



**Special points of interest:**

- Next meeting is May 13, 6:30 PM at the Ponderosa,
- Inbound Exchange from Germany is September 20 -27. Bob Schwagerl - ED. Planning meeting for all hosts at the Schwagerls' on May 18 at 3:00 PM
- Calgary Outbound Exchange is June 18-25 with a follow-on to the Canadian Rockies. Mark Dryer - ED
- International Conference in Gold Coast, Australia is Oct. 2-5.
- 2009 Inbound from New Zealand is September. Babs Fickes - ED
- 2009 Outbound to Japan Nov. 11-17 coinciding with the International Conference Nov. 19 - 22 in Okinawa.
- 2009 Mid-Atlantic Regional conference April 3-5, 2009.

# The Ambassador

The Friendship Force of Charlottesville, Virginia

Volume XVII, No. 3

## President's Message

By the time you receive this newsletter, new friends from Hamilton and Burlington, Canada will have completed their visit to FFC. Special thanks to all who hosted and especially to Babs Fickes who served as exchange director. Pictures from Garden Week, our guests, and hosts will be shown at our next meeting.

LeRoy Moyer, Walt O'Connell, Bob and Dee Schwagerl attended the Mid-Atlantic Regional meeting and have information to share with FFC members. I have asked that they plan to present a summary at our May meeting about various ideas discussed

at the conference.

You may have noticed a different format for this newsletter—Walt O'Connell has volunteered to coordinate and edit The Ambassador.

FFC continues to be an organization in which members volunteer often before they are asked; it is amazing to watch member participation. Please let me know if you would be interested to serve as an exchange director, work on a committee, or be a board member and I will forward your name to the committee searching for candidates for 2009. An exchange director should have traveled as an am-

bassador on an exchange.

Babs Fickes has volunteered to be the Inbound Exchange Director when New Zealand comes to us—about September 9, 2009. Babs and Don have been on an exchange to New Zealand in 1999 and re-visited their friends in Coromandel and Napier last May. Babs wrote, "They are the most incredible people! We have many wonderful memories of their love and friendship."

May I express 'thanks' to so many who are doing so much.

In Friendship, Arlene

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## Club Hosts 17 Canadian Ambassadors

They arrived in 4 vehicles, by way of Washington, D C., 17 strong and willing to battle the elements (our much needed rain). Our hosts were here to greet them for a great evening of sharing food and fellowship.

Each host and ambassador were on their own for the Monday tour of the 8 Greenwood Estates. And it proved to be the best rather than caravanning. The farmland fields were the parking lots and with so much rain, maneuvering the car on the rain soaked grass's proved to be a challenge. Our vehicle did not get stuck and I hope that the rest of you hosts were as fortunate. They, our Canadians, were very impressed, not only with the gardens, but with the fact that we were welcomed into these houses. So much beauty.

On Tuesday at UVa, meeting at the Rotunda, most took the garden tour first. Our group took the Pavilion tour first and joined up for the Colonnades garden tour. All took advantage of the Rotunda tour.

Lunch at Michie Tavern for 30 of us was a hit for our guests. 'Southern food and hospitality at it's best' were the chosen words of the Canadian E D Larry Kurtz.

The Ambassadors were well prepared to review the history of our T. Jefferson at Monticello, but were very much entertained by our docent, Don McCracken.

Albeit the exchange was very short, it was indeed very pleasant and I do hope that the rest of the hosts enjoyed the visit as much as Don and I. In Friendship, Babs Fickes

## Space Available on Calgary Exchange

Dear friends;

As you all know (I hope) I am the ED for the upcoming outbound exchange to Calgary, Canada. The home stay will be from June 18 to June 25 and, so far, we have fourteen ambassadors (7 couples) and we can accommodate more people. Therefore, if any members are interested in the exchange to Calgary, please let me know ASAP so that we may add you to our company. You may e-mail me at [mkdryer@aol.com](mailto:mkdryer@aol.com) or telephone at 434-978-7021.

For the ambassadors who have already signed on, I can report that things are progressing smoothly and we should have a wonderful time with our friends in Alberta. Those of you who have signed up for the Caravan tour of the (cont'd page 2)

# The Ambassador

## Mid-Atlantic Roundtable Success

LeRoy Moyer and Walt O'Connell



**Matilda (a.k.a. Laurie-Ann Scott) from Peculiar, MO. kept the Roundtable lively.**



**Karen Smith will be the new Regional Field Representative.**

Representatives from 14 clubs attended the Regional Round Table in Charleston, WV in early April. Participants were graciously hosted by the Charleston club that organized a reception and dinner for the attendees as well as a home stay.

The meeting was chaired by Bob Schwagerl, Laurie-Ann Scott (representing Atlanta) and Karen Smith, the incoming Regional Field Representative. A number of topics of general interest were forwarded and the attendees contributed to the lively discussions sharing past experiences and offering new ideas.

Atlanta has several initiatives in progress that should be welcomed by all clubs: a new exchange manual covering both inbound and outbound sides of the exchange is in development as is a new and greatly improved Web site.

There is an effort to develop specialized exchanges ( e.g. educational exchanges and the Pilgrimage exchange) to further support the overall Friendship Force mission. In a similar move, many clubs are

adding a humanitarian element to their exchanges.

All of the clubs seem to have the same concerns: membership, communications, and programs. Here are some ideas that we might consider for our club.

### Membership:

It would be better to have a volunteer for the membership chairman so that there could be a continuous effort. As it is now, a new person comes in every year. This person needs to learn what has been done and may not be interested in this activity. A person who volunteers to do this job will probably have an interest and would know what has been successful in the past.

### Communications:

The club needs someone to handle communications not only to current members but to potential members. This too should be directed by someone with an interest in the job and who can do it for a period of time. That way they will have time to develop a relationship with the contacts at the various places where we can put announcements and

articles. There are lots of things that we have not tried. For example, put up a booth at the international fairs that Piedmont Community College and University of Virginia hold annually.

### Programs:

We should consider changing the format of our gatherings from a business meeting to a program orientation that educates and informs and a social period. Business should be conducted primarily at board meetings by the board, committee chairs and exchange directors. Some clubs conduct a business meeting once a year for the primary purpose of electing officers. Pot luck dinners seem to be a common event as well.

Finally, the group did express some concern over the apparent rising costs of exchanges and events.

The next Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference will be held April 3-5, 2009 at the Engleside Inn in Beach Haven on Long Beach Island, NJ.

*A Friendship Force thank you to all those supporting the club by working at the Fridays After Five events this summer.*



## ... Calgary Exchange

Rockies commencing on June 25, please note that the balance of the payment is (was?) due on April 25 and this should be paid immediately [presumably by credit card, as we paid the deposit].

We should be receiving the host designations shortly and as soon as I receive further information on the exchange I will pass it on to the signed up ambassadors.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at our next club meeting and thereafter in Calgary.

In Friendship, Mark Dryer

## Fund Raising Update

LeRoy Moyer

With the generous support of the members of the club, the fund raising efforts are progressing nicely this year. Our major fund raising activity for the club is Fridays after Five where we serve as ID Checkers. We have received a raise this year to \$9 per hour per person, so each evening should provide the club with \$235. The five evenings that the club is scheduled to do through out the summer should add \$1175 to the treasury.

We also have a variety of other means of raising funds for the club. In particular, the 50-50 has been giving the club about \$35 during each meeting. We also have a trickle of sales of pins, T-shirts, and cook books. Don't forget that these all make great gifts for up coming ambassadors and hosts.

Many thanks go out for the support that all of the club members are providing for these activities.



**The Chinese Cultural Center in Calgary. Learn more about Calgary at <http://www.discovercalgary.com>.**

## Minutes of March Meeting

### Friendship Force Pledge

Welcome by Arlene Bandy to include members and guests --Bob Smethers from Ivy, John and Nancy Till (family guests of the Moyer's) and grand daughter-in-law and grandsons of the Bandy's.

A historical and cultural presentation by Zorica Panman regarding Macedonia and the region. Zorica discussed conflicts in the region and also showed beautiful pictures of people, architecture, and landscapes.

Minutes from the January 11, 2008 meeting as printed in the Ambassador were approved.

Betsy Edgecomb reported a balance of \$6,260.31. She said that she still has some 2007 dues to collect.

LeRoy Moyer, Fundraising Committee Chair, led a discussion regarding whether the Club should continue with the Fridays after Five and passed around a clipboard for names of members willing to participate. He had received member input that the John Paul Jones arena also uses non-profit groups to support the

vendors. He stated that he had sent e-mails and made phone calls but to date had not had contact with the appropriate staff person at JPI. He will follow-up and inform members with e-mail regarding details.

Walt O'Connell, Membership Committee Chair, discussed the FF interactive database that he has designed. Members were given individual printouts and asked to confirm that all data was up to date. The next step will be to extend the use of this data to a particular purpose such as an exchange, e-mail group lists, etc.

Bill Smith, Social Committee Chair, requested volunteers for his committee to plan a summer picnic. Members are: Celia Zeimer, Babs Fickes, Cheryl Kasper, Patti Sclater, and Kathy Saurman. Several ideas were discussed; Dee Schwagerl reminded the committee that she is storing the Club's supply of paper/plastic picnic goods for such an activity.

Barbara Kelshaw, Membership Outreach Committee, encouraged members to keep

her informed.

Babs Fickes, Inbound Exchange Director, for Greater Burlington Hamilton, Canada (April 20-23, 2008) confirmed the home hosting participants. Ambassadors include 4 couples and 11 singles—she will need 9 hosts. This is the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Virginia Garden Clubs; the Burlington-Hamilton Club had discovered this special Virginia activity on the internet and requested the mini-exchange. Babs has planned a meeting with home hosts on April 5, 2008. Program will include Greenwood Estate gardens, UVA Pavilions and Museum plus a pot luck dinner as a welcome.

Bob Schwagerl, Inbound Exchange Director, for Hamburg, Germany (September 20-27, 2008) discussed communications he has had with their Director. Ambassadors include 4 couples and 9 ladies for a total of 17. Bob had prepared a form requesting member input and participation. He has a goal to change our usual inbound routine and is requesting ideas. For example, a member stated that the im-

provements recently made to Montpelier might make that site one of interest to both hosts and guests.

Some of the ambassadors will be from Norderstedt and will be known to our club through our outbound trip to their city. The group will be traveling to Raleigh, NC for the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of their exchange. Bob also gave an update on the Pilgrimage exchange, and the ongoing search for members to fill Christian, Jewish and Muslim leadership positions.

Mark Dryer, Outbound Exchange Director to Calgary (June 18-25, 2008) gave a report on progress. Participation at this time is 14; Mark would prefer a larger number and has contacted the Region for additional ambassadors. In addition to the home stay experience, many members are joining a 9-day escorted tour with Caravan Tours to include Glacier Park, Banff, Lake Louise, Columbia Icefield Ice Explorer, and Jasper. Respectfully submitted, Betsy Edgecomb, Substitute Secretary

## 2009 Outbound to Koriyama, Japan

Plan now for an exciting and fun filled exchange with Koriyama, Japan in November, 2009!

This will certainly be the highlight of the year. Reports are that this exchange has been excellent! We will have the opportunity to stay with two different families on this visit. The first will be from

Nov. 11-14 and the second will be from Nov. 14-17.

The International Conference will be from Nov. 19-22. Following the conference there will be an opportunity for an additional home stay from Nov. 23-26.

If you are interested in being the ED for this memorable exchange, please contact

Arlene.

The Web page for the Koriyama club is <http://www8.ocn.ne.jp/~ffkoriya/FFK/english/engpage.html>

To learn more about Koriyama check out <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Koriyama>



**Ohse Park, 32.5 hectares has an observation deck with a full view of urban area, the solemn Japanese garden and the herb garden. Various flowers blossoming all the year round delight the visitors' eyes.**

*A meeting of all hosts for the inbound German Exchange in Sept. will be held at Bob & Dee Schwagerl's home (434-984-1490) on Sunday afternoon, May 18th at 3:00 P. M. Hosts and Ambassadors will be assigned and the weeks schedule established. Please call Bob if you have signed up as a host to confirm your attendance.*

Building global good will through personal friendships

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**The Ambassador**

**The Friendship Force of Charlottesville**

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***We're on the web!***

***The Friendship Force of  
Charlottesville***

***<http://avenue.org/ffc/>***

***The Friendship Force  
International***

***[www.thefriendshipforce.org](http://www.thefriendshipforce.org)***

**Next Meeting Ponderosa Steak House**

**Pantops Mountain May 13, 2008**

**Meeting begins at 6:30PM.**

**Come early to eat and for friendship!**

**Friendship Force International Conference - 2008**

Surfers Paradise, Queensland, Australia October 2-5, 2008.

[http://www.friendshipforcegoldcoast.org.au/2008world\\_conf.htm](http://www.friendshipforcegoldcoast.org.au/2008world_conf.htm) for details

**Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference - 2009**

Engleside Inn in Beach Haven, on Long Beach Island, NJ. April 3-5, 2009 followed by a 3 day home stay. Rooms are less than \$100/night. Near Atlantic City and Philadelphia.

**Friendship Force International Conference - 2009**

Okinawa, Japan. November 19 - 22, 2009

*Clear the clutter and save the club some money. Contact Walt O'Connell (waltoc@embarqmail.com or 591-0532) to receive your copy of the newsletter by email rather than 'snail mail' (postage is going to \$0.43 in May).*