



friendship force

CENTRAL VIRGINIA

Changing the Way You See the World

The Ambassador

April 2025

President's Message

Well here it is, April again, and we have managed to have several wonderful events for the members of the Friendship Force of Central Virginia. In particular, the Mystery Luncheon seemed to be a well-received opportunity for our members to get to know one another on a more closely related basis.

We now look forward to other opportunities that await us. Incoming and Outgoing Journeys as well as several meetings with our members and JAG Students. I look forward to seeing you all at these future events.

Al Colville
President
FFCV

MARCH 19TH – MYSTERY LUNCHEON

Thanks to all of you who participated. We started out with 23 of our members participating out of 32 memberships. There were 8 Host, Vickie and Mike Argie, Tom Baughan and Linda Gehle, Patricia Sclater and Steve Cooley, Al and Peggy Colville with 15 Guests. We had 3 members out of the county, 2 where celebrating family occasions, leaving only 4 members not participating at all. The Best Ever!

Unfortunately, Alan and Willow had to cancel due to a death in the family and 2 others dropping out. Leaving us with 11 guests, but even then, we had roughly 60 percent participation. Which is very Good!



At the home of Patty Sclater

From all the reports I have been hearing from Hosts and Guests it was very successful. Everyone found their way and all enjoyed the small setting, great food and the connections with other members.

Our next event will be April 19th at the Independence from 1:00 till 3:00. One of our “Master Gardners” Tom Baughn, will be our speaker. Please mark you calendars now and try to come out to hear what he has to say.

Thanks again, Peggy Colville, Membership Chairperson

FUNDRAISING:

We've been asked to volunteer at Fridays After Five on April 25th to check ID's. Eight (8) people are needed plus two (2) more would be allowed to relieve the other volunteers periodically.

So far, seven (7) FF members have offered to help -- and -- we need only 1 more. Please consider doing this to benefit our club and its yearly donation to a charity. This volunteer opportunity also provides publicity for our Friendship Force club -- people often ask about our group and some show interest in joining.

The other volunteer opportunity is on June 13th at Fridays After Five to serve at the soda cart. Only two (2) volunteers are needed. Please let me know if you can do this.

The time commitment for these events is from 5:15 to 8:30 p.m. at the Pavilion on the Downtown Mall. There's a lot of good, free music, energy, enthusiasm and fun to be had plus a feeling of community involvement at these events! Please come join us! THANK YOU for considering this contribution of your time and energy! Let me know if you can offer your help!

Linda Gehle
434-964-1671
703-944-6912

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.

Inbound 2026:

May - Tarapoto, Peru to Central Virginia and Western North Carolina, USA

October - Greater Atlanta, USA to Central Virginia, USA

Outbound:2026

April - Central Virginia, USA to Quebec Region and Montreal, Canada

August - Central Virginia, USA to San Francisco Bay Area, USA

JAG Report

Upcoming shortly are several JAG graduations. On May 15th for the Basic Course and May 29th for the 10 month JAG students. I hope you can make your student's graduation. It is always a very impressive celebration. I will get you more information the closer we get. It runs from 10 am to noon.

Our Nigerian family attends Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church weekly and Aisha's two daughters will be confirmed on Easter Sunday at our 9:00 a.m. service. Pot luck lunch to follow. Last week the three of them attended a labyrinth walk at our church Administrative Assistant's home in Goochland, and Aisha said when she returns to Nigeria she wants to install one as they do not have a labyrinth in Nigeria. She also will be working at the United Nations in New York City if all goes according to plan working on gender equality for women in Africa. These JAG students are truly amazing people!

Dinner honoring Paul, JAG student from Taiwan, at Tom Baughan's and Linda Gehle's home with Vickie, Willow and Alan and friend, Buddy

Willow Drinkwater
JAG Coordinator



2025 FFCV Calendar

	<u>BOD Meeting</u>	<u>Event/Speaker</u>	<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Events</u>
January	23th/Nahor	Sandy Radford, speaker Taxes	Sat. 18th	Membership Soup & Salad /Independence
February	14th/Nahor	Memory of Love	Sat. 15th	Cancelled due to snow
March	27th/Nahor		Sat. 22nd	Mystery Dinner/Host-Tom & Linda,Vickie & Mike, Patricia & Steve, Al and Peggy
April	24th/Nahor	Tom Baughn, Master Gardner	Sat. 19th	Hellebores-Flowers in the Winter/Independence
May	22th/Nahor	Madison Collins, IRC	Sat. 17th	International Rescue Committee/Independence
June	26th/Nahor	TBA	TBA	
July	24th/Nahor		July 30 -Aug. 6th	Out Going Exchange - Ohio
August	28th.Nahor		Sat. 16th	Annual Picnic - Alan and Willow Home -- Noon-3:00
September	25th/Nahor		Monday, 1st	JAG Picnic - Bing and Joyce Spitler Home--Noon-3:00
October	23rd/Nahor	TBA	TBA	
November	27th/Nahor		Sat. 15th	Friends-Giving/Independence – Noon - 3:00
December	18th/Nahor		Sat. 20th	Christmas Party- Independence-- Noon - 3:00