



The Friendship Force of Wisconsin

Changing The Way You See The World

April 2012



A Note from the President

It looks as if spring has sprung around Madison. The weather has permitted us to golf several times in March and that is great but very unusual. Hopefully we will not receive a hard frost in the next few weeks and we will be able to continue our summer activities. Sandi has been working diligently on new wall hangings and purses for the gallery in Mineral Point. I understand that it will be opening on Easter weekend.

A great deal has been happening in all parts of the Friendship Force. Internationally the goal is to add 45 new clubs in all regions of the world bringing the total to over 400 clubs for the first time. FFI would like to expand theme exchanges and other creative new programs to attract a new generation of participants. They will expand leadership recruitment, training and support. They will promote Friendship Force globally increasing recognition utilizing the internet and social media. All of this will mean a more diversified group of available exchanges.

The Midwest region is giving us a list of activities and exchanges including times and contacts to show what is available from our sister clubs.

MIDWEST EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITIES, 2012

Can't join your home club's exchange? *OR* Want to enjoy more weeks of international friendship? Here are great exchanges from our sister Midwestern FF clubs that you can join.

SPRING

ST. LOUIS TO Limburg, Belgium, May 26-June 1. ED: Maureen McGrath, mrnmcgrth@yahoo.com.sg

DUBUQUE TO Medicine Hat, Canada, June 6-19. ED: Gail Noel, gmnoel65@gmail.com

SUMMER

MINNESOTA-TWIN CITIES TO Greater Hamilton & Burlington, CAN, June. ED: Unknown. Contact President: Blaine McCutchan, helloblaine@yahoo.com

DES MOINES TO Mt. Barker & Queanbeyan-Canberra, AUS, late June. ED: Beverly Lytle, bdlytle@gmail.com

AMES (CENTRAL IOWA) TO Recife & Belem, Brazil, August or September. ED: Joan Herwig, jherwig@iastate.edu

FALL

WISCONSIN/MADISON TO Moscow & Vyborg, Russia, September. ED: Sandy Wysock, sandrawysock@msn.co

CHICAGO TO Lima, Peru, October. ED: Unknown. Contact President: Larisa Sorkin, sork8@aol.com

OMAHA (EASTERN NEBRASKA) TO Semarang & Malang, Indonesia, October. ED: Shirley Siebler, shirleykjs@cox.net

MILWAUKEE TO Prague, Czech Republic, October. CO-EDs: Dave Kalan davekalan@sbcglobal.net & Suzanne Sullivan ssul28@gmail.com

NORTHERN ILLINOIS TO Taichung, Taiwan, 10/23-29, ED: Karen Li, kslitseng@yahoo.com **NOTE: This exchange is coordinated so Ambassadors can continue to the Friendship Force World Conference in Hiroshima.**

These exchanges still have openings. If you call them for inclusion please identify yourself as member of the Friendship Force of Wisconsin.

Our own club has a challenging schedule of incoming exchanges as you know. It includes the incoming exchanges from Oregon and St. Louis in June, the exchange from Peru in July, and the food theme exchange in August. Hopefully many of you will become involved. I believe you will find it rewarding and mutually beneficial experience for everyone. The outgoing exchange to Moscow, St Petersburg and Vyborg is progressing in fits and starts, but it is progressing. Don't forget we will have the club business meeting on April 22. I will look forward to seeing you there.

Yours in Friendship
GEORGE WY SOCK, President

Adopt – A - Highway

Mark your calendars for **Saturday May 5** if you are willing and able to HELP with our spring highway clean up. Ten volunteers is ideal.

We will meet at the Park and Ride Lot at HWY. 12, exit 249, and start at 8:30 am. With enough help we can cover the (about) one-mile section in one and a half to two hours. Please call ME to let me know that you will be there. I don't care to make a lot of phone calls.

Please call soon.

DON GOSTOMSKI, Chairperson
608-249-8250 gingergos@sbcglobal.net

THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF WISCONSIN, INC.
**Minutes, Annual Meeting, May 1, 2011 Knights of
Columbus Hall Verona Rd, Madison, WI**

Mary Lindquist, President of the Friendship Force of Wisconsin welcomed everyone in attendance at the Annual Meeting.

Announcements: Many items from the store were on display and available for purchase. Programs were placed on each table listing the meeting agenda. A list of upcoming regional exchanges was also displayed and members were reminded that they are eligible to join any exchange in the world. Copies of the proposed changes in the By Laws, Secretary Minutes and Treasurer's Reports were also on each table as well as available previously online and in the April newsletter. Sign up sheets were out for members to indicate their participation in upcoming events. Margo McKnight received a gift from Fannie and the Activities Committee for being the first member to sign up for the Annual Meeting. Everyone joined in to sing "Let There be Peace on Earth" followed by a buffet lunch. The entertainment for today was a Quiz, developed by the activities committee. Awards for the Quiz will follow the business meeting.

Business Meeting: Mary Lindquist called the meeting to order at 12:45 am. Quorum of the membership was present.

Secretary's Report: Motion made by Richard Shropshire to accept the minutes of Annual Meeting April 25, 2010 as written and passed unanimously by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Motion made by Dave Dohler to accept the Treasurer's report as written and passed unanimously by voice vote.

Election of Officers: Nominating Committee Chair, George Wysock presented the slate of officers for the 2011-2012 year. They are:

President—George Wysock

Vice President—Helen Ann Rugowski

Secretary—Mary Lou Martino

Treasurer—Margo McKnight

Request made for additional nominations from the floor and there were none. Motion to accept the slate as presented by Richard Shropshire and passed unanimously by voice vote. At the time the Nominating Committee was formed in November 2010 the members were not intending on becoming officers; however numerous efforts produced no other willing candidates.

Presidents Annual Report—Mary Lindquist

- Dave Dohler, Communication Chairperson, continues to actively maintain our website www.ffwis.org. He welcomes your contributions for new material. There you can find the current newsletter, current activities and photos.
- Janet Lonergan, Newsletter Chairperson, continues to keep us informed with the monthly newsletter. She welcomes your contributions for new material. The newsletter is available by mail as well as on the website.
- Maggie Dohm, Membership Chairperson, maintains the current directory and sends out renewals and welcome packets to prospective and new members.
- Margie Groom, Outreach Chairperson, seeks out opportunities for our ambassadors to offer presentations to area groups and organizations.
- Bea Dewey, Farmers Market Chairperson, maintains the list of volunteers at the Saturday Capitol Square markets during the period this year of May 14 to October 15.
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- Volunteers are needed; give Bea a call at 255-0858 if you can help out.
- Don Gostomski, High way Clean Up Chairperson, organizes the group for the Spring and Fall. The Spring date is May 14.
- Reta Haring, WHA Auction Chairperson, has taken this over from Ken Kosick, who handled it for many years. Our club has committed to helping out on June 5 from 3:15 to 7 pm. There are multiple tasks to volunteer to do other than phone bank and computer operator, including bid runner, café server, merchandise pickup, raffle ticket sales, etc.
- Fannie Hicklin, Activities Chairperson, meets regularly with this group to plan activities throughout the year. This past years activities included:
 - Annual Meeting 4/25 with showing DVD of pictures from the first exchange to Zurich, Switzerland in 1978.
 - Summer picnic at Lake View Park in Middleton 7/22 including our Tucson ambassadors.
 - Fall Festival 10/31 at the KC Hall featured a silent auction and Bucky Badger.
 - Holiday Party 12/4 at the Edgewater Hotel had white elephant exchange.
 - Valentine Party 2/13 at the West Side Club featured Young at Heart musical performance.
- 2010 Exchanges—San Juan, Costa Rica—Tucson, Arizona—Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and Northern Illinois were completed. Unfortunately Montreal, Canada exchange was cancelled despite Lise Skofronicks huge efforts to try and make it happen.
- Board Member Changes: George Wysock replaced Margo McKnight as Vice President. Mary Ann Fahl stepped down as past president.
- New Business—None
- Awards were given to the following for their hard work and dedication:
 - Rad & Susan Becker for maintaining the inventory and efficient operation of the FFW Store from 1999 to 2010.
 - Margo Lindl for her dedication to the FFW Historian post from 2002 to 2011.
 - Judi Blodgett, ED for OB exchange to San Juan, Costa Rica, in April.
 - Nancy Mueller, ED for IB exchange from Tucson, Arizona, in July.
 - Jane Kessenich, ED for OB exchange to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, in June.
 - Gene Dewey, ED for IB Mystery exchange from Northern Illinois in June.
- 2011 Exchanges and Introductions of Exchange Directors. Sign up is on the back table to participate in these exchanges.
 - Maggie Dohm, ED—OB to Northern Illinois—June 21 to 14. This club came here in 2010 on a mystery exchange and wants us to visit them. They can accept 20 Ambassadors; the exchange will not include activities within the city of Chicago.
 - Richard Mueller, ED—IB from Norderstedt, Germany—September 19-26. FFW had an OB

exchange here in 2007. We will be hosting 9 ambassadors.

- Jerry Fuller, ED—OB to Urla of Greater Izmir, Turkey—September 27 to October 15. We have 28 ambassadors. A 10-day tour will follow a week of home hosting. Margo McKnight is the workshop chair and holding the first workshop on 5/7 from 9:30 am to noon at the Lake View Library on North Sherman Avenue.

- 2012 Exchange Announcements

- International IB from Trujillo, Peru in June. Exchange Director is needed.
- International OB to Moscow, Russia and a 2nd Club, (new) in September. Exchange Director is needed.
- International and Domestic IB to Madison, Milwaukee and Northern Illinois in August. Donna Calvert, ED, for this new Themed Midwest Foods Exchange.

Adjourn: Motion made by Gary Lindquist and 2nd by Richard Shropshire to adjourn the Annual Meeting at 1:45 pm. Carried by voice vote.

Submitted by Helen Ann Rugowski, Secretary.

The Friendship Force of WI

Treasurer's Annual Report

Summary of Activities for 2011

OPERATING RESULTS

Revenues	\$ 12,483.72
CD Interest	\$ 135.08
Expenses	<u>\$(13,046.61)</u>
Net Gain (Loss)	<u>\$ (427.81)</u>

ASSETS

<u>Balance on Hand in Checking Account as of 12/31/2011</u>		\$4,851.34
<u>Total CD CERTIFICATE BALANCE</u>		\$9,750.67
Summit Credit Union CD	\$4,459.99	
Summit Credit Union CD	\$2,113.64	
Summit Credit Union CD	\$3,177.04	
<u>Total Savings Account</u>		\$ 5.09
<u>Total Exchange Accounts</u>		\$ 400.00
Balance in Anchor Bank	\$ 100.00	
Balance in US Bank	\$ 100.00	
Balance in Associated Bank	\$ 100.00	
Balance in M&I Bank	\$ 100.00	
<u>Total Committed Funds</u>	\$10,155.76	<u>\$10,155.76</u>
<u>TOTAL CLUB VALUE</u>		<u>\$15,007.10</u>

Margaret McKnight
Treasurers

Friendship Force of Wisconsin to Russia

September 4 – 19th

September 4th will roll around before we know it. Where does the time go!! Several of the ambassadors are taking Russian hoping to be able to read a little in Cyrillic and communicate with basic phrases by the time we depart. A little about the Moscow club and the program that they offer: The Friendship Force Club of Moscow was formed in 1991. There are over 250 members ranging in age from 20 to 80. The club offers visitors an opportunity to see the beautiful capital of Russia. According to our host, the city has changed and developed dramatically during the past several years. The Moscow club promise that it will do it's best to show us the most interesting sites. We will have a bus tour around the city and visit the beautiful and ancient Moscow Kremlin. We will see the Red Square, the world famous Cathedral of Vassily the Blessed (St Basil's Cathedral), and Armory Chamber with its rich collection of treasures. The Moscow Metro is not the oldest in the world, however its architectural style and wide range of station designs earns it the name of the "Underground palace". The club normally includes a visit to Novodevichy Convent one of the most beautiful and delicate convents in Moscow, one of the biggest museums in Russia, the largest collection of Russian art; and Sergiev Passad - town about 70 miles away from Moscow-center of Russian Orthodox Church

with complex of ancient Cathedrals (15th century), Theological academy and seminary. It promises to be a great trip! We only have room for a couple more so if you are still thinking about joining us, let me know soon.

SANDI WY SOCK, Exchange Director, Russia 2012

608-833-5326 sandrawysock@msn.com

WISCONSIN PUBLIC TELEVISION AUCTION June 3

June 3rd will be a fun day for 17 people who sign up on April 22 to help the Friendship Force at the WPT Auction. I will have a form available for you to list your preference as to the type of job you would have from **3:15-6:45 on Sunday June 3rd.**

Besides the Phone Bank, they need helpers for the following:

Bid Sorters, cafe servers, display designer, merchandise mover, data entry, pick & pay runner, and pickup and pay cashiers.

This is a great opportunity to help Wisconsin Public Television and also get some publicity for the Friendship Force as well as having fun with others in our group.

Be sure and sign up at the April 22 meeting, or if you can't be there, call me at 241-2248 or email me.

RETA HARRING, Chairperson

608-241-2248 retaharring@yahoo.com

Oregon and St. Louis Coming to Wisconsin

From **Thursday, June 14, to Wednesday, June 20**, we will be hosting ambassadors from Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley and St. Louis, Missouri. We have planned a variety of activities and trips to showcase the unique areas which surround us. Next month, we'll have an itinerary and an opportunity for you to join us in our travels as about 40 ambassadors learn about us and Wisconsin. You won't want to miss out on these good times!

The ambassadors from the Willamette Valley live in one of Oregon's prime agricultural areas while at the same time being home to Oregon urban culture. They are located along the I-5 corridor which runs from the California/Mexico border to the Canadian border. We both grow similar products many varieties of grapes in hundreds of vineyards, berries, fruits, and vegetables that are available at farmers' markets and fruit stands all summer long. Oregonians have become true locavores (those who eat regional food).

The Willamette Valley lies between two mountain ranges the Oregon Coast Range along the Pacific Ocean and the higher Cascade Range to the east. Portland in the north is the gateway to the Columbia River and Gorge. The Klamath Basin in the south is a drier, more arid region. Year round outdoor activities include skiing, hiking, sightseeing and beach combing. You can also visit lava beds, explore light houses, see picturesque covered bridges, and fish, raft, camp, windsurf, bike, rock climb, bird watch, and swim. We have much in common! High-tech businesses have found a home in Oregon, and they are proud of their efforts to live sustainably. Oregon is one of the "greenest" places.

To share in meeting this interesting group of ambassadors, become a home host, day host, or share your talents on a committee or other activity. Join this week of fun! Workshops are scheduled for:

Saturday, April 28 – 9:30 – 11:30 Lakeview Library Fireside Rm
Saturday, June 2 – 9:30 – 11:30 Sequoya Library

GAIL L. HOLMES, Exchange Director, Oregon & St. Louis
608 249-1846 glholmes@wisc.edu

Exchange Director Recruitment Time

Come forward and give back to the organization that you love so much.

Would you like to be an Exchange Director (ED) for 2013? Yes, 2013. We are looking at several exchanges and would like to have ED's in place, ready to begin planning each exchange. Our outbound exchange assigned by FFI is to **Manado, Indonesia**. The inbound exchange is from **Urla Turkey**. Possible domestic Exchanges would be an outbound to **Willamette Oregon** and or **Ashville North Carolina**.

Do any of these Exchanges intrigue you to become an ED? If you would like to be an ED but feel you are not qualified, I have several experienced individuals that would love to mentor you. You will begin with a personalized "ED Get Acquainted" session explaining in detail the process. We will review all the many resources for you to draw from.

Please contact me by April 10th, 2011

Mary Lindquist, Recruitment

608-233-9351 or marylindquist@charter.net

Fun Adventures with Food Exchange

Interviews dates for members who would like to host are:

Saturday, April 28 Pinney Library, 204 Cottage Grove Road
9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Monday, April 30, Sequoya Library, 4340 Tokay Boulevard,
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

If you have questions, please contact Kay Babcock at 222-2122.

A Workshop to complete the planning for this unique exchange is scheduled for May 22 at the Sequoya Library at 6:30 pm.

DONNA CALVERT, Exchange Director
608-233-7536 dollycal@aol.com

Trujillo, Peru, to Wisconsin July 9-15, 2012

Join us for various activities!

Just an update on our friends coming from Trujillo, Peru. They will not be coming to us from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada as we first thought but when they leave us on Sunday, July 15th they will be going to Miami Beach, Florida, to spend a week there. Let's hope it isn't too hot for them. If you want to host one or a couple Ambassadors, Call to set up an interview time. We need volunteers to be day hosts, car pool drivers, interpreters, committee assignments, etc. We're also hoping to have home hosted dinners on the evening of Tuesday, July 10th. Ambassadors and their hosts will be in Milwaukee all day and it would be great to come back to Madison and have a home-cooked meal waiting. If you would be willing to host a small dinner (possibility 6 -8 guests), please call Patty Kexel at 835-5430.

Our tentative itinerary is as follows:

Mon. July 9th –Welcome party TBA, meet host families and go home with them.

Tue. July 10th –Spend the day in Milwaukee; Pabst Mansion, Art Museum, Miller Park, lunch in the third ward, etc.

Wed. July 11th. –Open day for host families for shopping, Concert of the Square,

Thu. July 12th Dubuque, Iowa, Miss. River Museum, Cable Car ride, Dickeyville Grotto, Mineral Point, back for the FFI picnic in Middleton.

Fri. July 13th Tour of UW-Madison, Capital, pontoon ride on Lake Mendota to Gov. Mansion, lunch on Library Mall from vendors, ice cream for desert at Babcock Hall, Allen Gardens, Chazen Museum, Union Terrace to be picked up by host family for dinner.

Sat. July 14th free day to shop, spend time with host family and day hosts, possible Farewell Party Sun. July 15th –Optional church services, progressive brunch, last farewells.

PATRICK FLEMING, Peru Exchange Director
608-249-5992 pfleming@edgewood.edu

A New Experience in Friendship

The annual conference for Friendship Force International was held in Washington, D.C., in 2010. Prior and during that event an auction took place to raise funds for the organization. FF members were encouraged to offer home stays. There were many enticing places from all over the world and prices that could not be beat.

I decided to participate in that auction. A big incentive was that our Club would benefit 33% of the final bid. The money was to be used for recruiting new members.

I put my house on Lake Alexander up for bid with a minimum of \$500.00 for one week at any time of the year from Sept. 2010 to Sept. 2011. The house has 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, and all the "toys" to have fun on the water. The lucky winners were a couple from Asheville, NC. They paid \$550.00. They chose July 17th to the 24th. Their 2 daughters and one son-in-law joined them.

They were simply wonderful guests. They were familiar with living in the water and knew how to operate motorboats. One day that the air conditioning decided to quit, they searched the house and found enough fans to make themselves comfortable. They explored the area around Merrill, Tomahawk. Best of all they left the house sparkling clean. They had a good time and they agreed that the price they paid was a good value. At the end of their stay, we had time to have some good conversations about traveling, Friendship Force in general, retirement.

Now our club has received the promised check for \$183.33. Our Club's board will have to decide how to put this money to good use. We need younger members. If you know someone who would like to embrace our motto "Changing the Way You See the World", encourage them to come to our activities. If you have an idea for an event to invite prospective new members, please share it with me or any member of the board.

Friendship Force International has a new auction currently posted on their website www.thefriendshipforce.org. Let yourself be tempted by all the interesting offerings. The receipts will go the **Legacy Fund**.

Lise Skofronick

NEW MEMBERS

Donna Hussin
406 Luckille St
Verona WI 53593
608-845-3393
djhussin@yahoo.com

Sandy Drew
7305 Cedar Creek Trail
Madison WI 53717
608-833-5811
sdrew24@tds.net



2012 CLUB ACTIVITIES

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

April 10 – Exchange Director Recruitment

April 26 – 28 FF Regional Presidents' Meeting
Ames, Iowa * *

April 20 – Monthly Board Meeting

April 22– Annual Business Meeting & Election *

April 28 – Interviews Global Food Exchange *

April 28 – Oregon & St Louis Workshop *

April 28 – Interviews Global Food Exchange *

April 30 – Interviews Global Food Exchange *

May 5 – Adopt-A-Highway *

June 2 – Oregon & St Louis Workshop *

June 3 – WHA_TV *

June 14 – 20, Oregon & St Louis to Wisconsin *

June 23 – Russia Workshop **

July 9 - 15 – Trujillo Peru to Wisconsin *

July 12 – Annual FFW Picnic **

August 10 – 14, Global Food Exchange *

August 25 – Russia Workshop **

September 4-19, 2012 – Wisconsin to Moscow/Vyborg *

Oct 31 – Nov 2, Hiroshima Japan FFI Conference

* Information in this newsletter

** Information to be announced

**SILENT AUCTION
AT THE ANNUAL MEETING**

**INTERNATIONAL ATTIRE IS
ENCOURAGED**

BRING A TREAT FOR DESSERT?

WISCONSIN FRIENDSHIP
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April 2012
Reservation for Annual Meeting
Deadline: April 16

President: George Wysock 833-5326
Vice Pres: Helen Rugowski 238-9731
Secretary: Mary Lou Martino 467-2966
Treasurer: Margo McKnight 345-6827
Newsletter: Janet Lonergan 592-3336

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF WISCONSIN

ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTION OF OFFICERS, AND LUNCHEON

Sunday, April 22, 2012 Time 12:30

Knights of Columbus Clubhouse 5256 Verona Rd. Madison Cost \$16.00



Beef Sfrognoff, mock crab salad, sweet potatoes, creamy broccoli/cauliflower, fruit salad, fresh fruit, coffee, milk
Donations of bars or cookies will be welcomed!

SILENT AUCTION

INTERNATIONAL ATTIRE ENCOURAGED

RESERVATION DEADLINE: April 16, 2012

Reservations for lunch can not be accepted after April 16, but after April 16 persons will still be welcome to attend the meeting. REMEMBER YOUR NAME BADGES

Enclose a check payable to the Friendship Force of WI

Send to: Fannie Hicklin, 3814 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53705 608-233-5748

Reservation Deadline April 16

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cut

NAMES ATTENDING: _____

Note if you have any dietary restrictions -----

\$16:00 per person _____ #attending x \$16.00 = \$ _____