

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF ST. LOUIS-MISSOURI 2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

NEW WORDS IN A NEW YEAR

Friendship Force International (FFI), headquartered in Atlanta GA, decided to change the key terms used in some Club functions. Exchanges will now be called **Journeys** (both inbound and outbound). Those leading the Journeys will no longer be called Exchange Directors but outbound leaders will be referred to as **Ambassador Coordinators** and those coordinating inbound Journeys will be called **Host Coordinators**.

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 2017

President, David Curtis; **1st Vice President**, Carol Kuntzman (Membership); **2nd Vice President**, Mary Lou Hudson and (Social Activities); **Treasurer**, Jerry Johnson; **Secretary**, Judy Leonard.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ambassador Coordinators and Host Coordinators: (Carol Kuntzman (Phoenix); Bonnie Hindelang and Jerry Wunderlich (New Zealand); Sue Williams (Mexico and Sacramento); Nancy Hofheinz (Sacramento); **Auditor** (open); **Budget Director** (open - budget prepared by Treasurer); **Historian** (open – this review prepared by Mary Johnson); **LEO Coordinator** (Char Balettie); **Newsletter Circulation** (Ellen Kaye Augustine); **Newsletter Editor**, (Mary Johnson); **Publicity** (Ellen Kaye Augustine); **Phone Tree**, Sharon Beishir; **Ways and Means** (open); **Webmaster**, Jerry Johnson.

BOARD MEETINGS

The Board met five times during the year at various locations to transact Club business. At the February 11th meeting, held at the Mid-County Library in Clayton, Mary Lou offered her business office at the Berkshire Hathaway Alliance Office in Clayton for future meetings. That offer was gratefully accepted.

FINANCES

Membership dues remained the same - \$30 for an Individual Membership, \$45 for per year for a Family Membership. \$200 was donated to FFI for IT work. In 2017 the Club took in \$5,581.75 and spent \$4,959.71, leaving a surplus of \$622.04. This was the first surplus in at least two years.

MEMBERSHIP

The Club membership count as of December, 2017 was 76 members. The per-member fee amount of \$1140 was sent into FFI. Dues to FFI are \$15 per Club member. Over the year 22 new members joined the Club.

Carol Kuntzman encouraged members to purchase, at a low cost, Friendship Force business cards which could be ordered through Carol.

JOURNEYS (the new name for Exchanges)

OUTBOUND (domestic): From February 14th through the 21st Carol Kuntzman led a Domestic Journey which was coordinated by the Phoenix and Las Vegas Clubs. The Journey included Las Vegas, the Grand Canyon, Sedona, Scottsdale, and a 3 night homestay in Phoenix.

OUTBOUND (international): Due to the high cost of the proposed spring 2018 Journey to New Zealand the trip had to be cancelled. Bonnie Hindelang and Jerry Wunderlich were to be the Ambassador Coordinators.

OUTBOUND (domestic): Plans are underway for an Outbound Journey to Northern Colorado in September of 2018. Ingeborg Ucinski will be the Ambassador Coordinator (new name for Exchange Director).

INBOUND (domestic): From May 8th through the morning of May 11th our Club hosted the Ambassadors from the Sacramento California Friendship Force Club, plus two members of the Friendship Force Club of Las Vegas. They had first been hosted by the Cedar Rapids Club, traveled by bus to Springfield IL to visit Lincoln sites, and then arrived in Alton IL via Amtrak where they were met by members of our Club. Nancy Hofheinz and Sue Williams were the Host Coordinators.

INBOUND (international): The expected June Journey by the ambassadors from Tuxla Gutierrez Mexico was cancelled. This was possibly due to current political concerns and the falling peso rate. Sue Williams was to be the Host Coordinator.

MOTIONS

A motion was made, seconded, and passed that any person traveling on a domestic or international Journey with our Club must be a member of a Friendship Force Club – not necessarily a member of our Club however.

LET'S EAT OUT (LEO)

On February 10th LEO participants traveled in vans to Labadie Missouri to have a delightful lunch at the Hawthorne Inn. Some time was spent in visiting the nearby shops and touring sites such as St. Albans.

On March 17th Friendship Force members and their guests toured Republic Services (RS), the Recycling Center in Hazelwood. There was an orientation, Q & A sessions before and after the tour. Lunch was at the Mandarin House.

The June 17th LEO was a “lunch only” event at the River City Casino Hotel for their “lasagna fest.”

In July the LEO group met at Kamp’s Peach Orchard in Calhoun County, Illinois.

On August 19th a special “road trip” LEO was held at Arrow Rock, MO and included lunch and a theatre performance, with an option for area tours and an overnight.

On September 23rd the LEO activity included a tour of the Asadorian Rug Company and lunch at Woofies’s Hot Dogs.

On October 18th those attending the LEO enjoyed a wonderful Lebanese lunch at the Cedars Banquet Hall followed by a tour of St. Raymond Maronite Cathedral. Club member Teresa Abounader arranged for this LEO.

On November 14th LEO participants enjoyed a tour of KETC (The Nine Network of Public Media) with lunch following at Vito’s Sicilian Pizzeria and Ristorante.

ANNUAL CLUB SOCIAL EVENTS

The **World Friendship Day/ International Party** was held on April 6 at Paul Mineos Trattoria in Westport Plaza.

The **Summer Picnic** and pool party was held at the home of Carol Kuntzman on July 22nd.

On September 30th the **Annual Meeting and bar-b-que lunch catered by Sugarfire** was held at the Windegger Shelter in Tilles Park. David Curtis, Club President, reported on the Club's current activities and future plans.

At that meeting, officers for 2018 were elected. Sue Williams Chaired the Nominating Committee with Nancy Brower, Barbara H Robinson, and Ron Williams serving on the Committee. Sue presented the slate to the members present. There was no candidate for Club President as no one was found who would agree to accept the position. The officers elected were Char Balettie, First Vice President (Membership); Mary Lou Hudson, Second Vice President (Social Activities); Jerry Johnson (Secretary); Barbara H. Robinson (Treasurer).

The **Holiday Party and Installation of Officers for 2018** was held December 6th, at Sybergs in Maryland Heights. David Curtis, retiring President, thanked all those who had supported and participated in Club activities over the year.

IN MEMORY

Long-time member Tom Widmer died on August 6, 2017. He was a warm, gentle, caring person and he served our Club in many ways. He will be missed. He is survived by his wife Mary, also a long-time and active Club member. A contribution was made in his memory to the Alzheimer's Association.

Review prepared by Mary Johnson
2/16/2018