



friendship force

CENTRAL
NORTH CAROLINA

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

Spring 2016

2016-18 Upcoming Events

April 29-May 7	Open World – Ukraine
May 20-21, 2016	Southeast Region Meeting, Memphis
July 13-20, 2016	Domestic Outbound to Colorado
September 16-19, 2016	FFI World Conference, Africa
2017	Domestic Outbound to NE Ohio
2017	International Outbound to Brazil

Extra! Extra! Read All About It! Open World Ukraine Delegates Arrive April 29!

Friendship Force of Central North Carolina is being honored again by being invited to host another Open World Program of Delegates. This time we are fortunate to have a small group of Investigative Journalists join us in the Piedmont Triad.

Beginning on Friday, April 29th we will welcome three men and two women journalists along with their experienced Facilitator, Kateryna Tyminiska. Andrii Lokhmatov, Mariia Zemlianska, Olena Lohinova, Serhii Medianykh and Roman Bochkala are looking forward to a very stimulating business program that Ralph Cauthen and Ray Kiszely and the team of volunteers have arranged for them. But, most of all they are eagerly awaiting the opportunity to meet the members of our FF club who will provide Southern Hospitality during their stay.

During the program we are planning a series of meetings with Local Journalists, Newspaper Publishers, and Television Programmers. We are expecting meetings with Mayor Joines of Winston-Salem. Senator Burr's office has also invited the Delegates to the Winston-Salem office for a meeting to discuss the current situation in Ukraine.

A Welcome Buffet Lunch is planned for Saturday, April 30th, at Brookstown Inn, in Winston-Salem and a Farewell Luncheon is scheduled for Friday, May 6th, at Giadas Trattoria, in Kernersville, NC. Members and guests are invited to join us at one or both of these events to greet our Delegates and wish them well during their stay in our communities.

From Ray Kiszely, Co-Ed

A REMINDER: An Invitation to both luncheon events was recently distributed to the membership. See below for a summary of the details. Thanks to Marta Rhodes for our invitation.

WELCOME BUFFET LUNCH

Saturday, April 30th, 1 p.m. at the historic Brookstown Inn, 200 Brookstown Avenue, Winston Salem (just North of Old Salem). We hope to hear about the lives of our newly arrived guests. No cost to members and guests they wish to bring. **Please respond as soon as possible and no later than Monday, April 25th to Peter Peiffer 336-288-0014 or Peiffer@aol.com.**



FAREWELL LUNCHEON

Friday, May 6th, 1 p.m. Giadas Trattoria, 210 North Main St, Kernersville, NC, 336-497-5316. Luncheon with preselected menu options at no cost to members and their guests. Cash bar available. OW delegates will share some highlights of their week. **RSVP: Barbara North by Sunday, May 1st, 336-643-0985 or woodnotes2004@yahoo.com.**



Just Who or What is Open World??

FFCNC is hosting our sixth Open World delegation – this time from the Ukraine (the other five include 2007 – Russia; 2012 – Moldova; 2013- Republic of Georgia; 2014 – Kosovo; 2015 – Kosovo). But who or what is Open World and what does it have to do with Friendship Force? The Open World Leader Center (OWLC) is an independent government agency of the U.S. Congress. OWLC administers and funds the Open World (OW) program, an exchange program designed to enhance understanding and cooperation between Eurasian and American leaders. Eurasian government and civic leaders are brought to the U.S. to work with their American counterparts during a 10-day professional visit. The average age of OW delegates is 38; over half are women. OWLC partners with community-based civic and service organizations, such as Friendship Force, to provide local hosting and programming for the OW delegates. And this is where FFCNC plays an important role - hosting delegates in our homes and planning a work program on the selected topic. It takes time, work, and coordination on the part of the FFCNC committee members who help plan the program and our members who host the delegates but the rewards are many. In past program evaluations, delegates have stated one of their most valuable experiences was being hosted in our homes and having a first-hand experience with American community life. Open World and Friendship Force share the same values of promoting understanding across cultural barriers.



The Southeast Region Leadership Conference

You are invited to attend the Southeast Region Leadership Conference hosted by the Friendship Force Club of Memphis on May 20-21, 2016. A Welcome Dinner is planned for Friday evening, May 20, with training sessions to be held on Saturday. Saturday night activities will include sightseeing. Home hosting is available. If you are interested in attending, please contact Rick Thomas, richardkthomas@att.net.

OTHER CLUB NEWS



It's a Match — Our 2017 International Outbound Exchange assignment is to Sao Luis, Brazil. A great big "Thank you" to **Charles John** for volunteering to be the Exchange Director for this trip. Stay tuned for future details.

Board Considers Different Organizational Structure – the board recently submitted a letter to the membership asking for input on a Leadership Council style of organization. Elections would be held to elect council members who would decide among themselves what roles each member would fill. ***If you have not already done so, please review the letter and submit your input and comments to Leroy Stokes.***

Colorado Exchange Ambassadors Brunch on Saturday, April 9th. Eighteen ambassadors met for brunch at the home of Judy Greene in Winston-Salem to discuss travel arrangements and programming for the upcoming domestic outbound exchange to Colorado in July.

LEO held on March 5 at Bistro B – members assembled on Saturday, March 5th at Bistro B in Kernersville, NC, for lunch to hear about Ukraine in preparation for our Open World exchange. Our guest speaker was Dr. Jeff Jones, Associate Professor of History, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, whose specific area of research is Russia-Soviet history.

BOOK RECOMMENDATION:

The Other Side of the Mountain – The Friendship Force Story by Charlene Terrell

“What can one person do? Most people ask themselves this question when they are faced with overwhelming circumstances, seemingly beyond their control. More than anything this book addresses this difficult question and provides an answer which hundreds of people have found to be true. Some of their stories are told in this book and they will warm your heart and show that you CAN make a difference in this world. These stories make up the history and the heartbeat of Friendship Force. They are the stories of some of the thousands of volunteers who have reached their hands in friendship to people in another land...and to their surprise found hands reaching back to clasp their own....A world of friends is a world of peace.”



Hello, spring!