



friendship force

CENTRAL VIRGINIA

Changing the Way You See the World

The Ambassador

May 2024

President's Message for May Newsletter

A profound thank you to all who helped make our Inbound Ambassadors from Friendship Force of Missoula/Western Montana and Judy Mongin from Ames, Iowa feel welcome from their arrival on Wednesday, April 24th to our farewells on May 1st. We had wanted that club to come for a long time, and Covid intervened, but they finally made it! I'm not sure how Deb Winslow, our Journey Coordinator does it, but she matched Ambassadors perfectly to hosts. I know Rita Cheek, our guest will be a lifelong friend. And now my husband is even thinking he might travel out West after all. Thank you Dinner Hosts, Judy Lesiak, Patty Sclater, Helen Ida and Leroy Moyer and Nina Flynn.

Speaking of travelling, we have our 2025 Journey Assignments. Oklahoma, USA is coming to us in October, 2025 and we have been invited to Northeast Ohio in July, 2025, and in May or early June, 2025 with the Szekesfehervar, Hungary group we have been invited to Montreal and Quebec Region of Canada. They say they can take 12 Ambassadors and Alan and I look forward to going if it doesn't interfere with his Boys State.

I wish I could join our group going to Peru end of May and into June, but other commitments have intervened. Meanwhile, what a great time we had at the Membership Meeting at Glenmore on Sunday May 19th. We had forty people, and many guests. One I know has already signed up! And welcome Dave and Linda Burns who travelled from Margaritaville, SC and rejoined our club for this event, and until they can form their own club down in South Carolina. Dave is past President, and Linda was our JAG coordinator. Peggy Colville, you did a great job organizing this meeting in a lovely venue.

May 30th we will be saying goodbye to our Korean JAG student, Minkyung Yoo as she graduates and returns to Seoul. I wish we could have seen more of her, but her schedule was full morning to evening, but the times we coaxed her from her studies, we had wonderful conversations and now we have a friend in Korea. Mohammed Abubakar from Nigeria and 1st LT Khaoula Bellil will also be graduating. We are looking forward to being there as it is always a very moving celebration.

Our next gathering will be August 24th for our picnic at our home at 11232 Cedar Hill Road, Gordonsville, VA 22942 and five more JAG students will be coming in from countries all over the world. Looking forward to see who can ride Shamu the longest!!!!

In Friendship,

Barbara "Willow" Drinkwater
434-249-6892

Fund Rasing

There were 8 members who volunteered at the Pavilion on the downtown mall last week at Fridays After Five: Al and Peggy, Tom and me, Deb, plus our Montana guests -- Carol, Mike and Louise. We had a great time checking ID's and chatting with the party-goers! The crowd was happy -- lots of families with young children, UVA young people as well as seniors -- the weather was nice, and there was a great turnout for the musician from Scottsville. Our club fulfilled out commitment to the Events coordinator.

THANK YOU TO ALL VOLUNTEERS! The money we earned will be sent to a good cause in Charlottesville at the end of the year. It will be a charity that reflects our mission to promote peace in the world by individuals connecting with one another and becoming friends.

Linda Gehle (p.s. if I forgot to mention someone who volunteered, I apologize -- let me know so I can acknowledge you)

Mystery Luncheon - March 16th

Well, I must say we had another successful Mystery Luncheon, March 16th. I would like to thank all the hosts people, Vickie & Mike Archie, Peggy Birdsall, Willow and Alan Drinkwater and Nina Flynn and her husband. In hearing back from the guests and hosts, everyone enjoyed themselves and the meals were great as usual. Thanks to all the guests as well for without your delicious side dishes this could not have happened. Here are some pictures taken at two of the luncheons.



Submitted by - Peggy Colville
Membership Chairperson

February Membership Meeting

What a wonderful turn out for our February membership meeting where we had three JAG students talk to us regarding their countries. It was amazing to hear each one of them tell of their favorite foods here in the USA and the difference in our culture and theirs back home. But all in all, they truly were thankful for the FFCV support and interest in what seemed so little time with us, but yet they were looking forward to graduation and getting back to their families. There were lots of bag and box treats plus some people went all out and prepared some delicious dishes. Here are some pictures that Willow Drinkwater took hope you enjoy them. If you were not able to attend, we missed you.

We also had two new members join us - Nina Flynn, her sponsor Linda Gehle and Estelle Phillips, her sponsor Susan Roberts. That keeps Linda Gehle still in First Place for our New Member Competition for the year. Which by the way gives someone Free Membership for 2025.



Bing with the 3 JAG Students



Peggy Colville
Membership Chairperson



Exchanges

Outbound 2024:

International: We will be leaving shortly for our 2-week Journey to Peru - Lima and Tarapoto. Four of us are leaving 4 days early to visit Cusco, the Sacred Valley and Machu Picchu. We will visit Lima first and then on to Tarapoto.

Outbound 2025:

International: We have matched for Montreal and Quebec, Canada

National: Northeast Ohio

Inbound 2024:

Domestic: Our inbound journey with Montana just ended and here are some pictures taken during the event..

4-24 – Welcome reception



4/25 Free day some visited Montpelier and a small dinner party



2/26 Monticello and Michie Tavern including celebrating Willow's Birthday



4/30 – visit to UVA grounds and Farewell



Inbound 2025:

Domestic: Oklahoma sometime in the fall

May 19th Celebration at The Club AT Glenmore

Thanks to you all for making our 33rd Celebration such a success. We had a full house and lots of guests. Many applications were taken and Susan Roberts guest, Christine Day join us on the spot. If you brought a guest, please check back with them to see if they have any questions. The race is certainly on for the Big prize of **Free Membership For 2025**. So far we have - Nina Flynn (1), Helen-Ida Moyer (2), Deb Winslow (2), Susan Roberts (2), Linda Gehle (2), Peggy Colville (2). We had 40 people attending 15 of them were looking us over. Please let me suggest when you get this newsletter that you touch base with your new member to see if they received theirs and if they have any questions. I have already forwarded their information to LeRoy for his information in sending out all newsletters. Thanks again for all your support!

Peggy Colville, Membership Chairperson



Tables displaying remembrances for members travel.

FFCV Calendar for 2024

MONTH	DATE	TIME	EVENT	SPEAKER/PROGRAM (if applicable)	LOCATION	OPEN TO	COORDINATOR
January	20	Noon – 3:00 PM	Membership Meeting	Africa Journey Presentation – Patty Sclater	The Independence	Club Members, Guests	Peggy Colville
February	17	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Membership Meeting	JAG Students' Presentations	The Independence	Club Members, Guests, JAG Students	Bing Spitler, Helen Ida Moyer
March	TBD	Noon	Mystery Lunch		Member Hosts' Homes	Club Members	Peggy Colville
April	24 – 5/1 (Tentative)		Incoming Journey – Flathead, Montana Friendship Club			Club Members	Deb Winslow
May	18	TBD	Membership Drive			Club Members, Guests	Peggy Colville, Membership Committee
June			Outgoing Journey - Peru			Club Members	Deb Winslow
July			Summer Break – No Program				
August	24	TBD	Summer Picnic		Gordonsville	Club Members, JAG Students	Willow Drinkwater
September	2	Noon	JAG Picnic		Lake Monticello	9-month JAG Students, Sponsors	Bing Spitler
October	19	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Membership Meeting	Peru Journey Presentation – Deb Winslow	The Independence	Club Members, Guests	Helen Ida Moyer
November	16	Noon – 3:00 PM	"Friendsgiving" Meal		The Independence	Club Members, 9-month JAG students	Helen Ida Moyer
December	14	Noon – 3:00 PM	Holiday/Christmas Party		The Independence	Club Members, 9-month JAG students	Helen Ida Moyer