



friendship force  
NORTHERN COLORADO



Sue Cummins—Editor & Publisher

JUNE  
2016

## Fort Collins, Estes Park, Greeley, Loveland, Windsor, and Surrounding Areas

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### FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I'm writing this article fresh from the Rocky Mountain Regional

Friendship Force Conference in Grand Junction., where we had fun with other FF members while sharing new ideas, unusual projects, and concerns. Matthew Nidek (FFI) presented information about recent FFI staffing and reorganization that will streamline efficiency and meet the budget needs of the organization. We were excited to hear what the new website and database software will do for FFI as it comes online in August. The RMRFF silent auction earned \$1,100 to support these efforts (thanks again to our FFNC resident artist Thelma Slocum for donating two framed paintings). Matthew also shared the *Strategic Plan, Setting FFI on a Sustainable Course*; eight initiatives for the next three years are included in this newsletter for your review. We will work together to accomplish these goals. Special thanks goes to Marcia Ross, Nancy Brigden, and Cinda Clark for co-presenting the three workshops (Marketing, Leadership, and Themed Exchanges).



FFNC will be voting on the 2017 officers at the **June 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting, to be held at First Christian Church, 2000 N. Lincoln Ave., in Loveland at 7:00 p.m. (Board Meeting at 5:30 p.m.), NOT at the REA Building, as previously announced.** Nominations from the floor will be accepted at that time. The Nominating Committee recommendations our **2017 Slate of Officers** include:

- Cathie McCallum as President (current Vice President)
- Thelma Slocum as Vice-President (and President-Elect)
- Kay Sheahan (to continue as Secretary)
- Ray Garcia (to continue as Treasurer)

At that meeting, we will also be presenting the prestigious **FFI Wayne Smith Award** to someone in our club. You don't want to miss this!

We'll be welcoming FF members from Hamilton/Burlington, Canada, June 23-29. Please plan to participate in the interesting activities that Cathie McCallum and Alice Gibson have planned. Welcome and Farewell parties are special ways for us to meet our Ambassadors; sign-ups and costs will be available at the June meeting (bring your checkbooks). See you all soon at our meeting.

*Barbara Miller*

**June Meeting  
Peace Corps  
at 55**

**7 p.m.  
Friday, June 10th  
First Christian Church  
2000 N. Lincoln Ave.  
Loveland 80538**



June Meeting

## 55 Years of Peace Corps Through Dreams and Memories

The 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Peace Corps will be honored with a special program on June 10th at the meeting of The Friendship Force of Northern Colorado. **Note that we will meet at our regular location at the First Christian Church in Loveland.**

Originally established with 50 volunteers sent to Ghana on August 30, 1961, the Peace Corps has endured enormous world changes and flourished for more than five decades. The volunteer service program continues to enjoy a defined place of acceptance among USA-sponsored goodwill efforts throughout the world. More than 220,000 volunteers have been involved since the organization's inception.

The presentation will review changes made to the Peace Corps experience over the years and will feature a panel of experienced Corps veterans who will talk about the dreams of what they hoped to accomplish as well as the memories they carried home from their experiences abroad. The panelists, including some of our own members, will represent the early years of the program as well as recent assignments in several countries.

Peace Corps Response, a short-term, high-impact service option for mature adults, will also be featured in the presentation. This program offers specialized assignments of 3 to 12 months each. More than 2,500 volunteers have now served in the Response Program, and nearly 40% of them have been over the age of 50.

Guests are always welcome, so bring a friend and join us on Friday, June 10, at 7 pm.

### Nominations for 2017 Officers

Our hardworking Nominating Committee, chaired by Gary Cummins, and also including Marcia Ross and Nancy Brigden, has proposed a superb slate of officers for next year. This slate was accepted by your board at its April meeting.

**President: Cathie McCallum**

**Vice President: Thelma Slocum**

**Secretary: Kay Sheahan**

**Treasurer: Ray Garcia**

Members will vote on this slate and on any other nominations (which can be made from the floor) at our June meeting. Any person nominated must have given consent.



## ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL CONFERENCE



Matthew Nidek

Grand Junction was the spectacular setting of this year's regional conference on May 13-14. The Western Colorado members were wonderful conference hosts, providing an interesting program of sessions and workshops around the *New Directions* theme. Sixty-two Friendship Force members represented the seven clubs of the Region, including 18 members from our own club. Representing Friendship Force International were Board Member and NextGen Mentor Dave Kalan (FF of Greater Milwaukee); and Matthew Nidek, Director of Programs and Leadership Initiatives.



Dave Kalan

Jeremi Snook, President & CEO, joined us via video message, "***Building on a Strong Foundation.***"

Friday afternoon's pre-conference activities included options for tours of Downtown Grand Junction, the Western Colorado Wine Country, and the Colorado National Monument. Saturday morning's whole-group sessions focused on the Friendship Force Strategic Plan and new initiatives. The afternoon breakout workshops provided good discussion, networking, and idea sharing. Results of the Silent Auction were announced, and then Saturday evening we all enjoyed social time and a fabulous dinner.

Conference Chairs Sue Moyer & Sue Palmer, along with Mathew Nidek, gave closing remarks and thanked the members of the region for their attendance & contributions to our very successful Mountain States Regional Conference.

Cindy Paulson





# 14 FFNC Members at Western States Regional Conference in Grand Junction

Fourteen FFNC members were among the 52 FF members who participated in the Rocky Mountain Regional Conference. With the theme of *New Directions*, the conference was hosted in Grand Junction by the Western Colorado Friendship Force.

Matthew Nidek, Director of Programs and leadership Initiatives with FFI, spoke on *Changes in Atlanta; Important News, Strategic Plan Focus and Where we are going as an organization?* One change designed to provide clarity, stability, and efficiency to FFI staff is the appointment of a USA regional support manager. Improving communication and developing leadership are also major focuses.



Cinda Clark and Linda Smith

Dave Kalan, FFI Board of Directors Chair/FFGM and Matthew spoke together about several initiatives and answered “burning questions.”



Cathie McCallum, Ed & Nancy Brigden

Three breakout sessions presented the following subjects: Marketing Strategic Plan and Promoting; Leadership for Leaders, with co-host Cinda Clark; and Themed Exchanges, co-hosted by Nancy Brigden.

Our own Cindy Paulson and BJ DeMersseman won major prizes in the Silent Auction. Thelma Slocum contributed several original painting to the cause. Proceeds from the auction will help to fund Atlanta’s computer technology upgrade.

Cathie McCallum



Barbara Miller, Rona Baer, and Marilyn Garner



Marcia Ross and Anne Brown

## THEMED EXCHANGES

### NOTES FROM A WORKSHOP AT THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Facilitated by Sue Moyer & Nancy Brigden, this workshop brainstormed lots of ideas for future Rocky Mountain Regional Themed Exchanges. Think outside of your own club—link to one or more other clubs, as Kay Thomas has done for the upcoming Peaks to Plains exchange.

Schedule your exchange during an existing area festival and think of ways to coordinate your theme accordingly. Examples might include:

Micro breweries or vineyards planned around existing tours or community events with similar themes;

Hiking or biking along with a wildflower tour and coordinate with an area festival;

Expand the rodeo theme built around the Greeley Stampede or Cheyenne Frontier Days to include horseback riding, a chuck wagon dinner, an overnight backpack trip, or a hike in the back country;

History events that might include Native Americans to Pioneers to Mormons Adventure, from Denver to Salt Lake City

Build Intergenerational Exchanges to include children, perhaps around dinosaurs (digs or pictographs), art (observing or participating), hiking, biking, Segways, rafting, fishing, Jeep tours, or 4-wheelin'.

Think about winter events in this land of snow; ski, snowmobile, ice fish, hot springs, snowshoe.

Consider crafts such as quilting and build an exchange around that theme.

Examine local performance and visual arts events such as summer theater, concerts, vineyards, maybe a mystery dinner with expanded theme.

Consider our drama of old and modern railroads in New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming. Think of links to the Georgetown Loop, Durango/Silverton, Cumbres & Toltic near Chama, Amtrak California Zephyr between Denver and Salt Lake City. Tap into the depots in Cheyenne and Denver and the Greeley Train Museum for model railroaders. Market to them!

Expand our food tables for a cultural exchange with an international flare. Learn a specific culture through food, add dance, and...maybe a German and Mexican mix??

Attend sporting events and build an exchange around hockey, football, basketball, soccer, baseball, or DU hockey games.

Don't forget ecology—water, wind, solar. Environmental protection, sustainable energy—Blue Mesa/Aspinall project, Black Canyon, Bear Lake, Great Salt Lake. Distribution of water to farmers. Solar power. CSU green-centered. What can we walk to rather than driving to?

Build in an hour or more of service and volunteering for Ambassadors visiting a la Grand Junction, with kids share food bags. Opportunities for clubs abound to help build, sort and organize items at thrift stores or food banks, provide food for workers, clean a section of highway or trail, adopt a garden, etc. during an hour, an afternoon, or a sampling of more.

With thanks to Claudia Keller for notes from this workshop.





## Strategic Plan 2015 - 2018

### Setting FFI on a Sustainable Course

For 38 years now, the Friendship Force has shown that peace and harmony in the world can be cultivated through individual friendships. This milestone bears witness to the enduring relevance of our mission and to the time, energy and talents each of us devotes to the organization we love. Celebrating those achievements and securing our legacy for the generations to come must now be our unwavering goal.

This Strategic Plan is a response to your recent input on two conclusive sets of documents. Chief findings of the June 2014 surveys showed that 83% love home stays but want lighter tasks for hosts, while exchange participants want more learning, more meaning through action, more diversity and more flexibility. The more recent policy review endorsed new policy directions and confirmed that club members are willing to embrace inclusiveness in order to set FFI on a sustainable course.

With your full endorsement, this Strategic Plan sets out a vigorous revitalization and sustainability agenda for FFI. What you see below is an executive summary. Defined in numbers, these overarching goals are designed to increase participation in exchanges by 10% over the next three years. This ambitious goal will require full engagement in the activities of the organization.

#### 1st Initiative: Enrich Friendship Force Exchanges

Revitalize exchanges through:

- **DIVERSITY:** new clubs, thematic exchanges and partnerships in high-demand destinations.
- **MEANING:** through 'Friendship in Action' exchanges with a variety of humanitarian components.
- **LEARNING:** language learning, professional development, and education exchanges.
- **FLEXIBILITY:** new models, new exchange structures; a more flexible fee structure; a more casual exchange approach for club members, with more "time on your own" and program options with varying prices and degrees of physical challenge.

#### 2nd Initiative: Maximize Exchange Participation & Hosting Capacity

Friendship Force is all about people meeting people. With this mission in mind, it remains our goal to involve more people as both ambassadors and hosts.

- **FILL-THE-SEAT POLICY:** Beginning April 2015, post undersubscribed exchanges on the FFI online exchange catalog 100 days before departure. Priority to regional clubs and local communities is encouraged.
- **ONLINE MEMBERSHIP:** Beginning January 2016, introduce an e-membership component and a new vetting process.
- Launch a consultative process involving creative leaders to deal with declining hosting capacity in Europe, establishing footholds in challenging/emerging

destinations, and making use of surplus hosting capacity in the USA and the Pacific region.

#### 3rd Initiative: NextGen for Everyone

NextGen is not about age, it is a state of mind.

- Develop NextGen exchanges for active people who seek more involvement, more adventure and more freedom.
- Target active, existing FF participants as well as soon-to-be retirees and younger generations.

#### 4th Initiative: Leadership Development

- Add field reps where most needed.
- Create task forces on a variety of topics.
- Encourage clubs to embrace a goal and report progress.
- Offer frequent and accessible training from FFI to learn new models, new tools and technology and new skills to reach out to our communities.
- Add a one-day component of leadership development to regional and national meetings.

#### 5th Initiative: Branding & Marketing

- Develop a new promotional video.
- Initiate a global friendship campaign.
- Include clubs and members in fun global and local community projects and events - such as photo contests and exhibitions - that will raise awareness.
- Create opportunities to participate in select high profile, newsworthy events such as the Nobel Prize Laureate festival being held in Atlanta, November 2015.

#### 6th Initiative: Leverage Modern Technology

- Build a new information database with improved functions for member services.
- Develop a global online community platform and website.
- Improve the usability and functionality of web applications for members.

#### 7th Initiative: Partnerships

Increase program variety and participation through partnerships with:

- Like-minded organizations that share complementary missions.
- Revenue generating partners including hospitality suppliers and travel operators, such as cruise providers and land expeditions, which will benefit FFI and its members.

Also, encourage clubs to explore potential collaborations in their own communities.

#### 8th Initiative: Enhance & Secure Revenue Streams

- Define the precise purpose and use of FFI fundraising - this will attract new and diverse donors.
- Introduce a digital fundraising platform that will also produce more FFI exposure.
- Explore potential for funding through grants.
- Link campaigns and partnerships for specific programmatic fundraising purposes.
- Formulate an endowment plan.
- Continue yearly application for Open World grants.

Taken together, these bold measures will provide the revitalization and financial stability required to secure our legacy for ourselves and for the next generation. These measures and initiatives will require both a dedicated commitment to our collective mission, and a business approach to managing expanding programs in a manner that is financially sustainable.

Inbound

Outbound

**EXCHANGE CALENDAR**

**2016 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

2  
0  
1  
6  
  
2  
0  
1  
7  
  
2  
0  
1  
8

**June 23-29 Inbound**  
**Greater Hamilton, Ontario, Canada**  
 Exchange Director: Cathie McCallum  
 223-0436 cathiemc@mail.com

**September 9-29 Inbound**  
**Peaks to Plains Global Exchange**  
 Exchange Director: Marilyn Garner  
 493-4137 garner.marilyn@gmail.com

**October 2-5**  
**FFI International World Conference**  
**Marrakech, Morocco**

**October 12-17 Outbound (full, thanks)**  
**San Diego Barbara Miller is ED**

**September 2017 Inbound**  
**Ottawa, Ontario, Canada**  
**Exchange Director Needed**

**Ireland!!! Outbound**  
**Exchange Director Needed**

**Greeters/Hospitality:**  
 Willie Westdorp 667-6525  
 Rosemary Donovan 669-8818  
 Elle Barr 204-9722  
 Dennis Miller 667-7730  
**Ways & Means: Dick Johnsen & Larry Clark**  
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 669-5426 clarksmail@msn.com  
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**Ed Brigden, Cindy Paulson**  
**Music: Larry Clark & Rosemary Donovan**  
**Audit Committee: Debby Jones & Dennis**  
**Miller**  
**Tablecloth Manager: Kay Sheahan**

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**Historian: Cheryl Stevens**  
 231-4392 cheryl2204@msn.com

## Greater Hamilton, Ontario, Canada Inbound Exchange

June 23-29

Fourteen FF ambassadors from Greater Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, Massachusetts, and California will be with us June 23-29 following their week with the Denver FF club. A Friendship Force member from Australia visiting Cindy Paulson will also join the activities.

We hope YOU can meet the ambassadors by participating in one or more of the following:

Welcome Party at the Brigden's Thursday, June 23, at 6:00 p.m.

Box Lunch Picnic (\$6) at North Lake Park in Loveland

Farewell Hoedown (\$20) in Berthoud Tuesday, June 28.

You should have received a registration form indicating these choices by email few weeks ago. If you want to participate but have lost the form, call Cathie McCallum at 223-0436 to sign up and pay for the event(s) you choose.



## Peaks to Plains Global Exchange

This exchange offers a unique sampling of what makes the West so special. The exchange will take place September 9-29, 2016. Friendship Force of Northern Colorado has been asked to host this group from September 12th to September 15th. The Cheyenne hosts will bring them to us on Monday the 12th, and we will pass them off to the Denver FF club on Thursday, September 15th. Our part of the exchange will include the Benson Garden, the foundry, a brewery tour, Rocky Mountain National Park, and a talk by a local alabaster artist and sculptor. **You have the opportunity to participate as Hosts, Day Hosts, and/or small group dinner hosts for any or all of those four days.** Please contact Marilyn Garner (493-4137) or Thelma Slocum (223-9855) if you can help us with any of these needs. You may also sign up at our meeting on June 10th.

### Join the Benson Garden Crew

The Benson Garden Crew plans to work on June 4th at the All-Volunteer Day sponsored by the City of Loveland. By the time you get this newsletter, our FFNC plot should look right spiffy, with new mulch, reduced weeds, and abundant sprouting flowers.

If you think you might want to join us, give us a call. It's a fine way to pay back for our use of the Sculpture Park during visiting exchanges. There's no obligation to join each and every monthly crew. All are welcome to drop in. We enjoy our time as we chat and have a relaxed work session as time and bodies permit. And don't hesitate to take your summer FF guests to visit the plot and pull a few errant sprouts too. German, Japanese, Australian, and Dutch ambassadors have helped our efforts.

If you would like to be notified about working on either Saturday, July 10, or on August 13, please call Nancy Brigden (352-3829) or Kay Sheahan (667-4473). They can verify scheduled work crews.

