Civil War Exchange



After two years of planning, this exchange has been successfully completed thanks to the dedication and efforts of Dave Burns, Bing Spittler, Monica Notaro and all of the hosts who played a part. While the ambassadors weren't here for very long, their time was filled visiting many of the Civil War sites in the area and learning details of the war from many of our local guides and scholars of the period.

The reviews of the exchange were very positive and all those involved should receive a round of kudos for packing so much meaningful history into such a short period of time.

Do you see another themed exchange on Virginia Wines and Craft Beers in our future?

Check out our Facebook Page

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

Open World Exchange

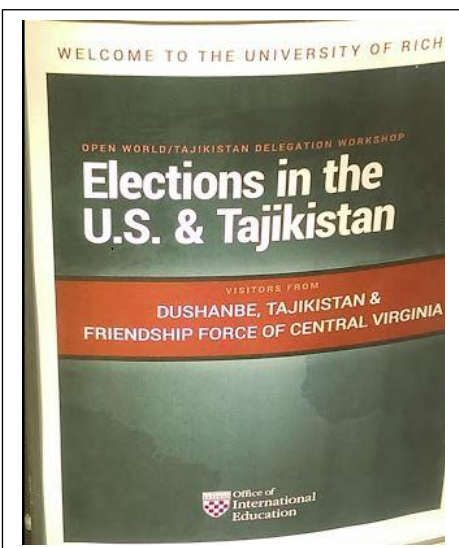
Bob Harris, ED

The Friendship Force of Central Virginia hosted a delegation from Tajikistan for the purpose of giving them in in-depth view of elections in the United States. Among the delegates were heads of the two major political parties, the commissioner of elections, two socio-political research scientists from their university and a Tajik employee of the US embassy in Dushanbe, the capitol city.

Upon arrival the delegation was warmly greeted by the staff of Tavern on the Green at the Spring Creek Country Club where they enjoyed a great lunch and then were handed off to their PGA golf professional, Kevin Haney who treated them to a golf demonstration and allowed them to try their hand at hitting a few golf balls. What a marvelous time they had and it all went to being an unexpectedly great reception for them.



Over the weekend they were treated with visits to the Frontier Museum in Staunton and to Montpelier, the home of James Madison. There could not have been any more significant activities than those because they received instruction on how the very first settlers formed communities and established the political structure by which the residents agreed to live on Saturday. On Sunday they learned how the Articles of Confederation were used to develop the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Those activities laid the perfect foundation for then delving into the current day election activities.



They were greeted by the University of Richmond on Monday with courtyard signs of welcome and recognition of their country Tajikistan. After a working lunch learning about the political science activities of the university, they engaged in a panel discussion with the top professors of the political science department.

Upon returning to Charlottesville they were greeted on the downtown mall by Kristin Szakos, a member of the city council. She escorted them to the voter registration office and later greeted them publicly as they attended the Charlottesville City Council monthly meeting.

Election day found our delegation touring one of the larger polling places in Fluvanna County during which they were given demonstrations on casting votes and a detailed explanation of how

the balloting system works. That was followed by a tour of the campus of UVA and a very beneficial meeting with the second in command at the University of Virginia Center for Politics, Ken Stroupe. They also were guests at the coveted watch party hosted by Director Larry Sabato.

Wednesday's activities continued with an in-depth panel discussion with the top political science professors at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. For several hours they were able to participate in discussions on the election results and gain an understanding of the historic significance

of what had occurred the previous day. All in all, a totally amazing day for our delegates as they came to the realization that they had actually observed a bloodless revolution during their visit. They knew they had participated in a small way in what will be recorded as part of the history of the country.

The town council of the town of Scottsville hosted our delegation on Thursday and they were given the opportunity to learn about the election and political system of a small town. On Friday, they went shopping and on Saturday they departed to return to their country. Among their parting comments were that they noticed that Americans smiled a lot and were very friendly people. This friendliness was punctuated by the fact that on Wednesday morning some stranger had picked up the entire breakfast check of \$150.00. Everyone was amazed at that.



On November 11th our Tajik guests and several FFCV members attended the Veterans Day Ceremony in Orange, Virginia where they were able to observe a typical small town ceremony featuring the local orchestra playing patriotic music, high school color guard, lead speaker local American Legion Commander Alan Drinkwater (Wilow's husband), and most importantly a large number of local veterans. Larry Moore from the JAG School and several international JAG students also attended the event. Following the ceremony our guests were treated to a visit to the local American Legion Lodge where veterans and they were greeted by throngs of elementary school students lining the road with American flags and more at the Lodge entrance singing patriotic songs. At one point, one of our Tajik guests, Bakhtiyor, joined the children in singing along with them!

This exchange was very successful and lifelong friendships were formed. More photos are available at <https://goo.gl/photos/cp315RfHMsNDQQHF9> and on the FFCV Facebook page.

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 you contact info up-to-date) and bring it along with your dues to the Christmas party or 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 just received a new basic course student from Japan. His name is Seiya Yasuda and his sponsor is Judith Lesiak. She has already met with him and taken him out multiple times. I sent an email to the rest of the JAG hosts and did not get any negative reviews, so all must be going well!

We were lucky enough to see most of the JAG students on Veterans Day in Orange. We attended the Veterans Day ceremony with the Tajikistan Ambassadors and Larry Moore brought the JAG Students. Nice ceremony and nice get-together.

Exchange Committee

Dave Burns

2017 Outbound: Mondo Maya de Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico: Good news! Friendship Force Des Moines Iowa, the club we are sharing this exchange with, recently passed along they will only be able to send five ambassadors on the exchange, thus we can send up to 15 ourselves. At present we have 10 members interested in the exchange so we can add an additional five ambassadors. If you are interested in participating please contact me or our ED, Deb Winslow, as soon as possible. The exchange will be held 18-25 April 2017, and the Mexican club is willing to set up an additional week add-on at the end of the exchange. The all-inclusive cost for the week long exchange likely will be around \$400-450 per person which includes the Mexican club and FFI fees, and administrative costs. Airfare there does not appear to be expensive as we can fly round-trip Dulles-Cancun for less than \$400 and Cancun-Tuxtla Gutierrez for less than \$200. A Canadian FF club visited Tuxtla Gutierrez last winter and the add-on they participated in included a trip to the El Chiffon Waterfall, the Montebello Lake Zone and the Tenam Puente ruins, Las Numbes – Guacamays, the Ruins at Yaxchilan and Bonampak, Palenque and visiting the Museum La Venta. Their trip included all hotels, including rustic cabins (all reportedly very nice), and seven American style breakfasts and entry to all sites plus a full-time guide and bus. At present, do not know what that program would cost. Again, contact us ASAP if interested.

2017 Inbound: Nizhny Novgorod and Kirov Oblast, Russia, November 2017: I have been in contact with the two Russian EDs (Tatyana and Oksana) and it appears they are very interested in coming here next year. The exchange was discussed at our November BOD meeting and it was agreed to suggest the exchange take place in October, or at the latest in early November 2017, and that we would be willing to host up to 20 ambassadors. This information has been passed to Tatyana and Oksana. Also more good news, don't worry you won't be getting a visit or call from me asking you to be the ED for the exchange as Dale Walden has stepped forward and volunteered to fill the position. A round of applause to Dale!

2017 Outbound: No change since the last newsletter. We are still hoping to establish an outbound exchange with Santa Barbara, CA in 2017 but this is still being coordinated. Other domestic exchanges may be possible. We are also talking with Medicine Hat, Alberta to see if we might be able to work out and exchange with them next year, more info on that in the next Ambassador.

2017 Inbound: Themed exchange: As previously reported, FFI has requested we host a three or four day exchange sometime in 2017. We have suggested possible themes of “Central Virginia’s Early American Presidents”, “Wineries & and Micro Breweries of Central Virginia”, and “The Civil War in Central Virginia”. More details to follow in the coming months. We have yet to hear from FFI on this but will pass on the information once we hear from them.

Outreach

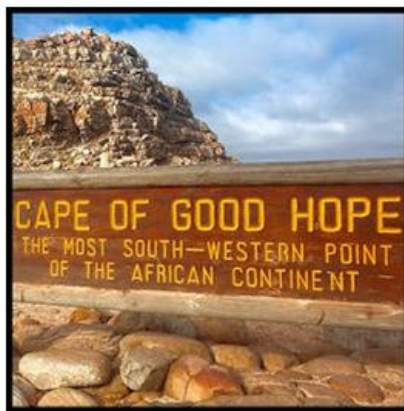
Linda Burns, Chair

Patsy O’Connell and Mark Dryer had their scheduled surgeries in October. Both are on the road to recovery.

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

Exchange Opportunities

Getting the urge to travel to a great place? Here are 4 new exchanges that have been added to the FF catalog for 2017.



[Cape of Good Hope,](#)

[South Africa](#)

March 13 to 20, 2017



[São Paulo, Brazil](#)

April 1 to 7, 2017



[Irinca, Tanzania](#)



[Australian Pubs and](#)

Not only would you make new friends at the destination but also become friends with your fellow travelers.

For more information on these and other exchanges, visit <http://www.friendshipforce.org/index.php/site/exchanges>

Member News

Friendship Force of Central Virginia Loses a Good Friend

Ruhi Ramazani, 88, Edward R. Stettinius Professor Emeritus at the University of Virginia, died on Wednesday, October 5, 2016, at the UVA Medical Center. Called the "Dean of Iranian Foreign Policy Studies" by The Washington Post, the renowned scholar-teacher was devoted to the University of Virginia, to which he dedicated several books, and to the Jeffersonian ideals that it embodies.

Dr. Ramazani was a dear friend of FFCV as well. He and his wife Nesta attended several of our functions and his comments and insights into international events were always welcomed.

For his complete obituary visit http://www.dailyprogress.com/obituaries/ramazani-r-k/article_b40b49d5-835a-5ba0-9149-3a606ded89a9.html.

The following letter of condolence was sent by Bob and Dee Schwagerl, who were primarily responsible for introducing Dr. Ramazani to our club.

*Robert & Dolores Schwagerl
P. O. Box 418
Keswick, Virginia
22947*

October 7, 2016

*Mrs. Nesta Ramazani
1140 Mountain Road
Charlottesville, Virginia 22901*

Dear Nesta:

It was with great sadness that Dee and I read of Ruhi's passing. Intermingled with our desire to express to you our shared feelings of grief, we also want to acknowledge a like measure of gratitude; gratitude for having had a brief time in the presence of a man of intellect, gentleness, grace and peace.

It was in March of two-thousand and three that we first met. I had been appointed as Chairman of Friendship Force International's Regional Conference to be held in Charlottesville, Virginia. I had read of Ruhi's belief that through respect and mutual dialogue tensions could be reduced between Iran and the United States. Confident in this objective being shared by the Friendship Force creed, I extended an invitation for him to be our key-note speaker. How pleased I was that he accepted!

The calendar rolled on and in March of two thousand and eleven history repeated itself. The conference returned to our town and once again I found myself in a Chairmanship and once again your gracious husband agreed to be the key-note speaker.

What a gift he was to all of us, as he presented his vision of what the world might be should countries progress in a spirit of harmony and justice.

He will be missed and long remembered.

In gratitude for knowing you both.

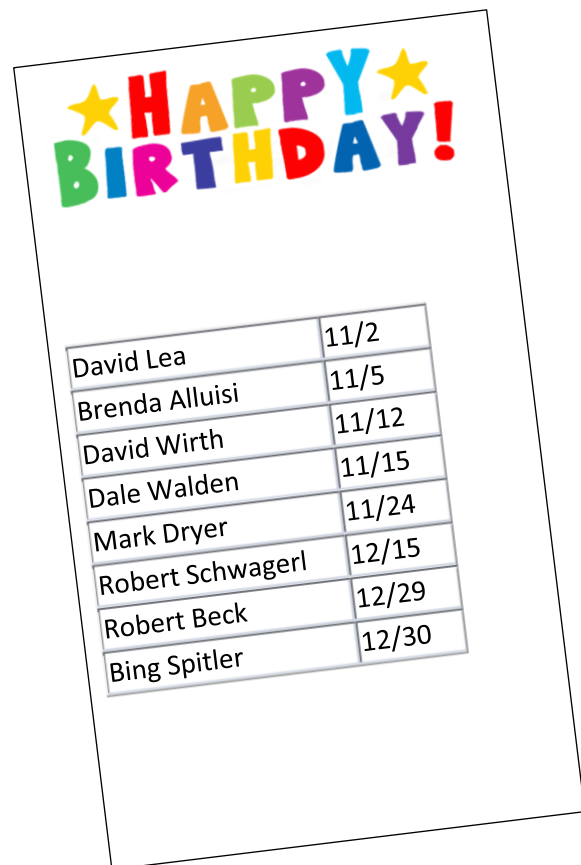
*Fondly,
Robert & Dolores Schwagerl*

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

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



**2016 Calendar
Meetings and Events**

Month	Date	Event
December	6	BOD Meeting
	17	Christmas Party

Show Your Club Logo with Custom Merchandise



Embroidery

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

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

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.



Embroidery

BOD Minutes

**Friendship Force Central Virginia Inc.
Regular Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Tuesday September 6, 2016
Villages at Nahor Clubhouse, Palmyra, VA**

Board Members Present:

President Al Colville, First Vice President Linda Burns, Treasurer David Lea, Secretary Margaret Dryer, Dave Burns, Rob Beck and Walt O'Connell.

Board Members Absent:

Second Vice President Pam Hokanson and Dale Walden.

Guests: Peggy Colville, Bing Spitler and Robert Harris.

Call to Order: A quorum being present the meeting was called to order by President Colville at 3:00pm. All actions taken by the BOD were done upon motion duly made, seconded and followed by discussion, and carried by a majority vote of the Directors unless otherwise noted.

President Report: No report.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer David Lea reported that there was \$ 6,238.34 in the account. He updated the membership roster.

Secretary Report: No report.

Unfinished Business:

Civil War Inbound Exchange 9/28 to 10/2, 2016: (Bing Spitler, ED) He updated the schedule for the exchange. Dave Burns also reviewed the items still in question. Dave announced that there was a bus to accommodate 56 persons, so any member interested could go on a first come first serve bases.

Open World Exchange November 4 to 12, 2016: (Robert Harris ED) His report of September 1, 2016 was reviewed. He emphasized that we need to move forward with PR for the program. The next meeting of the committee will be September 7th

FFCV Presentation to Newcomers Club: Dale Walden and Willow Drinkwater will man the table at the New Comers Club on Tuesday September 20, 2016 at Farmington Country Club between 12noon and 1:00pm.

Procedures Manual: Margaret Dryer reported that there will be a meeting of the committee on September 15 at 1:00pm at her home.

New Business:

FFCV Application for 2018 Outbound Exchanges: The choices were discussed by the Board and input given.

Committee Reports:

Events Committee: (Peggy Colville, Chair) The Jag Picnic was a wonderful success. There will be a Halloween Costume Party on October 22 between 3pm and 6pm, location to be announced. The committee is planning a possible Wine Tasting at Cunningham Creek Winery between 3pm and 6pm. A Christmas Party in the planning.

Exchange Committee: (Dave Burns, Chair) Outbound to Mexico April 21 to 28, 2017. Deb Winslow ED. May be able to take 25 persons. Russian Inbound, no word from them. No response from Santa Barbara Club nor from Medicine Hat Club.

Membership Committee: (Dee Schwagler, Chair) No report. President Colville reported that there is a possible new member – Joan Bond.

Fund Raising Committee: (Pam Hokanson, Chair) The September 24th was canceled but the September 9th event is on.

JAG School: (Linda Burns Chair) The Chair reports that graduation for the first group will be September 8th.

Outreach Committee: (Linda Burns, Chair) The chair reported Harold Kelshaw had been ill and a card was sent. A fair well party for Bill Smith was attended by 45 people. Patsy O'Connell will be having surgery in November.

Communications Committee: (Walt O'Connell, Chair) He will work on a press release for the Civil War Exchange.

Announcements: The next Board meeting will be held on October 4, 2016 at 2:00pm at the Villages at Nahor Clubhouse.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:35pm.

Margaret Dryer, Secretary

**Friendship Force Central Virginia Inc.
Regular Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Tuesday October 4, 2016
Villages at Nahor Clubhouse, Palmyra, VA**

Board Members Present:

President Al Colville, Treasurer David Lea, Secretary Margaret Dryer, Dale Walden and Walt O'Connell.

Board Members Absent:

First Vice President Linda Burns, Second Vice President Pam Hokanson, Rob Beck and Dave Burns.

Guests: Peggy Colville, Monica Notaro and Robert Harris.

Call to Order: A quorum being present the meeting was called to order by President Colville at 3:10pm. All actions taken by the BOD were done upon motion duly made, seconded and followed by discussion, and carried by a majority vote of the Directors unless otherwise noted.

President Report: Thanked everyone for a great job with the Civil War Exchange.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer David Lea reported that the account balance is \$ 6,563.18. He updated the membership roster.

Secretary Report: The minutes of FFCV,inc. Board Of Directors Meeting Of August 2, 2016 and the minutes of September 6, 2016 were adopted.

Unfinished Business:

Civil War Inbound Exchange 9/28 to 10/2, 2016: (Bing Spitler, ED) Monica Notaro presented a followup of the exchange. She reviewed an evaluation for the event. The general consensus was that it was a good exchange. Do we want to consider doing this again?

Open World Exchange November 4 to 12, 2016: (Robert Harris ED) He reported that he would be the treasurer for the exchange. He gave a detailed report on the program setup so far. Will be needing hosts soon. A doodle will be sent out.

FFCV Presentation to Newcomers Club: We were not presented at the event.

Procedures Manual: Margaret Dryer reported that there was a review of the treasurer's duties in the manual. There will need to be another meeting of the committee to finish the review of the rest of the document.

New Business:

FFCV Application for 2018 Outbound Exchanges: The board made choices for possible outbound exchanges for the year 2018. they are Japan, Canada, Taiwan and Germany. A doodle poll will be sent to the membership.

Committee Reports:

Events Committee: (Peggy Colville, Chair) In November the committee is planing a possible Wine Tasting at Cunningham Creek Winery between 3pm and 6pm. A Christmas Party in the planning.

Exchange Committee: (Dave Burns, Chair) No report.

Membership Committee: (Dee Schwagler, Chair) No report.

Fund Raising Committee: (Pam Hokanson, Chair) No report.

JAG School: (Linda Burns Chair) No report.

Outreach Committee: (Linda Burns, Chair) No report.

Communications Committee: (Walt O'Connell, Chair) The deadline for the Ambassador is November 9, 2016

Announcements: The next Board meeting will be held on Friday October 28, 2016 at 3:00pm at the Villages at Nahor Clubhouse.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:10pm.

Margaret Dryer, Secretary



2017 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	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Go on an Outbound Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/>	Serve on Communications/Publicity (newsletter or press)?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Outbound Exchange Planning Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Serve on Fund Raising including Fridays After Five?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inbound Exchange Planning Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Be on Social Program Planning and Organizing?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inbound Exchange Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	Help Plan Bi-monthly Club Meeting Programs?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inbound Exchange Home Host	<input type="checkbox"/>	Serve on Membership Committee?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inbound Exchange Day Host	<input type="checkbox"/>	Be nominated for Exchange Director
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inbound Exchange Small Dinner Party Host	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Community Activities and Service		<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Invite an International Student to Dinner	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sponsor a JAG student	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Work on a Community Project (e.g., International Refugee Committee, World Friendship Day, or outreach to community?)	<input type="checkbox"/>	

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.

