



friendship force

CENTRAL
NORTH CAROLINA

Fast Facts ~ August 2012

Open World Delegation from Moldova

FFCNC was excited and flattered to be asked to host an Open World delegation from Moldova. In November 2007 FFCNC had a wonderful experience hosting an Open World delegation from Russia. If you were not a member at that time, you may enjoy reading the summary of this visit in the January 2008 newsletter (www.ffcnc.org/archives) and viewing the associated photo album on the Exchanges & Photos page.

Funded by the US Congress, "Since 1999, Open World has brought more than 17,000 young leaders to the United States from the countries of Eurasia. Through Open World, mayors, legislators, judges, civil servants, educators and entrepreneurs from across the former Soviet Union have come to know the real America. And whether the ideas they take home are practical, such as publishing city council meeting times in the local paper, or more abstract, such as understanding the importance of judicial impartiality to the rule of law, the net effect of Open World is to strengthen the democratic process in their countries." (www.openworld.gov)

An Open World program differs in several respects from a typical Friendship Force in-bound exchange. For this delegation Exchange Directors, Peter Peiffer, Ralph Cauthen, and Donna Lambeth, are charged with putting together a 32 hour program on the theme of Elections, from campaigning to voting. Hosts are not expected to participate during the weekday meetings, but arrangements will need to be made to transport the delegates to and from program events.

With only eight weeks to plan the program, hosting arrangements, transportation, meals and welcome and farewell gatherings, Peter, Ralph, and Donna have quickly hit the drawing board and phones. Several members have already stepped forth with suggestions for program activities and offers to assist with hosting for which our three ED's are grateful.

Tentative plans for the week's schedule are taking shape. This visit will address hosting a little differently. Our guests will spend the first four nights with host families in Winston-Salem and then will move to spend the last four nights with host families in Greensboro. The program schedule will be planned to take advantage of this and minimize travel time commuting within the Triad region.

Our guests will arrive on Friday, September 21. A welcome event is planned for Saturday evening at the Delta Center. The rest of the weekend will be unscheduled time for sightseeing with hosts or shopping. Monday and Tuesday's program events will be scheduled in Winston-Salem and then our guests will move to their host family homes in Greensboro. Program activities will continue on Wednesday and Thursday in Greensboro. Friday will be held for a final day of free time with a farewell event planned for the evening. Then our guests will depart on Saturday, September 29.

Our Open World delegation will consist of five delegates. So who are these “delegates?” In general, the average age is 38 and 40% of them are women. The program is designed for participants who have never visited the United States before. They have been selectively chosen for participation and all of their expenses are paid. In addition to the five delegates, the group will include a facilitator and an interpreter. The interpreter’s role, as you might expect, is to interpret, but only during the formal program activities. It would be too much to expect an interpreter to “be on the job” 24 x 7, so during free time and social events they are not required to join the group, though they may if they wish. The facilitator is typically also of the same nationality as the delegates and he or she will be fluent in English. Their role is to facilitate where needed, for example, if there were a medical emergency or (remembering a comical experience from our Russian Open World visit) when a delegate’s pants ripped wide open during a business meeting and an emergency visit to Target was needed! We hope to know soon who are guests will be.

There is still time to give Peter a call to see how you can be involved in this special opportunity to experience Open World first hand. (288-0014 or peiffer@aol.com) More hands are always needed. Also, be sure to watch your mail/email for details on the welcome dinner on September 22 which will be open to all members.

Test Your Knowledge of Moldova

- ~~~ What body of water does Moldova border?
- ~~~ What is the capital of Moldova?
- ~~~ What is the national language of Moldova?
- ~~~ What is the main religion in Moldova?
- ~~~ Is Moldova in the European Union?

Check your answers on the last page.

Beat the Heat! Australia Out-bound Exchange Summer of 2013

Right now it is one day and 2 hours ahead of our FFCNC clock and much cooler – only 59°F today - in Bundaberg, Australia, site of one of our home hosting adventures next summer in Northeastern Australia. Ray Kiszely and Judy Greene have agreed to serve as co-Exchange Directors for our next out-bound exchange tentatively scheduled for July 2013. FFCNC will visit two different clubs in the state of Queensland: the FF Sunshine Coast and Bundaberg, Australia. Details of dates and itinerary will be worked out with the hosting clubs and we expect to have enough information for members to make travel plans before the end of this year.

The second-largest and third-most populous state of Australia, Queensland is located in the northeast of the country. Bundaberg is in the southern region north of Brisbane and south of the Coral Sea. Queensland has a population of 4,580,700, concentrated along the coast and particularly in the state's southeast area. The state is the world's sixth largest subnational entity, with an area of 1,852,642 km². The capital and largest city in the state is Brisbane, Australia's third largest city. Referred to as the 'Sunshine State', Queensland is home to 10 of Australia's 30 largest cities and is the nation's third largest economy.



First occupied by Indigenous Australians and Torres Strait Islanders, who arrived at least 40,000 years ago, the first European to land in Queensland was Dutch navigator Willem Janszoon in 1607. In 1770, Lieutenant James Cook claimed the east coast of Australia for the Kingdom of Great Britain. The colony of New South Wales was founded in 1788 by Governor Arthur Phillip at Sydney; New South Wales at that time included all of what is now Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania. Queensland was explored in subsequent decades until the establishment of a penal colony at Brisbane in 1824 by John Oxley. Penal transportation ceased in 1839 and free settlement permitted in 1842. Queensland was separated from New South Wales, forming a self-governing colony, on 6 June 1859, a date now celebrated state-wide as Queensland Day. Queensland achieved statehood with the Federation of Australia on 1 January 1901.

Southeast Region President's Conference - May 18-20, 2012

Just what is a President's Conference? Since this was my first time in attendance, I did not know what to expect. Yet, I came away pleasantly surprised concerning the useful information that was shared by Friendship Force International (FFI) staff and by those in attendance.

The President's Conference is held every other year for the presidents of the regional chapters of Friendship Force International. There were thirty attendees registered from AL, GA, KY, NC, SC, and TN. The conference agenda is set by our Southeastern Regional Representative, John Wilhelm. Peter Peiffer (our current President) and I (as President-elect) were privileged to attend this year's conference in Asheville, NC on May 18-20, 2012. Each of us was hosted by a member of the Friendship Force of Western NC. The conference was actually held at the Park Avenue Clubhouse in Asheville, NC and began with a wine and cheese reception on Friday evening of the 18th. The meetings began in earnest on Saturday and included presentations on the FFI Global Expansion Plan, the tax status of local clubs, and choosing exchange destinations. There was time in between for small group discussions and forums on club policies for ED compensation, forming new clubs and recruiting new members, fundraisers, as well as domestic exchanges and other topics of interest to local clubs. A catered BBQ dinner was held at the clubhouse on Saturday evening. The meetings concluded on Sunday morning with a presentation on new exchange opportunities.

Global Expansion Plan – Pallie Savoie (FFI, Atlanta)

2012 is the 35th anniversary of The Friendship Force (FF) and FFI has adopted a three-year plan to expand globally and attract a new generation of participants. One of the goals is to establish 45 new clubs in countries such as Japan, China, Colombia, Panama, Ghana, Uganda, Russia, Mexico, Turkey, India, USA, and Morocco. More themed exchanges will be available to clubs and members and some exchanges will be partnered with other organizations, such as Road Scholar. It is hoped that new programs to Cuba, expanded cruise opportunities, and specialized exchanges will attract a new generation of members. With the expansion plan comes an increased commitment to train and support current volunteer leaders with traditional regional workshops, with expanded use of the Internet and web-based materials and training. New print and digital materials along with an updated website and expanded email marketing will be used to more effectively promote FF globally. And finally, FFI will seek to raise \$275,000 during the next three years to achieve its goals. To further this last goal, a special award, the Wayne Smith Medal, has been established to recognize those who have shown exceptional leadership in advancing the Friendship Force mission in their communities. Each presentation of the award will be accompanied by a donation of \$500 to the FF Legacy Fund.

Group Discussion on club policies for Exchange Director Compensation

There are many different practices for compensating inbound and outbound exchange directors (EDs) within the regional clubs. In case you were not aware of our own club's policies, we currently do not have any compensation for inbound exchange directors. Our outbound exchange director's expenses for travel and FFI fees are paid on a sliding scale dependent upon the number of participants in the exchange. Some of the clubs in the region do not offer any compensation for any of their exchanges; some offer inbound exchange directors a \$200 or even a \$500 credit to be used in the future on an outbound exchange. One club pays \$50 per week plus \$100 per ambassador to cover outbound exchange director expenses while some only pay for travel and not fees. It is good to know that we are not out of line in our own club's policies for outbound ED's, but there is room for improvement in regards to our inbound ED's.

Choosing Exchange Destinations- Pallie Savoie (FFI, Atlanta)

Did you ever wonder how clubs are assigned their exchange destinations? The process begins in July and August of each year in Atlanta when the program service coordinators meet to discuss the process which plans two years out. In September of each year, the clubs' presidents receive request forms from Atlanta. Each club has until November 1st to submit its preferred destinations for two years out. For example, in 2011 our club submitted its preferences for 2013 exchanges. Our club's selections are based on member preferences and previous inbound exchanges. From November through January, all the clubs' proposals are reviewed. The review process, which is now handled digitally, is still very subjective. Criteria such as matching requests with availability, specified travel times, club capacity, and even a club's history of successful exchanges are considered in the selection process. In January, the proposals for exchanges two years out are sent to the clubs who have until March to respond. In June the process wraps up for the year and the process starts over again in July. In 2012, 313 clubs responded with 981 requests for exchanges. The reality is not all requests can be matched. For example, there were 13 requests in 2012 for exchanges to Austria but only two opportunities were available. In addition, since not all requests are for exchanges to the U.S. some U.S. clubs will not be assigned inbound exchanges.

I really appreciated the opportunity to attend the President's conference this year and to interact with officers from other regional chapters. I hope some of the ideas shared at this meeting can be explored by our own club in the coming year.

Barbara S. North

Meet Jane & Ralph Cauthen: A Tale of Two Travelers

Stories of Fiji and Switzerland—told by Kit Ravenel and Jim and Barbara North, respectively—introduced Jane and Ralph Cauthen to Friendship Force travel. They joined FFCNC’s “parent” GCCIU (Guilford County Citizens for International Understanding) initially and have great memories of their first trip which Carol and Skip Bryan led to Odense, Denmark. Later Ralph led the exchange to Shizuoka, Japan, and he and Jane enjoyed others—including Germany, Peru, New Zealand, Ottawa, and the Big Sky Festival in Montana. They have also traveled to build houses with Habitat for Humanity in Bolivia, Paraguay and three times in Honduras.

In all this they have valued most relating to people and learning about their lives and cultures. Their goal has been to contribute to the building of a peaceful world of friendships.

Highlights of their travels include visiting an orphanage in Peru and facilitating the ongoing relationship of their host family with the orphanage. From Paraguay the gift of a simple grass cross, handmade by ten year old Jose, became a treasured keepsake displayed in their study. Jane’s subsequent article about relationships on the work site was published by Habitat.

Jane and Ralph met while in their first social work positions at Connie Maxwell Children’s Home in South Carolina. Two sons later...they each were program managers at their respective social work agencies. Now there are two grandchildren, both nine years old.



*The Cauthens with their Peruvian Hosts
Hugo Gotelli, Jane, Ada Gotelli, and Ralph*

Jane grew up on a farm in upper South Carolina, and Ralph was reared by missionary parents in China. However they found when they met and married that their interests were so similar they had duplicate copies in their combined book collection!

Jane has been known to cite her husband’s ‘wanderlust streak’ in explaining their very active FFCNC involvement—past, present and future.

2012 - 2013 Calendar Highlights

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| September 6 | Board Meeting, 11:45 AM MSUMC Kernersville |
| September 21 – 29 | Open World delegation from Moldova |
| October 25 | FFCNC Annual Meeting |
| November 1 | Board Meeting, 11:45 AM MSUMC Kernersville |
| July 2013 | Out-bound exchange to Gold Coast of Australia |

Test Your Knowledge of Moldova

~~~ What body of water does Moldova border?

None! Romania is located to its west and the Ukraine is located to the north, south, and east of Moldova.

~~~ What is the capital of Moldova?

Chişinău – located in the middle of Moldova with a population of about $\frac{3}{4}$ million, this is the main industrial and commercial center of the country as well as its largest city.

~~~ What is the national language of Moldova?

The Constitution of 1994 states that the national language is Moldovan and it is written with the Latin alphabet. Scholars argue that the Moldovan and Romanian languages are the same. As a Romance language, it is similar to French which is widely studied by school children along with English. Russian also remains widely used.

~~~ What is the main religion in Moldova?

93% of Moldovans are Orthodox Christians.

~~~ Is Moldova in the European Union?

Not yet; they are working on it.