

July 2018 Newsletter

FFWM on behalf of FFWM

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To: Marcia Ellis <marcia.ellis@wmich.edu>;



friendship force
WESTERN MICHIGAN

July 2018 Newsletter

FF of Baton Rouge inbound was a smashing success!!



Check out our web
page, <https://www.friendshipforcewmich.org/past-inbound-journeys.html>, for pics!

And a big **THANK YOU** to **Barb Grinwis** for coordinating such a successful journey! Amazingly, Barb is a newer member of our club. She stepped right up and took on this task after only dinner hosting once!!



WHAT'S UP NEXT



Next Outbound Journey

Eight members of our club are going to visit FF of Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada. We will spend August 14-21 with the Medicine Hat club, then go on to Banff for a few days of mountains, lakes and wild animal viewing! We will be joined by six Friendship Force members of other clubs spanning from the east to the west coast of the USA!

Next Inbound Journey

FF of Omaha will be visiting us September 18-25. If you recall, FFWM visited Omaha in 2016 (<https://www.friendshipforcewmich.org/past-outbound-journeys.html>). Shirley Wiersma and Fred Giddings are the journey coordinators for this inbound exchange. They have been working on a program that will include some new and different places to visit, including a tour of a culinary school, a coffee roasting facility and a ride on the Star of Saugatuck. If you can host, dinner host, or day host, please contact Shirley at shirley_wiersma@yahoo.com. **Mark your calendars!!**

The Great Lakes, Midwest and Southwest Joint Regional Conference

Ten FFWM members attended this conference in April. Topics covered in sessions included journey planning, marketing FF, developing leaders, exploring 501 c 3 status, setting club goals, navigating the FFI website, and "Moving FFI into the Future" presented by Lyn Hargreave and Allison Lindsey.

It was a good time for learning more about our organization as well as networking and having fun! In order to survive and grow there will be organizational changes coming in the future for FFI. Stay tuned. . .

A note from the president. . .

Regular Outings

For a long time I have been pushing for regular monthly outings for our club. This would help us to get to know each other and strengthen our club. It also helps with recruiting new members. We can invite them to join us at a specific date, time and place. Board members who attend can give updates and answer questions. This communication will supplement the emails I send! We are finally going to set the dates and do this! Lyn Hargreave is working on this now!! When you receive the email with the dates that are set, please **mark your calendars** and join us!

Journey Coordinators

We are looking for journey coordinators for our three inbound journeys in 2019. In the spring we will host **FF of Hiroshima** (assuming they recover from the current flooding and their lives return to normal). August 13-19, 2019 we are hosting a group from **Tokyo** for a language-focused journey. Jerry Potratz will be coordinating the language learning part of this journey and needs a partner for the social aspects. And in the fall we will host **FF of Southwest Florida**. Please email me if you are interested in being a journey coordinator for one of these inbound journeys. Don't be shy. . . you will get lots of help from those of us who have done this before!! If you have any organizational skills at all you can do this task!!

Club Service

It is important to have new, fresh ideas to keep us moving and inviting to others. It is not fair to leave all the decisions up to the same people. Lyn and Dave Hargreave served our club in officer capacity for 8 years, relieving all of us of the duty. I will not be so kind! My term as president of this club is finished in December of this year. Someone else will have to carry the baton! There are many benefits to being on the

board and being more involved in club direction. It is a minimal time commitment and the term is 2 years. **Please consider serving on our board!!**

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