



friendship force
CENTRAL VIRGINIA
Changing the Way You See the World

The Ambassador

February 2025

President's Message

We are looking forward to a new year with lots of opportunities to carry out the mission of the Friendship Force organization. We have assembled a great new team of Board Members who are looking forward to providing many opportunities for our members to be able to continue the great progress we have made in the past.

One thing that helps us carry out our mission is providing our members with many ways to get together and work together toward the goals of this wonderful organization. Therefore, I do hope to see you all many, many times during the rest of this year.

Thanks so much and see you soon.

Al Colville

President, Friendship Force of Central Virginia

2025 Board and Committee Chairs

Board:

President – Al Colville – 434-989-2758

Vice President – Tammy Lord – 540-395-9488

Secretary – Deborah Winslow – 434-825-5502

Treasurer – David Lea – 434-320-0167

Committee Chairs:

Fund Raiser – Linda Gehle – 703-944-6912

Inbound/Outbound Journeys – Deborah Winslow – 434-825-5502

Membership/Events – Peggy Colville – 434-589-2844

Communication – LeRoy Moyer – 434-962-5757

JAG School – Willow Drinkwater – 434-249-6892

Outreach – Susan Suthering – 804-516-3137

Marketing/Publicity – Patty Sclater – 434-981-8963

Upcoming Exchanges

Outbound 2025:

Domestic: 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. This could include Toronto, Niagara on the Lake, Hamilton, and Niagara Falls.

Inbound 2025:

Domestic: Oklahoma will be arriving September 9-16.

Outbound 2026:

An email has been sent to state whether you wish to travel and if you do where you would like to go. Please respond if you have not already. I need your response by February 10th.

Inbound 2026:

We have submitted our interest to FFI.

JAG School

We are blessed this year with five international JAG students who came in August and will be graduating in May in the 73rd Graduate Course.

The sponsors are Bing and Joyce Spitler for Major Matan Mass Mehaber from Israel, Al and Peggy Colville for Major Takumi Yamada from Japan, Judy Lesiak for LTC Gustavo Areliano Echanove from Mexico, Linda Gehle and Tom Baughn for LTC Paul Cheng from Taiwan and Willow and Alan Drinkwater for MAJ Aisha Jennifah Suleiman from Nigeria.

We had a 225 Officer Basic Course student from September to December, CPT Olaedo Francis Nwogu from Nigeria who was sponsored by Patty Sclater, and who gave a wonderful presentation at our Friendsgiving in November about her country. She has since returned and is now teaching the JAG students in Nigeria.

We have another international student coming February 15th, 1LT Ryotaro Takeuchi for the 227 OBC and Linda and Tom have stepped up to sponsor him.

We invited the students to our February meeting at the Independence 1-3 p.m. at the Independence and I hope many will come. They are a great group. Our student, Aisha goes to Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church with us and her two daughters were narrators in our Christmas Pageant with over 20 kids. They are also in Confirmation class. We so enjoy them, and hope you will consider being a JAG sponsor in the future. Contact me if you are interested, Willow Drinkwater, 434-249-6892.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT BY PEGGY COLVILLE

January Event - Even though the attendance was not great, it was very informative. Mrs. Sandi Radford came prepared to speak on what we all needed to know concerning the changes for our 2024 Taxes. We had many questions for her - in which she was more than capable to answer. It was a wonderful meeting, whether you do your own taxes or have someone else do them for you. All in all, it was an afternoon well spent. We also had a great lunch - with 5 different kinds of soups and lots of side dishes along with a table full of delicious desserts. I cannot speak for everyone, but I came away with a full tummy and lots of knowledge on tax changes. I still have a few of her handouts if anyone wants one, just let me know.

FEBRUARY - You will not want to miss this one - Mark your calendars for the 15th of February from 1:00 PM till 3:00 PM at the Independence, 350 Portico Way, Charlottesville.

It will be funny, doubtful, exciting, unbelievable and informative. You will get to know more about your FFCV fellow members than you ever wanted to know. The Program, well you are the program, the subject is called "Truth OR Not". If you plan on attending, please let me know.

Here is the format of the day - come prepared to tell - 2 True statements and 1 False statement about yourself. Each statement can only be maybe 2 sentences long. This will allow everyone time to participate. After each presentation the group will vote on which one was false. There will be prizes. This meeting will be a little different as you can tell.

Please only bring BAG SNACKS to share and of course your own beverage of choice. Please no desserts.

February is known as the "Love Month" and it is my hope we will all go away still loving each other. See you there.

!!!!!! AS ALWAYS LET ME KNOW IF YOU ARE COMING !!!!!



Lots of Good Food at the Monthly Meeting