



YOURS IN FRIENDSHIP

FROM THE CEDAR RAPIDS/IOWA CITY
FRIENDSHIP FORCE CLUB
www.friendshipforcecrr-ic.org

November 20, 2015

Nov-Dec

2015

In this Issue:

President's Message 1

Club Dues 2
January Meeting
"I'm In!" Campaign
Midwest & Great Lakes Regional Conference

2016 Exchanges 3

New Member 4
Annual Meeting
FFI President

Calendar 5

Board Members 6

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE....

In a few days we will be celebrating Thanksgiving. And soon after that the Christmas and New Years holidays. It seems like the right time to reflect on what I am thankful for in Friendship Force.

First of all, thank you to Dale and Cheryl Moore for their leadership and guidance in 2015. And to the 2015 board which offered creative ideas and positive energy to accomplish our goals. There were lots of events and activities and club members really got involved to make interesting experiences for everyone who participated.

Now we begin a new club year. Your new board is:

- Mary Stull, President
- Dean & Jean Thomas, Co-President elect
- Carol and Jerry Burke, Co-Secretary
- Stephanie Schulte, Treasurer
- Dale & Cheryl Moore, Past Presidents
- Connie Williams, Exchange Coordinator
- Marian Wetjen, Membership
- Dale Moore, Communications
- Shirley Rosencrans, Activities Coordinator
- Alice Wilkinson, 2nd Year Director-at-large
- Larry and Mary Ann Nelson, 1st Year Co-Director-at-large

We welcomed two new members: Bob Nicholson and his wife, Mary Tarbox. Their profiles will be in the January newsletter.

I offer you two challenges for 2016:

- Choose one new activity this year—attend the Midwest & Great Lakes Conference, be a day host, serve on an exchange committee, host guests overnight, be an exchange director or attend a LEO. Try a new experience where you'll meet new people and learn more about Friendship Force.
- Invite someone you think will enjoy the Friendship Force experience. We all know people who would be good representatives of our community and culture. Share the fun with them.

Our first meeting will be January 10 at the Ladd Library (Cedar Rapids Public Library on the west side). We'll hear about club members' experiences on Global exchanges and traveling with other Friendship Force clubs.

Here's to a great 2016!

Mary Stull

Club Dues—2016



It is time to renew your membership for 2016. **Dues will again be \$30 per person.** If you didn't get a chance to pay your dues at the annual meeting, you can send a check for \$30 per person to our membership chair:

Marian Wetjen at 2009 Linmar Drive NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

General Meeting—January 10

We're starting the year off at the Ladd Library (Cedar Rapids Public Library) at 3750 Williams Blvd SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404, from 2 to 4 pm. The community room is at the back of the library. We'll enjoy dessert and drinks provided by Shirley Rosencrans' activities committee.

The program will be on global exchanges and traveling with other Friendship Force clubs. Several of our members have participated in or led these types of exchanges. They will be sharing their experiences and tips on how to make the most of the exchange.

We'll also have updates on exchanges and other activities in 2016.



“I'm In!” Campaign



At the 38th annual Friendship Force International 'World Conference' in Vancouver, Cecile Latour, FFI Board Chair, presented the critical need to upgrade the Friendship Force data management system. She issued a challenge to all clubs and members to help meet this need.

The data management systems provides resources for the FFI website and services to clubs. The FFI data management system is so outdated (almost 10 years old) that a crash could happen any day. The annual operating budget does not have the resources to accomplish this upgrade.

Your Board is challenging each member to contribute \$50 to the retooling goal. The Club will match member gifts up to \$600. Our club is about half way to this goal **so your contribution is important.** Send your contribution to Stephanie Schulte at PO Box 705, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-0705 by November 30, 2015. Join the **“I'm In!” Campaign.**

Midwest & Great Lakes Regional Conference



Mark you 2016 calendar for the Midwest-Great Lakes Regional Conference, April 28-May 1. The Quad Cities club is the official host and will be welcoming members from 20 clubs in 9 states. The theme is Building Bridges with Friendship. **All members are encouraged to attend.**

The conference will be held at the brand-new Holiday Inn and Suites, 4215 Elmore Avenue, which has easy access to I-80. Optional activities highlighting the unique assets of the Quad Cities will also be available.

Update on Exchanges

We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead, one where everyone in the club can participate in one way or another. There are opportunities for travel, home hosts, dinner hosts, day hosts, special activity hosts, exchange directors and planning committee members. Any and all of these are great ways to be involved with Friendship Force. I would like to encourage those who can day host or dinner host to do so. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet ambassadors and it lightens the load for the home hosts. If your home can accommodate guests, but you cannot be available all day and night, don't hesitate to home host, we will coordinate a day host for you. Our goal is to share with our guest who we are and how we live.

Outgoing exchange to Wessex, England—June 7-14, 2016

Marian Wetjen is serving as the exchange director for this exchange. We have a full exchange, with a waiting list. Please contact Marian at mjwetjen27@yahoo.com if you have questions.



Incoming exchange from Nashika Riverside, India, July 2016.

Ambassadors will spend a week each in Madison, WI and Cedar Rapids/Iowa City. This is a fabulous opportunity to make friends with this club, please plan to participate in this exchange. Now accepting Exchange Director applications and committee member signup.

Outbound domestic exchange to Lansing, MI, Sept 11-17, 2016

This is a return exchange with 20 ambassador spaces. Our club hosted Lansing in 2015. Taking applications for exchange director and ambassadors. *



Themed Exchange: Crazy for Quilting, September 30-October 5, 2016

Cedar Rapids will host the first 5 days; Ames club will host from Oct 5-9. If you have interest in day hosting, home hosting or dinner hosting, or would like to serve on the committee for this, please contact Connie Williams, cmw1226@yahoo.com.



Incoming domestic exchange from Sacramento, California- mid-October, 2016. Sacramento plans to visit our club this fall! Please consider applying for Exchange Director, helping on the committee or hosting in some capacity. Contact Connie.. cmw1226@yahoo.com .

2016 will be a wonderful year!

*link to ED application: <http://www.friendshipforcecr-ic.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/EDapplication.pdf>

*link for ambassador application:

<http://www3.thefriendshipforce.org/downloads/AMBASSADOR%20APPLICATION%20AND%20AGREEMENT2.16.pdf>

Welcome our Newest Member—Sharon Bowers

We extend a big welcome to **Sharon Bowers!** Sharon lives in southwest Cedar Rapids though she is a western gal with cowgirl boots and hat who has lived in Portland, Oregon; Denver, Colorado; Santa Fe, New Mexico; and Anamosa, Iowa. Her career spans many years in Department of Corrections, education, medical transcription, cultural ambassador and currently Business Services Rep for the state of Iowa. One of her passions is ballroom dancing and she travels with her dance studio to several events annually to compete and to perform original choreography showcases. She also enjoys following grandkids sports and watching major league baseball.

Annual Meeting Recap

The club's annual meeting was held at Touch of Class on November 15. After social time and dinner, Dale Moore reviewed the club year, It included:

- two incoming exchanges (Lansing and Quad Cities)
- three outgoing exchanges (Niagara, Canada; Mid-Willamette Valley Oregon; Lower Columbia, Washington)
- one OpenWorld hosting (Azerbaijan)
- three special events (Midwest Leadership Conference, First Annual All Iowa Picnic and the World Conference in Vancouver)
- five Let's Eat Out events.

Whew...we can be very proud of how much we accomplished!

After election of officers, Mary Stull introduce the 2016 board—see last page for list and contact information—and announced the January 10 meeting.

Welcome to new FFI President & CEO—Jeremi Snook

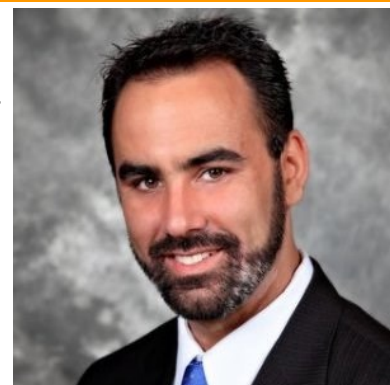
Jeremi Snook has been selected as FFI's sixth President and CEO, effective November 9, 2015. He has a Master's degree in Business Administration and brings with him both the experience of working as a senior executive in the non-profit sector as well as the experience of starting a small business that quickly earned him and his partner the Top 50 Fastest Growing Companies' award.

The search committee believes that he has the vision and management skills to lead FFI to the stability and sustainability we want for the organization. Most importantly, he has the values to embrace the mission that matters enormously to all of us

He worked successively with United Way, with the Uptown Emergency Shelter and most recently as Chief Operating Officer with Spaulding Youth Center in Northfield, New Hampshire, a leading community-based provider of educational services for children with neurological or behavioral challenges.

"Friendship Force is much in alignment with who Jeremi is as a person", commented a former boss and CEO. Jeremi concurs: "I have loved all my previous jobs but the mission of this one resonates with my soul. I tell my friends and family that I will work for peace by bringing people from around the world together."

We hope to see Jeremi in the Midwest in 2016.



2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 7, 2015	Board Meeting	Mary Stull's home 3000 27th St SW, Cedar Rapids
January 4, 2016	Board Meeting	Mary Stull's home 3000 27th St SW, Cedar Rapids
Winter 2016	Open World—Small Town Mayors from Moldova	Vic Klopfenstein
April 28-May 1, 2016	Midwest & Great Lakes Regional Conference	Quad Cities, Davenport, IA
June 7-14, 2016	Outgoing exchange to Wessex, England Exchange is full with a waiting list	Marian Wetjen, exchange director
July 2016	Incoming exchange from Nashika Riverside, India Dates to be coordinated with Madison, WI, as we are hosting the second week of this two-week exchange. Exchange Director & committee needed.	ED—Taking Applications*
Sept 11-17	Outbound domestic exchange to Lansing, MI 20 ambassadors spaces to apply for.	ED—Taking Applications*
Sept 30-Oct 5	Inbound themed exchange - Crazy for Quilting Committee, day hosts, home hosts & dinner hosts needed.	Connie Williams, exchange director
Mid-October	Inbound domestic exchange from Sacramento, CA 20 ambassadors	ED—Taking Applications*

*link to ED application: <http://www.friendshipforcecr-ic.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/EDapplication.pdf>

*link for ambassador application: <http://www3.thefriendshipforce.org/downloads/AMBASSADOR%20APPLICATION%20AND%20AGREEMENT2.16.pdf>

**CHANGING THE WAY YOU
SEE THE WORLD**
thefriendshipforce.org

BOARD MEMBERS 2016

Mary Stull, President

319-393-6254 mcdstull@aol.com

Dean & Jean Thomas, Co-President elect

319-830-5092 jeanthomas521@gmail.com;

Carol and Jerry Burke, Co-Secretary

563-927-5568 jtbgales@uahoo.com; jburke1113@mediacombb.net

Stephanie Schulte, Treasurer

319-350-5279(cell) ssschulte08@gmail.com

Dale & Cheryl Moore, Past Presidents

319-362-6252 mooredale@imonmail.com

Connie Williams, Exchange Coordinator

319-396-4747 cmw1226@yahoo.com

Marian Wetjen, Membership

319-363-0586 mjwetjen27@yahoo.com

Dale Moore, Communications

319-362-6252 mooredale@imonmail.com

Shirley Rosencrans, Activities Coordinator

319-462-4132 sarosencrans@yahoo.com

Alice Wilkinson, 2nd Year Director At Large

319-366-0625 alicew.memaw@gmail.com

Larry and Mary Ann Nelson, 1st Year Co-Director At Large

319-362-8078 mrlwnelson@yahoo.com; mrsmanelson@yahoo.com

In friendship

Mary Stull

Dean & Jean Thomas