



The Friendship Force of Wisconsin

Changing the Way You See the World
April 2015



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our annual meeting on Sunday, April 26. If you haven't yet made your reservation, there's still time! Reservation forms were in our last newsletter. We have a special guest, Dave Kalan, past President of the Greater Milwaukee Club, joining us as speaker. Dave received Volunteer of the Year Award from FFI at the 2014 World Conference. He has served 4 terms on the FFI Board and returned again last year to fill out a term for a board member that resigned early. Most recently he's returned from their last board meeting and I expect will be able to fill us in on all the news from Atlanta.

If you have not already done so, please go on our website, www.ffwis.org, and look over our Bylaws. I anticipate the updated Bylaws will be accepted by you at our annual meeting. Therefore, we will need two members to come forward for the two new positions on the board. The first is exchange coordinator and this person will meet with the club ED's to mentor, support and assist them in creating exceptional exchanges. The second position is member-at-large with no specific responsibilities except to be a voice for the general membership. *Each of these positions are only for the next 4 months as the incoming president has the option of appointing new directors in September.* I expect and hope to hear from a couple of you willing to support our club in this way.

At the end of April, I will be going to Cedar Rapids for the 2015 Leadership Conference along with members Mary Babula and Stephanie Sorensen. This is a biennial meeting for the purpose of assisting in the development of leaders within our 13 club region. Cedar Rapids has offered home hosting for this three-day conference and we expect to return all jazzed up with ideas for a fun and successful year. This is not meant to let all the rest of you off the hook. Truly successful clubs have every member engaged in some capacity.

In friendship,

Helen Ann Rugowski, President

Explore • Understand • Serve®



2015 CLUB ACTIVITIES

Monthly Board Meeting – Third Friday – 11:30 AM
Everyone welcome - 615 E. Washington Ave., 2ndfl.

April 7-14—San Diego Outbound Exchange☺ (March)

April 26—Annual Meeting & Luncheon, Coliseum Bar☺ (March)

April 30, May 1-2—Midwest Leadership Conference, Cedar Rapids, IA☺ (November 2014)

June 18-25—Arizona Inbound Exchange*

June 30—Book Cub*

July 24-31—Guadeloupe Inbound Exchange☺ (February)

July 30—Annual Picnic✍

August 29-31—FFI World Conference, Vancouver*

* Information in this newsletter

☺ Information previously announced (Month in Newsletter)

✍ Information to be announced later



WORLD CONFERENCE 2015
Vancouver, Canada
FRIENDSHIP FORCE INTERNATIONAL

Registration Closed—Full

“Building Bridges”
August 28-31, 2015
Renaissance Vancouver
Harbourside Hotel

Hosted by the Friendship
Force of Vancouver, British
Columbia, Canada

All conference details can be found at
<https://www.etches.com/ehome/102747>



Arizona Inbound Exchange June 18-25, 2015

Our club is hosting 11 ambassadors from the Friendship Force Central Arizona Club-Phoenix from June 18-25, 2015 and then going on to spend a week with the Milwaukee club. There are six females, one male and two couples in the group. We need hosts, day hosts, and dinner hosts. Sign-up sheets will be available at the annual meeting on Sunday, April 26, or you can email or call me. My contact information is below.

An invitation was extended to the Tucson club. Interested ambassadors from Tucson have until April 16 to send their applications to the Phoenix ED.

We encourage all members to join in fun and fellowship for this week. The reservation form for all activities including meals is included in this newsletter.

My contact information is djhussin@yahoo.com or 608.845.3393.

Donna Hussin, Exchange Director



The Outreach Committee is focusing on three primary objectives:

1. Raising awareness of the Friendship Force in the Madison area through activities that contribute to the community while making us more visible. This includes participating in the Wisconsin Public Television fund raising; highway clean up; presentations about the Friendship Force; using Facebook; the annual International Festival at the Overture Center; and participating in activities like Ride the Drive.

2. Reaching out to potential new members and inviting current members to participate in activities that focus on cultural awareness and education, including Let's Eat Out (L.E.O.'s) at ethnic restaurants and book discussions.
3. Connecting to the international community through local activities in the Madison area. This will include hosting international guests who are visiting Madison through the International Institute and participating in cultural events sponsored by other organizations.

Look for information about activities organized through the Outreach Committee in this and future issues of the newsletter, as well as, on our Facebook page.

We are interested in suggestions for books to consider for future book discussions. Do you have one to suggest? We are also interested in your suggestions for restaurants to visit for a "Let's Eat Out". Please send your suggestions via email to Sandi Wysock, sandrawysock@msn.com or Mary Babula, mcbabula@hotmail.com).

Book Club



Next meeting of the book club will be 7:00PM, Tuesday June 30, at the home of Sandi and George Wysock, 102 Acadia Drive. We will be reading "Seventh Generation Earth Ethics" by Patty Loew. Please contact Sandi Wysock if you plan to attend via email, sandrawysock@msn.com or call 608. 833 5326.

Bicycle Enthusiasts....Join Us for Ride the Drive June 7



Mark your calendars now for Sunday, June 7 when Friendship Force members who like to ride their bicycles will meet to participate in "Ride the Drive" in downtown Madison.

Ride the Drive is a carefree, car-free event that turns Madison's signature streets into a public promenade that is open to cyclists, walkers, rollerbladers, and those out to share in the experience and fun atmosphere. These popular events bring 20,000 people out to ride, walk and skate on the route, enjoy live music, food, and participate in various activities, and fun stopping points along the way.

Look for more details in next month's newsletter and on our Facebook page.

Sandra Wysock and Mary Babula, Co-Chairs

Annual Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2014
Coliseum Bar, Madison, WI



President, Helen Ann Rugowski, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Each person had a program and a copy of the April newsletter was set on each table for reference to last year's minutes and treasurer's report.

Secretary's Report – Jan Weber was absent and Mary Lindquist filled in for her. Mary Lindquist moved that the secretary's report as published in the April Newsletter be approved. Motion seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report – Mary Babula moved that the treasurer's report be accepted as published in the April newsletter be approved. Motion seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

Annual Report - Helen Ann Rugowski introduced the committee chairpersons and thanked them for their service to the club.

Fannie Hicklin, Activities – This committee plans our gatherings. Fannie introduced her committee.

Mary Lindquist, Membership – She handles the current directory, sends out newsletters, renewal notices and welcome packets to prospective and new members. And I must add, since becoming president I know first-hand how much more she does.

Dave Dohler, Communications – He maintains our website where you can find the current newsletter, activities and photos.

Mary Babula and Sandi Wysock, Outreach – They recently assumed Outreach which also includes a Facebook page. Another activity is to participate in "Ride the Drive" on June 1.

Donna Hussin, Newsletter Editor – She does a great job keeping us well informed.

Janet Lonergan, Historian – She is in charge of organizing all of our records to document our club activities and exchanges.

George Wysock, Recruitment, -- Enlists members to be ED's and helps with the training.

Additional Appointed Committees

Mary Ann Fahl, Farmer's Market – Provided supplies and organized volunteers May through October.

Don Gostomski, Highway Clean-up – Oversees a spring and fall clean-up. Don requested that people call him, so he does not have to call you when the time is near. The fall clean-up will be in late September or early October, depending on the UW WI football schedule.

Rita Harring, WHA Auction – Rita is taking reservations for the WHA Auction on June 1.

Helen Ann thanked the **2014 officers** who have made her job so much easier. Mary Babula, Vice President and new to the board, Jan Weber, secretary, who was unable to be here and Margo McKnight, club treasurer since 2011.

Board members retiring were Ariel Ford, co-director of the assigned 2013 Indonesia Outbound Exchange, despite her hard work putting the exchange together and Jerry Fuller, director of the 2011 Turkey Exchange.

Awards Presented To 2013 Exchange Directors:

Mary Babula and Mary Mastaglio co-directed our 8-day July 2013 inbound exchange of 16 ambassadors from Urla, Turkey.

Gail Holmes was director for our 15-day July 2013 outbound domestic exchange of 13 ambassadors with Mid-Willamette Valley in Oregon and Lower Columbia in Washington State.

Sandi Wysock was ED for the Vyborg, Russia 5-day inbound exchange in September 2013 and for our 2012 Moscow/Vyborg outbound exchange. This was Vyborg's first outbound exchange.

Election of Officers – Mary Lindquist, Nominating Committee Chairperson, presented the slate of officers for the term September 19, 2014 - September 18, 2015. They were: Helen Ann Rugowski, President; Mary Babula, Vice President; Lois Schulz, Secretary; and Judy Taylor, Treasurer. Gail Holmes moved to close the nominations from the floor. The motion was seconded and the motion carried by voice vote. Mary Lou Martino moved to accept the presented slate of officers. The motion was seconded and the motion carried by voice vote.

2015 Exchange Announcements

Helen Ann reported we were not given a 2015 outbound international exchange. We were given an inbound international with Hsinchu, Taiwan but as of yet have not accepted and April 15 was the deadline. There are 90 Clubs in the USA, 32 did not get an outbound international exchange in 2015. We could travel to Australia, New Zealand, Santo Angelo, Brazil and a specialized program in Nanjing, China. It is possible others may become available as the matching process continues.

2014 Exchange Updates

Tucson/Phoenix, Arizona Outbound, Nancy Mueller was the ED for the exchange for 22 Ambassadors from February 15-28.

Berlin Germany/tour extension to Poland Outbound -- May 15 to June 1, Lise Skofronick & Stephanie Sorensen co-directors said they are ready to begin their exchange.

Utah Inbound -- July 16 to 22, Donna Hussin, director, is looking for hosts for the exchange.

Arts and Architecture Global Inbound – August 23-28, an exchange with Northern Illinois and Milwaukee. Donna Calvert, director, has the exchange planned and also needs hosts.

United Kingdom/Costa Rica Inbound -- September 18-25, Gail Holmes, director, will begin working on the exchange later in the spring.

CLUB NEWS

What has changed....

- The board decided to discontinue our table at the Farmers Market. Thank you to Mary Ann Fahl for chairing this effort in the past years.
- For the first time in my memory we were unable to fill an OB International Exchange. This was supposed to be in 2013 to Indonesia and despite great efforts by Ariel Ford it was not to be.
- In March, the board voted to discontinue mailing the newsletter effective January 2015. The cost is about \$14.55 per member. Newsletters will be available on line with a notification by email.
- Dues to Atlanta are increasing in 2015 by \$5 for individuals and \$8 for families. Dues for 2015 remain the same, except an extra \$10 will be assessed those who request a hard copy newsletter be mailed to them.

What is new...

- Craft Group – Started in 2013 and is devoted to crafts of all kinds. They have met 7 times in member homes and 16 members have participated. Primarily a social event and to experiment with creating crafts to give or sell.
- New activities with inbound exchanges—Offered in 2013 were tours of EPIC, Verona Library, Native American Foods Dinner at the State Historical Society, University of Wisconsin campus tour, Children's Museum tour, horse demonstration by member Kay Kinney, American Breeders in DeForest tour and one of Helen Ann's favorites, a visit to a Robotic Dairy Farm.
- Outreach is expanding with the new coordinators, Mary B and Sandi W. They need photos to create a DVD to use in presentations to spread the word of FFWI.
- We now have a club pin and luggage tags for sale. These are due to Gail Holmes persistence.
- We had a table at the International Festival held annually in February at Overture Center. We will continue this outreach as it generated a good deal of interest. This was chaired by Nancy Brown and 10 other volunteers.
- We formed a relationship with International Institute of Wisconsin. Jane Kessenich, Lise Skofronick, Stephanie Sorenson, Patrick Fleming Sandi Wysock and Helen Ann Rugowski have dinner hosted.
- Sandy Drew directed an Open World Legislators exchange from the Ukraine in February, 2013 and we have indicated to Atlanta that we are interested in further Open Worlds in Madison.

Regional Conference

Helen Ann Rugowski will attend. She had a drawing for two Conference attendees to get reimbursed ½ the registration fee when they turn in a report. Sandy Wysock and Stephanie Sorenson won the contest. This will allow us to bring back more new ideas for the club.

Booklets or Photo Albums from Exchanges

Anyone that has a booklet or photo album that identifies people from an exchange is reminded they can donate it to the club historian for documenting the exchange participation.

Elloise Beatty was remembered. She was a long time member of our club and will be dearly missed.

George Wysock moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded and the motion carried by voice vote.

**2015 Annual Meeting Guest Speaker
Dave Kalan, FF Greater Milwaukee**

FFI Board member, who along with his committee is in charge of executing the new 2015-18 Strategic Plan. He will update the club on what is happening at FFI, as well as explaining and soliciting your comments on the new Strategic Plan.

Dinner Opportunities with Visitors to the U.S.



The U.S. Department of State often brings groups of future leaders from other countries to the U.S. for visits to educate and expose them to experts in their fields here. Sometimes they come to Wisconsin for five to seven days. When they do, their visits are coordinated here by the International Institute of Wisconsin, headquartered in Milwaukee. Often their time in Wisconsin involves a home hosted dinner. This social event provides the visitors an opportunity to see typical homes and to get to know "regular" people. We are very fortunate to be able to participate in these dinners and have the opportunity to learn about these young people and their countries. They are very talented and bright.

Several of us have participated in these dinners in the past. We have found it easier, if some of the effort can be shared. It is difficult to clean the house, cook an entire meal, pick up and drop off the guests, and clean up the dishes alone. We would like to try to coordinate these more effectively, to share the work a bit more, as well as share, the fascinating conversations we always have.

I will be coordinating these opportunities when they arise. There is no particular schedule and sometimes we do not have a great deal of notice. *I would like to compile a list of those interested in: hosting a dinner in their home, attending a dinner, bringing a dish to share, or willing to pick up the dinner participants and drive them to and from the dinner.* You can select as many as you are comfortable with, can do different things for different dinners, and you do not have to do every one of them, only when it is convenient for your schedule. Having this list will make it easier for as many as possible to participate in the way which fits each person best.

Please email me stevils@charter.net to let me know which of these four things you are willing to do.

Stephanie Sorensen, Chairperson



Calling for Children's Art Work: "My Dream of Peace"

Friendship Force International is collecting children's art to display for the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates. Help spread the word to children you know, or to teachers who can encourage their students to create and submit art. For more information go to <http://www.friendshipforce.org/>

Arizona Exchange Activities Reservation Form

June 18-25, 2015

For all FFWI- Madison members, family and friends. PLEASE indicate if also attending FREE events.

Form and Payment due by May 15, 2015

Date	Activity	Price /Person	# Persons	Total Cost
Thursday, June 18	Welcome Party—Catered Picnic <i>Indicate if need: _____ Vegetarian Burger _____ Gluten Free Bread</i>	\$11.00		
Friday, June 19	Hinchley's Dairy Farm Tour Tully's II Fish Fry—All you can eat choices: Beer Battered Cod _____ Baked Cod _____ Beer Battered Lake Perch _____ Fish Boil _____ <i>Inc: unlimited salad bar, choice of potato and gratuity</i>	\$8.00 \$15.60		
Saturday, June 20	Farmers Market State Capitol Tour MSCR Pontoon Sunset Cruise on Madison Lakes— (Limit 30) First priority is ambassadors & hosts. Cranberry Creek Box Lunch—Choices: Roast Beef & Cheddar _____ (Onion Focaccia, bistro mayo, lettuce, tomato) Cranberry Creek Signature Salad _____ (Chicken, mixed greens, dried cranberries, mandarin oranges, red onion, pecans, cranberry balsamic dressing) Vegetarian Hummus Wrap _____ (Roasted red pepper hummus herb flour tortilla with cucumbers, tomatoes, mixed greens, onion) <i>Inc. pasta salad and cookie; bring own beverages</i>	Free Free \$9.00 \$8.00		
Sunday, June 21	Flex Day—no scheduled club activities			
Monday, June 22	International Crane Foundation Wintergreen Grille Lunch—Choose: Flaky Croissant Sandwich _____ (½ ham and ½ turkey with cup of soup) Chef Salad _____ (Lettuce, chopped turkey/ham, fresh veg, topped with cheese/egg, served with warm roll <i>Inc. beverage and gratuity</i> Upper Dells 2-hour Boat Tour	\$7.00 \$9.00 \$21.00		
Tuesday, June 23	USDA Forest Products Tour Walker House Lunch—Choose entree pasty: Beef _____ Veggie _____ Chicken _____ Pork _____ Gluten Free crust(Beef) _____ <i>Inc. appetizer, salad, saffron bun, dessert, beverage and gratuity</i> Explore Mineral Point OYO	Free \$15.50		
Wednesday, June 24	Circus World Wollersheim Winery Tour Fitz's on Lake Farewell Dinner <i>Inc. salad bar, baked chicken, mashed potatoes/gravy, mixed veg and gratuity</i>	\$16.95 \$6.00 \$13.00		
Thursday, June 25	Old World Wisconsin <i>Inc admission, transportation, gratuities</i>	\$48.00		
	TOTAL	\$188.05		

Name of Participants: _____ Phone: _____
 _____ Phone: _____

Make check payable to The Friendship Force of Wisconsin

Send form with payment to Gail Holmes, 3457 Hargrove St, Madison, WI 53714

Questions: Contact Donna Hussin, Exchange Director, 608-845-3393 or djhussin@yahoo.com

WISCONSIN FRIENDSHIP
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www.ffwis.org

April 2015
June 2015 Arizona Inbound Exchange Reservation Form
2014 Annual Meeting Minutes

President: Helen Rugowski 238-9731
Vice Pres: Mary Babula 241-0212
Secretary: Lois Schulz 243-9761
Treasurer: Judith Taylor 238-9474
Newsletter: Donna Hussin 845-3393

WHA - TV
WISCONSIN PUBLIC TELEVISION

AUCTION

Sunday, May 31, 2015
3:15-7:30 PM

What a great opportunity to help Wisconsin Public Television, get some publicity for the Friendship Force, and have fun with others in our group!

15 FFWI volunteers are needed on May 31 from 3:15-7:30PM. This includes a free dinner and an invite to the Wisconsin Public Television Volunteer Picnic in June where we have another opportunity to publicize the Friendship Force.

There are several ways to help at the Auction: phone bank, serving food, confirmation of winners, helping with the sets, etc. Put Sunday, May 31, on your calendar now so you will be available to help get the word out about the Friendship Force at the Auction. It is helpful to wear a Friendship Force vest or a T-shirt as they always generate a lot of questions. You can sign-up at the April 26 annual meeting or call me at 608-241-2248, or email me retaharring@yahoo.com.

Reta Harring, Chairperson

Note: Free Parking is always available on Sundays in the Grainger Hall Lot across the street from Vilas Hall.