



friendship force
WESTERN
NORTH CAROLINA

Mountain Friends

Vol. 17, Issue 5

Friendship Force of Western North Carolina

December 2017

FFWNC

P.O. Box 1425

Skyland, NC 28776

Website: www.ffwesternnc.org

Holiday Party

Tuesday, December 5th

5:30 p.m.

St. Paul Mountain Vineyard

General Meeting

Sunday, January 21st

3:00 p.m.

Skyland Fire Department
9 Miller Road E, Asheville

Dues Reminder

2018 dues are now due.

2018 dues are \$27.00

per person. Please complete the membership application / renewal form, one per person, at the end of this newsletter

and mail your check to:

FFWNC

PO Box 1425 Skyland, NC 28776.

From the Desk of the President

Dear Friends,

I wanted to thank you, all of our members, for making this a successful year for our Friendship Force Club of Western North Carolina. During 2017 you helped to home host, dinner host, day host and take on various tasks during Journeys for fifty-five ambassadors. That is quite an accomplishment and without you, it would not have been possible.

During our November meeting, members shared information about the recent Journey groups who visited our club from Cornwall, England and Nagasaki, Japan. Each Journey Coordinator for these journeys has written information for you in this newsletter.

At the start of our meeting I shared a quote that I found in the book *The Other Side of the Mountain*, which is about the creation of Friendship Force. "I believe that the people in the long run are going to do more to promote peace than government. Indeed, I think that the people want peace so much that one of these days governments had better get out of the way and let them have it." – President of the United States, Dwight David Eisenhower. The joy of communicating with people from all over our country and the world certainly makes us all richer with the knowledge that is shared between each ambassador and you. Remember that you are not limited to joining Journeys from our club but that the Friendship Force International catalogue contains an incredible list of opportunities. Use this link to explore the catalogue of Journeys that are open to you: <https://www.thefriendshipforce.org>

Do you have an idea for our club or for a future journey? Do you want to help during a journey or lead one? The possibilities are many and we welcome you to be an active part of our organization.

I would like to give a special thank you to members who have served on our Board for three years: Jan Partin, Larry McGaughy, and Judi Wondolowski. Welcome to our new club president, Diane Tokarski, and Board members Chuck Stevens and Nancy McGaughy.

May this holiday season and New Year bring joy to you and your friends and family.

In friendship,

Joan

News from Our President-Elect

First, I would like to thank Joan Manfre, 2017 FFWNC President, for the many hours she has spent on club duties as well as for her efforts in piloting us through this year. She has been a wonderful mentor to me, as I step into the role of club president. It won't be easy filling her shoes!

2018 will prove to be a great year for our club. Outbound journeys will include visits to New Mexico (early May) and Cornwall, England (most likely mid-September.) Inbound journeys will feature the global journey Quilting Mountain Style (late May) and a domestic journey from Northern Illinois (most likely mid-October).

Our first General Meeting in 2018 will be held at the Skyland Fire Department (9 Miller Road E, Asheville) **on Sunday, January 21st, at 3:00 p.m.** An earlier start time will allow for lesser time to be on the road in darkness, as night comes upon us so quickly in the early winter months. We will hold the business/guest speaker portion of the meeting first, ending the meeting with a pot luck meal.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a healthy and blessed New Year!

Diane Tokarski
President-Elect

“Sunshine”

Judi Wondolowski is our club's Sunshine Person". If you know of anyone that is in need of some sunshine due to illness or a death in the family, please contact Judi so that a card can be sent judiwond@gmail.com or 698-0484.



FF Kansas and FF New Mexico Dates Have Been Selected

Planning is underway for our club's journey to FF Wichita, Kansas and FF Albuquerque, New Mexico. We are planning to visit Kansas from April 29 to May 3 and New Mexico from May 3 to May 10. Both clubs have committed to hosting us on this upcoming journey. Bill Hogan will serve as our Journey Coordinator and he is awaiting the selection of the Journey Coordinators from both clubs. Discussions have already occurred with New Mexico and a rough idea of the agenda has been established. More details will follow shortly after we begin the new year.

Nagasaki Journey Oct. 30 – Nov. 6

On October 30th, the Friendship Force of Western NC welcomed 14 ambassadors from the Nagasaki Club. It was a happy reunion as our club spent a week in Nagasaki last October in the homes of several of our visitors. Originally, their Club planned to spend only four days with us before traveling to San Francisco until we convinced them that there is plenty to see in Western NC. We kept them busy from their arrival until the day they left with many of the typical events and visiting sites our area is famous for: hiking to the waterfalls in the DuPont Forrest, lunch at Sierra Nevada, a greeting from the Hendersonville mayor and a walk through downtown Hendersonville and a tour of downtown Asheville and the River Arts District.

While in Nagasaki, we spent a morning at an elementary school so we decided to return the favor. We arranged for our visitors to observe the fifth grade PE class at Sugarloaf Elementary School demonstrate their square dancing skills. The class was taught by Bill Coulthart, a member of the Southern Lights Square and Round Dance Club, of which Becky and I are members. Our visitors came prepared to share their culture and skills at Sugarloaf as they taught second graders origami. The visit was well-covered by the Hendersonville Times-News with photographs of our visitors and the children in the November 2nd edition.

Halloween is becoming very popular in Japan as we witnessed last October. Carol Mullen, Bill Hogan and Karen McDonald decided that we must have an all-out Halloween party on Oct. 31. Bill and Karen were very gracious in holding a celebration at their home. Their house was stocked with every conceivable Halloween gadget imaginable. Even Bishop, their dog was dressed up as a ghost-buster. Hosts and Ambassadors were unrecognizable and partied in very creative costumes.



We had two fantastic dinner host parties. Chuck Stevens used his BBQ skills to smoke a 17 pound brisket, pulled pork and baby back ribs, while Bill and Karen provided the other half of the group with a complete Thanksgiving dinner. Our ambassadors were treated to the holiday lights at the Biltmore, providing the opportunity for many of our ambassadors to experience three American holidays in one week. A tour of the French Broad Chocolate Factory, wine tasting and square dancing at the St Paul Mountain Winery concluded the Journey.

Becky and I say thank you to our co-coordinators Jack and Carol Mullen for their hard work in planning and executing the Journey and to dinner and day hosts for making it a success.

Joe Robustelli

Cornwall Journey

FFWNC recently completed an Inbound Journey in October with twelve Ambassadors from the Friendship Force of Cornwall, England. And to say that our Club entertained the Cornwall group “Royally” is an understatement. Of course, that is what we always do!

Starting out on Day One we all enjoyed Ron Partin’s excellent tour of the Carl Sandburg Home and Grounds, then a Welcome Picnic at High Falls’ Shelter in DuPont State Forest, complete with Jan Tenderholt’s expert Hiking assistance, and ice cream afterwards! The stage was set for what turned out to be a wonderful Journey for our new friends from England. Other highlights for our Guests included “Biltmore Day” which was capped off by a “12 Bones BBQ” feast hosted by Carol and Jack Mullen at their Park Avenue Clubhouse. Of course this turned out to be a great introduction to regional North Carolina dining. Our day on the Blue Ridge helped our Cornwall visitors to get acclimated with just how much our mountains are a part of living here, and Sierra Nevada showed them how Craft Beer is, more and more, becoming part of our mountain environment and culture.

Saturday’s Asheville Trolley tour was clearly enjoyed by all, and six of our own members were able to “tag along” on the tour as well. After a fun filled “Free Day” on Sunday, our Ambassadors were hosted on Monday by Hendersonville’s own Mayor, Barbara Volk, who graciously welcomed them to the City. The question and answer session that followed went a long way in showing how we do things governmentally here in western North Carolina. A “Farewell Dinner” at Saint Paul Mountain Vineyards capped the week off quite nicely, and was yet another example of our regional cuisine, this time with a “Low Country” theme. We were even able to learn more about local wines during a wine tasting done by our own member, Mark Cigal.



All in all, our Guests had a wonderful time and as summed up by Cornwall’s Journey Coordinator, Margie Lundie, “I personally think it was the best exchange we have ever done.” And there’s definitely a good reason for that, thanks to all of those who Home Hosted (the Cigals, Bonnie Dees, the Harveys, the McGaughys, the McDonald/Hogans, the Partins and the Reid/Robustellis). And the week would not have been a culinary success without Dinner Hosting by the Elstons, the Hales and the Manfrees who offered our Cornwall Ambassadors an opportunity for fine dining in the setting of a Member’s Home. Day

Hosts included the Brazauskas, the Mullens, Roberta Newman and Chuck Stevens, who were so kind as to assist with the varied logistics of getting our Guests comfortably around throughout the week. It was a busy week for all of us, but one that we will remember, as will our Cornwall Guests, for a long, long time.

Journeys 2018

OUTGOING

April 29 – May 10 Wichita, KS; Albuquerque, New Mexico Bill Hogan, J.C.

September 14-21 Cornwall, England Jack Mullen, J.C.

INCOMING

May 23 - 31 “Quilting Mountain Style” Becky Reid and Joan Manfre, J.C.

October Northern Illinois Becky Elston, J.C.

Journey Committee: Susan Harvey, Larry McGaughy, Joe Robustelli and Karen McDonald, Chair

CHANGING THE
WAY YOU SEE
THE WORLD

Friendship Force Western North Carolina

2018 Board Members

President:	Diane Tokarski
President-Elect:	Kay Manley
Secretary:	(needed)
Treasurer:	Jack Mullen

Club Directors

2018	2018-2019	2018-2020
Mary Evers	Carol Mullen	Chuck Stevens
Bonnie Dees	Larry Harvey	Nancy McGaughy

Standing Committee Leaders

Membership Chairperson: Kay Manley

Directory: Jack Mullen/Chuck Elston

Journey Committee: Susan Harvey, Larry McGaughy, Joe Robustelli and Karen McDonald, Chair

Communications

Newsletter	Ron Partin
Publicity	Renee Kumor
Website	Joan Manfre & Diane Tokarski
Facebook	Ron Partin

Hospitality	Meredith Applegate, Gregory Bechtel and Renee Zivich
Archives	Chuck Elston
Sunshine	Judi Wondolowski



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WESTERN
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Membership Application / Renewal

Send to: FFWNC Treasurer, P.O. Box 1425, Skyland, NC 28776
(Separate Application per person)

PLEASE CHECK ONE:

- New Membership w/badge \$37 **per person** \$ _____
- Renewal Membership \$27 **per person** \$ _____
- Associate (if you are a member of another FFI club and pay that club's full dues) \$12 **per person** \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Year joined FFWNC _____ Date of Application _____

TALENTS OR INTERESTS YOU COULD SHARE WITH FRIENDSHIP FORCE:

Foreign languages spoken _____

Countries visited or knowledge of _____

Talents and skills _____

Profession (or former) _____