

Sept 2018 Newsletter

Friendship Force of

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



friendship force
WESTERN MICHIGAN

September 2018 Newsletter

Outbound: FF of Medicine Hat, Alberta



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

For our journey to Medicine Hat we had 6 FF members from various clubs (east to west and south coasts!) They joined eight of our club members on this journey. Medicine Hat had some fantastic outings planned for our group. The natural areas we visited within an hour drive were incredibly diverse and beautiful. The people of MH were active and fun-loving. At the farewell people almost all of us were up dancing!

Inbound: FF of Greater OMAHA!!!



FF of Greater Omaha has departed for their drive back home. It was a wonderful week of sunny skies (mostly) and comfortable temperatures. Our guests and our members toured the KVCC culinary school's new facility and learned how restaurants can be "sustainable". We spent a long day at Art Prize 10 and Meijer Gardens. Our lake day included the Saugatuck Dune Ride and lunch on the Star of Saugatuck paddle wheel boat. We went to the planetarium and learned about sturgeons in Lake Michigan. We visited a local coffee roasting company. Amish day included lunch at Martha's and a quilt tour. The

Nebraska-Michigan football game was a highlight of a free day! A good time was had by all!

Thank you to Cathy Dopp who planned the farewell party at El Arriero's. Everyone enjoyed her contest!!

A special thank you to our Host Coordinator, Shirley Wiersma and her assistant, Fred Giddings. They planned a marvelous week with new events for our members. Thank you both for a wonderful job well done!

[Pictures can be seen on our website!](#)



Sept. 6th LEO at Everest

Lyn Hargreave has been hard at work organizing different restaurants in Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo that our members could visit for monthly updates and get-togethers. This past week, we met at a Grand Rapids restaurant,

El Matador, that featured Nepalese dishes and foods from India. It was wonderful for the 26 of us to get together, but I believe our large group overwhelmed the staff and facility! The food was good, as was the fellowship; however some of us were leaving while others had yet to get their food. Hopefully, next month's venue have better service. **The next LEO is October 6 at 6pm at KYOTO Japanese Steakhouse in Kalamazoo.**

Don't forget to put Dec. 6th on the calendar for the annual Christmas party again being held at Four Roses in Plainwell. Check our website for upcoming event details: <https://www.friendshipforcewmich.org/upcoming-events.html>.

Very Sad News

As you all know from emails, one of our charter members, Curtis Parkhurst, passed away September 9. Jeanette and Curtis Parkhurst were the remaining originators of our Friendship Force club. They have traveled to many destinations with FFWM. And they have hosted many, many guests from other clubs. They live on a farm outside of Martin and have many funny stories about introducing guests to American farm life. They wintered in Florida until last year. They have a large extended family, many in the local area. Curtis will be missed by many.



Because Curtis was a founding member of our club, a donation will be made to FFI in his name.

Club Service

We have been very fortunate to have several club members who are NOT on the board taking on different roles to help with the functioning of FFWM. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank them!

Dave Barnes has been working on increasing our membership. Next month he and Fred Giddings are giving a presentation to the Newcomer's Club of Kalamazoo area.

Barb Grinwis has volunteered to help with the newsletter, using new software (Mailchimp). It's a challenge!!

Mary Giddings is our webmaster (when I give her a chance)!

Lyn Hargreave has scheduled our LEOs! And they have been very successful!!

We had 28 members attend the August LEO and 26 members attend the September LEO! I doubt if the numbers will always be that large, but it does give our club solid structure (the 12th at 12 in the winter months and the 6th at 6 the rest of the year). This structure provides us with the opportunity to invite our friends to join us--hopefully they will become members! It also provides our members another way to get updates on upcoming events and journeys, besides newsletters and emails. And it improves communication between members and the board. It's a win-win all the way around!!!

So THANK YOU all for helping with these much-needed tasks!

There is one position on the board that will be open for this next year. This is the group that makes the decisions for the club activities. The term is 2 years. Please consider serving on the board. Simply send me an email to let me know you are interested. (ellism@wmich.edu) Please don't make me have to start calling people to fill this position!!!

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