



friendship force  
WESTERN  
NORTH CAROLINA

# Mountain Friends



Vol. 18, Issue 2

*Friendship Force of Western North Carolina*

April 2018

FFWNC  
P.O. Box 1425  
Skyland, NC 28776  
Website: [www.ffwesternnc.org](http://www.ffwesternnc.org)

## Dates to Save

General Meeting will be held  
*Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>* at the Skyland  
Fire Department at 5:30 p.m.

*Saturday, July 14* - Picnic at Mills  
River Park – 12 Noon – 3 pm

*September 9* - General Meeting at  
5:30 pm at the Mills River  
Presbyterian Church

*November 11* General Meeting  
begins at 5:30 pm at the Skyland  
Fire Department.

*Friday, December 7* – Holiday  
Party. Conference Room at the  
Grove Arcade in Asheville – 3:30 –  
5:30 p.m.



## From the Desk of the President

Hello Everyone,

The March 21<sup>st</sup> General Meeting at Green Man Brewery in Asheville was a big success. We had the opportunity to meet FFI board and staff members from all over the world. Many thanks to Jack and Carol Mullen, who handled all the arrangements for the event.

Our next General Meeting will be held Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at the Skyland Fire Department at 5:30 p.m. We will have our usual pot luck dinner, always a culinary success. Remember to bring your own plates, cutlery and glassware, and, of course, a salad, main course or dessert. Galen Reuther, a local author, will speak to us about Flat Rock history. We are working on having a counterpart from Buncombe County speak to us about Buncombe County history.

Kay Manley's newsletter article brings us up-to-date on preparations for the 12-person Open World delegation from Central Asia, who will be with us from April 21 – 25.

As you know, we have the following journeys planned for this year:

*In April and May* – Outbound to Kansas (April 29 – May 3) and New Mexico (May 3 – May 10) ; Journey Coordinator – Bill Hogan. Inbound – Quilting Mountain Style (May 23 – 31 – Global Journey) – Journey Coordinators – Joan Manfre & Becky Reid

*In September* – Outbound to Cornwall, England (September 14 – 21) – Journey Coordinator – Jack Mullen

*In October* – Inbound – Northern Illinois (October 17 - 22) – Journey Coordinator – Becky Elston

In Friendship,  
*Diane Tokarski*  
[dtokarski3@gmail.com](mailto:dtokarski3@gmail.com)

## Open World Delegation to visit FFWNC April 21 – 25

Friendship Force of Western North Carolina welcomes twelve **Open World** delegates from ten countries: Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan

All are professional leaders in their respective countries. The theme assigned for this delegation is *Economic Development*. The programming will take place in Hendersonville and Asheville with various visits planned, such as the Small Business Centers at Blue Ridge Community College and A-B Tech. We'll also visit Henderson County Partners for Economic Development and the Asheville Chamber of Commerce. There will be conversations with creative entrepreneurs in the arts as well as with groups involved in social enterprise and family-owned businesses. Time will be set aside for enjoying our area's spectacular mountains and delightful cultural traditions.

Many of you are familiar with Open World; our club has hosted these delegations **eleven** times in the past. Open World is funded by the U.S. Congress and is non-partisan.

*“The mission of the Open World Leadership Center, an arm of the U.S. Congress, is to introduce rising leaders of emerging countries to the importance of legislative functions in creating and sustaining democracies. This is done through the introduction of young foreign leaders to the American democratic governing systems and free market operations at every level: federal, state, and local. The Center also maintains a continuing relationship with the network of leaders it has enlisted, especially with those from countries crucial to American national security interests.”*

Members of our club have generously offered to host delegates in their homes, and to be dinner and day hosts. Please contact Kay Manley, Journey Coordinator at [kmanley99@gmail.com](mailto:kmanley99@gmail.com) or phone 828.280.1303 with any questions.

- Kay Manley

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## Quilting Mountain Style (QMS) May 23 - June 1

QMS is a quilting travel experience. There will be 16 quilters from 11 states and England who will visit our area from May 23 – June 1. We are looking for members to home host one of the quilters. Each day you would meet-up with the day hosts who would take your ambassador for the day and sometimes into the evening as well. There are details that we can share with you if you would consider sharing your home with a quilter from afar. Please contact us immediately if you can help.

Contact: Joan Manfre [jcmanfre310@gmail.com](mailto:jcmanfre310@gmail.com) 828-702-3352 or Becky Reid [reidrobustelli@gmail.com](mailto:reidrobustelli@gmail.com) 828-808-7051 for more information and to sign-up



## 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

Apr 21 - 25                                Open World, Kay Manley, J.C.  
May 23 - 31                                “Quilting Mountain Style” - Becky Reid and Joan Manfre, J.C.  
October 17-22                              Northern Illinois - Becky Elston, J.C.

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

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## Green Man Brewery: March 21 General Meeting

Forty three of our members joined 27 members of the FFI International Board and of the FFI staff from around the world for an enjoyable evening of fellowship, food and conversation on March 21 at the Green Man Brewery in Asheville. It was a snowy day in the area. Some of the FFI people were unable to attend because of flight delays and cancellations. All of our members, that made reservations for the event, showed up. A sincere thank you for that.



The FFI Board held their spring semi-annual meeting at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Asheville from March 18 to March 23 and the staff was here from March 21 to March 26. We were able to take advantage of their being here and get together with them. The food was supplied by 12 Bones.



Jeremi Snook, FFI President spoke briefly about The Friendship Force 40th Anniversary Campaign which is designed to invest in enhancing worldwide cultural understanding. Jeremi also introduced the Board members present and the staff introduced themselves. As there is no physical FFI office anymore, it was the first time for several of the FFI staff members to meet their colleagues face to face. Diane Tokarski, our President, welcomed the FFI group to Western North Carolina and thanked for joining us for the evening. We all had an opportunity to mingle, to get to put faces with names, ask questions and just “catch-up” in some cases. A very congenial and engaging evening.

- Carol & Jack Mullen

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## Increase in the Price of Badges

Our FFWNC name badges are now \$12.00, due to the increase in postal rates.

## From Our Cornwall Friends

Hello Larry,

Thank you so much for sending the feedback (on the Cornwall journey)! I am so glad you all had a great time. I have also received very positive comments from the Cornwall club, the ambassadors were delighted. Here is a short summary, feel free to share with your members :

- "Meticulous preparation and a great variety of activities ensured that we experienced the area in depth and met a great number of their FF club. Lovely gentle hike through forest and wonderful food throughout."
- "We all developed a great rapport with the host club members. This began from the beginning with excellent communication between coordinators."
- "Having picked up this journey at a late stage it was one of the best to date and a great introduction to the FF experience for our new members. Good support too from FFI staff."
- "A very positive experience."

Thank you so much for all your efforts in making this journey such a special experience ! I am sure your reciprocal visit will be a special one too. I look forward to working with you again.

In friendship,  
Valerie Malfara  
Regional Support Manager, FFI



Cornwall Tin Mines

## Northern Illinois (Chicago) Incoming Journey: October 17-22

Our club had a wonderful journey to Northern Illinois in May of 2016. We are going to show them our beautiful area and return the favor in October. Sign up sheets for home hosts, dinner hosts and day hosts were at the January meeting. If you missed this opportunity please contact Becky Elston- Journey Coordinator at

[beckyelston1@gmail.com](mailto:beckyelston1@gmail.com)  
828-749-1886 or 828-702-9508

**We need all of the above to make this journey a success!!**

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### Welcome to Ivan & Marlene Beggs

The Beggs, Ivan and Marlene, from NE Ohio to Hendersonville, May 2015. Ivan was born in Peru, South America and his childhood was on Staten Island, NY. He retired from The Timken Company as a program manager and from the Army Reserves as a Col. Marlene was born and raised in NW Ohio, taught public school in Michigan for 2 years and then lived and taught 8 years for the Department of Defense overseas school system in England and Germany. Their life paths crossed in Neu-Ulm, Germany over 50 years ago. They have four adult children.



They have traveled the world extensively and have hosted guests from a wide array of countries, through five different programs: 4-H/LABO International, International Farm Youth Exchange (IFYE), The Experiment in International Living, Rotary and Bundestag-Congressional Youth Exchange.

Ivan's employment included extended work time in Romania, Germany, China, France, Spain and various States. After retirement, he was an adult exchangee to Costa Rica for a month's immersion in Spanish study by living with a family and having 6 hours daily classwork. Marlene was selected twice as a chaperone for national 4-H youth to Japan for 1-2 month homestays for the youth and chaperones. She also joined Ivan for travel in the countries where he had international work. So first hand experiences in learning about other cultures has continued to be an interest, so it seems natural to be drawn to membership in Friendship Force of Western North Carolina!

Ivan enjoys bicycling (but not on NC roads), jogging, swimming, reading, Toastmasters and now having the time to learn more about flora and fauna. Marlene has always been an avid reader of non-fiction, loves genealogy research, maintaining health with use of essential oils, herbs and homeopathy, exercising at the former CURVES, which is now the local SheFitness, and healthy cooking.

## 2018 FFWNC Meeting Calendar

MEETING DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
Sunday, May 20	Gen'l. Meeting	5:30 p.m.	Skyland Fire Department
Saturday, July 14	Gen'l. Meeting and Picnic	12:00 – 3:00 p.m.	Mills River Town Park Pavilion
Sunday, September 9	Gen'l. Meeting	5:30 p.m.	Mills River Presbyterian Church
Sunday, November 11	Gen'l. Meeting and Election of Officers	5:30 p.m.	Skyland Fire Department
Friday, December 7	Holiday Party	3:30 p.m.	Conference Room at Grove Arcade in Asheville

Skyland Fire Department Address: 9 Miller Road South, Asheville, NC – elevator is available

Mills River Presbyterian Church Address: 10 Presbyterian Church Road, Mills River, NC

Mills River Park Address: 124 Town Center Drive, Mills River, NC

### “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](mailto:judiwond@gmail.com) or 698-0484.



Friendship Force Western North Carolina

**2018 Board Members**

President:	Diane Tokarski
President-Elect:	Kay Manley
Past-President	Joan Manfre
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	Kay Manley & Diane Tokarski
Facebook	Ron Partin
Hospitality	Meredith Applegate, Gregory Bechtel and Renee Zivich
Archives	Chuck Elston
Sunshine	Judi Wondolowski



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## Membership Application / Renewal

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

**PLEASE CHECK ONE:**

- New Membership w/badge \$39 **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) \_\_\_\_\_