



friendship force

CENTRAL VIRGINIA

Changing the Way You See the World

The Ambassador

Officers/Directors	Committee Chairs
<i>President Patty Sclater</i> <i>Vice President..... Deb Winslow</i> <i>Treasurer David Lea</i> <i>Secretary..... Pam Hokanson</i> <i>Directors..... Dave Burns, Peggy Colville,</i> <i>Linda Burns, Josh Hung</i>	<i>Communications.....Al Colville</i> <i>Events Laura Keeton</i> <i>Fund Raising Linda Gehle</i> <i>JAG Bing Spitler</i> <i>Journeys..... Deb Winslow</i> <i>Membership..... Peggy Colville</i> <i>Outreach..... Carol Donahue</i>

President's Message

It is so nice to return to some semblance of normalcy. I was watching a documentary recently on the race to find a vaccine to prevent polio. It brought to mind the challenges we have experienced with COVID-19. I can just imagine the jubilation as the nation celebrated the end of polio. While we have not eradicated COVID-19, the sense of relief at having vaccines available, going maskless and being able to physically hug family and friends has been cause for thankfulness and joy. Our club has continued to be active with local events, and now we can once more get about planning domestic and international travel. See Deb Winslow's article elsewhere in this newsletter on future journeys.

May--June-July 2021	
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Another activity that's returning is our "Fridays after Five" fundraising. You may wonder why we do fundraising, since we have dues. Dues go to support operational expenses. However, we think it is important to "walk the talk" and support organizations that espouse FFI's philosophy of breaking down cultural barriers. We designate monies earned through fundraising to make contributions to internationally-focused organizations like Doctors without Borders. Closer to home, we have supported The

International Rescue Committee with monetary donations as well as donating blankets, coats and housewares over the years.

Have you signed up for your personal Friendship Force account yet? See a description of this feature's benefits and instructions for signing up elsewhere in the newsletter. Looking forward to seeing you soon at a future club event.

Patty Sclater
FFCV President

Events Committee in Action

On April 24th, Friendship Force once again visited the Schuyler Quarry gardens and viewed the spring wildflowers. We had to rearrange our schedule due to impending rain but ended up enjoying the mile walk with mild temperatures and no rain. Bernice and Armand Theiblot led us through the gardens to hear the names of the flowers and history both of Schuyler and the business of the soap stone quarry. After the tour, several people enjoyed their picnic in the pavilion.



On Saturday, May 22, twelve of us visited the D-Day memorial in Bedford, Virginia. We met at the Methodist parking lot in Scottsville at 9 am, then proceeded to the Memorial for a wonderful guided tour. When approaching the memorial, you hear the popping of bullets in a simulated beach of Omaha Beach where there are beautiful sculptures depicting soldiers approaching the beach, falling, and helping each other. It was so moving, bringing some of us to tears. Afterward, we went to the Liberty Depot Restaurant for a very enjoyable lunch.



Then some of us ventured to tour the historic Thomas Jefferson get-away called Poplar Forest. The home is still in the restoration stage but quite interesting.



On July 31st, we are planning a tour of Swannonoa , the beautiful Italian Renaissance Villa built by James Dooley in 1912 in Nelson County. We will meet at the mansion at 11:00 and then, for those that choose, we will go to Child's peach orchard and get peaches and peach ice cream. I will email later in the month to remind everyone and get RSVP.

Laura Keeton,
Chair, Events Committee

JOURNEYS

Outbounds and Inbounds 2021: It looks like our scheduled in-person travel will not be happening this year.

Outbound 2022: International: Krems, Austria has agreed to postpone and save a spot for us to visit next year. We plan to schedule short excursions to Vienna, Prague, and Budapest surrounding our Club visit to Austria.

Domestic: A reciprocal visit to Flathead, Montana is still to be determined. We have been assigned to visit Birmingham, AL probably in the spring. A doodle poll was sent out to the membership for possible interest in this journey. If you have not responded yet, please do so. We will be setting up a planning committee soon.

Inbound 2022:

Global: Our Club will be providing a Global journey to showcase our local wineries, breweries, cideries and distilleries. Dates still to be determined.

A planning group has begun to plan for all the fun ahead. Stay tuned.

Deb Winslow,
Chair, Journey Committee

Membership

Well let me see, first of all I truly miss seeing everyone. I hope your summer is going swell and you have been able to keep cool on these very hot days. Please read Laura's events and Linda's volunteering opportunities, so if your social calendar permits you will be able to join us. As always, talk up this wonderful organization. If you can help us out with any interesting things to do as a group, please let Laura and Linda know. I am hoping by fall we can start up our monthly dinners. Let me know if you have a favorite place you enjoy that can handle 20 - 30 people. I am hoping that the Northside Library will soon be open for us, I have been checking with them. A soup meeting with a speaker sounds good to me. Keep on keeping on.

Peggy Colville

Chair, Membership Committee

Fundraising Activities

This summer there are 2 fund-raising activities currently scheduled, both at Fridays After Five at the Pavilion on the downtown mall. The first one is Friday, July 9th. Eight of us will serve beer at the draft truck: the volunteers are Darien, Susan, Mary, David, Margot, Patty, Josh and myself. If anyone else wants to volunteer, please let me know -- a few "extra" would be welcome.

The second volunteer activity is on Friday, August 27th; we will be checking ID's for those who wish to purchase beer or wine. So far there are only four volunteers: Laura, Judy, Margot and Susan. Please let me know if you can help out that day.

When I went to Fridays After Five two weeks ago, I noticed the sense of community I had felt at those events in the past -- that was the first large group gathering I had been in since Covid started a year ago! It was also fun to hear the live music and watch people enjoy themselves. When we volunteer, we experience both plus make money for our club that will be used in ways to benefit worthy charities.

Please join us! Either email, call at 434-964-1671 (landline), or text at 703-944-6912 to let me know when you can help. Thanks!

Linda Gehle

Chair, Fundraising Committee

Member News



Steve Cooley	8/13
Linda Gehle	8/27
Lucy Burnette	8/29
Henry Haefele	9/7
Susan Roberts	9/7
Mary Till	9/16
Laura Keeton	9/17
Bob Harris	9/20
Peggy Colville	9/27

Copies of the Ambassador Newsletter are available on our website: www.friendshipforcecv.org



None in Aug or Sept	

MEMBERSHIP APP

*Friendship Force of Central Virginia
2021 Membership/Renewal*



**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: _____

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.friendshipforcecv.org. If you don't have access to the Web, please contact a member for information about 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 2021. (Partners do separately when your interests diverge).

Exchange Activities		Other Club Work and Activities	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Go on an Outbound Journey	<input type="checkbox"/>	Serve on Communications/Publicity Committee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Outbound Journey Planning Comm.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Serve on Fund Raising Committee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inbound Journey Planning Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Serve on Event Planning Committee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inbound Journey Home Host	<input type="checkbox"/>	Serve on Membership Committee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inbound Journey Day Host	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inbound Journey Small Dinner Host	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Community Activities and Service	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Sponsor a JAG student
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Work on a Community Outreach Project

Annual Dues: \$35 per member. Please include a check made out to **FFCV with your application**. Please submit application/renewal and dues to membership chair, Peggy Colville, 315 Village Blvd. Palmyra, VA 22963.

FFI Login Process



As the world evolved and organizations incorporated higher levels of technology into their business practices, Friendship Force International has continued to operate on a system based on trust and goodwill amongst our members. Although this system continues today, it is important that we improve the organization with technology and processes that ensure greater security, privacy and confidentiality. As we grow, the steps we take together now will help ensure the integrity of what it means to be a member of Friendship Force International.

Why log in to Friendship Force online?

- 1. An online member experience ensures that information shared between members and clubs is secure and private.**

Currently, information shared related to Journeys, payment transactions and clubs is sent by email or accessed through a publicly accessible page on the website. Although FFI has worked hard to ensure that this method of information sharing is safe, it remains unnecessarily vulnerable to cyberattacks and public exposure. Shielding this information behind a login and password drastically enhances the security of information sharing amongst members and clubs.

- 2. Adhering to the highest level of data protection means it is your data, not ours. And signing in to FFI online ensures this.**

In 2017, Friendship Force International made a significant commitment to protecting “GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)” and as a global organization with clubs where GDPR law applies, FFI is responsible for meeting these standards. What this means for you as a member is: a) your information will never be shared outside of Friendship Force with third parties, b) you will always have access to all the information being held by

Friendship Force related to your membership, and c) Friendship Force is committed to handling your data with care.

Better communication with Friendship Force International, the global network and within your club. Your online member experience is being built **in nine languages**, eventually with Friendship Force news streaming from the world and your region right to your dashboard. Whether it is highlighting a remarkable Journey story, promoting an upcoming conference, or getting updated on the latest news from your headquarters, signing in ensures you are always aware of what is happening within the Friendship Force.

1. In development: Journey and club management tools!

A future update will allow members to easily join Journeys or request information, communicate with Journey participants, and manage personal forms and financial information related to upcoming trips through the dashboard. Journey Coordinators will be able to approve participants who request to join a Journey and manage participant information as well as work more efficiently with FFI staff in promoting and organizing the Journey. Clubs will have the benefit of managing their own publicly visible information and be able to communicate virtually with their members.

2. **FFI Virtual Experiences** from educational webinars to online social gatherings with international friends
In development: Accessiends.

3. Obtain your unique membership number that confirms your status as an **active member with Friendship Force International whose membership is in *good-standing*.**

Your Friendship Force member number accompanies every Journey, club and financial transaction and helps ensure that all your information is connected to you and a part of your member profile. Your membership number also enables your club, Journey coordinators and hosts to ensure that only those members who are active within the network and in good standing are participating in our programs.

***Active* means the member has paid their membership dues and is currently participating in local and international programs.**

***In good standing* means that their membership has not been suspended, rejected or otherwise compromised. This important feature adds a layer of safety for traveling and hosting members by ensuring that only those who follow the code of conduct and embody the meaning of Friendship Force, are participating in the program.**

How do I sign up?

Go to: my.friendshipforce.org

Click on the purple SIGN-UP button on the bottom right of the screen.

From there you will be guided through a few short questions to establish your online account. You are welcome to upload a picture and share as much information about yourself as you wish. The minimum information required for your account is (1) your name, (2) club/country of origin, and (3) a valid email address.

Frequently Asked Questions

A) *Is it compulsory to sign-on to my.friendshipforce.org?*

No, but it is highly recommended. Minimally, creating a sign-on will later allow you to view your current and future Journeys as well as manage your communication preferences.

B) *Will I still be able to join a Journey if I don't sign-in?*

Yes, FFI will create a member ID for you on receipt of your first financial transaction and this ID will be tied to your Journey participation.

C) *How will others know I am an active member in good standing if I don't sign-in to FFI online?*

If you don't create a member number by signing in, one will be created for you by your club or by FFI Staff upon receipt of your first financial transaction.

D) *What information will be shared publicly when I create my online account?*

Only information *you choose* to make public on the FF global directory, once it becomes active. By default, only FFI staff and your club's Club Admin will have access to this information.

E) *Will others be able to change or edit my profile information?*

FFI staff and your club's Club Admin will be able to update certain aspects of your account - information on your behalf, for example, if you request us to change your address or email.

F) *What if I don't sign up for my account online? Will an account be created that others can see?* Yes, however only FFI staff and your club's Club Admin will have access to this information, which is your name, club and email address.

G) *I am not comfortable with technology. Can I still join in club and Journey activities?*

Yes! This new platform is meant to *enhance* your membership experience, not interfere with what you're comfortable with. Members in your club and our staff are always available to help. There will also be alternative processes, similar to how FFI currently operates, that will be available to those not comfortable with signing up.

H) *Will I be able to edit my profile right away once I'm signed up?*

No, first your club's Club Admin will need to verify you are a member of the club. After that, there will be a button in your account allowing you to edit your profile

I) *I didn't get the password reset email / automated confirmation email asking me to confirm my email address. What do I do?*

First check your spam and trash folders in case it is there. Gmail users should also check a folder called "Promotions". If you don't see the email then go back to my.friendshipforce.org and there are links on the log in page to request a new password reset / confirmation email.

K) *Who do I contact if I have other questions?*

Our staff are ready to help you, so contact us any time.