

EXPERIENCE DIFFERENT VIEWS. DISCOVER COMMON GROUND



friendship force
MINNESOTA - TWIN CITIES

OCT/NOV/DEC. 2017

DON WOLTER AWARD

Once again, it is time to nominate a member for the annual Don Wolter award. For the newer members who didn't know Don, he was our newsletter editor for twenty years. Faithfully and bi-monthly for all those years he put out a newsletter deserving of awards. Unfortunately, Don passed away suddenly and unexpectedly in 2013. We remember and honor Don by giving this award to a deserving member who consistently has gone above and beyond. The award will be presented at our holiday party on December 2nd. (Board members are ineligible.) If you would like to be on the award committee, contact Marge Runnako, chair. There will be just one meeting on November 9th at 10:00 a.m.

To be on the committee or to submit nominations, contact Marge. Nominations are due by November 3rd.

Listed below are key attributes to consider when thinking of an award recipient:

- Displays leadership; serves as a leader when needed
- Interest in understanding other cultures
- Enthusiastic with a "can do" attitude; goes the extra mile
- Positive
- Flexible
- Promotes and supports the mission of Friendship Force

HOW TO CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER

For security reasons and starting with this issue of the newsletter, board member's contact information will no longer be listed in the newsletter. If you would like to contact a board member, follow these steps:

- Go to our club's website at friendshipforcetwincities.org
- Click on board members/contacts in the red bar at the top
- Click on the individual you would like to contact.

Or you can always consult the roster.

ROSTOV-ON-DON, RUSSIA INCOMING JOURNEY

In the spring, ambassadors from the Rostov-on-Don club will be visiting us. They will also spend time with the Omaha club. The exact dates are uncertain at this time but most likely it will be in April or May. Greg McAndrews and Cindy Cauble will be the host co-coordinators. If you are interested in being involved in planning, contact one of them.

meet+greet



+ vote

**MEET
THE CANDIDATES
ON PAGE 3**



WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Yep, it's Fall! All the telltale signs are here.

For Friendship Force of Minnesota-Twin Cities it means committees are actively preparing for the end of our membership and fiscal year and preparing for the new. There are still

opportunities for you to be involved in 2017 and entering into 2018! Check out the articles in this month's newsletter.

Many thanks to the Nominations Committee (Barbara Wallace, chair, Louise Anderson, Barb Emer, Heather Halen and Evelyn Palace) for their excellent work in recruiting for next year's elected and appointed positions. See nominations in this newsletter and plan to attend the December 2nd annual meeting for elections and the holiday party.

Gratitude to Greg McAndrews and his team (Jan Lanyk, Vicki Palmer, Anne Shea and callers Doreen Kloth and Sandy Johnson) for implementing and compiling results of the 2017 Member Survey.

Based on your input on the survey, we are requesting our top choices for 2019 travel: Japan, Germany, United Kingdom, and Russia. These are being coordinated with other Midwest Regional clubs through our Regional Representative to avoid competing for the same locations. The final selections will be sent to FFI by November 1. FFI will send us our assignments for Outgoing and Incoming Journeys for 2019 early next year.

Dues Increase: At the September Board meeting, we voted unanimously to adjust our 2018 dues according to the direction of FFI to eliminate family memberships and have only individual memberships. (See article in this newsletter) Greg McAndrews has already set up the club roster and database to reflect this FFI change. The Board recommended that we increase 2018 dues to \$35 per year per individual. There will be no more family memberships.

Rita Mays

BOARD MEMBERS

President: Rita Mays

Vice-President: Open

Treasurer: Ken Scherber

Secretary: Anne Shea

Past President:
Louise Anderson

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Activities:
Cindy Cauble

Journey Coordinator
Barb Emer

Member at large
Ben Szyplinski

Membership:
Greg McAndrews

Webmaster:
Marge Runnakko

Newsletter Editor
Barb Emer

Co-Ambassador Coordinators:
Gene Selchow and Rosie Foreman
outgoing journey to West Alajuela,
Costa Rica.

Co-Host Coordinators:
Cindy Cauble and Greg McAndrews
Incoming journey from Rostov-on-Don,
Russia

**If you would like to contact
a board member, see page 1**

MEET THE CANDIDATES

For President: Rita Mays (incumbent)

My previous FF MN TC Board experience includes Secretary (4 years), Vice President (1 year) and currently President (1 year). I am honored to be nominated for the position of President for 2018.

My first FF exchange was to Japan in 2008. It opened up a whole new way of discovering people in other lands. I traveled with a large group of FF MN TC folks that I now call friends. Since then I've traveled with Friendship Force to the Republic of Georgia, New Zealand, Australia and recently to Alberta, Canada. I've also been Exchange Director for an Incoming Mexico City Exchange, Outgoing New Zealand and Australia Exchange, and Incoming Open World Exchange from Tajikistan. Most of my travels are with my life partner, Blaine McCutchan. Besides travel, we enjoy the simple, quiet outdoors at our 84-year-old log cabin near Remer MN. Thanks to Blaine, it's now been upgraded with a well, indoor plumbing, radiant heated floors, landline phone and expanded electrical devices. But no Internet or TV and very poor cell phone connections! Things those original builders of hand-hewn logs and using newspapers to stuff the cracks between logs could not even have dreamed!



For Vice President: Jane Bardon

Jane is a native Minnesotan, graduate of the U of M (BA and MA), and has been married to Jack Bardon (MD) for 62 years. They both worked at the U of M and retired on the same day. Jane was a statistician in a medical research lab and later an information technology professional in the University Libraries. Jack practiced psychiatry at the U of M for 35 years. They have six children, seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.



The Bardons have been FF Members since about 1993. They have gone on journeys to Brazil, Ghana, Japan, Russia and Siberia and hosted ambassadors from Australia and Russia. Jane served on the FF/MN/TC Board as Communications Chair and coordinated the 2009 revision of the FF/MN/TC Bylaws. She currently manages the FF/MN/TC Facebook group.

Jane and Jack served in the Peace Corps in Turkmenistan from 2003 to 2005 where they both worked as Health Educators. Since their Peace Corps service, they have been active in the returned Peace Corps Volunteer community. Jane was president of the MN Peace Corps group for three years and held many other positions. She also served on the Board of Directors of the National Peace Corps Association as Secretary and as Governance Chair (another bylaws revision). The Bardons have traveled to all 50 U.S. states, all Canadian provinces, all seven continents and 100+ countries.

For Treasurer: Buck MacDonald



Buck MacDonald is an entrepreneur, conservationist and writer whose current main interest is the long-term collection and preservation of DNA from plant and animal species facing imminent extinction. He received his JD from the University of San Diego and is actively involved in the development of sustainably run businesses. He is an avid traveler and long-time Friendship Force member. He has co-authored Project Ark, Humanity's Last Hope for Restoring Life on Planet Earth.

For Secretary: Tom Scott

My wife Janet and I are long-time residents of the MacGroveland area of St Paul. We have two adult children and two grandchildren. I am recently retired from the full-time practice of law. The last 20 plus years my practice was primarily in the area of municipal law, representing various cities and other governmental entities. I served as the St Louis Park city attorney during that time.



Janet and I are relatively new to FF, having joined in 2016. In July of 2016 we journeyed to Germany on an exchange hosted by the Nuremberg club, which included a Martin Luther tour. This May we were part of our club's journey to Lethbridge, Alberta.

In late October of this year we are traveling with FF of Northern Illinois on a journey taking us to Uganda and Capetown South Africa. I look forward to getting to know more club members and becoming more involved in the necessary nuts and bolts of our club as secretary, if elected, and/or in other capacities. It is an important time in the history of Friendship Force. I look forward to getting to know more club members and becoming more involved in the necessary nuts and bolts of our club as secretary if elected and/or in other capacities. It is an important time in the history of Friendship Force.

VOTE FOR THIS FINE SLATE OF CANDIDATES AT THE ELECTION ON DECEMBER 2ND AT THE HOLIDAY PARTY

From our Treasurer, Ken Scherber

Annual dues for 2018 will be **\$35 per member**, as voted on by our Club's Board of Directors at the September meeting. The deadline for 2018 dues is January 1, 2018.

Rather than offering a discount to households, all members will pay an equal amount. This change comes from the leadership at Friendship Force International in the spirit of trying to equalize dues.



What are your dues used to pay? \$15 goes directly to FFI to support national programming and education, maintain the FFI website, and support the work of 15 staff who manage the Journeys each year. The remaining \$20 stays with our local chapter. A portion goes to administrative costs to cover the fee to host our website, periodic mailings, and maintain our status as a Friendship Force International club. Another portion goes to education and outreach. This year, our local Club sponsored two members to attend the Annual Conference in Manchester, England. This paid for part of

their registration fee and some other expenses, allowing them to spread the story of FF/MN/TC as well as learn from other Clubs around the world. Additionally, a portion goes to celebrating our friendship with one another through supporting social events such as our quarterly meetings, summer picnic and a holiday party. We look forward to welcoming you as a member again in 2018. Some of us are actively involved: taking Journeys, hosting guests, and working together on the board and on committees. Others have served for many years in the past and now choose to enjoy the company of others at social events, remembering previous ventures with FF friends over the years. Each of us is needed to make our Club strong. 2018 member applications are available at www.friendshipforcetwincities.org or from Greg McAndrews, Membership Chair. To obtain a membership form on line, go to our website and click on the top red bar on the left, About Us-Application and then click on Twin Cities Friendship Force Application. We would appreciate it if you could pay your dues now. It will help cut down on the work we have at the end of the year. Thank you!

LOOKING AHEAD

December 2nd: Holiday party at Elscotts. Further information to come

January 9th: Depart for West Alajuela, Costa Rica

April 20-22nd: Regional Super convention in Cincinnati.

Spring, 2018 Incoming journey from Rostov-on-Don

September 15th: Twin Cities Club celebrates 40th anniversary!!

WANT TO LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE?

Check out www.duolingo.com. It's the world's most popular way to learn a language. It's free, fun and science-based and an app developed by Apple in 2014. There are 11 language courses offered for English speakers. Each course is made up of modules which are Grouped to form skills. DuoLingo controls the order you need to complete the different modules and when you can progress to the next module or level. Each module Starts with Lesson 1. Once it is satisfactorily completed,

WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

THE HANDS OF FRIENDSHIP

Dale Palmer of Maple Grove
Tim Lenertz of Alexandria



We look forward to meeting you!

then you can move to the next lesson. There is an option to test out of individual modules or even a group of modules/skills. Excerpted and contributed by Cindy Cauble

**Next Newsletter Deadline
December 15TH**