



# The Friendship Force of Wisconsin

Changing the Way You See the World  
February 2015



## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Your Board worked overtime this past month! So much so that we will not be having our monthly February meeting. Look elsewhere in this newsletter to learn more about what we have been doing.

Our own exchanges for 2015 are getting on firmer foundations. San Diego is filled up. The Guadeloupe exchange will be a new venture for us with language learning. We welcome your support as hosts and day/dinner hosts. Arizona will be with us in June. This will be a great opportunity to return the exceptional hospitality we received in Arizona in February 2014. Your club needs your participation! If you cannot travel, there are still many ways to engage in your club exchanges. When one is not actively supporting our club they end up missing the joy and pleasure of new friendships, new experiences, exciting discoveries and places to visit.

We also need people to step up to fill leadership positions. The Midwest Leadership Conference in Cedar Rapids, IA being held this spring offers members who are interested in taking more active roles in the club the opportunity for leadership training. I am in my final year as your president. We are extremely fortunate that we have a strong and active board, but we all would love to see some fresh faces!

In friendship,

**Helen Ann Rugowski, President**

## Nominations Now Being Accepted

If you are interested in serving as an officer, we would like to hear from you. This is the time of the year when our nominating committee is recruiting persons to fill the officer positions of our club. Please contact a member of the Nominating Committee if you are interested. We would like to hear from you.

Mary Lindquist, Chair – 608.233.9351  
George Wysock, Margo McKnight, Helen Ann Rugowski

*Explore • Understand • Serve®*



## 2015 CLUB ACTIVITIES

Monthly Board Meeting – Third Friday – 11:30 AM  
Everyone welcome - 615 E. Washington Ave., 2ndfl.  
*No meeting in February.*

**February 8**—Valentine Luncheon, Fitzgerald's ☺ (January)

**February 21**—International Festival, Overture Center ☺ (January)

**March 26**—Book Club \*

**April 7-14**—San Diego Outbound Exchange\*

**April 26**—Annual Meeting & Luncheon, Coliseum Bar ✍

**April 30, May 1-2**—Midwest Leadership Conference, Cedar Rapids, IA ✍

**June 18-25**—Arizona Inbound Exchange\*

**July 24-31**—Guadeloupe Inbound Exchange \*

**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



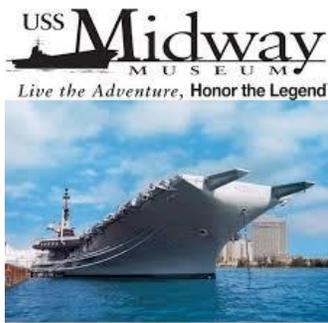
WORLD CONFERENCE 2015  
Vancouver, Canada  
FRIENDSHIP FORCE INTERNATIONAL

## It's Registration Time!

“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>



**San Diego Outbound Exchange  
April 7-14, 2015**

A trip to the USS Midway Museum is just one of the many activities planned for our week in San Diego. With over 60 exhibits and 27 restored aircraft set aboard an authentic US Navy Carrier, it promises to be a fascinating visit to the museum.

A pre-exchange get-together will be held on March 4 from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM at Sandi & George Wysock’s home (102 Acadia Drive, Madison).

If you have any questions regarding this exchange, please contact me at [ncbrown48@gmail.com](mailto:ncbrown48@gmail.com) or 608.280.9040.

**Nancy Brown, Exchange Director**



**Arizona Inbound Exchange  
June 18-25, 2015**

Preliminary planning of activities for the Arizona June exchange has begun. Specific requests included a visit to a “real” farm, Circus World, Wollersheim Winery, Madison Lakes Cruise, and the ever popular Upper Dells Boat ride. There will also be the traditional Friday Night Fish Fry, Farmer’s Market, and State Capitol Tour and others to be determined.

At this time the Arizona club has 10 ambassadors. This exchange will be extended to the Southwest Regional clubs and the Midwest Regional ones as well. We are hoping for a full complement of 20 ambassadors. This means lots of volunteers are needed from our club. If you are interested in being a host, day host or dinner host, please contact me at [djhussin@yahoo.com](mailto:djhussin@yahoo.com) or 608.845.3395.

**Donna Hussin, Exchange Director**



**Guadeloupe Inbound Exchange  
July 24-31, 2015**

Our club will be welcoming 20 ambassadors from the island of Guadeloupe in the Caribbean this July. We have sent them a list of possible visits and activities and will be excited to hear what they choose so we can begin planning our week with them.

This is a new type of exchange, called a language learning experience. We will be doing some language activities **but they will require speaking English only!** For example, day hosts might be asked to stroll with one or two Guadeloupians during a visit to Circus World and talk about their childhood experiences, using some conversation topics we will provide. We might have fewer guided tours and more one-on-one chats in English during our visits in the region. In addition to night hosts we will be seeking day hosts for these conversations.

Wouldn’t you like to learn more about this lovely volcanic island in the Caribbean? Just click on this web site and be transported to a warm inviting place: [www.guadeloupe-islands.com](http://www.guadeloupe-islands.com).

If you are interested in being a host, day host, or dinner host, please contact either of the exchange directors.

**Maureen Kind and Lise Skofronick, Exchange Directors**



**Book Club**

Join us on Thursday, March 26, 7:00PM at the home of Lois Schulz, Oakwood East, Madison to discuss Enrique’s Journey by

Sonia Nazario. The Publishers weekly review states that “Nazario’s account of a 17-year-old boy’s harrowing attempt to find his mother in America won two Pulitzer Prizes when it first came out in the Los Angeles Times as a feature

story. The story also makes a gripping book, one that conveys the experience of illegal immigration from Central America. There are many copies in the public libraries.

Please let Lois know either by calling 608.243.9761 or emailing [loisschulz1942@gmail.com](mailto:loisschulz1942@gmail.com).

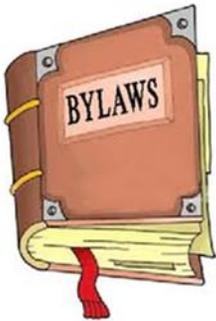
**Facebook:** We have 44 “likes” that includes Midwest Regional Friendship Force members and the countries of Germany, Russia, Ukraine, and Turkey. Please help us expand our Facebook Community by searching for Friendship Force of Wisconsin <https://www.facebook.com/friendshipforcewis> and “liking” our page.



**International Institute:** We are hosting guests plus interpreters at four locations in Madison in February. Our guests are from several Middle Eastern countries. If you are interested in being a host for future dinner parties, please let me know via email. [sandrawysock@msn.com](mailto:sandrawysock@msn.com).



**Sandra Wysock and Mary Babula**



### Revisions to the Bylaws

The Bylaws committee presented to the Board of Directors the revised Bylaws that become effective April 26, 2015. A copy is being sent to you via email. We are asking you to peruse this document and present any concerns you may have to a member of the Bylaws committee. We will address your input and response appropriately. If we are able to address all concerns before the Annual Meeting, the voting process should go smoothly.

At the Annual Meeting on April 26, 2015 membership will be asked to Approve, Disapprove or Abstain.

The Committee thanks you for your interest in seeing that your organization is running effectively.

**Committee members: Helen Ann Rugowski, Kay Babcock, Sandra Drew, Fannie Hicklin, Margo McKnight**

### What is Open World?

Our club has been a host community for Open World in the past. It is a congressionally sponsored Open World program that brings up and coming leaders from participating countries to the United States in order to give them firsthand exposure to the American system of participatory democracy and free enterprise. The program allows American leaders and their counterparts from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine to engage constructively with one another in what complements the U.S. Congress’s public diplomacy efforts.



Begun as a pilot program in 1999 and established as a permanent entity in late 2000, the Center is the first and only international exchange agency in the US Legislative Branch. Through Open World, more than 23,000 current and future leaders have participated in these programs. Delegations consist of political and civic leaders selected through a competitive vetting process. The average age of delegates is 38; roughly half are women.

While in the United States, delegates take part in tailored, in-depth exchanges in themes of interest to Congress including health, government and court transparency, nuclear nonproliferation, women's issues, education policy and environmental protection. Most Open World hosting programs examine the role that legislative bodies play in these issues and in democracies, and provide opportunities for the delegates to share their expertise with their U.S. counterparts and host communities.

The host community develops the program, usually 32 hours over a seven day period. Homestays with American host families is an integral element of the program. Friendship Force excels in this area! A stipend covers the cost of the program. We last hosted an Open World of eight Ukrainians in 2012 themed *Accountable Governance*. Key to hosting a successful Open World is developing community connections in specific program areas. Sandy Drew was the Exchange Director. The agenda included meetings with elected officials at all levels of government, university officials, the press and staff with key non-profit agencies. In response to their special interest requests, we also arranged for them to visit business incubators, museums, and Dane County's first manure digester as an example of biofuel and alternative energy.

We hope to have the opportunity to host another Open World this year or next. These opportunities are on short notice and we need to respond quickly. We are asking for your support when this comes up.

## FFI Board of Directors Policy Letter



friendship force  
INTERNATIONAL

Dear Presidents, Club executives and Club members,

As you will recall, outgoing Chairman, Jack Mullen, wrote to all club presidents on October 6, inviting your views on three measures your Board was proposing to set FFI on a sustainable course. You responded with useful feedback and suggestions, in all 176 responses from 135 clubs, by and large well distributed geographically thus adding validity to the feedback. Here is how you responded and the steps and timetable leading to implementation.

**1. Fill-the-seat policy** - In a nutshell, you gave a robust 84% endorsement to the introduction of a fill-the-seat policy whereby under-subscribed exchanges must be listed on the FFI catalogue 100 days before departure. This measure is so critical to the achievement of our mission and the growth and sustainability of FFI that we will pilot it as of 2015 with a starting date of April 1st that will give the Atlanta office a chance to provide detailed guidelines. It will not be perfect the first year, we will have to learn along the way, but the sooner we make a start, the sooner we will reap the results.

A few points to respond to questions and suggestions:

**1.1 Defining a full exchange for the purpose of this fill-the-seat policy** - A full exchange will be defined by the hosting capacity of a club, subject to a maximum of 25. The requirement to post under-subscribed exchanges on the FFI Catalogue 100 days before departure will apply to international exchanges only.

**1.2 Hosting capacity** -. The most recent listing will be provided in late January from the process of the 2016 planning exercise. For multi-club exchanges, the hosting capacity of the smaller club will determine the overall hosting capacity. Expanding hosting capacity will take far more effort and creativity and will be addressed under the 2015-2018 Strategic Plan.

**1.3 Giving priority to regional or same-country club members:** Many of you have cited the successful website and regional specific efforts such as 'E-Flyer' models and national council groups put in place by FF leaders in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Brazil as a way of publicizing under-subscribed exchanges and giving priority to same-country clubs or regional members in

filling such exchanges. This approach is encouraged and we have asked the responsible leaders to put together a short document outlining the steps to take to set up a focused website or 'E-Flyer' and run it effectively with the anticipated availability of such a document by the end of February.

**1.4 Lead time for listing under-subscribed exchanges in the FFI catalogue.** The great majority of respondents agree that 100 days before departure date is about right. This step will require vigilance on two counts: a) that clubs set definite exchange dates earlier in the process; and b) that host clubs confirm programs ahead of the 100 days. FFI program managers will work with you to meet those targets by focusing on communication.

**1.5 Minimizing Exchange cancellations:** In addition to the '100 days' listing policy, in order to minimize exchange cancellations, Exchange Directors (be they Host or Ambassador ED's) will be required to contact and alert FFI (ideally your Program Manager or the Planning Manager) BEFORE cancelling an exchange on their own. The sooner FFI is informed of a possible exchange cancellation, the better the chances to save that exchange and avoid the disappointments engendered by such cancellations.

**2. E-membership** - The proposed introduction of an e-membership also got a strong 73% endorsement with many respondents commenting that 'we have to move with the times'. This being said, vetting the applicants and clarifying the responsibilities and privileges of e-members are so critical to our mission that implementation of this initiative will be postponed to January 2016. A full e-membership policy will be announced at the Vancouver International Conference in late August, 2015.

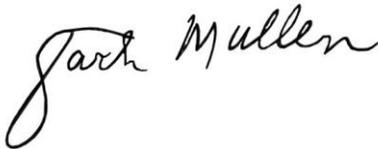
**3. Adopting an equitable user-fee policy for domestic/in-country and EU inter-club exchanges** – 77% of respondents agree that applying user fees to all exchange ambassadors is the most equitable way of supporting overhead costs. Likewise, you have told us that \$10 a night strikes a reasonable balance between sustaining the organization we love and favouring in-country cooperation. Accordingly, the Board will endorse this revised fee as part of a comprehensive fee review at the March Board meeting for implementation in January 2016. At that meeting, the Board will also review what constitutes a domestic exchange.

Before we conclude, let us say that a few individuals questioned whether setting a sustainable course is not at risk of overshadowing our mission to build friendship and peace around the world. The Board decided to take

action and seek your input precisely because club-hosted exchanges are losing ground to other FF programs while 80% of you indicated in the June Survey that home hosting is paramount to your interest in FFI and paramount to the achievement of our mission. This made clear to us that numerous opportunities to participate in exchanges were being missed for lack of better planning, better communication and better inclusiveness.

On behalf of your CEO and the Board, we thank you for the efforts you have made to engage your club members in this search for sustainable solutions to the challenges we face. We stand a far better chance of sustaining our mission of friendship and peace by opening up to diversity in exchange participation and thus ensuring economic sustainability.

Yours sincerely,



Jack Mullen, Outgoing Chair, FFI Board of Directors



Cécile Latour, Chair, FFI Board of Directors, as of January 1, 2015



### Exchange Opportunities

These clubs invite you to participate in their exchanges:

#### ***Korolev City, Moscow Oblast, Russia and Helsinki, Finland Outbound Exchange***

May 27 - June 11, 2015

Estimated cost: \$2,000 - 2,200 club/host fees, train and 8 hotel nights

Airfare on your own

Hosted by Chicago Friendship Force

Contact information: Larissa Sorkin, ED, [sork8@aol.com](mailto:sork8@aol.com) or 312.861.0250

#### ***Global Bike Inbound Exchange in Ames, Iowa, USA***

July 20-26, 2015

Cost is \$410 USD, covers FFI fees, host fees, welcome and farewell dinners, one lunch, contingency fee; excludes transportation costs, bike rental fees and optional RAGBRAI (Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa)

Hosted by FF of Central Iowa/Ames

Contact information: Joan Herwig, ED

[jherwig@iastate.edu](mailto:jherwig@iastate.edu)

#### ***Tottori and Hiroshima, Japan Outbound Exchange***

October 2015

Estimated cost \$1,035 which includes all fees and transportation in Japan for the 2 weeks.

Airfare on your own.

Hosted by the Las Vegas and Birmingham, AL Clubs

Contact information: Judy Davis, [hapibiblio@xoc.net](mailto:hapibiblio@xoc.net) or 702.647.2199

### New Members

Mary Lou Bohlen

5819 Woodcreek Lane

Middleton, WI 53562

608.827.0854

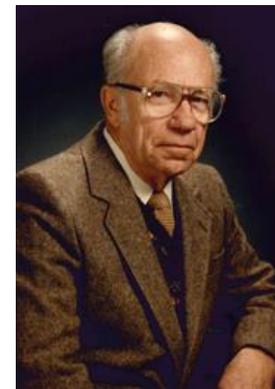
[mbohen790@gmail.com](mailto:mbohen790@gmail.com)

Terri Maiola

10 Maple Wood lane #4

Madison, WI 53704-3954

608.249.6753



### In Loving Memory

Hubert G "Hugh" Ganser

Death: January 15, 2015

He was a charter member of FF Wisconsin and served as its president for two years and director of exchanges to Columbia and Czechoslovakia. He and his wife Georgiann participated in many exchanges, both inbound and outbound.

Full Obituary: WSJ January 18, 2015 or [www.CressFuneralService.com](http://www.CressFuneralService.com)

## ONE TIME OPPORTUNITY TO ORDER NEW CLUB SHIRT



Ladies/Men's Standard Version

24 shirts needed to place order.

Color: Royal Blue

Embroidery: Friendship Force six-color logo and name Friendship  
Force of Wisconsin-Madison

Cost: \$16 each

**DEADLINE TO ORDER AND PAY IS FEBRUARY 21, 2015**

Soft-touch pique sport shirt

Wrinkle-resistant 5.5 oz. pique shirt's finely spun fibers create superior  
softness

Easy care lightweight 65/35 poly/cotton blend

Rib knit collar, banded sleeves, side vents, straight bottom, and taped  
neck and shoulders

Matching buttons (ladies' has two, men's has three)

Ladies available in standard or Y-placket neck opening



Ladies Y-Placket Version

---

### ORDER FORM

Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone and email \_\_\_\_\_

Men's sizes Small to 6XL My size \_\_\_\_\_

Ladies' sizes Small to 4XL My size \_\_\_\_\_

Ladies choose one: Standard neck placket \_\_\_\_\_ Y neck placket \_\_\_\_\_

**Check payable to: Friendship Force of Wisconsin. \$16 for each shirt.**

**Mail check and order form by February 21 to: Gail Holmes**

**608 249-1846 3457 Hargrove Street, Madison, WI 53714**

[glholmes@wisc.edu](mailto:glholmes@wisc.edu)

**WISCONSIN FRIENDSHIP**  
**Official Publication of**  
**The Friendship Force of Wisconsin**  
**5809 Julia St**  
**Madison, WI 53705**  
**[www.ffwis.org](http://www.ffwis.org)**

**February 2015**  
**San Diego Outbound Exchange April 2015**  
**Arizona Inbound Exchange June 2015**  
**Guadeloupe Inbound Exchange July 2015**  
**Revision of ByLaws Notice**  
**FFI Policy Letter**  
**Club Shirt Order**

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