



friendship force

CENTRAL
NORTH CAROLINA

Our mission is to promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people.

Fast Facts ~ March 2014

2015 Exchanges Announced



FFCNC recently received its proposed 2015 exchange matchings from FFI and there is a lot to look forward to in 2015! The FFCNC Board has approved the invitation to travel to Moscow, Russia in June 2015 and to host Cleveland County, United Kingdom in October of 2015. Now all that remains to finalize these plans is for these FF clubs to likewise approve the matchings.



The area known as Cleveland, UK, more often referred to as the Tees Valley, is on the North East Coast of England. The Friendship Force club there was chartered in 1984 and continues to have some of its founding members active in the club.

Moscow, Russia needs no introduction. The FF club there was the first FF club in Russia, founded in 1991. They have approximately 250 members ranging in age from 20 to 79. Nikita Bekasov, former Open World delegate hosted by the Peiffers in 2007 and current resident of Moscow, responded to this news as follows: “Ура!!! Ждем с нетерпением встречи! :)” You don’t need to know Russian to translate the exclamation marks and smiley face in his message that says, “Hurray!!! We are waiting impatiently for your visit! :)”

But that’s not all for 2015! There’s more. Many thanks go to Laura Lennon, Exchange Director of our recent domestic in-bound exchange from FF of Pike’s Peak, for her efforts to arrange a reciprocal out-bound domestic exchange to visit this club based in Colorado Springs. The tentative timeframe for this exchange is spring of 2015. Colorado Springs and its environs are home to many interesting sites some of which include Pike’s Peak (of course!), Garden of the Gods, and the Air Force Academy. There is no shortage of things to do and beautiful places to see in this part of Colorado.

Needless to say, these exchanges present great opportunities for exchange directors and those who volunteer now will have plenty of time to plan. The out-bound exchange to Moscow will be planned by Martha Brown. FFCNC members interested in serving as the exchange directors for the out-bound exchange to Pike's Peak or the in-bound exchange from Cleveland, UK should contact Barbara North (woodnotes2004@yahoo.com or 643-0985). These exchanges both present good opportunities for a novice exchange director. Another possibility to consider is partnering with a fellow FFCNC member and working together on one of these exchanges as co-ED's. We encourage any and all members who would enjoy being involved in either of these exchanges to talk with Barbara about the role of ED and consider serving in this capacity.

Dates Set for Moldova Out-bound Exchange

Exchange Director, Barton Parks, and his counterpart in Moldova, Mariana Turcan, have finalized dates for our Moldovan homestay. This seven night homestay will take place August 27 – September 3. Now that these dates are confirmed, we will be able determine if a second homestay in Ankara, Turkey will be possible. Initial thinking is that this will follow the Moldovan homestay. If that is the case, then our ambassadors will leave the U.S. on August 26 in order to arrive in Moldova on Aug. 27.

There is room for approximately four more ambassadors to join Barton on this exchange. If you are interested in knowing more about this exchange or think you may like to participate, please contact Barton at 292-4699 or bapjr@bellsouth.net.

Moldovan Independence Day – August 27

Moldova dates back to the Middle Ages when it was the Principality of Moldavia. In 1538, the principality became a tributary of the Ottoman Empire; however, it retained its internal and partial external autonomy. In 1812 the Russian Empire annexed it and named the territory Bessarabia. Though the territory was returned to Moldavia in 1856, it was returned once more to the Russian Empire in 1878. When the Russian Empire was dissolved in 1917, an independent Moldavian Republic was formed. However Bessarabia was under Romanian jurisdiction from 1918 to 1940.

In August 1939, the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact was signed that recognized Bessarabia as a Soviet sphere of influence. In June 1940 Romania, at that time an ally of Nazi Germany, received an ultimatum from the Soviet Union with an implied threat of invasion. Under pressure from both the Soviet Union and Germany, the military was evacuated from this region and it became occupied by the Soviet Union. Under Soviet Rule, the Soviet government aggressively promoted the ethnic Moldavian identity as different from the Romanian identity. It even changed the script of the Moldovan language from Latin to Cyrillic. To support perestroika and Gorbachev's policy of glasnost, in 1986 a Democratic Movement of Moldova was formed, which in 1989 became the Popular Front of Moldova.

From 1988 onwards, Moldova began to move towards its independence. On August 27, 1987, a mass demonstration called the Great National Assembly was organized. Those involved in the demonstration pressured the Soviet authorities to adopt a language law that would proclaim Moldovan, written with Latin alphabet — as the state language. The first independent general elections for parliament were held in 1990. In June 1990, the parliament adopted the Declaration of Sovereignty of the Soviet Socialist Republic Moldova. Finally, on August 27, 1990, Moldova declared its independence.

August 27 has since been celebrated as Moldova's Independence Day. On this day, the President makes public speeches and inaugurates new construction sites. Flowers are laid at the Monument of Stefan cel Mare and a concert is organized at the National Square. The people of Moldova participate in sports events, concerts, exhibitions and outdoor events. On this day every Moldovan celebrates being an independent citizen of a free, independent and peaceful country.

Edited in part from <http://aglobalworld.com/holidays-around-the-world/moldova-independence-day/>

New Member Orientation

We want to extend a warm welcome to our newest members. Please join us for a wine and cheese reception and a short orientation. We'll answer all your questions about Friendship Force International and the opportunities available through our local chapter, Friendship Force of Central North Carolina. If this is of interest to you, if you would like more information about FFI and FFCNC, then you qualify as "new!"



Please join us on Saturday, March 29th at 4:00 PM; the location is still to be determined. Be certain to RSVP to Judy Greene, Membership Chair, at jgreene@udel.edu or 768-1732 by Monday, March 24. She will let you know the location and will have handouts for you when you get there.

Home Hosts Needed for FF Southeast Regional Conference

The Southeast Regional President's Conference will be held April 25 – 27, 2014 on the Jamestown Campus of the Guilford Technical Community College. Those participants registered to date have all requested homestays. If you would be available and willing to host a Friendship Force member from one of our other regional clubs please contact Marta Rhodes at smile@triad.rr.com or 971-5747. Approximately 8 – 10 host families are needed.

Let's Eat Out

Join clubs around the world in celebrating Friendship Force International's 37th anniversary this March. The theme for this year's celebration is "Make a friend, make a difference." FFCNC will be celebrating at our next LEO. Please bring a friend and join us Saturday morning at 11 AM, March 22 at the Moose Café at the Piedmont Triad Farmer's Market; Sandy Ridge Rd., Colfax for our next LEO. Charlotte Hamlin will share some of her entertaining stories to help us temporarily move beyond our worlds of reality. There is no need to rsvp. Just don't forget to bring a friend and come share the fun.



Membership Interest Survey

If you have not yet sent your completed Membership Survey to Donna Lambeth, it is still very much desired. You may either 1.) Print the attached copy, complete it, and mail it to Donna Lambeth (her address will be found on the last page) or 2.) Save it on your computer, complete it, and email it to Donna Lambeth at Dilambeth@triad.rr.com. If you choose to email it, please make the subject heading "FF Survey."

If you have further questions about the Interest Survey, please feel free to contact Barbara North at 643-0985 or woodnotes2004@yahoo.com.

Exchange Opportunities

- ❖ The Friendship Force Club of Western North Carolina is planning an exchange to the Republic of Georgia this fall from Oct. 17 – 24, 2014. There is an optional four day home stay with an FFI family beginning on Oct. 24. Exchange Directors are Bill and Judy Wilkes. They may be contacted at wrrwnc@bellsouth.net or 828-891-3578.
- ❖ The FF of Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley will go on a Discovery Tour of Iceland July 16 – 29, 2014. Participants need to be healthy and physically fit, able to walk four miles on unpaved and uneven ground. For more information contact exchange director Kathy Butler at 4192butlerkw@comcast.net or 541-926-9897 or exchange director Shirley Karstens at svkarstens@comcast.net or 541-967-8309.
- ❖ Friendship Force International invites all members to celebrate its 37th anniversary at the FF World Conference from October 14 – 16 in Auckland, New Zealand. There will be many options to join post-conference homestays and tours. For more information contact the Conference Director, Debbie Powell at conf@thefriendshipforce.org or visit <http://www.cvent.com/events/friendship-force-world-conference-2014/event-summary-b33559b2107847c69cfe2e3656806eec.aspx>.

2014 - 2015 Calendar Highlights

March 22	LEO (Let's Eat Out), 11 AM; brunch at the Moose Café; Piedmont Triad Farmer's Market; Colfax
April 25 – 27	Southeast Regional Conference
May 1	Board Meeting; 10:30 AM MSUMC; Kernersville
July 10	Board Meeting; 10:30 AM MSUMC; Kernersville
September 4	Board Meeting; 10:30 AM MSUMC; Kernersville
Late Aug – early Sept	Out-bound exchange to Moldova & Ankara, Turkey (date tbd)
November 6	Board Meeting; 10:30 AM MSUMC; Kernersville
Spring 2015	Domestic Out-bound to FF Pike's Peak (Colorado Springs, Co.)
June 2015	Out-bound to Moscow, Russia
October 2015	In-Bound from Cleveland County, United Kingdom