

November 2020 Newsletter

FFWM <FFwesternmichigan@gmail.com>

Mon 11/2/2020 9:29 AM

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



Check our website for upcoming events
and information!

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

Update from the President

I hope this note finds all of you doing well.

The pandemic's effect on our club activities (gathering, hosting, traveling) has been devastating. Our board appreciates everyone's patience and tolerance. We are doing our best to hold activities—such as virtual trivia and scavenger hunts—and want to encourage you to participate. We want to see you, engage with you, and touch base with each other.

The uniqueness of this year has motivated your board to make the following decisions:

1. **Regarding annual dues:** Normally, annual dues for 2021 would be due this December. Your \$35 dues would be divided up by sending \$20 to FFI and keeping \$15 in FFWM's treasury. However, since we have not hosted any clubs, or traveled anywhere in 2020 and the same may be true for 2021, **your board has decided to forego asking members to pay any dues for next year. We will pay \$20 on behalf of each member to FFI from our club treasury, so we will all continue to be members in 2021.** For 63 members, this amounts to \$1,260. We will forego the \$15 per member dues to FFWM for 2021.
2. **Regarding board membership:** Normally, we would solicit nominations for board membership in November and vote on new board members at our annual meeting in December. Due to covid-19 concerns, we will not be having an in-person annual meeting this year. **I am asking any of you who are interested in becoming a board member to let me know of your interest by Friday, November 13th.** If there is interest, we will hold a vote through email. If there is no interest, your current board members have agreed to remain in their positions through 2021.

I would be happy to answer any questions you might have about dues, or joining our board. Just send me an email, or give me a call. My email: jerrypotratz@hotmail.com My cell: 269-569-3259.

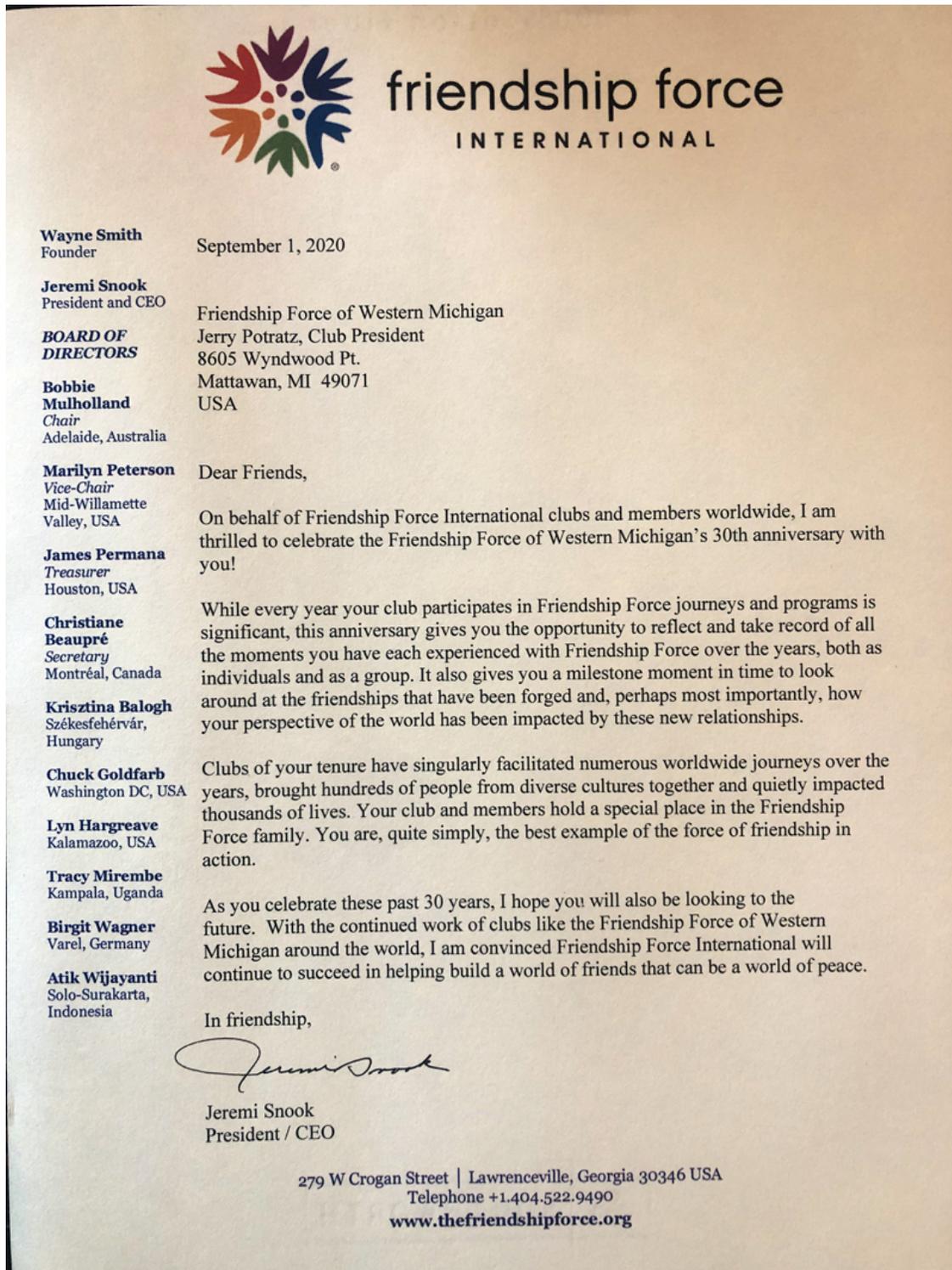
Jerry Potratz

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



Last month, we received a note of congratulations and a certificate of recognition from Jeremi Snook, President and CEO of FFI, on the 30th anniversary of our club. This milestone is the result of a lot of extra effort on the part of some really dedicated people. We need to recognize and thank those in our own club that founded and nurtured this organization to maturity. We would not be here without them. You will hear more about these people and their contributions in future articles.

Happy 30th Birthday FFWM! You are lookin' good!



Survey Says!

Survey Results

Thank you to the 27 members who responded to our recent Future Journeys Survey. The survey was divided into two sections. The first

had to do with “when” you would be comfortable hosting and traveling and the second had to do with “where” you would like to travel. The following summarizes the survey results:

“When”:

1. I would be comfortable **hosting guests beginning... at least a year from now.**
2. I would be comfortable **traveling within the U.S. beginning...** (very similar to hosting) **at least a year from now.**
3. I would be comfortable **traveling internationally, beginning...** (later than domestic travel) **“summer 2022” or “fall 2022”.**

“Where”:

1. **The most popular domestic destinations were the northwest** (Oregon and Washington state ... 14 people), followed by **the mountain west** (Colorado, Arizona, and Utah... 8 people) **and the northeast** (Connecticut, New York, and New Hampshire ... also 8 people). Note that 4 of our members indicated that they were no longer able to travel at all.
2. **The most popular international destinations were western Europe** (France – 8 people, and Germany, England, and Ireland – 3 people each for a total of 17 people for this region), followed by **Asia** (roughly 3 votes each for South Korea, Thailand, India, and Nepal for a total of 12 people), and then closely by **Africa** (South Africa, Tanzania and Egypt receiving a total of 11 people). Note that 8 of our members indicated that they were not able to travel internationally.

Our board appreciates your feedback and your guidance on both “when” to host and “where” to travel!

With regards to domestic travel, we have already been matched, by FFI, for a journey to **Eastern Washington and Idaho** and Nancy Draayer is talking with that club as to how we might schedule such a trip in a post-covid manner. So, domestically, we are already working on a trip to the northwest... the number one destination from our survey.

Internationally, we will submit a request for France and Western

Europe and state our case to FFI to be matched with clubs in that region. Note that this request process covers 2022, or later. We will follow your preferences as we make other requests. Please note that we are also in the process of rescheduling our postponed 2020 trip to **Turkey** for 2022. We were also matched by FFI earlier this year to make a journey to **Novgorod, Russia, and Tbilisi, Georgia** (which 12 of you expressed an interest in possibly going). Over the next few months, we will be discussing, with those clubs, the continued interest and post-covid timing of this trip.

We will continue to update you as we know more about the opening up of journeys and our potential involvement. Thank you for your continued support during a very confusing and hard-to-schedule environment!

Jerry Potratz

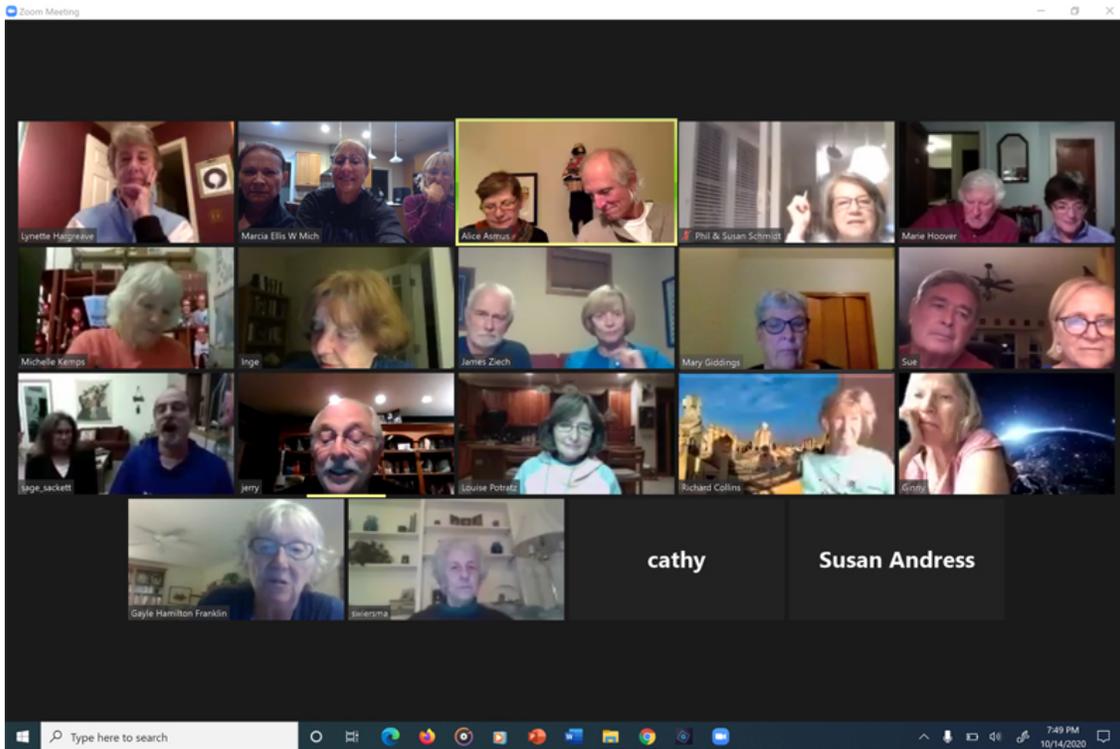
Photocluster



Several photocluster members went for a walk in

the woods to shoot pictures of the fall colors, the next monthly focus.

Game Night



October 14, Wednesday at 7pm was our second International Trivia Night with our friends from FF SW FL club. 27 participants. The Amigos was the winning team!

Coming up . . .

FFWM has been invited to join FFSWFL on Friday, November 6 at 7pm for another game of trivia! And we are planning a scavenger hunt on Wednesday, November 11 at 7pm!

Watch for the announcement and zoom invitation for both of these events!

Cool Places to Visit

Do you know of a cool place to go? A museum? A walk in the woods? A special cafe or bistro somewhere? Some special place you would like to share with friends? Send an email with picture and short story to ellism@wmich.edu for the November newsletter!

Meet Our Members



Hi! The year 2021 will be a banner year for my husband, Dan, and I. We both celebrate our 70th birthdays this year and our 50th wedding anniversary! To celebrate, our 3 sons, their wives, our 8 grandchildren and one great grandson will be together at a house we have rented for 10 days in Northern Michigan.

We both stay busy, Dan with his commitments to various boards and committees, while I continue teaching swimming, sewing and crocheting. I also knit dolls and stuffed animals and make jewelry. My problem is not having anything to do, it is deciding what to do next. Together, we do many road trips, but are unable to travel far due to Dan's health. We do love hosting people and I am an excellent cook!

Contact us: FFwesternmichigan@gmail.com

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