



friendship force

CENTRAL
NORTH CAROLINA

Fast Facts ~ January/February 2010

President's Perspective

Dear Friends,

We have such an exciting spring coming up! We will have a variety of activities that I can imagine will spark the interest of nearly all of our members and hopefully some members to be.

The next event is another LEO (see all the details below.) I especially like Ralph Cauthen's suggestion to contact our friends on other continents and ask them to return greetings to us on World Friendship Day. We are also encouraging you to bring a friend from another country along to the breakfast as we celebrate World Friendship Day.

Hosting opportunities are plentiful this year as we have at least three different groups of inbound visitors - the students and their chaperones from Indonesia (read this latest news below!), the exchange group from Australia, and a few guests in April that will be here for several nights for the mid-Atlantic Presidents Roundtable.

As a new idea, we are hoping to extend our home hosting opportunities beyond club membership this year - both to obtain more host homes and as a way to interest more families in joining our Friendship Force Club. Please be thinking about someone you could contact.

There is much more news in this issue of Fast Facts. Please read every bit of it - you will be rewarded!

In Friendship,
Marcia Meis, President

World Friendship Day – March 1



This year's theme for World Friendship Day is “Friendship on Six Continents.” As a club, let us each, during February, contact our friends on other continents. Send them a message of FRIENDSHIP from our club, and ask them to send back a message of friendship to the Central North Carolina Friendship Force which can be shared at our LEO on Saturday, March 6. If forty of us will do this, we may receive up to 200 messages in the name of world peace. What a powerful statement! Join in and build world peace!

When you receive messages from your friends, please forward them to Ralph Cauthen (rbcauthen@aol.com) by Sunday, February 28 and he will consolidate them and prepare them for sharing at our next LEO. We will also include them in our April newsletter. So, though we encourage all of our members to attend the LEO, regardless of your plans, everyone will be able to participate in sending and receiving these messages of friendship!

Rise n' Shine: a Breakfast LEO (Let's Eat Out!)

Plan now to say “G'Day” to FFCNC “mates” on **Saturday, March 6th** at one of Winston-Salem's great breakfast places. Also, as part of our World Friendship celebration, please bring an international friend and join us at **10:00 a.m. at Billy Bob's Silver Diner**, 1650 Hanes Mall Boulevard. Ordering will be from the menu.



This “Aussie Breakfast” will feature an update on the plans for our inbound exchange from Brisbane May 21 - 28. Please RSVP to Pam Kahl (336-748-0669 or pkahl@triad.rr.com) by *Thursday, March 4th*.

Directions: Take I-40 West to US 421 North on the western side of Winston-Salem. Take the first exit, Jonestown Road, and go left. Next left—over the highway—is Hanes Mall Boulevard. The second restaurant on the left is Billy Bob's Silver Diner (next to Waffle House.) 336-768-0654

Regional Presidents' Roundtable Dinner April 9th

In conjunction with the biennial meeting for chapters in our region, all FFCNC members are cordially invited to join the Roundtable for dinner at the Embassy Suites (Airport) Hotel on Friday, April 9th.

No-host refreshments begin at 6:30 with dinner served at 7:00. At 8:00 Jim Kirkpatrick, former chair of the Guilford Battleground Company, will deliver his entertaining talk about the southern campaign of the Revolutionary War.



Reservations must be made by April 1st to Fred Andresen. Please mail your check for \$35/person—made out to FFCNC—to him at 1502 Pebble Drive, Greensboro, NC 27410. Contact Fred Andresen (294-0842) with any questions.

Directions: Take Exit 210 off I-40. Go north on NC 68 to first light. Turn left; take first left—about 50 yards—to hotel.

Chapters from New Hampshire to North Carolina will be involved in this Roundtable—both the MidAtlantic and NorthEast Regions—with an estimated 25 “delegates” plus 10 “accompanying persons” attending. The dinner is an excellent opportunity to mingle with committed FFI members—and show them some of our Triad hospitality!

Surprise! Surprise! Another Inbound Exchange!

Last week Friendship Force of Central North Carolina was contacted by Friendship Force International and presented the opportunity to host a group of Indonesian students visiting the US in April. This comes at a busy time for FFCNC, sandwiched between the Presidents’ Roundtable and the Australian inbound exchange; nonetheless, our board felt that this was an opportunity that should not be missed.

These students, ages 15 – 17 (mostly girls), accompanied by several of their teachers, hail from a prestigious school in Jakarta. They will spend the prior week in the Asheville area where the Friendship Force of Western North Carolina is making plans for them to attend local high schools, take English classes, shop, and see some of the sights in their area.

From April 21 – 28 FFCNC has offered to host half of the group which will be approximately 15 students and 3 teachers. There is lots to do in the next ten weeks before their arrival! Our president, Marcia Meis, will need to identify an exchange director as soon as possible. If you would be willing to serve in that capacity please let her know *immediately*. Once the exchange director is designated, he/she will be



requesting our help in planning activities and hosting. If you would be interested in helping in any capacity with this exchange, please notify Marcia (724-9540 or pmeis@triad.rr.com .)

The Aussies Are Coming!

We are excited about our upcoming inbound exchange from Brisbane Australia! The group will spend their first week in Western Colorado before arriving here on May 21 and departing on May 28. At this time we expect 9 or 10 Ambassadors, so there will be opportunities for home hosting as well as day hosting. We are planning to interview potential hosts the first week in April. See our website’s home page (www.ffcnc.org) for descriptions of day hosts and home hosts.

If you have participated in an inbound exchange before, you know that there is much work to be done when planning such an exchange. Typically we plan welcome and farewell events and several outings during the course of the week. Home hosts have to be identified and our guests matched with hosts. An orientation session is planned the first week of May to better prepare our hosts for their guests. This is especially helpful for families that are hosting for the first time. If you would be willing and able to help with any of these activities and/or would like to host an Australian ambassador, please contact Val Stokes (levals@triad.rr.com), our exchange director, or Paul Meis, (pmeis@triad.rr.com).



Home Hosting

If you have made it this far reading the latest FFCNC news, you have realized that between April 8 and May 28 we are home hosting three groups of guests: The Presidents' Roundtable, the Indonesian students, and the Australian ambassadors. What a testament to the participation, coordination, talents and enthusiasm of our members! Our membership numbers provide quantitative proof that our Friendship Force club is one of the largest in the US, but our willingness to accept special events such as the Presidents' Roundtable and the Indonesian inbound exchange is proof of the strength of our club. Kudos to all of our members!

Now, down to business. During the course of April and May we need up to 30 home hosts for these three activities. In order not to inundate our members with triplicate requests for hosting, a home hosting committee has been formed to assist the three exchange directors with their home hosting needs. If your situation is such that you are not able to home host at any time and would prefer that you are *never* contacted with these requests, you may notify Martha Brown (brownfamily@triad.rr.com or 946-0105) and your name will be maintained on a "do not call for home hosting list." Otherwise, we will assume that you are amenable to home hosting when it is feasible, given your schedule and interests.

If you have already made plans to home host during the Presidents' Roundtable and/or the Australian inbound exchange, thank you for offering your time and opening your home to our guests. If you have not yet made plans to home host this spring, please give this serious consideration. If you have never home hosted at all, this will be a wonderful time to give it a try.

These three exchanges/events are each very different and have different home hosting needs. In order to help you consider the possibility of home hosting, here is a brief recap of our home hosting needs.

- Presidents' Roundtable
 - Guests will be here the nights of April 8 & 9 (Thur & Fri)
 - Guests will be current and in-coming presidents of various FF chapters in the Mid-Atlantic and New England regions.

- Depending on time of arrival, you may need to plan dinner on Thursday evening; however, dinner is planned for Friday evening and we hope you will attend as well. (See details above for cost and other details.)
- The roundtable is being held in Greensboro, so Greensboro homes may be more convenient for these guests.
- Indonesian exchange
 - The students will arrive Wed., April 21 and depart Wed., April 28 so this entails 7 nights of home hosting.
 - Students will most likely be housed in pairs. If you do not have children or teens in your home, don't let that keep you from considering home hosting these teens. You may be amazed at how well two teenagers can entertain themselves! Also, keep in mind that there will be three adults to home host as well.
 - These students speak English, but we do not know exactly what level of English.
 - At this time activities for the week are not planned, but anticipate that some transportation and some meals will be required.
 - This exchange offers a wonderful opportunity to introduce FFCNC to younger potential members living in the Triad. Consider families you know who have teenage children who might enjoy the opportunity for their children to befriend an Indonesian teenager. Home hosting is open to non-FFCNC members as well.
- Australian inbound exchange
 - The ambassadors from Brisbane will arrive on Friday, May 21 and depart on Friday, May 28 – again, 7 nights of home hosting.
 - These guests will probably all be adults; English will not be a concern (at least not much!)
 - This will be a typical FF inbound exchange so anticipate welcome and farewell events, as well as some outings around the Triad.
 - Again, non-FFCNC members may apply to home host. If you know a family that you think would be interested in FFCNC and, especially, if they have a special connection or interest in Australia, please tell them about this opportunity.



So, in closing, you will be contacted in the near future about these three home hosting opportunities unless 1.) you have already offered to home host or 2.) you placed your name on the “do not call for home hosting” list. Better yet. Don't wait for that call! Contact the individual(s) named above who is coordinating the exchange/event which interests you.

2011 Exchanges!

FFCNC has just received our assigned exchanges for 2011. Our outbound exchange destination is Ottawa, Canada in September together with the Florence, South Carolina Friendship Force club! There is a chance that we will not be able to accommodate everyone. Due to the cooperative nature of this exchange (two FFI clubs traveling

together) and the fact that we expect many of our members will want to go to Ottawa, if you are interested in participating, please let President Marcia Meis know (724-9540 or pmeis@triad.rr.com.) If you would be interested in serving as Exchange Director, please let her know ASAP. The sooner an exchange director is named, the sooner discussions between the three clubs can begin and the sooner plans can be developed.

Our 2011 inbound exchange will be a reciprocal visit from our 2008 hosts in Lima, Peru! They are tentatively scheduled to arrive in the Triad in October of 2011 and will also be traveling to Montgomery, Alabama. Again, if you would be interested in serving as Exchange Director or on the planning committee, please notify Marcia.

SERVAS: Another Kind of Homestay

At our Taste of Thai LEO in January, guest Trish Perkins—who is on the staff of FaithAction in Greensboro and affiliated with AmeriCorps—spoke about an organization whose goals complement those of Friendship Force. Servas, Inc., with US offices in Arcata, CA, strives to “promote peace, the unity of humankind, and mutual understanding of the cultures, outlooks, and problems of the people of the world.”

US Servas hosts agree to provide two nights of lodging and hospitality to international visitors on an individual request basis. No money changes hands. Hosts are listed annually in a directory and must apply and be interviewed. Trish Perkins is currently the local interviewer for Servas.

Servas travelers also must complete an application and receive a “Letter of Introduction”. Servas homestays are available to Americans traveling around the world. There are also day hosts—who can make all the difference in a strange locale.

You can explore this interesting concept and organization further by visiting the web site: www.usservas.org .

Donation to the FFI Legacy Fund

The Legacy Fund, created in 2005, honors Friendship Force founder, Wayne Smith. This fund has been successful in:

- Launching 25 new clubs around the world
- Expanding the impact of the Friendship Force with new themed exchanges (educational, humanitarian, cultural fields)
- Training programs for new leaders

FFCNC has made two donations to the Legacy Fund in the past – in honor of Paul Meis, our first president, and in honor of Donna Lambeth, who chaired the FFI board last year. The Board approved at its recent meeting a \$250 donation to the Legacy Fund in observance of World Friendship Day 2010.

Individual members of FFCNC can also make donations to this Fund—which has provided critical support for innovations within FFI. You are encouraged to donate online, to minimize administrative costs: www.thefriendshipforce.org and click on “Support FFI”.

Friendly Reminder

In 2008 our board formally adopted an email policy for Friendship Force of Central North Carolina and published this in the September 2008 newsletter. It occurred to us that new members have never had the opportunity to learn of this policy. It has now been published on the Archives page of our website (<http://www.ffcnc.org/Archives.html>) along with our By-laws and other pertinent information.

Our board recognizes the privacy of our members' email accounts and strives to limit email messages both in quantity and content. This is accomplished in a number of ways. Email addresses of our members are not published in our directory. When emails are sent to the entire membership, they are sent as “blind copies” so that the privacy of email addresses is maintained. Emails to the entire membership are sent from one source: the Communications Chair. For those of you who use address blockers, please allow for the receipt of emails from the address brownfamily@triad.rr.com. The Communications Chair serves as a “gatekeeper” for outgoing emails. In this capacity she can look for opportunities to combine emails and ensure that emails sent to our members pertain to Friendship Force business. If you have a need to email our membership, please forward your request to our Communications Chair, Martha Brown, at the address above and she will do this for you. If you have a need to email an individual member and do not have their address, please use your directory to call the member on the phone and request their email address directly from them. (By the way, look for an updated 2010 Membership Directory in the spring.)

Whether you are a new member who has never read our policy or a longer-term member, we encourage you to take a minute to review this policy using the link above.