



Friends Connection

Friendship Force of Sarasota

October, 2009

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President's Message

First of all, what a wonderful 20th Anniversary Celebration we hosted on September 27. Our gratitude and thanks go to Barbara Peterson and Nedra Farwell for doing a super job in planning this very special event. We were honored to have our "founding mothers", Marie Schumer and Ann Hurst, with us along with 8 past presidents and two guests from Sun City Center. Barbara gave a summary of our first 20 years – be sure to read it in this newsletter – I gave a review of this year, and Ramona McGee, as Florida Field Representative, gave a look into the future – carrying out the theme of the event, "20 Years, Still Going and Growing." The 50/50 raffle earned \$50 each for Grace Rowland and Bonnie Frey and \$100 for the FFI Legacy Fund. Those of you who were unable to come really missed a marvelous event.

But, there will be other events in our future – our next regular meeting on Thursday, October 15 at 6:00 PM at Selby Library; assisting the Sarasota Sister Cities Program in providing drivers for students from Perpignan, France November 9-13 (see the information in this newsletter and contact Terry Neuss, Ch.); our fall Harvest Dinner at Troyer's Dutch Heritage on Thursday, November 19 (see the reservation form in this newsletter); and our Holiday Party at Stoneybrook Country Club on Thursday, December 10.

If you are interested in the outbound domestic exchange to Baton Rouge, LA next February, please contact Reeta Dean, ED. At this time the exchange is full and has a waiting list, but it's several months away and plans can change.

Those of you interested in the outbound international exchange to the Belgian Coast, Belgium and Halle-Salle, Germany next April are reminded of the meeting at Helga Ponischel's Tower Lounge at Whispering Sands at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, October 13.

We continue to be a busy, involved club – "Still Going and Still Growing."

See you soon. Katy

Calendar of Eventsmore info inside****

October 13	Belgium/Germany Meeting at Helga Ponischil's 7p**
October 15	General Meeting at Selby Library 6p
October 16-17	All-Florida Conference**
November 9	Board Meeting at home of Dick & Nancy Rehbock
November 9-12	Driving Assist for Sister Cities**
November 19	Dinner Meeting at Dutch Heritage Restaurant 5:30p**
December 7	Board Meeting at TBA
December 10	Annual Holiday Party at Stoneybrook Country Club



Making Changes to your Directory.....

Colleen Stoller has changed her email address to colleenstoller@verizon.net.

Rita Dean's new email address is reetatoc@yahoo.com.

FYI ----- The Nominating Committee will be meeting shortly to select officers for next year. If you are asked to serve, please remember that it takes everyone to make a successful organization, and it may be your turn!

Sister City Driving Assist - Nov. 9th -12th

23 students from Perpignan, France are coming to Sarasota to join with Riverview High School students to study environmental subjects the week of November 9th. Perpignan is one of Sarasota's sister cities. We need drivers to ferry them around Sarasota, either morning or afternoon on the following dates Monday 9th - a.m, Tuesday 10th - a.m. & p.m., Wednesday 11th - a.m. & p.m. Thursday 12th - a.m. & p.m. I already have the following volunteers signed up - Peggy Otten, Terry Neuss, Reeta Dean, Betty Kuhns, Roger Wollstadt, Dick Rehbock, & Katy Goodwin. The destinations and exact times will be forthcoming in November, but in the meantime we need as many drivers as possible as there are 23 students. **Drivers with vans are especially wanted, but all cars are needed!** Please let me know if you will make yourself available for a morning or an afternoon or maybe more than one of each - call Terry Neuss - 923-4652 - Thanks so much!

November General Meeting

Will be a dinner meeting at Troyer's Dutch Heritage Restaurant at 3413 Bahia Vista St., Sarasota, Thursday, November 19, at 5:30 PM. We will have a sit-down family style broasted chicken dinner with all the trimmings, including a selection of pies for dessert. (Yes, there will be a sugar-free one!) The total cost for meal, beverage, tax and tip is \$16.25 pp. There will be a short business meeting.



Yum-yum!

<p>November General Meeting at Troyer's, Nov. 19, 5:30 PM. Yes, I wish to attend and share a great evening with the group! All-inclusive chicken dinner \$16.25 x _____ = _____ _____(Total) Make check out to Wayne Peterson and mail with this coupon to Wayne at 4427 Opal Ct. Sarasota, FL 34233. Your check is your reservation. Deadline is Nov. 15th.</p>

Exchanges

Inbound

FF Twin Cities Club of Minnesota – November 16-21

Regretfully, the domestic exchange scheduled for November 16 thru 21, 2009 with the Twin Cities FF club of Minnesota has been cancelled by the Twin Cities club. They could not obtain enough ambassadors to make it a viable exchange. Hopefully, we can arrange an exchange with the Minnesota club in the near future.

Wayne Peterson, ED

.Outbound

Baton Rouge, Louisiana – February 11-15, 2010

Excitement is growing among the 22 ambassadors who are signed up to visit Baton Rouge. We hear great things about that area and that club. On our agenda is a tour on Friday, family oriented parade on Saturday in Baton Rouge and then a bigger parade on Sunday in New Orleans. We're so lucky on Sunday to have the use of an apartment in the French Quarter owned by one of the members. That will make it an even better Mardi Gras for us. We have a full complement of ambassadors and a waiting list. If you wish to be put on the waiting list, contact Reeta Dean at 360 8768 or reetatoc@yahoo.com.



Mississippi River Bridge in Baton Rouge

Belgian Coast, Belgium and Halle-Salle, Germany April 17-30, 2010



Germany

This exchange is being planned as you read. The Belgian Coast is set for us to come April 17-23, and then on to Halle-Salle from the 23rd to the 30th when we will fly home. Several events are being planned for each week and more details will be known soon. Those of you who have signed up or are interested in this exchange, please come to the meeting on Tuesday, October 13 at 7pm at the Whispering Sands Tower Lounge. Helga Ponischil is the ED and is presently in Germany making arrangements.



Belgium

All Florida Conference, October 16-17

The All Florida Conference will be held in Mt. Dora on October 16-17 hosted by the Friendship Force of Central Florida. Members planning to attend from our club are Ramona McGee, Florida Field Representative; Wayne Peterson, Past President and Panel Member; Katy Goodwin, President; and Mary Brugger, Vice President.



NEWS FROM THE WEB

Pictures from the Calgary Exchange are in the Photo Gallery on our web site. Sign on to our web site and see what a good time the ambassadors had on the pre-exchange bus tour and on the exchange. If any Calgary ambassadors have some pictures they would like to have posted on our web site, please send them to me.

www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org.

Linda Vendeland, Webmaster linvende@aol.com

A Short Summary of our Sarasota FF Club's 20 years as Presented at the 20 year Anniversary Party, Sept. 27th

- We have had 45 Inbound Exchanges....
- We have had 41 Outbound Exchanges (this does not count all the exchanges that many have made with other clubs ...this is just our own.)
- We have had 35 different EDs
- We have done this through regular inbound and outbound exchanges and through exchanges that were:

Festivals
Cultural Exchanges
Student Exchanges
Bridge builders
Humanitarian
Russian leadership exchanges (3)

PLUS

9/11 in 2001 slowed us down a bit but not for long
The Strezev experience (1994)
Helga Ponischil was the 10,000 Ambassador and won a free trip (went to Russia)
The Marie Schumer Library in Brazil (1992)
We were FF Club of the Year in 1994
We are in the Shining Star level of the Legacy Fund

It is impressiveGive yourself a hand!
Let's keep it going and growing

