



The Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison

Experience Different Views. Discover Common Ground.

June 2017



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I write this, we have just completed an incoming journey with the San Diego club. We thoroughly enjoyed our ambassador and all of the activities that were planned for the week.

I recently read an article from the Atlanta Journal Constitution that I found via a link from the Friendship Force International web site on visiting the United States. The article was titled “When Foreigners Ask If It’s Safe to Visit the United States”. I think many of us have been asked whether we feel comfortable and safe traveling outside the US. I know I have been asked. Many of our fellow Americans are genuinely frightened by all the headline news of terrorists, riots and political unrest that they see each day. Social media often amplifies the noise. Their answer is to stay in the United States where they are “safe”. But we rarely consider that these days visitors to the United States are equally as concerned. Multiple sources report significant drops in searches for international flights to the US from 6% to as high as 30% costing the US economy billions. Jeremi Snook, our CEO was quoted as indicating that he is finding it necessary to answer questions about the safety of travel within the US. I am confident that members of the Friendship Force Wisconsin-Madison would set aside differences of religion, politics and race and embrace our guests but I can see why the questions arise. You don’t have to look far these days to find truly vicious and hateful messages around race, religion and politics and with today’s interconnected world these messages and the occasional violence associated with them are seen around the world. While we consider our country to be totally safe, it is clear that others, particularly from some parts of the world, may be worried about their safety here. We won’t be able to completely change the dialogue but what we can do is make sure that we sincerely offer a hand of friendship each and every time we have the opportunity. I want to thank you for sharing the true spirit of Friendship with our ambassadors from San Diego. Please look through the newsletters for other opportunities. It truly makes a difference when you all participate in welcome and farewell events even when you are not hosting.

Sandi Wysock
President

Explore • Understand • Serve®



2017 CLUB ACTIVITIES

Monthly Board Meeting - Bridge Point Waunona Community Center, 1917 Lake Point Dr, third Wednesday of the month, 1:15 p.m.

June 4, Sunday—WHA Auction ☺ (May)

June 23-30, Friday-Friday—Noumea, New Caledonia Inbound Journey *

June 28, Wednesday, Annual Picnic *

July 17, Monday—L.E.O. ✍

August 25-28, Saturday-Tuesday—FFI 40th Anniversary World Conference, Manchester, UK ☺ (February)

September 8-16, Friday-Saturday---Open World ☺ (January)

September 10, Sunday—Ice Cream Social ✍

September 12-17, Tuesday-Sunday—Medicine Hat, Canada Outbound Journey *

October 1, Sunday—L.E.O. ✍

2018

April 20-22, Friday-Sunday—Great Lakes, Midwest, and Southwest Regions FF Combined Super Conference, Cincinnati, OH ✍

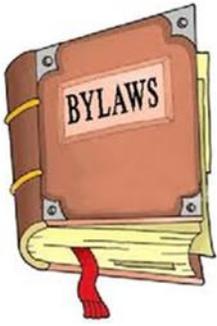
* Information in this newsletter

☺ Information previously announced (Month in ☺Newsletter)

✍ Information to be announced later

Favorite FFI Website Links to Bookmark

- **Member Resources**
<https://friendshipforce.org/resources>
- **Regional website for U.S. Clubs**
https://sites.google.com/thefriendshipforce.org/usclubs/home_1
- **Travel Insurance**
<https://friendshipforce.org/do-you-need-travel-insurance>



Revision to the Bylaws

At our Annual Friendship Force Club Meeting a question arose regarding Sandi Wysock's eligibility to serve one more term as president. Why the question? Our current Bylaws are silent when a term limited Board member (i.e. Pres., VP, and Sec.) is voted into an office to serve a partial term. When the Club's Bylaws are silent, Robert's Rules of Order prevail. Robert's Rules define anything longer than half a term as a full term in office. Sandi was voted into the office of president based on the Bylaws in December 2015 by the Board following the unexpected death of Mary Babula, 2015-16 president. Sandi has served one full and one partial term (but longer than 6 months) as president. According to our current bylaws and Robert's Rules, she has served two consecutive terms. The acting vice-president is not willing to accept the office of president. This issue was brought to the attention of the nominating committee eight days prior to the annual meeting.

Discussion of this issue resulted in a motion that was seconded and passed by those at the annual meeting instructing the Board to generate language that would specify any partial term does NOT constitute a full term in office for the two term limit for the specified officers. The Board passed the following change at the May Board meeting. The current text is in black and the change is reflected in red.

Bylaw changes must be voted on by membership at a meeting open to all members. This must be done as soon as possible to be able to move forward in planning for the 2017-18 club year. The annual picnic on June 28 provides the opportunity to vote on the Bylaws revision. Please attend the picnic to ensure that we have a quorum present.

The ballot will ask you to vote on the Bylaws revision and president for 2017-2018. Sandi's ability to serve as president is dependent upon passing the Bylaw change. If the revision does not pass, or Sandi does not receive the vote, we will be beginning the year in September without an official president. Sandi's biography is in the March newsletter which can be found on our website at: <http://www.ffwis.org>

The revision is meant to clarify what constitutes a term when a vacancy occurs. Officers who serve a full term are limited to two consecutive terms with the exception of the Treasurer. Rotation of individuals in club leadership roles is important for the club's growth and vibrancy. Looking ahead to the 2018-19 year, three officer positions will need to be filled.

As required, here is the text of the relevant Bylaw section:

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE:

Article IV Board of Directors, Section 2

Vacancies of elected officers caused by resignation or otherwise may be filled by election by majority vote of the remaining members of the Board. **Any vacancies filled for a partial term will not be considered as a full term for future elections.** In the

best interest of the Club, a Board member may be removed from his or her post by a vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the voting members of the Board. The position of a Board member shall be terminated when that member is absent for three (3) consecutive unexcused absences.

Bylaws Revision Committee

Sandy Drew and Stephanie Sorensen

Activities

Let's
Go Out
For...

African-American

"Soul Food"

July 17 L.E.O Dinner

Venture out for a new experience!

The dinner will be catered because African American restaurants in Madison tend to be too small to accommodate our group. It will be at:

The Pub, Brookline Apartments

7707 N Brookline Dr, Madison, WI 53719

Information on the menu, final cost, time and driving directions will be in the July newsletter. The current estimated cost is between \$15-20 per person. RSVP to Jane Kessenich, 608-836-0324 or jkessenich@charter.net

Chris Manke



On the morning of Friday, April 28, the sun shone brightly in Madison. Five FF volunteers spent two hours each on the Adopt-a-Hwy project on Hwy 12. The weather was especially beautiful after a solid week of rain. Fifteen very large bags of trash were gathered from our mile of roadway. Lady Bird Johnson would be proud of our Beautify America efforts. A man in a red truck stopped, got out to thank us and asked about our organization.

Sarah Rankin

2017 Club Journeys

New Caledonia Inbound Journey June 23-29, 2017



The meeting of hosts in preparation for the inbound New Caledonia journey was held on May 11 2017. We still need one more dinner host. If interested, please contact Lucy Lasseter, lucy.lasseter@gmail.com. Day hosts also are still needed. Please contact Dan Eggerding, de_news@hotmail.com.

We are excited to announce that we have a full incoming New Caledonia Journey with 20 Ambassadors: 16 from New Caledonia, a couple from Des Moines, Iowa (who's been a big part of Friendship Force for 40 years), and two women, one from Connecticut and the other from Tucson, Arizona.

The reservation form for all club members to participate in the week's activities was included in the May newsletter. **Friday, June 9, 2017** is the deadline to return the form to Janet Lonergan, journey treasurer. There is a separate reservation form for the **Annual Summer Picnic & Farewell to New Caledonia** that should be sent no later than **Monday, June 19 2017** to Lois Schultz.

Highlights of the week are a trip to a working dairy farm (always different and interesting), a day trip to Dubuque, IA that includes a visit to the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium, lunch and a cruise on the river on the "American Lady" Yacht and a farewell party with our ambassadors presenting a program of New Caledonia's unique French-Polynesian culture with singing and dancing.

Join us for a fun-filled week fit for the entire family!

Host Coordinator

Dan Eggerding

408-583-7021

de_news@hotmail.com

Asst Host Coordinator

Lise Skofronick

608-274-7732

rparadis@yahoo.com

Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada Outbound Journey September 12-17, 2017 NOTE DATE CHANGE



Exciting news! Medicine Hat has invited our club to join a journey they are hosting September 12-17, 2017 that has 12 ambassadors coming from Fukuoka, Japan located on the Kyushu Island. They can accommodate up to 25 people. In addition to the six that have submitted applications, seven more people can now join this exchange. It would make for a great fall foliage driving trip in addition to everything Medicine Hat has to offer.

Journeys involving another club give you two instead of one experience. Besides getting to know the host club, you have the opportunity to learn about the culture of the ambassadors, and make many more new friends. The Fukuoka club is located on the same island as the Oita club, one of the two Japanese clubs our club is going to visit as ambassadors in October 2018.

If interested, send your ambassador applications along with the \$25 fee to reserve your space to Peg Hutnik, journey ambassador coordinator. My address is below. I would also like to know if you plan on flying or will be driving and are looking for traveling companions. The six you have already submitted their applications are driving.

These are some of the activities Medicine Hat has done in the past when they have hosted journeys: Medalta Clay Museum, Hutterite Colony tour, City Hall tour, Leisure Center tour, lawn and five-pin bowling, raising of a tee pee activity, Prairie Gleaners tour and "hands on" freeze dried vegetables demo, and Stations of the Cross tour all made by a local brick artist. The cost for the seven-day journey is estimated at approximately \$150.00. That does not include the FFI fee or travel costs.

Medicine Hat is located in the prairie lands of Alberta province, 183 miles southeast of Calgary. Anyone flying would fly into Calgary and the host club would make arrangements at your expense to be transported to Medicine Hat. If driving to Medicine Hat, it is a 20 hour trip one way.

If you have any questions, my contact information follows.

Peg Hutnik,

Journey Ambassador Coordinator

13 Hickory Hollow Dr, Madison, WI 53705

608-334-4647 or benhut@att.net



**Annual Meeting Minutes, April 23, 2017
Coliseum Bar, Madison, WI**

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by President, Sandi Wysock. She thanked all those who helped organize the meeting event, introduced and thanked Board members, and introduced new members and guests.

Richard Shropshire moved that the minutes from 2016 be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded and approved.

Janet Lonergan moved that the Treasurer's report and internal audit be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded and approved.

President's Report:

We have had a very busy and productive year. As President I have been privileged to work with very talented and dedicated Board members and others within our community who are willing to share their time and talents with us. As a result, I can report that we are growing again and developing plans and programs that we hope will continue to promote the mission of the Friendship Force in Wisconsin.

Goals established by the Board for 2016 included:

1. Completion of assigned journeys since April 2016

Cleveland County, UK—Outbound, Nashik-Riverside, India—Inbound, Winnipeg/Santa Barbara—Inbound, and Guadeloupe—Outbound.

2. Increase membership by 20%

23 new members were added in 2016 & early 2017- We currently have 124 members. Our membership program is implementing a mentoring program and they are conducting new/potential member orientation sessions at least twice a year.

3. Increase membership participation

Active members lead to a more interesting club, improve our membership retention, enable us to support exchanges more easily and provide us with needed expertise and leadership. LEO's attracted 20-25 members. We had four new Journey coordinators last year and we are seeing many of our new members active on committees and participating as hosts or ambassadors. Our two general membership meetings in 2017 attracted 40+ members. A new member mentoring has also been developed to support our newest members. We are definitely seeing results.

4. Develop policies to bring us into compliance with 501 (c) (3) requirements

Various 501(c) (3) regulations have been formally adopted. The board has implemented a budget process that allows us to use our income more strategically and adjust programs based on revenue. Membership donations of \$1135 with 2017 renewals and over \$2,000 with 2016 renewals are helping to support our

programming and leadership development without increasing dues. We are deeply grateful for all contributions large and small.

5. Increase and improve our community connections and develop a marketing plan

Some initial work has been completed but we are seeking a new leader for the marketing portion of this effort. Our Outreach Committee has developed a new approach that will partner with other organizations to provide programming. In addition our booth at the International Festival provides us with an opportunity to share our mission and reach potential members.

FFI is making significant changes. They have a new website, new terminology, are trying to develop corporate sponsorship and offer new types of journeys. Members are encouraged to read the notices they receive to keep up with changes. Rick Steves will mention FFI in his travel guidebooks.

6. Develop a leadership plan

Finding leadership is an ongoing problem. Clubs have been forced to disband when they have not been able to find leadership. Each year we need at least 3 Host/Ambassador Coordinators. We need members that are willing to lead committees, serve on the Board and serve as officers. The Board has adopted a leadership development plan that will be implemented over the next year.

7. Improve communication

This is an ongoing goal for most organizations. Our efforts with informational meetings, outreach, mentoring, general meetings and our newsletter are helping along with occasional email blasts about specific upcoming events. Please read the things that come your way to keep informed and attend events

Goals established by the Board for 2017 include:

1. Complete Inbound and Outbound Journeys:

San Diego (May) and New Caledonia (June) incoming are well on the way to fruition. Open World (Aug) planning is being developed

We are working to obtain additional incoming journeys. They are becoming more difficult due to visa requirements and difficulty in obtaining them; costs due to the high dollar; and some clubs, especially in Europe, disbanding or not traveling much overseas. Only 30% of Midwest clubs have an international incoming journey for 2018, so we are fortunate to have had them and need participation to continue these opportunities.

The response for Medicine Hat outgoing (Aug.) has been poor. This was your number one choice when we submitted our requests for 2017 so it has been disappointing to see the low number of responses. The Vancouver portion of this journey was canceled due to lack of interest. It made Medicine Hat more affordable. Peg Hutnik, ambassador coordinator, brought a sign-up sheet to the annual meeting. There is an informational meeting on April 25, 2017 for anyone who is potentially interested at which time expenses and sample activities will be discussed in more detail.

Outbound journeys scheduled include Aichi and Oita, Japan suggested for October 2018.

2. Add 15 new members

- 3. Implement our mentoring program**
- 4. Develop and implement a marketing program**
- 5. Enhance our programming to benefit our membership and attract members**
- 6. Hold a leadership retreat to focus on strategic planning and implementation of the above goals**

Going forward many opportunities exist. We should anticipate changes locally and at FFI in Atlanta. I encourage everyone to keep active and engaged in order for us to provide meaningful experiences for our members as well as our ambassadors both international and domestic.

Bylaw Revisions

Two years ago a committee spent much time and effort making substantive changes and restructuring to our bylaws. FFI recently changed some policies and some terminology. As we reviewed the Bylaws, to include the FFI changes, we also found other local areas that needed “clean up.” The proposed changes align our dues policy with FFI, align our terminology with FFI, clarify who is a full member of the Board with voting rights (i.e.co-chairs), allow two rather than one member-at-large on the Board, and refer to our new budgeting process as the control on spending rather than a dollar limit. They are not the type of substantive changes that required significant work by an ad hoc committee. The changes were sent to members and are also on the table.

Gail Holmes made a motion to accept the revised bylaws. The motion was seconded and passed.

Nomination Process

Donna Hussin, nominating committee chair, presided over the meeting at this point and Sandi Wysock left the room. Donna explained the details of the nomination process and what our Bylaws specify in terms of who can serve in what positions and for how long. Donna announced that Sandi is not able to run for president though she was nominated. Circumstances required Sandi as vice-president to step in when Mary Babula, elected president for 2015-16, took ill and passed away. Upon Mary's death, the Board voted for Sandi to serve as president and we would look for a vice-president to fill Sandi's position. Sandi served 8 months of Mary's term as the Board president. The individual who agreed to fill the vice-president position did so as acting vice-president to fill out the 2016-17 term.

The Bylaws state that the president, vice-president, and secretary can only serve two consecutive terms in that office. Sandi agreed to serve as president if it was determined she was eligible. Two long time club members who had served on the bylaws committee two years ago were asked. Both felt that eight months did not constitute a full term and that Sandi could serve again. Therefore, she was nominated. Donna then pursued a vice-president candidate who would be willing to step up to the president position after one year on the Board as VP. She made 17 phone calls before finding someone willing to accept the VP leadership position. We have a leadership crisis. If we do not find more people willing to fulfill these roles, it is possible we would have to disband our club. This is happening to many other clubs both in the US and abroad. In 2018-19, we will need to replace our secretary, treasurer, and vice-president.

The slate of nominations was published in the March newsletter. On Saturday, April 15, eight days prior to the annual meeting, Donna received a phone call from a long time member and former Board member who stated that Sandi was not eligible. It was pointed out to Donna that if our bylaws do not specify a detail, we use Robert's Rules of Order as the guide. Donna researched the situation thoroughly finding that Chapter 18, section 56, article 4 on page 575 of Robert's Rules states that any time period longer than six months is considered a full term of office. Therefore Sandi was ineligible under our Bylaws.

One option was to nominate someone else for President who would agree to serve for it to be a valid nomination at this meeting. There were no such nominations. Suggestions from the membership focused on methods to make Sandi eligible by changing our bylaws to state that eight months is not a full term, or making an exception when there is an emergency. This could not be done at the meeting as Bylaw changes must be published to the membership ahead of time. The Board CAN appoint an acting president and Sandi can continue in that role until a new president is found. Not likely to happen given the difficulty Donna had in finding a VP candidate.

Following this discussion, Donna proceeded with the other 3 officer nominations. There were no nominations from the floor. A suggestion to forego the ballot and elect them by unanimous consent was made. Margo McKnight pointed out that the Bylaws require using a ballot. Ballots were distributed, collected and tallied. The candidates elected were Peg Hutnik, vice-president, Judy Taylor, treasurer, and Stephanie Sorensen, secretary.

Richard Shropshire made a motion that the Board pursue a change to the bylaws to either allow the president to serve three terms or to redefine a partial term versus using Robert's Rules for term definition. The Board is to explore options and present an appropriate change to the membership for a vote as soon as possible and to also be done electronically, if possible. The motion was seconded and passed.

Sandi returned to preside over the meeting. She thanked and distributed certificates to those who served as coordinators for hosts or ambassadors in the past year. She thanked those who left the Board in the past year. She asked anyone who served on the Board, on a committee, as a host or ambassador, as a coordinator to stand and it was most of the people in the room. It is good to see so many participating in our activities.

Gail Homes, journey manager, reported briefly on journeys we have had in the past year and requested more participation in our inbound journeys which are fast approaching. We need more day hosts and attendance at welcome and farewell events. We will need at least one and hopefully two ambassador coordinators for the outgoing journey to Japan in October 2018. She also thanked those who have helped in so many ways with our journeys.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 pm.

Submitted by Stephanie Sorensen, Secretary

WISCONSIN FRIENDSHIP
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5809 Julia St
Madison, WI 53705
www.ffwis.org

June 2017

Revision to the Bylaws
Annual Meeting 2017 Minutes

President: Sandi Wysock 833-5326
Acting Vice Pres: Sandy Drew 833-5811
Secretary Stephanie Sorensen 819-6646
Treasurer: Judith Taylor 345-6827
Newsletter: Donna Hussin 845-3393

Email Accounts:

ffwis.general@gmail.com
ffwis.meeting@gmail.com
ffwis.membership@gmail.com
ffwis.outreach@gmail.com

The Friendship Force of Wisconsin
Annual Summer Picnic & Farewell to New Caledonia
Wednesday, June 28, 2017

**Vilas Park Shelter,
1602 Vilas Park Dr
Madison, WI**

**5:30 PM Social Hour
6:00 PM Dinner
Cost: \$15.00**



Easy directions: Take Monroe Street to Edgewood Avenue. Continue on Edgewood Avenue toward Lake Wingra which becomes Vilas Park Drive and is one-way going **east**. Turn left into the parking area near the shelter. Can also Google using this address: 1602 Vilas Park Drive, Madison.

Please: Your reservation and payment are due no later than Monday, June 19 2017.

-----cut and return with payment



Choice of entree: **Fried Chicken Leg & Thigh**
 Brat & Bun
 Brat & Chicken

Includes cranberry wild rice salad, granny's potato salad without bacon, baked beans without bacon, fruit platters, cheese platters, small green salad and cookies for dessert. Plates, silverware and beverage will be provided.

_____ # attending x \$15 = \$ _____

_____ I need a ride _____ I can provide a ride

Names: _____ **Email Address** _____

Make check payable to: The Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison
Mail to: Lois Schulz, 5555 Tancho Dr, #407, Madison WI 53718 Questions? 608-243-9761