



friendship force

CENTRAL VIRGINIA

Changing the Way You See the World

The Ambassador

December 2024

President's Message

Hi, Everyone! We are looking forward to seeing as many of our members and guests at our Christmas Party on Saturday afternoon, December 14th (Noon to 3 P.M.) Deb Winslow is catering and needs to know who is coming so she can plan. Please respond to her email. So come a little before or after with an appetite. She puts on quite a spread. I also heard from our 10 month JAG student from Nigeria, Aisha Suleiman who plans to make a traditional Nigerian dish, both for vegetarians and meat eaters. JAG students are invited, and we hope to show them how we celebrate Christmas through our holiday songs. Thank you Helen Ida for leading, and I am brushing up on my piano skills.

Thank you Patty Sclater for arranging for your 3 month JAG student from Nigeria to give a presentation on her beautiful country at our Friendsgiving at the Independence November 16th. Olaedo Frances Nwogu will be graduating December 12th at 10 a.m. If you have never been to a JAG graduation, be sure to sign up next year for a student as it is very impressive. These students are the cream of their military from all over the world. Thanks everyone for the delicious potluck!

I thought you might be interested in a recent communication I received from Friendship Force International:

A wonderful opportunity exists on an upcoming “under-sold” exchange to Mexico. The Journey number is 25296, and is happening on January 15-21, 2025. This incredible journey will be hosted by the wonderful Friendship Force Tuxtla Gutierrez. It promises to be an unforgettable experience, especially since it will coincide with the vibrant celebration of the Great Feast of Chiapa de Corzo, as well as the club’s milestone 40th anniversary. Check it out on [here](#). Lots of culture in this adventure, and you don't need to leave North America. Chiapas is the most southern state in Mexico and borders Guatemala. This is truly a special opportunity, and we’d love to see it filled with enthusiastic members.

- FFI reminds you to mark the following dates:

Inbound Hosting Availability Form. Sent: October 21, 2024. Due December 6, 2025

Outbound Request Form. To be sent: January 6, 2025. Due February 16, 2025.

Journey Assignments. Released in mid-April

Change Requests. April and onward

We are also updating our website, <http://www.friendshipforcecv.org/> so our new members can go there, fill out their form and pay their dues on line. Our membership chair, Peggy Colville also will take paper

applications and checks, but we feel this new way of getting to know us will be the wave of the future. Right now there are some inaccuracies, e.g. dues are NOT \$30. So we need to do some updating.

Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find our nominations for next year's board. I so appreciate all the help I have had this year, as it's been one of the most difficult of my life. On July 4th my 22 year old grandson lost his battle with drug addiction and took his life in Belgium where he lived. In early October my eldest daughter was diagnosed with stage 3-4 cancer and is now undergoing chemotherapy.

We get by with our friends and family, and I have considered the Friendship Force this year as a strong part of my support system. Let's keep this good thing going! After all, Jimmy Carter as of this writing is still going at over 100. It's his dream we are fulfilling. See you soon!

Willow Drinkwater, President

Friendship Force of Central Virginia Officers for 2025

Board:	Directors:	Committee Chairs:
President - Al Colville V. President - Tammy Lord Secretary - Deborah Winslow Treasure - David Lea	LeRoy Moyer Willow Drinkwater Linda Gehle Peggy Colville Patty Sclater	Communication - LeRoy Moyer JAG - Willow Drinkwater Fund Raiser - Linda Gehle Journeys - Deborah Winslow Out Reach - Susan Sutherland Publicity - Patty Sclater Membership/Events - Peggy Colville

Upcoming Exchanges

Outbound 2025:

- International: Our journey to Montreal and Quebec has been cancelled. FFI will try to assign us to those cities in 2026
- National: We are scheduled to visit Northeast Ohio July 30 to August 5. We are discussing adding a trip to the Niagara Falls region as an extension.

Inbound 2025:

- Domestic: Oklahoma will be arriving September 9-16.

Outbound 2026: We will be querying our membership in January about their interest in Domestic and International Outbound Journeys.

Inbound 2026: We will be submitting our interest next month to FFI.

Friendsgiving Event

What a wonderful gathering we had on November 16th for our Friendsgiving event at The Independence. We are so blessed to have such wonderful cooks. What a turnout! We had 33 people attending. Patty Sclater's JAG student, Captain Olaedo F. Nwogu, gave us a wonderful presentation on her country of Nigeria. Thanks to Willow Drinkwater for cooking a beautiful turkey. It was my year to have mine carved and ready to eat and both of them were completely gone by the end of the meal. We must have all come hungry. Needless to say, we had plenty of food but at the end most dishes were empty. We had a great turnout of JAG students, I believe there were six. One brought his husband and one brought her two daughters. They were so appreciative to have been invited and really enjoyed our Thanksgiving spread.



As always – lots of good food.



Captain Olaedo F. Nwogu
Nigeria Presentation



A Lovely Day
Some even went to the patio



Work Crew

Christmas/Holiday Gathering

Our next event will be our Annual Christmas/Holiday gathering at The Independence on December 14th from Noon till 3:00 P.M. Please mark your calendars for this festive event. Deb Winslow will be catering, with Willow at the piano and Helen Ida leading us in Christmas carols. **As always, we will need an actual count for this one. Be on the lookout for the notice and PLEASE RSVP WHETHER YOU ARE COMING OR NOT.** Also, please let us know if you will be bringing a guest and if so, their names.



Remember the New Member contest is still on till December 31. We now have 7 people tied with 2 new members each. Remember, if you win, you get FREE dues for 2025. All new members after Sept. 1, 2024 will have their dues count for 2025 dues as well. The people now in the running for most new members are – Peggy Colville, Nina Flynn, Susan Roberts, Linda Gehle, Helen-Ida Moyer, Deb Winslow, and Willow Drinkwater.

" Will it be YOU!! -- IT CAN BE!"

Hope to see you at the Christmas/Holiday party December 14th - @ noon.