

# **THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS**

## **2014 IN REVIEW**

**Prepared by Mary E. Johnson from Club Minutes and the Club Newsletter**

### **ELECTED OFFICERS FOR 2014**

**Sue Williams**, President; **David Curtis**, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (Membership Chair); **Maureen McGrath** 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (Social Activities Chair); **Bill Ebert**, Treasurer; **Dee Ebert**, Secretary.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Mike Lykens**, Auditor; **Jerry Wunderlich**, Budget Director; **Milt Zoschke**, Domestic Exchange Coordinator; **Position Open**, Historian; **Charlotte Balettie**, LEO Coordinator; **Della Bibko**, Newsletter Circulation; **Mary Johnson**, Newsletter Editor; **Nancy Brower**, Open World Coordinator; **Ellen Kaye Augustine**, Publicity; **Judy Leonard**, Telephone Tree; **Dee Ebert**, Ways and Means; **Jerry Johnson**, Webmaster. **Exchange Directors: Bill Ebert**, Bristol England Outbound; **Nancy Hofheinz** and **Barbara Robinson**, Northern Colorado Inbound.

### **BOARD MEETINGS**

Five Board Meetings were held during the year to carry on the business of the Club. These meetings were held at the Mid-County Branch Library in Clayton. Some Board business was carried out via email. Club business was also brought up to the members at the various Club events.

### **FINANCES**

Membership dues for the year were \$30 for individuals and \$45 for a family. As of December 29, 2014 there was \$11,238.67 in the main checking account at Pulaski Bank.

### **EXCHANGES**

**Outbound International Exchange to Bristol, England – April 23 to April 30 – Bill Ebert, Exchange Director.**

Nine members of our Club and two members of the Lansing Michigan Club went on the Exchange. Besides getting acquainted and spending time with their individual home hosts, who took them to many places of local interest, as a group the ambassadors learned about and toured sites in Bristol, plus went sightseeing in the cities of Bath and Cardiff. Not to be forgotten were the wonderful cream teas all enjoyed, and the delightful farewell barbeque at the home of a Bristol Club member.

**Domestic Inbound Exchange from Northern Colorado – September 23 to September 28 – Nancy Hofheinz and Barbara Robinson Co-Exchange Directors.**

Eleven members of the Friendship Force Club of Northern Colorado arrived in St. Charles to meet their St. Louis home hosts for dinner. The five day Exchange included visits to the Missouri Botanical Garden and the New Cathedral; a tour of “The Hill;” backstage at the Fox Theater; plus a visit to Grant’s Farm – where our guests were given a private tram tour. The Exchange ended with a farewell luncheon at the Carousel in Faust Park.

**LEO (LET'S EAT OUT) – Coordinated by Charlotte Balettie.**

**February** – Program at the International Photography Museum in St. Louis with lunch following at O'Connell's Pub.

**April**– Program at the James S. McDonnell Planetarium in St. Louis with lunch following at Café Osage at Bowood Farms.

**June** –Program at the Melvin Price Lock and Dam and National Great Rivers Museum in Alton, IL with lunch following at Aerie's Winery in Grafton, IL.

**July** – Program included a guided tour of “Little Bosnia” in St. Louis with lunch following at a Bosnian Café and a presentation at a nearby mosque.

**August** – Program included a stop for peaches and produce at Kamp's Orchard in Brussels, IL with lunch following at the nearby Wittmond Hotel.

**November** – Program at the Magic Chef Mansion in St. Louis followed by lunch at Café Natasha.

**December** – Program at Bissinger's Chocolate Factory in St. Louis followed by lunch at Kemoll's Italian restaurant.

**ANNUAL CLUB SOCIAL EVENTS – coordinated by Maureen McGrath**

**International Dinner – March 9** (postponed from March 2 due to extreme wintry weather) – held at **Nancy Hofheinz's** church - St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Clayton. This Mardi-Gras / World Friendship themed dinner was attended by forty-four members and guests.

**Combined Spring Potluck and Summer Picnic – June 14** – held at Longview Park in Town and Country. Thirty members and guests attended.

**Annual Club Meeting (included Farewell Lunch for the Northern Colorado Club) – September 27** – held at the Carousel Building in Faust Park, Chesterfield. Twenty-five members and guests, plus the ambassadors from Colorado, attended.

**Holiday Luncheon and Election/Installation of Officers for 2015 – December 6** – held at Pietros Restaurant in St. Louis. Thirty-six members and guests attended.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES**

**New Member Tea – February 16** – **Sue and Ron Williams** hosted an afternoon reception at their home in Florissant for new and prospective members.

**International Festival – February 23 –Ellen Kaye Augustine** arranged for our Club to have an informational table at this well attended international event in Maryland Heights. This was the second year we have participated in the Festival.

**Midwest Regional Conference – May 1 to May 4 in Milwaukee –Sue and Ron Williams and Nancy and Richard Brower** attended this gathering of Club leaders from all twelve Midwest Clubs. There were a wide variety of workshops and many ideas shared among attendees.

**NineNetwork Volunteering – June 9 – Coordinated by Ellen Kaye Augustine.** Club members helped answer the phones during the public radio membership drive. This is not only a community service project but also a way to garner publicity for our Club.

**New and Prospective Members Gathering – September 3 –David Curtis and Judy Leonard** hosted two parties - an afternoon one and an evening one - at their home in Bellerive Acres, introducing new and prospective members to the activities and programs of the Club.

#### **MEMBERSHIP COUNT**

Over the year our membership grew from 74 to 84 paid members as reported by **David Curtis** at the November 8 Board Meeting.

#### **DEATH OF FOUNDING MEMBER**

On September 23, one of the founders of our Club, Rosemary Davidson, died at the age of 96. Mrs. Davidson was a long-time resident of Florissant, and in 1979 became our Club's first President and led 122 ambassadors on the first Club Exchange, which was to Guatemala. She was also involved in historic preservation efforts in Florissant.

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2015**

At the Holiday Luncheon on December 6, the following individuals were elected to serve as officers for 2015. **Sue Williams**, President; **David Curtis**, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; **Jerry Johnson**, Treasurer; **Judy Leonard**, Secretary. There being no volunteer to serve as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, the duties and responsibilities for the Club's social activities will be handled by a Committee.