



friendship force
WESTERN MICHIGAN

September - October 2014

Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 24, 9:30am - Board Meeting: Hargreave's 215 Sabin Street, Kalamazoo

December 13, 1:00., Holiday Dinner and annual meeting of membership. **FOUR ROSES CAFE', 663 10th St. Plainwell**

Proposed slate of officers:

President: Dave Hargreave

VicePresident: Lyn Hargreave

Secretary: Deb Williamson

Treasurer: Roy Pearson

At-large-members: Sue Bohlander, Laura Jane Colber, Jane Curtin, and one TBA

You may also pay your dues for 2015 at this gathering. Those joining in 2014 are paid for 2015.

2015: The Social Committee is looking into possibilities that would appeal. Ideas include presentations by international visitors, a synopsis of our Brazil exchange. ethnic lunches or dinners and there has been interest expressed in having an activity such as a square dance.

Any suggestions are welcome. Notify Deb Williamson or Lyn Hargreave. with your ideas.

OF INTEREST

The World Affairs Council in GR and WMU international event calendars are completely open. When these have something of interest we will post it.

Another busy year is fast coming to an end. During the past couple of months we have completed a successful inbound global exchange and an outbound exchange to two clubs in Brazil. Preliminary discussions are already underway with the Braunschweig - Peine club concerning their exchange with us next September and planning continues for some of our members to experience Hawaii next May and June. Based upon your input to us, the Board sent in the following requests to Atlanta for preferred destinations for 2016: (1) England (2) Japan, (3) Canada, and (4) Australia. We should hear back from Atlanta by mid-January concerning the match they have proposed for us. We also indicated on the same request form that we would be willing to host two one week inbound exchanges in 2016 as long as they were not too close together, with a strong preference that at least one of the two be a club-to-club international exchange.

Our annual holiday get together is just around the corner (see details to the left of this column). It is the one time during the year when we take time out from our socializing to conduct club business. You should have already received via snail mail, both a 2015 dues statement and a proposed list of officers/board members from the Nominating Committee. You will note that the Nominating Committee, reflecting action taken by the current Board at it's October meeting, is recommending the addition of four club members to the Board for 2015. Our club continues to grow and, as it does so, the Board felt that it was imperative to involve more club members as representatives of the whole. New members have no idea what happens in board meetings and are therefore reluctant to serve, so by having these revolving member-at-large positions we hope it may prepare them for leadership positions in the future.

In addition to voting on the slate of Board Candidates put forwardly by the Nominating Committee at our get together, the 2015 budget will also be presented for your consideration. Please make every effort to attend so as to let your voice be heard on these matters.

FROM YOUR EDITOR

Again, my apologies for a late Newsletter. It wasn't possible to get to this while in Brazil. I will try to get the November / December one out in a timely fashion, and will include our winter social calendar.

EXCHANGES

The **World of Friends** Catalog has a variety of exchanges listed that currently have openings. This should be coming to the email boxes of members, but if it is not, please let Lyn Hargreave know and she will forward your information to the proper sources at the Atlanta headquarters.

There are exchanges in this month's catalog featuring biking in Iowa, Gardens in Portland, French immersion in Guadalupe, rambling on the Isle of Wight, an Eco Walk in North Carolina, and two "Friendship in Action" missions in Guatemala and Myanmar. There are visits to Cambodia and Vietnam, Taiwan, Morocco, Azerbaijan and Georgia and if you are daring, a "Mystery" exchange. Take a look:

http://catalog.thefriendshipforce.org/index.php/catalog/all_list/

INBOUNDS:

Our **4th Coast Adventure**, held in late September, provided a lot of fun for our 16 ambassadors from Germany (1), Canada (4), Nebraska (4), Wyoming (1), Alabama (1), Rhode Island/Florida (2), Hawaii (2) and Illinois (1).

The weather turned out to be perfect with seven straight days of sunshine and warm temperatures for their biking, hiking and kayaking experiences. Feedback has been very positive.

This success is the result of all the friendship, hardwork and participation from 32 of our members (or 2/3s of our membership) and one prospective member who pitched in as a day host.



A huge **thank you** to all of you who assisted.

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Next we look forward to **welcoming the Braunschweig-Peine club from Germany in September of 2015**. We anticipate that they will arrive here from Montreal about the 26th of the month. Details are not in place but we hope to take in Art Prize and another tall ship sail on the Friends Good Will.

This is a club that we visited in 2013 and those of us who participated are looking forward to renewing our friendships.

We have been requested to host 20 ambassadors. This will be a challenge for us so we will need participation from all our members. Soon after the first of the year you will be contacted and asked about your willingness to host and the number of ambassadors you can accommodate. Then place these dates on your calendar as your commitment to extending the hand of friendship as they did for us when we visited.

## OUTBOUNDS:

### BRAZIL:



Roy Pearson, Marci Ellis, Joanne Roschmann, Sandi Vegter, Lyn and Dave Hargreave, and "new members Bill and Marie Hoover from Toledo participated in the exchange to Araraquara. Located in the interior of the state of Sao Paulo this community is situated in an area dominated by sugar cane fields. The members there opened their homes and hearts to us, showing us sincere friendship. Most activities included the children and grandchildren of the members creating a real multigenerational exchange. How nice it would be if we would do the same.

Peg Stanitezck and Cathy Dopp joined us as we moved on to Iguazu Falls and Rio de Janeiro, a great contrast between the beautiful natural wilderness and the beautiful city. Peg continued on to Salvador with us.



In Salvador we were met by many of our friends from 2012, and new friends too. The club there had prepared many days of sightseeing for us, both in the city and the bay where we enjoyed lovely beaches and saw many fabulous sunsets while exploring Bahian culture and food.



We would love to report on the friendships renewed and made and to share our experiences and many, many photos with you. During the cold winter months, those of us who are remaining here will plan a get together and tell everyone just how wonderfully we were greeted and hosted.

#### OTHER INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES:

Other exchange opportunities and ideas that are in discussion.

- 1) There are approximately six openings for a nearly 3 week tour and home stay to Central Europe this coming September. This is a Friendship Force program that was proposed by a group of Great Lakes members and is being coordinated by a member of the Cincinnati FF Club, and being offered at this time to only clubs of the Great Lakes Region. It is not listed in the World of Friends Catalog. It will depart the US for Vienna 9/3 and end there 9/21. Countries visited will include Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary and Slovakia with a weekend home stay in Bratislava prior to our return home. Cost is \$2500 not including airfare. (\$650 extra if you desire a single room) More information may be obtained by contacting Phil Schmidt at [schmidtp@nku.edu](mailto:schmidtp@nku.edu) or Lyn Hargreave .
- 2) For 2016 we have received a positive response from the Detroit club to do a combined global exchange on the topic of Planes, Trains and Automobiles. We are still waiting to hear from Dayton on their willingness to extend the "planes" portion beyond our Air Zoo. This would be a shortened exchange of perhaps 4 nights and 3 days with each participating club.
- 3) We have been contacted by the Omaha club who would like us to do a reciprocal exchange with them.... we go there and they come here. This would also be in 2016. Omaha is about a 9 hour drive from here so would be doable for those who would prefer driving to flying. Discussion on your enthusiasm for such an exchange will be discussed at our annual December gathering. We are guessing that this request was generated following the feedback from Jo Bartikoski / Don Westling, and Connie and Bob Elkins who participated in our 4th Coast Adventure. Omaha has an excellent zoo, wonderful food, nice gardens and many sporting events. Just don't cheer for Michigan if we are there at a time for a for a Cornhuskers Football game!

**INTRODUCING NEW MEMBERS:** Though not new to some of you we are introducing Bill and Marie Hoover. Bill and Marie have been “honorary members” for some time as they have joined us on exchanges to New Zealand and Germany and have met some of you then. Recently they joined us to Brazil. The first picture below is of them sitting with their Araraquara host and the additional photo was taken in New Zealand. Below is their biography as shared for their exchanges. We are happy to have them as “members”. They live in Toledo, a couple of hours from Kalamazoo, so won't be able to host, but we look forward to their participation in other ways.



**BILL:** I've been fascinated by Japan for more than 50 years. Born in Columbus Ohio on April 25, 1941, I grew up on farm in central Ohio but was always interested in the larger world. As an undergraduate at Muskingum College, the most interesting course my freshman year was World Civilization in which Japan played a prominent part. At the University of Michigan, I took lots of courses on Japan and earned both an MA and a PhD. I became a professor of Japanese History at the University of Toledo in 1968, and have been at Toledo ever since.

I officially retired in 2006, but I still continue my professional interest in Japan. When friends ask me to be lead a tour of Japan in 2009, I said yes. This was my chance to introduce Toledo friends to friends from our sister city Toyohashi. In the last 11 years I've had the privilege of visiting Toyohashi nine times, making many friends and enjoying myself there very much. In 2010 I took a second group to Toyohashi, and in 2011 I guided our Toledo International Youth Orchestra through Japan.

I try to help our American friends see what a wonderful place Japan is and to introduce them to Toyohashi people, visit their homes, and get to know know them. We chair our local Toledo-Toyohashi (Japan) Sister City Committee and have been involved with organizing and conducting many

exchanges. I was also vice president of the Toledo Sister Cities International Board and, together with my wife, directed our International Youth Academy.

In short, international exchanges have been an integral part of my entire life.

**MARIE:** I am a retired professor of mathematics from University of Toledo. My husband and I have three grown children (North Carolina and California) and three grandchildren.

Since my husband's profession was teaching about Japan, I also became involved with things Japanese. We have traveled to and lived in Japan several different times since 1968. I have taught mathematics at the American School in Tokyo and have researched the teaching of mathematics in Japanese schools.

My husband and I are very involved with Sister Cities International in Toledo. We help run the three weeks International Youth Academy in the summer where students from Toledo's sister cities come to Toledo to stay with host families and study English in a classroom setting. Every other year, we coordinate a visit of 23 selected junior high school students from our sister city in Japan to Toledo. These 23 students attend junior high classes with Toledo students and stay with host families.