



friendship force Southwest florida

Newsletter January 2016

Our Website www.friendshipforceswfl.org

New Club Leadership in 2016



Sue, Michelle, Bev, Carol and Cathy - our 2016 Board

Our wonderful club is in good hands this year - all of the talented women, pictured above, have stepped up to lead us forward. The Board met with the previous board to assure a smooth transition.

To streamline our operations, there will be a few new procedures:

- It was decided that our Treasurer will order new member name tags as the new member applications and dues are processed. New members will receive them directly in the mail from the badge company.
- Members will order tee shirts directly from the supplier. Order form and instructions will be added to the club website. Other items may be

Friendship Force

Mission

To promote global understanding across barriers that separate people

Values

*Mutual Respect Cultural
Diversity Cultural
Exploration Service*

Tell Your Friends

Your friends and the public are always welcome at our meetings. Keep your friends informed about our happenings by forwarding this newsletter to them.

Elected Board (voting members)

President

Sue Linehan

1st VP

Michelle Kemp

2nd VP

Beverly Harmon

ordered directly from the supplier as well.



We need a club member to step up to help the board coordinate publicity and club membership. Call Sue today to volunteer!

General Meeting
Monday, January 25
10:30 AM Ft Myers Library



Start the new year off right by attending the first General Meeting on **Monday, January 25th**. Why Monday? Why not - the library was booked on Friday so we decided to try a Monday!

The Program is a fascinating slide show on **Everything you've always wondered about being an ED**. What's an ED? That is FF Lingo for an Exchange Director. We hope to educate you on what it takes to lead an exchange and how you, as a club member, can help make the exchange a success.

Hope to see you there!

Treasurer
Cathy Cobb
Secretary
Carol Berry

Non-voting Board

Membership/Publicity

Need volunteer

ED Coordination

Lou Rizk

Email, Club Roster, Sunshine

Cheryle Phelps

Historian

Carla Harms

Webmaster, Club

Photographer

Richard Collins

Parliamentarian

Jody Garmon

Newsletter

Joanne Collins

Programs/Fundraising

Entire Board

Get ready to welcome Belgium Ambassadors!

Mark your calendar for March 8 - 13. The Belgians are coming!

Our incoming Exchange Director (ED), Dennis Yemma, is planning a fun-filled exchange for our guests. It is our hope that you will attend the Welcoming Pizza Party on March 9 and some of the other events. It is free for the hosts and **only a \$5 charge per person** for club members. Just picture the Yemmas' special pizza melting in your mouth as you are surrounded by these wonderful ambassadors. Learn all about their country and make new friends.



Yummy pizza



Here's the tentative itinerary:

March 8, late night arrival. Meet at Yemmas' house to pick up your guest **unless you live in the Punta Gorda area**. Joanne will pick up those guests and set a pick-up point in Punta Gorda.

March 9, Meet at ECHO, at 10:15, cost for our members \$10. Immediately following ECHO is the Welcome Party. The Yemmas will provide all the food and drink so no one has to bring anything.

March 10, Meeting with the Mayor of Ft. Myers 10:15, Lunch at Prime de Leon, afternoon free time for exploring river district or shopping or

March 11, Babcock Ranch Wilderness tour 10:30 followed by picnic lunch at the ranch. Cost is \$19. Afternoon visit to Manatee Park parking \$2-\$5.

March 12, Edison Ford Estates, gardens, and museum. Lunch on the Estate grounds. Full admission \$30, lunch only \$15.

March 13, Beach day at Bowditch, Ft. Myers Beach, picnic lunch, beach shopping optional. Farewell Dinner at Judy Carson's Meeting Room - time to be determined

March 14, morning deliver to meeting place in Punta Gorda to be determined for hand off to Sarasota Friendship Force Club for Belgians to continue onto their next exchange.



*Dennis and the rest of our Exchange in Belgium 2015.
Marie Paul, Belgian ED, in blue jacket first row on the left.*

**Calling all Ambassadors
Outbound Costa Rica Trip**

We would like to ask you to think about a skit or some sort of program that we can do at the Farewell Dinner. Send me your ideas!

A cartoon-style illustration of a toucan bird perched on a brown branch. The bird has a large, colorful beak with yellow, green, and red sections. Its body is primarily black with a bright yellow throat and chest. The tail feathers show a red patch. The bird is facing left. A small watermark 'prashinath.com' is visible in the bottom left corner of the illustration.

Looking forward to a wonderful exchange in Costa Rica!

Welcome, **Priscilla and Hugh McShane**! They are snowbirds from Kentucky who previously were members of Friendship Force in their home state.

[illegible]

Carol & Chris Nasby brought [Maureen Butt](#) to our Holiday Brunch. She and her husband, [Hank](#), who reside in Punta Gorda, joined that day!



*Our newest members,
The McShanes*



Welcome, Maureen Butt

Welcome to our club!

What in the World are our members doing?

It's a Small World. In November, **Michelle Kemps** hopped over to England for one week. She visited four families that she has met while traveling over the years.



This picture shows her with a couple she had not seen in 45 years! With research she found them. Robin, now 80 years old, had picked up Michelle as she hitch hiked.

Michelle visits friends in UK She was invited to 'watch' their home while they were on Holiday, then stay on as a nanny for a couple of weeks. Another family she visited had a dear friend just diagnosed with a brain tumor.

President's comments



I am very excited to accept the office of President of such an active club. During Joanne's time in office, we made great strides in membership, communication, fun and enlightening meetings. I hesitated to take the office because Rob and I cruise on **Catalyst** a portion of the winter months. I am assured that Michelle Kemps, our first vice president, and Bev Harmon, our second vice president, will step up and keep things running smoothly. *This is the way a club should run to support one another!*

Joanne Collins will stay on with this wonderful news letter and Richard Collins will keep the Web page up-to-date and looking great! What would our club do without those two?

We have Carol Berry who will keep good records of our meetings and Cathy Cobb will handle our money.

We have appointed Lou Rizk and Cheryle Phelps to serve as Exchange Director (ED) advisors. They have years of experience in that role to help new ED volunteers so that they don't have to go it alone.

We are looking for someone to work on Membership/Publicity and to contact possible groups who may wish for us to provide a speaker about Friendship Force. Because Joanne and I live in Punta Gorda, we've done a good job covering this area, but it would be great to have someone in the Ft. Myers and Naples areas. You need not be the program presenter but only to help discover **opportunities** to present. If you belong to an organization or association where you reside that might like a program, please let us know. **Membership should be our first priority** for without that, we cannot do the club exchanges easily.

Please plan to attend the meeting on Jan 25. Long time members are needed to share their experiences in hosting and traveling. New members will benefit by being prepared to take on those roles in the future. It is a great meeting to bring prospective members - look around you and bring friends who may wish learn about the real goal of the club, which is international understanding through hosting and travel.

We will take reservations for lunch at a down town restaurant after the meeting on the 25th so plan to stay and visit over lunch.

We hope to have our biggest turn out ever on the 25th! See you then!

Happy New Year,

Sue

Parting Shot



Great turnout from our club at All Florida Conference - What a great looking bunch!

Do you like our newsletter?

Just email Joanne at eagleswingsj@yahoo.com with any suggestions and stories. Hope to hear from you soon!

Friendship Force of Southwest Florida | 281-543-9018 | eagleswingsj@yahoo.com |
<http://www.friendshipforceswfl.org>
258 Venezia Court
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Experience the World with Friendship Force
You can change the world, one friendship at a time!

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