

May 2019 Newsletter

Friendship Force of

Wed 5/8/2019 1:59 PM

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



May 2019 Newsletter

Eleven members gathered on May 7 for a LEO at Three Happiness, a Chinese restaurant in Grand Rapids. Many thanks to Barb Grinwis and Lyn Hargreave who made the arrangements.



Our president, Jerry Potratz, gave us an update while we waited for our food. The following is a summary:

Inbound group of **FF of Tokyo** and **FF of West Tokyo** are coming in August for a language journey. Fred Giddings is arranging activities that will reinforce the vocabulary learned in 3 morning sessions of English lessons. He will be looking for hosts in the near future.

Members are encouraged to attend the **FFI World Conference** in Boulder, Colorado July 23-27.

Inbound journey assignment from FFI for 2020 is **Costa Rica**. Dates are being discussed.

Our club will be going to **FF of Izmir** and **FF of Bursa, Turkey** in April of 2020.

Jerry discussed the FFI strategic plan as follows . . .

Last weekend Jerry and Louise attended **FF of Dayton's** FFI 40th anniversary gala. It was a very impressive, chic affair with over 150 people in attendance. Jeremy Snook, president of FFI, spoke on Saturday evening and again Sunday morning. He discussed some parts of the FFI strategic plan recently introduced to members.

FFI headquarters is now lean and virtual. Ten years ago there were 20 full time staff. Today there are seven full time staff and six part time staff members. Headquarters is decentralized with regional support in many locations.

Jeremy stressed the need to focus on our mission, "promoting understanding, cultural education and citizen diplomacy through home stays, journeys and personal friendships". Through these exciting personal encounters strangers become friends. And we know that by experiencing different views you can discover common ground.

FFI is exploring ways to expand membership. Young people don't want to belong to clubs, but they do want to belong to something bigger than themselves, a movement, a better world. FFI is about that! FFI is doing a competitive analysis of 30 similar organizations such as Roads Scholar. They are looking at how we can distinguish ourselves from travel clubs. . . what makes us special.

Jeremy is pursuing corporate donors around our mission. To do so, he asks that we document our volunteer hours. Successful non-profit organizations do this to show the commitment and engagement of their community.

Jeremy Snooks is discussing the strategic plan via a webinar this Thursday, May 9. All are encouraged to join the webinar to learn more about the new strategic plan. Cut and paste this address

into your browser

to register: [https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/6712488099305211650?](https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/6712488099305211650?utm_source=Friendship+Force+Members+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=8f89842650-STRAT-PLAN-TOWN-HALL-SECOND-CHANCE&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5feca96946-8f89842650-93997981)

[utm_source=Friendship+Force+Members+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=8f89842650-STRAT-PLAN-TOWN-HALL-SECOND-CHANCE&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5feca96946-8f89842650-93997981](https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/6712488099305211650?utm_source=Friendship+Force+Members+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=8f89842650-STRAT-PLAN-TOWN-HALL-SECOND-CHANCE&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5feca96946-8f89842650-93997981)

FFWM GOALS for 2019

1. Have 50 dues-paying members by December 2019.
2. Develop a membership strategy for 2019 by the end of the second quarter.
3. For the 3 inbound journeys in 2019 we will achieve the following participation rates:
 - 90% of our members will either home host, day host, or dinner host a guest from one of these journeys or participate in the journey
 - We will receive an average satisfaction score of 4 out of 5 for each journey based upon completed surveys from guests.
 - 50% of our members will attend welcome and farewell events for journeys.
4. We will conduct at least one outreach effort such as Art Hop in the first half of the year and one in the second half.
5. We will track attendance at LEOs and other social activities, with the goal of 40% attendance, using sign-in sheets for tracking.
 - *Note 1: For all of the stated percentage of membership goals above, the beginning of the year membership number of 48 will be our common denominator.*
 - *Note 2: "Growing our membership" is a responsibility of all club members and we should reinforce the above goals whenever opportunities exist.*

Colleagues International invites you to

**CELEBRATE EXCHANGE IN
KALAMAZOO**

June 11, 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Bell's Back Room
355 E. Kalamazoo Ave., Kalamazoo

Enjoy free hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar
Live music from the Bahar Ensemble

\$35 general admission
Tickets at Cikalamazoo.org



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!

2019 Inbound

June 23-30 FF of Hiroshima

JCs: Lyn Hargreave and Dave Barnes

August 13-19 FF of Tokyo and West Tokyo, Language Learning Journey

JCs: Fred Giddings and Jerry Potratz

October 1-8 FF of Southwest Florida

JCs: Marcia Ellis and Shirley Wiersma

2019 Outbound:

July 23-27 FFI World Conference in Boulder, Colorado

2020 Inbound:

Costa Rica Dates to be determined

2020 Outbound:

April FF of Izmir and FF of Bursa, Turkey
JCs: Marcia Ellis and Louise Potratz

[facebook.com]



FFWM Newsletter

<https://www.friendshipforcewmich.org/>

This email was sent to ellism@wmich.edu
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
Friendship Force of Western Michigan · 302 Sabin · Kalamazoo, MI 49006 · USA

