



friendship force
WESTERN
NORTH CAROLINA

Mountain Friends

Vol. 18, Issue 4

Friendship Force of Western North Carolina

August 2018

FFWNC
P.O. Box 1425
Skyland, NC 28776
Website: www.ffwesternnc.org

General Meeting

Our next General Meeting will be take place at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 9th, at Mills River Presbyterian Church. The address is: 10 Presbyterian Church Road, Mills River, NC 28759. Our normal (always delicious) pot luck fare will be enjoyed. Please bring a salad, main course, side dish or dessert to share. As always, please bring your own cutlery, dishes and glassware. We are working on having a guest speaker for this meeting.

Dates to save

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



From the Desk of the President

Dear Friends,

It was good to see so many of you at the July Annual Picnic. Summer is fast on the wane and fall will be approaching before we know it!

A few items to share with you: Sign-up sheets will be available at the September General Meeting for two of our three 2019 journeys. The inbound Cape of Good Hope reciprocal journey (arrival June 18 –departure June 24th) will be coordinated by Larry McGaughy and Jan Partin, our JC's.

Susan Harvey and Lynne Cigal will lead the outbound journey to Canada. This journey will take place late July/early August 2019 to the Medicine Hat Club and will include touring the Lake Louise area, the glaciers and the Calgary environs.

We will also host a reciprocal journey from Nara, Japan in October 2019. Details for this journey will be available soon.

-- *In 2018* -

Many of our ambassadors to Cornwall will be traveling to various parts of Europe before their planned September 14-21st journey. Stay tuned to learning about their adventures after they return home.

Northern Illinois will visit us from October 17 – 22. This is a reciprocal journey and a wonderful time for the ambassadors to enjoy Western North Carolina.

At the September meeting, you will be asked to complete a form as to where you might like to journey in 2020, both domestically and internationally. Please take a look at your club directory prior to coming to the September meeting to see where we have visited in the past, so we don't duplicate requests to FFI that have already been fulfilled. Also, please take a moment and look at the lists of Friendship Force Clubs, World Wide, on the FFI website, so you are aware of where FF clubs have been established. Enjoy these beautiful summer days!

In Friendship, Diane Tokarski

dtokarski3@gmail.com

Coming up

Sunday, September 9th – 5:30 p.m. – General Meeting at Mills River Presbyterian Church, located at 10 Presbyterian Church Road in Mills River – regular potluck fare.

Inbound Journey from Northern Illinois – October 17 – 22 – Becky Elston is our Journey Coordinator. This is a reciprocal journey.

Super Regional Conference - The East Coast Regional Super Conference, "Making Connections," will be held November 7 - 9, 2018, in beautiful Charleston, South Carolina. Friendship Force members from the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Southeast and Florida clubs will gather for a time of friendship building and idea sharing! Information regarding the conference and hotel registration can be found at the following website: <https://eastcoastffconference.weebly.com/>

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

An Effective Friendship Force Recruiting Tool

Susan and I have just returned from an “Outdoor Adventure” hosted by the Friendship Force club of Olympia Washington. While there, I experienced the power of a Friendship Force nametag. On three different occasions, people noticed my nametag and initiated a conversation. One was simply that we had North Carolina in common, but the other two were asking what Friendship Force was. In both these instances, the people became very interested, asked questions and left assuring me that they were going to Google FFI and FF in a town near them.

These experiences have convinced me that the FF nametag is one of the most effective publicity and recruitment tools we have. Many times we do not wear our nametags while visiting public places. Part of it may be that we are a little self-conscious about “being known,” part may be simple neglect. Even so, I am now convinced that wearing my nametag every minute of a Journey is an effective way to spread the word about our wonderful organization. I am making a pledge to do so and invite you to do the same.



- Larry Harvey



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Journeys 2018

OUTGOING

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

INCOMING

October 17-22 Northern Illinois - Becky Elston, J.C.

Journeys 2019

OUTGOING

TBD – summer Canada

INCOMING

June 17-24, 2019 Cape of Good Hope - Jan Partin & Larry McGaughy, J.Cs.

October (dates TBD) Nara, Japan

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

NORTHERN ILLINOIS (CHICAGO) Journey

Here October 17-22, 2018

We are most excited to have 19 ambassadors from the greater Chicago area visit our beautiful mountains in October. We have assigned host people and have the schedule complete. We still need one more dinner host as well as one more member to be able to escort a carload around the Biltmore on Thursday, Oct 18.

If available please contact Becky Elston, Journey Coordinator at beckyelston1@gmail.com or call 828 749-1886.

Meet & Greet for Asheville

We are planning a September Meet & Greet for Asheville. Details (location and time/date) will be announced in the near future via email as well as on the website and in other media outlets. In the spring we held a similar Meet & Greet in Henderson County. The purpose, as in the past, is to encourage prospective members to learn more about joining Friendship Force of Western North Carolina. In the meantime, please feel free to share my contact information with anyone you know who might be interested in membership.

Kay Manley: Phone number: 828.280.1303 Email: kmanley99@gmail.com

I will also be happy to reach out to any folks you believe would welcome a phone call or email.

Kay Manley
Membership Chair

Welcome to Mike and Virginia Erwin

Mike: I was born and raised in the Catskill region of New York State, but have lived in 7 states in my life. We moved to Weaverville NC (5 years ago) from Charlottesville VA in 2012, where we had lived for 16 years, then just in April 2018 moved to Laurel Park. I have a BS degree from Hartwick College, MS from U. of Rhode Island, and PhD from the U. of Maryland. Virginia and I have been married for 47 years, have a son Jason who lives with his wife and 2 young sons in Stockholm, plus a married daughter in Waynesboro VA. I retired from both the US Geological Survey and the Dept. of Environmental Sciences at the U. of Virginia where I taught, mentored graduate students, and conducted research on coastal wetlands and water birds. My academic career was interrupted by the US Army draft and I spent a year in Vietnam from 1970-71. I have a variety of interests including hiking, fishing, skiing, golf, tennis, reading, travel, and I am a docent at the WNC Nature Center. I look forward to making many new friends and sharing great experiences with Friendship Force.



Four mile Turkey Trot, Charlotte, NC

Virginia: Grew up in Metropolitan New York, Graduate degrees from Syracuse University and the University of Virginia in Teaching and Conducting. Married to Mike for 47 years. We have two married children and two grandchildren. Before retirement, I taught Music Appreciation, private Classical voice, and directed several choirs.

We moved to North Carolina from Charlottesville Virginia in 2012, We are new to Hendersonville and Friendship Force and look forward to making new friends. I currently sing with the Carolina Concert Choir. My passion is always beautiful music, traveling, and gardening. Mike and I also play bridge and golf. We enjoy keeping active and volunteering.

Cape of Good Hope Club coming . . .

We are very excited to have the Cape of Good Hope joining us next year, from June 17-24, 2019! We were ambassadors there in 2013 and found the people to be so full of fun and incredibly delightful. They showed us a wonderful time and we want to reciprocate the hospitality! So, we are hoping you will want to help as a home, dinner, or day host during that time.

We will have sign up sheets starting in September at our general member meetings.

Larry McGaughy and Jan Partin, co-Journey Coordinators



Welcome to Don and Dianne Speese

We are Don and Dianne Speese. We moved to Flat Rock, NC in March 2014 from the Atlanta area and haven't looked back!! We love it here in the mountains of North Carolina. We originally moved here to be near Dianne's mother and father as her father was failing in health and we thought it would be good to be close by. Our youngest daughter was a sophomore in high school and was eager to experience a new adventure, so we moved! Kathryn graduated from Hendersonville High School and is now a rising junior at NC State! "Go Wolf-Pack". Our oldest daughter just graduated from Georgia College and State University and will be working in the Atlanta area as a second grade teacher.

Don is still working as a Sales Rep. for Zebra Technologies with the anticipation of retiring in 2019 or 20. Yippee!!! Dianne was offered an early retirement in 2008 and enjoyed being home with the girls during their middle and high school years! She worked for the federal government in the facilities office as an Office Space Designer. Dianne went to UGA with a degree in Interior Design.

Dianne likes to say she married well, as Don went to the Culinary Institute of America in New York. Although his career took a turn and he ended up in sales, Dianne, family and friends benefit from his culinary talents. Dianne still finds it hard to believe that Don "enjoys" cooking!

Don grew up in Shillington and Philadelphia, PA (elementary/middle school years) and Chicago (high school years). Dianne was an "Army Brat" and lived in over 15 places before her father retired in Columbus, NC.



We love to travel and look forward to experiencing adventures with the Friendship Force. We are Don and Dianne Speese. We moved to Flat Rock, NC in March 2014 from the Atlanta area and haven't looked back!! We love it here in the mountains of North Carolina. We originally moved here to be near Dianne's mother and father as her father was failing in health and we thought it would be good to be close by. Our youngest daughter was a sophomore in high school and was eager to experience a new adventure, so we moved! Kathryn graduated from Hendersonville High School and is now a rising junior at NC State! "Go Wolf-Pack". Our oldest daughter just graduated from Georgia College and State University and will be working in the Atlanta area as a second grade teacher.

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FFI's Festival at Sea—2018

Mary & Dave Evers joined the Friendship Force International's Festival At Sea —2018 on a trans-Atlantic crossing (April 22-May 10, 2018) on Holland America's Zuiderdam. Departing from Port Everglades near Ft. Lauderdale, the group of 89 FFI travelers joined over 1900 passengers on the 18 day, 8 ports-of-call adventure at sea. FFI participants came from the U.S.A., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Columbia and Guatemala and included the President of FFI, Jeremi Snook and family, as well as staff and a FFI Board member. (Since WNCFF had just recently hosted the Board in Asheville, it was great fun to reconnect!)

In addition to various special shore excursions, the FFI staff hosted workshops and cocktail hours during our days at sea that gave participants opportunity to share ideas from various clubs as well as time to get more personally acquainted with other FFI members. Major topics included future planning for improving internal communications, next year's Festival At Sea (Feb. 21-March 8: Buenos Aires, Argentina around Cape Horn to Valparaiso, Chile), and the national conference to be located in Boulder, Colorado (location



change due to Hurricane Maria's devastation in Puerto Rico)—July 23-27, 2019.

Time flew by with nightly entertainment, cooking classes, bridge and other game groups, daily lectures on pertinent topics, a Lincoln Center string quartet, dancing, game nights, shopping, and of course, wonderful food. Surprises included the old city at Southampton, the extensive canal and locks across Holland to Amsterdam, and onboard 24-hour room service —with no additional charge! The eight ports of call were Bermuda, Horta & Ponta Delgada, (Azores, Portugal), Southampton/London (England), Cherbourg (France), Zeebrugge/Bruges (Belgium), Amsterdam (Netherlands), and Copenhagen (Denmark).



Following disembarking at Copenhagen, we continued to travel using rental cars and public transportation in Denmark, Cornwall, and Barcelona before flying home with very reasonable flight arrangements made by the FFI Festival at Sea Representative. If you have questions about this annual FFI travel option, feel free to contact the Evers (maryellenevers43@gmail.com).

- Mary & Dave Evers



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 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) _____