



The Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison

Experience Different Views. Discover Common Ground.

June 2018



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It seems like the Regional Conference was months ago, but it was just in April. This conference was considered a Super Regional Conference because it included clubs from the Midwest Region plus the Great Lakes Region and the Southwest. We had representatives from Wichita, New Orleans, Austin, Kentucky, and Michigan to name a few. It was great to meet so many new members but at the same time I missed having time with the Midwest clubs that we interact with on a more frequent basis.

One of the documents presented to the group was an Overview of the Characteristics of a Healthy Friendship Force Club. Many clubs are static. They are not growing but are managing to maintain current membership. Some are in decline meaning they cannot find leaders and are aging. Given our growth and level of activities we are considered one of the more successful clubs and we tend to have characteristics similar to most successful clubs. We have a conventional style of leadership (president, vice president etc.) Most healthy clubs have memberships of 70 - 100 or more. We have 141. Word of mouth continues to be the tried and true method of recruiting. Most successful Western clubs have an average age of around 60 and are trying to encourage younger recruits. A strong social activities calendar is important. There were a number of innovative ideas around hosting. Everything from co-hosting to assigning journey tasks rather than seeking volunteers, to using completely unstructured days to requiring members to fill out a sheet at the beginning of the year indicating which journeys they would be able to host, dinner host, co-host, day host etc. All in all, it seemed to me that we can be proud of where we are at. If we continue to grow, be flexible and adapt to changing times we will continue to thrive. As always our success really is a reflection of the work that you do for Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison. Thank you for supporting our journeys and contributing your time and talents.

In friendship,

Sandi Wysock
President

Explore • Understand • Serve®



2018 CLUB ACTIVITIES

Monthly Board Meeting – Bridge Point Waunona Community Center, 1917 Lake Point Dr, Monona, second Wednesday of the month, 12:30 p.m. NOTE: Due to Niagara Inbound Journey conflict, meeting is June 6.

June 2, Saturday—Let's Walk, Let's Hike *

June 3, Sunday—Wisconsin Public Television Auction ☺ (May)

June 9-15, Saturday-Friday—Niagara, Canada Inbound Journey ☺ (May)

June 14, Thursday—Annual Picnic and Dance *

June 22, Friday—Adopt a Highway Clean-up Rescheduled*

September 7-15, Friday-Saturday—Open World *

October 27-November 3, Saturday-Saturday—Aichi Prefecture Japan Outbound Journey ☺ (May)

November 3-10, Saturday-Saturday—Oita Prefecture, Japan Outbound Journey ☺ (May)

2019

July 23-27--FF World Conference 2019, Boulder, CO, USA

* Information in this newsletter

☺ Information previously announced (Month in ☺Newsletter)

✍ Information to be announced later

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Patricia Watson

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Madison, WI 53704
608-249-4486
cc255@yahoo.com





OPEN WORLD

September 7-15, 2018
Delegates from Georgia
Country in Eastern Europe

Topic: Urban Planning/Environmental Planning/Clean Air

Are you interested in helping us with an Open World delegation?

We have been approved for a grant to host an Open World delegation from Georgia. The dates are September 7-15, and the topic is Urban Planning/Environmental Planning/Clean Air.

To start, we need committee members, a leader/co-leader and hosts. We are charged with both home hosting and developing 30 hours of programming around the assigned topic. If you have contacts or if you have expertise in this area, please let us know. We have a contact on the City of Madison Planning Council that has offered to help with at least one or two days of programming. These delegations are typically comprised of 5 delegates, an interpreter and a facilitator. The delegates are young professionals that are up and coming leaders in their countries.

If you are interested in helping, please contact me.

Sandi Wysock
608-833-5326
sandrawysock@msn.com



Let's Walk, Let's Hike! REMINDER

On Saturday, June 2, we are heading out to Governor Dodge State Park, where we plan to take a longer hike, climbing up to the cliff above Cox Hollow Lake, on Pine Cliff Trail. We will leave Madison at 10:00 a.m., and return sometime in the afternoon, so please pack a lunch. We can have lunch either on the trail, or at the Cox Hollow Lake beach. Carpooling is encouraged and is being coordinated by the organizer, Magdi Sebestyen.

If you plan to participate, please RSVP to me.

Magdi Sebestyen
608-213-576
magdi.sebestyen@gmail.com



Our First Hike

Allen Rieland, Mike Lambert, Mary Juckem, Martha McGregor, Gabor Kemeny, Kathy Speck, Agnes Rona

Activities



Can you spare 120 minutes to beautify America

We were rained out for our semi-annual highway clean-up. Let's try again on **Friday, June 22, 2018, 9:30-11:30 a.m.** Meet at exit 249 on Hwy 12-18. (Parmenter). Parking available. All supplies provided. Please remember to bring your own work gloves.

To volunteer text, email, or call Sarah Rankin. Pitch in. It is a "walk in the park" for a good cause.

Sarah Rankin
608-575-9685
rankinsarahjane@gmail.com



Annual Summer Picnic & Niagara Canada Journey Farewell Party

Thursday, June 14, 2018

There is still time to get your reservation in for our annual picnic to be held at the Tenney Park Shelter, John Wall Family Pavilion, 300 N Thornton Ave, Madison. **The deadline is Friday, June 8.** The reservation form is in the May newsletter along with directions.

Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m. catered by Willy Street Coop. Following the dinner is dancing with music provided by a DJ from 7:00-9:30 p.m.

We need members to donate finger desserts (cookies, bars, etc.), help setting up at 4:00 p.m., and clean-up from 9:30-10:00 p.m. If you can help, please let Lois Schulz (608-243-9761) or Mary Mastaglio (608-241-0212) know.

Mary Mastaglio
Activities Co-chair

Super Regional Conference April 20-21, 2018

Journeys of the Future (Report from one of the sessions)

One of the handouts at the Super Regional Conference discussed journeys of the future. There is a commitment to retain our signature home hospitality but there is room for innovation in programming and a number of clubs are experimenting with more flexible concepts that make it easier for working couples to host and provide more flexibility. There is a move toward more unstructured time and true cultural experiences versus touring.

Some of the suggestions include: More physical activities or a combination of more and less physical activities within the same journey. Several clubs are taking a break from hosting by providing a two day experience away from the host family. In Vancouver, for example, ambassadors often go to Victoria for two days mid-journey. Many ambassadors would like more free time with their hosts to explore their own interests or simply experience the simple things like shopping, gardening, a walk in the neighborhood, a visit with family or friends, a simple meal with their host family, a hike in a park or biking. Baby boomers in general prefer less structure, a less rigid agenda and less formality. Understand that we are mission based-not a travel club. Build in more humanitarian and community activities. These are attractive to the boomers and younger generations. Themed journeys focusing on a specific interest build strong friendships because of the shared interest. Allow ambassadors a day on their own to explore. For example, we might let them explore State Street on their own without us hovering and without a requirement that they rush through to the next tour location.

As you can see, there are many ideas floating around and probably no right answer that fits every club. What is clear is that we should develop a more flexible approach to our programs to make it easier for working couples to participate and that more flexible programming will be necessary as we move to the next generation.

Sandi Wysock
President

Journeys around the World

As a member of the Friendship Force Wisconsin-Madison Club you are eligible to apply to join a journey organized by any other FF club. To see a list of upcoming journeys go to

<https://www.thefriendshipforce.org/journeys>

In Loving Memory



Roy Berg
Death: March 16, 2018



Dorothy Berg
Death: April 28, 2018

Dorothy and Roy Berg were members from 1988 through 2015 when they moved into assisted living. They participated in many exchanges. Some of the countries were Egypt, Kenya, India, Nepal and Japan. They will be missed.

Roy's Obit

<http://www.cressfuneralservice.com/obituary/248955/Roy-Berg/>

Dorothy's Obit

<http://www.cressfuneralservice.com/obituary/256546/Dorothy-Berg/>



Thomas Ray Christensen
Death: April 23, 2018

Tom joined the club in 2015 with his wife Stephanie Kessenich. His mother-in-law is Jane Kessenich, who has been a member for 18 years. Tom and Stephanie hosted for the Nashik Riverside Club from India in 2016.

Obit: www.gorgenfh.com



Maggie Dohm
Death: May 19, 2018

Maggie was a long time member and served on the Board as president, member-at-large, activities, exchange director, host of several journeys and also as an ambassador. She will be missed.

Obit: www.gundersonfh.com

WISCONSIN FRIENDSHIP
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June 2018
Let's Walk, Let's Hike Event
Adopt-A-Highway Clean-up
Open World, September 7-15, 2018

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SAVE THE DATE

2019 FFI World Conference
New Location and New Dates

BOULDER, COLORADO, USA
JULY 23-27, 2019

Workshops/Plenaries: July 23-25 | Social/Local Activities: July 26-27

Due to Hurricane Maria's lasting impact on Puerto Rico, our 2019 World Conference location and dates have been changed.
Please save the *new* date and location, and plan to join us in Boulder, Colorado next July!

