



# Capital Connections

Newsletter of the Friendship Force of Ottawa, Canada

September 2011 [www.friendshipforceottawa.ca](http://www.friendshipforceottawa.ca)

## FFO Board 2011

President  
Merv Sullivan

VP, Membership  
Gail  
Nevraumont

VP, Exchanges  
Pierrette Benoit

Treasurer  
Richard  
Hatherill

Secretary  
Norm McLeod

Directors:  
Susan Aiken  
Garry Bowes  
Marion Dunning  
Frank Mayda  
John Taylor

Past President  
Jaap Schouten

## What's your IQ\* for the next year?

As members of Friendship Force Ottawa, we have the opportunity to get involved in some very interesting world cultures over the next year. This week you can get involved in the last 2011 incoming exchange. An inexpensive potluck is a great way to meet some of our southern neighbors.

Next year there is a vast array of opportunities. Outgoing exchanges to Sweden, Northern Ireland and Indonesia will appeal to the adventurous while closer to home we can make new friends in Montana and Lower Columbia. In addition, we are close to finalizing a domestic exchange to the west of Canada, visiting Penticton- Okanagan. Registration starts Tuesday at the General Meeting and closes November 18<sup>th</sup>

If you would like to meet members from our Canadian Clubs, there will be a Canadian Conference in Quebec City from May 16- 19<sup>th</sup>. We will be hosting a few delegates in Ottawa from May 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>.

Our incoming exchanges begin with hosting ambassadors from Nashik India which provides us an opportunity to welcome a club we visited two years ago. Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho will be our next incoming exchange while our final 2012 exchange will host Florianopolis, Brazil, another club we visited a few years ago.

Take a look at some of the social activities featured later in this newsletter. These provide an ideal setting to get to know other members of your club.

Asking your **"IQ"** for the next year is simply a challenge to each of us - What is our **"Involvement Quotient"** in all of these opportunities?

I'll review our Revitalization Program and Report received by the board at our AGM. But, in the meantime, we want all our members to get involved with exchanges. We encourage our newer members to get involved on Exchange committees to see how exchanges work. All our members are encouraged to sign up to host ambassadors from another country.

We want our EDs for 2012 incoming exchanges to continue the initiative of offering at least one low cost event to get all our members involved. Let's also provide our incoming guests with dynamic programs to highlight our active club. In these ways we can get our 2012 **IQ** close to 100%.

*Meru*

## Nominees for the Board of Directors 2012 by Jaap Schouten



**Pierrette Benoit**



**Donna Nicholson**



**Anna Rochon**



**Tom Patterson**



**Tim Traynor**



**Garry Bowes**



**Rosemae Blackwood**



**Frank Mayda**



**Claire Fortin**



**Don Urquhart**



**Marion Dunning**



**Merv Sullivan**

As set out in our bylaws, the Past President selects and chairs a nominations committee, to ensure that sufficient board members are nominated for election at the Annual General Meeting. This year's nominations committee consisted of Dorothy Brunet, Maureen Sly, Raymond Coté, and myself, Jaap Schouten. The Nominations Committee proposes the following members for election to the 2012 Board:

President: Pierrette Benoit

Vice-President, Exchanges: Donna Nicholson

Vice-President, Membership: Anna Rochon

Treasurer: Tom Patterson

Secretary: Tim Traynor

Directors: Rosemae Blackwood, Garry Bowes, Frank Mayda, Claire Fortin, Marion Dunning, Don Urquhart.

Merv Sullivan will serve on the 2012 Board of Directors as Past President.

Additional nominations can be made in writing and signed by at least two members, accompanied by a confirmation signed by the nominee of his/her willingness to be a candidate. Such nominations at large have to be received by the Secretary, Norm McLeod, at least two weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting, scheduled for December 2, 2011.

For background information about the nominees, please consult our club's Membership Directory.

**EXCHANGES  
2011**

**Inbound 2011:**

**Central NC &  
Florence, SC,  
USA**

Sept. 22-29

**Santo Angelo,  
Brazil**

cancelled

**Outbound 2011:**

**Lansing,  
Michigan, USA**

Sept 6-13

**Vina Del Mar,  
Chile**

Oct. 20-27

**Cairo, Egypt**

Cancelled

**Please provide  
feedback  
regarding any of  
these**

**exchanges to**

Pierrette Benoit  
[benoitp@ncf.ca](mailto:benoitp@ncf.ca)

**2011 Exchange Reports**

**UPCOMING EXCHANGES**

**Incoming Central N Carolina & Florence, S Carolina, Sept 2011**

Autumn Adventures: September 22–29, 2011

A successful all Hosts meeting was held on September 7 and all plans are in place for this Exchange. The Planning Committee has heeded Incoming Exchange Director Ralph Cauthen's request to include lots of free time in the program and let Ambassadors see how we live in lieu of spending much time in museums. Visits to Parliament Hill, Rideau Hall and Museum of Civilization appealed to the Ambassadors but they will also spend a day in Gatineau Park and another in the Ottawa Valley. Please come out and welcome our ambassadors at the potluck at St. Basil's Church Hall on September 22 and attend the Farewell party at the Hungarian Community Centre, 43 Capital Drive on September 28<sup>th</sup>. Sign up for the welcome potluck and buy tickets for the Farewell Dinner (\$25 – a real bargain) at the FFO meeting on September 20. If you will not be at the meeting and want to attend these events please contact Mary Cajka who will assign your food contribution for the Welcome Potluck OR Lucy Nelms to purchase tickets for the Farewell Dinner BEFORE SEPTEMBER 19. Let Lucy know if you have any food allergies or restrictions by this date.

Please join us for the welcome and farewell parties where you are guaranteed a good time and a chance to be with other FFO members and our ambassadors.

Elizabeth Bowen, ED

**Outgoing Vina Del Mar, Chile Update, October 2011**

Nothing new to report at this time.

ED Frank Mayda

**Outgoing Cairo, Egypt Exchange Cancelled**

We regret to announce that due to recent developments in Egypt, the Cairo exchange scheduled for November 2011 has been cancelled. In July, Egypt's Armed Council announced that elections, originally to be held in September, had been rescheduled to November. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) informed us that their Travel Warning for Cairo would remain in effect until after the elections. This made it impossible for our ambassadors to obtain proper travel insurance. As a result, a collective decision was made to cancel the exchange. This decision was not taken lightly. We all regret having to cancel such a potentially exciting exchange so far in advance of the planned departure date. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our ambassadors for their hard work in preparing for the Cairo exchange and for their patience, good humour, and understanding in waiting out the evolving situation, a real 'rollercoaster ride' for all of us. Unlike most Hollywood movies, sometimes there simply is no happy ending. We have informed the Cairo club that they would be most welcome to come to Ottawa on a future exchange. We also expressed interest in visiting their club on a future Cairo exchange. Merv Sullivan has conveyed these thoughts to FFI in Atlanta.

EDs Jaap & Maria Schouten

## VP EXCHANGES REPORT

### EXCHANGES 2012

Registration for 2012 Outbound Exchanges starts at the September 20<sup>th</sup> General Meeting, and the deadline for registration is **NOVEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>**. There are great opportunities to explore different places and cultures, and to make new friends.

June	Bushmills, Causeway Coast, UK	20 ambassadors
June	Helsingborg, Sweden	20 ambassadors
September	Missoula, Western Montana USA AND Lower Columbia USA	Portland Oregon, 20 ambassadors
September	Solo, Surakarta, Indonesia	20 ambassadors

There is also a good possibility of a Domestic Exchange in late September with FF Penticton Okanagan. There will be a sign-up sheet at the September 20<sup>th</sup> General Meeting. If a sufficient number of members sign-up, then we will work at formalizing this exchange. **Deadline for registration is also November 18<sup>th</sup>**.

**Our Inbound Exchanges are also very exciting!** Please sign up to work on the planning committee, be a night host, be a day host, and/or be a dinner host.

May 20-27	Nashik, India
August (no dates)	Eastern Washington, Northern Idaho
October 13-21	Florianopolis, Brazil

As you know, the FF Canadian Conference is in Québec City next year. We have agreed to do some pre-conference hosting from May 13<sup>th</sup> to the May 15<sup>th</sup>; this will **not** involve an activities program. If you are interested in being the "Hosting Coordinator", please contact Pierrette Benoit. A sign-up sheet for "night hosts" will be at the September 20<sup>th</sup> General Meeting.

Pierrette Benoit, VP Exchanges

### VP MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Friendship Force Ottawa currently has 182 members. Our most recent information session was held on Aug 31 at the home of Marian Dunning. On another occasion, the Friendship Force was promoted at a community booth at Lansdowne Farmer's Market on a hot day in July with help from Jan Sterling, Susan Gardner, Heather Pettipas, Linda Steingarten, Jennifer Rae and John Duvernet. Many thanks to them. We did not stir up many membership interests, but we gave it a try. Westfest did not respond to several attempts to obtain a table or booth there. The next Membership list will be going out shortly with changes and will have more dates of joining, going by sign up sheets of the club 1996-2003. We are inquiring about 'renting' a booth at the Travel Show next spring.

Gail Nevraumont, VP Membership

### Calendar 2011

#### General Meeting Dates for 2011

Tues. Sept. 20  
7:00 -9:30 p.m.  
Tom Brown Hall

#### AGM

Friday, Dec. 2,  
7:00 -9:30 p.m.  
Tom Brown Hall

#### Suggestions & Feedback

Your board always welcomes feedback and suggestions. Contact Merv ([ffopres@bell.net](mailto:ffopres@bell.net)) or any other board member.

## Membership

### Meet some of our new members



**Sandra Mohr** traveled extensively when she was married to a military pilot and is now looking forward to doing more traveling but she has joined the Friendship Force primarily to make new friends. She is retired from her job at the Royal Ottawa Hospital where she worked for 24 years and for the past 11 years she has been the Coordinator for a course for psychiatrists. She hopes to continue to do this for another year or two. She has two children and two grandchildren. She is looking forward to hosting people coming to Ottawa and is interested in joining the bridge club. She looks forward to being involved in the Friendship Force.



**Jan Jones** is an "original Ottawan" who loves the city and loves to show it off. Retired now and working part time, Jan is looking forward to involvement with the Friendship Force. Jan's son lives in Washington DC with his two children that Jan loves to visit. Her daughter lives in London, England. Jan looks forward to future Friendship Force adventures.



**Dave Edmunds & Carolle Seguin** were raised in small communities near rivers and lakes which instilled their love of the outdoors. Both are retired, finally! (Carolle from an administrative position and David as a software engineer), so they are now free to enjoy their many outdoor hobbies – cycling, hiking, canoeing, skating, snowshoeing and cross country skiing. With two children launched and a third finishing college, they are ready to add more travel to their list of interests. They hope to keep mind and spirit young through their strong curiosity for people, places and just about everything else. They are looking forward to sharing new activities and adventures with the members of the Friendship Force.

## **FAQs to Friendship Force Ottawa**

### Why might I want to join The Friendship Force?

Join the Friendship Force if you believe in the goals and mission of the organization; you like the challenge and excitement of new people, places and experiences; you would enjoy having people from other countries stay with you for a week, you would enjoy staying with others in different countries, you believe that friendship among people of different countries and cultures can make the world more peaceful; and you have a curiosity about the world and enjoy learning about other cultures and ways of life on exchange activities. Contact the membership Chair at [ffomembership@gmail.com](mailto:ffomembership@gmail.com)

### What do you mean by the term "Exchange?"

An "Exchange" is a visit to or from a club in another part of the world. This involves home hospitality, the heart of a Friendship Force exchange, which provides the opportunity for people of different countries and cultures to connect at a personal level. We refer to it as an "Outbound Exchange" when we visit another club. Often an optional tour of the area follows or precedes an exchange. An "Inbound Exchange" occurs when a club visits us. We usually have four outbound and four inbound exchanges per year that are arranged by our international organization - FFI.

### If I don't see myself traveling in the next year or so, should I still join?

Certainly. Friendship Force is not just a travel club; there are many other aspects of involvement. The mission of Friendship Force is building global goodwill through personal friendships. This can be accomplished in many ways. You might consider being a night host, a day host, a small group dinner host. On a local scale, our members also attend social activities including exchange welcome and farewell events and other social activities to build friendships and have an interest in the goals of Friendship Force International.

### What should I expect financially when I go on an Outbound Exchange?

On an outbound exchange, we pay for our own transportation to and from the host country and a fee (\$125 US\$) to Friendship Force International for the exchange; host club fee (usually \$100 US - but varies) paid to the hosting club to entertain us, plus \$35 Canadian for the registration fee for our club and planning incidentals. If there is a tour following or preceding the exchange, you would pay the cost of the tour if you choose to go.

### What if I am not able to go or don't care to go the Outbound Exchange you have scheduled? Are there other ways for me to travel with the organization?

There are a number of other ways to travel. You may travel with another Friendship Force club from this country if they have room for you. There are Humanitarian and Discovery trips that include people from several countries where the Ambassadors travel somewhere and stay mostly in hotels but meet people from that country to interest them in forming Friendship Force Clubs. Conferences are held each year in different parts of the world where all are welcome to come to stay in a hotel but meet people from the area. There may or may not be home stays offered after the conference. Regional and International Conferences are held each year. See the list of exchanges and events on the Exchanges and Other Clubs page and the Friendship Force International website ([www.thefriendshipforce.org](http://www.thefriendshipforce.org)) Canadian Exchanges looking for Ambassadors - [www.canffex.ca](http://www.canffex.ca).

## Social Activities

### **Social Activity Directors:**

#### Board Liaison Coordinator:

Marion Dunning

#### Social Committee:

Heather Pettipas  
Hazel Baskin  
Pauline Delorme  
Patricia Hay  
Elaine Bradley

#### Bridge Club:

Lorna McKenzie

#### Art Appreciation:

Laura Legare  
Marion Dunning

#### Dinner Club:

Jessica Sullivan

#### Walking Club:

Maria Schouten

#### Summer Concerts (Flying Solo):

Heather Pettipas

#### Friendly Wanderers:

Raymond Cote

#### Golf:

Rheo Brunet

I hope everyone had a great summer. It is time to start up the fall program and below is a number of our activities you may enjoy participating in.

Marion Dunning,  
Social Activities Coordinator

### **Art Appreciation**

This group is entering its 9<sup>th</sup> season. Because of the large number of requests, we have organized a second group this year. Both groups will experience 5 interesting guided tours at the Art Gallery throughout the year on various Thursday evenings. If you have not signed up and wish to join, please call Laura Legare at 613-225-4209 or Marion Dunning at 613-226-4681.

### **Bridge Club**

The FFO Bridge club held their combined goodbye to season eight, welcome to season nine dinner at Capone's Restaurant on August 30<sup>th</sup>. Prizes were awarded as follows:  
High total score: Asha Bhatnager and Jim Frank  
Best night score: Al Eriksen and Maureen Keon.  
Unfortunately, this year we said goodbye to two couples. However, we welcomed back Jessica & Merv Sullivan and Carol Fryer. New to the group are Mildred Breault, Sandra Mohr and Joan Forbes, for a total 22 teams.

Lorna McKenzie

### **Dinner Club**

A word of thanks to Lucy Nelms who has been the dinner club co-ordinator for many years. We currently have 19 couples/ pairs involved in this activity. This is an ideal opportunity for new members to get to know others. Four couples/pairs set up their own schedule for 4 dinners during the year with each couple/ pair hosting once and providing the main course while others provide the extras. If you are interested, see me at the meeting or contact me at (see membership list) or 613-828-1778

Jessica Sullivan

### **Friendly Wanderers**

As promised at the last meeting in the spring, we are ready for another gathering to talk about River Cruising in Europe.

Subject: River Cruise from Budapest to Amsterdam late August early September 2009.

Presenters: Raymond and Eleanor Cote

Meeting Time: 7 pm Tuesday Oct 4, 2011

Meeting Place: Citizen Building on Baxter Road

## Technical Support/Info

FFO Webmaster:

John Nelms

FFO Website:

[www.friendshipforceottawa.ca](http://www.friendshipforceottawa.ca)

FFI Website:

[www.thefriendshipforce.org](http://www.thefriendshipforce.org)

FFO Newsletter Editor:

Donna Nicholson  
Send your text and/or pictures to: (see membership list)

Friendship Force Membership Directory

Contact Gail at [ffomembership@gmail.com](mailto:ffomembership@gmail.com) to obtain the link to view or print the most current directory.

## Friendly Wanderers (cont'd)

As in the past you may invite other members to come. Family and friends of members are also welcome. Please let me know of your intention of participating. I will have photos and Uniworld brochures so you can follow the trip and the ports of call we had on this trip.

Raymond Coté

## Walking Club

### **Fall Fun For Fellow Walkers – Sign Up Now!**

Fall is a great time to go on a walk with fellow FFO walkers. We have planned the following outings for the coming months: on **Thursday, September 22**, we will walk the 3.7 km Jack Pine Trail in Stony Swamp, in Ottawa's west end, followed by a light lunch in Bells Corners. The walk will start at 10 am, at parking lot P9 off Moodie Drive, south of West Hunt Club Road. If you want to join this walk, please contact Maria Schouten at (see membership list)

Tradition dictates that our October walk takes place in Gatineau Park to admire the spectacular Fall colours there. On **Thursday, October 13**, we will once again walk around Pink Lake. We will convene in the Pink Lake parking lot at 10 am. After the walk, we will have a picnic lunch in Old Chelsea. If you want to join this walk, or need further details, please let me know.

Maria Schouten

## Christmas Party

The annual Christmas Party will again be held at Cedarhill Golf and Country Club on Wednesday December 7th starting at 6 PM. The format is the same, with cocktails from 6 to 7 and dinner at 7 PM. Tickets are \$45 and cheques are welcome at the next meeting. Please make cheques out to FF Ottawa, and supply names of those who want to be seated together. Music at 8 PM will be Ed Lascelle and the Mellow Tones. They have performed for the last two years to rave reviews!!! Of course there will be prizes and lots of surprises. This year, there will be a sale of "gently used jewelry", with the profits going to help the Canagan Disability Project in Africa, spear-headed by FF member, Navin Parekh. The objective of the project is to assist people with disabilities in Uganda with the means of transportation and communication. Funds raised through the jewelry sales will go to purchase items like hand-pedaled tricycles, white canes and hearing aids. Members are urged to look through their jewelry boxes and donate a few items for the sale. Heather, Hazel, Elaine or Jan will be glad to accept donations. You also may bring in any articles to the GM on Sept. 20th. Suitable items include earrings, bracelets, pendants, watches, and scarves or small accessories.

Heather Pettipas  
(613-592-6724) or email (see membership list)

General Meeting

Thursday June 16, 2011 socialize 7 p.m., meeting 7:30 p.m.

Tom Brown Hall, 141 Bayview Road, Ottawa

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**ATTENDANCE:** 95 members signed in including 6 new members.

- 1) Introduction of New Members & Guests:** President Merv Sullivan introduced the following new members and presented them with their membership badges: Donna & Alain Dawson, Dave Edmunds, Carolle Séguin, Sandra Mohr, Anne-Marie Sarazen.
- 2) Approval of Agenda:** **MOVED** Jan Sterling **SECONDED** Barb Smith that the agenda be approved. **CARRIED**
- 3) Approval of Minutes April 14, 2011:** **MOVED** John Knobel **SECONDED** Jaap Schouten that the minutes of the April 14, 2011 GM be approved. **CARRIED**
- 4) Membership Report:** Vice President Membership, Gail Nevraumont referred to her report as published in Cap Con. To raise interest in FFO, she has had 200 coloured flyers prepared and asked for ideas of places that they could be left to attract new members. Swimming pools and libraries were suggested. Gail reported that our involvement in Westfest did not work out this year. It is expected that the Directory will be finished soon. Gail has produced some FAQ's on FFO and asked for other suggestions. Members with suggestions should email them to Gail.
- 5) Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Richard Hatherill spoke to his report which had been emailed to the membership prior to the meeting. Some hard copies were also made available. The Legacy fund contribution (\$500) approved at the 2010 AGM has been made. There is a profit of \$558 on Exchanges this year. We currently have a surplus of \$917. The question of the \$558 surplus was referred to the Board for a decision.  
Website: Richard spoke of the difficulty encountered with the website software. New software will be used and the website should be up soon.
- 6) 2011 Exchange Reports to date:** Vice President Exchanges, Pierrette Benoit asked for reports from the 2011 exchanges which have already occurred:

**Kauai, Hawaii:** ED John Knobel reported that there were 12 ambassadors, including 1 from Sacramento. The ambassadors asked for a reduction in programming and so it was limited to 1 activity a day – which went well. The Welcome party was a stand-up reception which promoted mixing. A Q & A activity enhanced the "getting-to-know-you" component. The high Canadian dollar meant that costs were less. He reported a problem with visas for ambassadors from Africa and suggested that FFO needs to make itself known to the immigration and visa services of Canada.

**Dallas, Texas:** In the absence of ED John Taylor, Norm McLeod, an ambassador spoke. Dallas has a large club, but do few exchanges. The Welcome party was a brunch at a

member's home with Texan favourites being offered. The Farewell party was in a church hall with the main courses being catered and the accompaniments being supplied by the members. Dallas FF scholarships clubs from emerging nations. They also subsidized our exchange. To do that they have fund raisings – one of the interesting ones being a taxi service of FF Dallas members to FF Dallas members. If you use the service, you will accept to contribute \$30.00 to the club. He emphasized that the image of Dallas as portrayed by TV has little to do with the reality: an Arts core, clean streets, few potholes, lakes and the Audubon centre built on an old dump site.

**Budapest:** ED Ralph Baker spoke about this exchange. 15 ambassadors were hosted by a small Budapest club. They have 30-35 hospitable members who do all the hosting. They managed to get to all the sites: archaeological, architectural, historical and attended an operatic performance at the Opera House. He produced a few large pictures showing the ambassadors with their hosts.

## 7) Exchanges 2011 Pierrette Benoit asked for reports on the upcoming 2011 exchanges:

### **Inbound:**

**Central NC, Florence SC:** (Sept. 22-29) ED Elizabeth Bowen reported that 23 ambassadors are coming. The theme is 'Autumn Adventures'. For the welcoming party (Sept. 22), each person is asked to bring food for 8 people to a value of \$8. (salads, dessert). There is a need for volunteers to help set up the party. The Final party will be at the Hungarian Community Centre at a cost of \$25.00.

**Santo Angelo, Brazil** (Oct 12 – 19) ED Mike Lundy reported that there would be 15-17 ambassadors in their 30`s – 40`s. There may be need for more billeting and day hosts. He suggested that this is an ideal exchange for new members to involve themselves.

### **Outbound:**

**Lansing, Michigan:** (Sept 7-14) In the absence of ED Raymond Coté, Garry Bowes reported that there would be 16 ambassadors all driving to Lansing arranging to meet at Port Huron. He indicated that this is not considered to be an international exchange and that ambassadors who participate could apply for an international exchange. One of the planned activities is attending a football game and experiencing a ``tailgate party``.

**Vina del Mar, Chile** (Oct. 20-27) ED Frank Mayda reported that there are 16 ambassadors. They have not yet received their program. A pre-exchange trip to Machu Picchu, Peru is being planned.

**Cairo, Egypt:** (November) ED Jaap Schouten reported that Cairo has said that they can take up to 25 ambassadors. The problem is still that there is a DFAIT travel warning for Egypt. The FFO Board to decide by September 1, 2011 whether the Cairo exchange will take place. The group has already organized good pre and post-exchange travel programs. There was a question regarding travel insurance once a DFAIT warning remains in place. Andrew Stirling said that ambassadors need to check their travel insurance very carefully. If the exchange does not take place, no replacement exchange would be made available by FFI; however, FFO could ask again for Cairo in 2013.

## **Intermission**

During intermission, there were sign-up sheets at tables for:

- Incoming Exchanges (Central NC & Florence SC and Santa Angelo Brazil)
- Art Appreciation
- Directory purchases

**8) Exchanges 2012:** VP Exchanges, Pierrette Benoit, reported that 3 of the 4 Inbound exchanges have been confirmed: Nashik, India, is slated for May 2012. E. Washington and N. Idaho are coming in August. However, FFI is looking for one more inbound. She also reported that 3 of the 4 Outbound exchanges have been confirmed: Bushmills-Causeway in June which can accept 20 ambassadors. Helsingborg, Sweden but the number of ambassadors has not yet been confirmed. Missoula, Montana and Lower Columbia is set for August; however whereas Missoula can accept only 20 ambassadors, Lower Columbia can take 25. The October exchange to Korea was Not a Match as the Korean club is not able to accept ambassadors at this time. FFI is looking for a 4<sup>th</sup> Outbound exchange for us.

Pierrette and Merv are looking into a domestic exchange with Hay River NWT. They can accept 17 ambassadors; the dates have not yet been confirmed.

Sign-ups for the exchanges have not yet started as there are so many arrangements to be made, and a full roster is not yet established. We are waiting for an FFI confirmation of the 4<sup>th</sup> inbound and outbound exchanges.

It is hoped that in August, an email will be sent to all members with details. It is possible that sign-ups will be done electronically and will finish at the September 20 GM.

**9) Ambassador Selection Rules 2012:** VP Exchanges Pierrette Benoit chaired the discussion on the selection rules which were sent out to all members with the notice of meeting. The goal is to settle the problem caused by over-subscribed exchanges.

**MOVED** Pierrette Benoit **SECONDED** Beth Patterson that the Ambassador Selection 'Rules 2012 be adopted.

Prior to the vote, Pierrette reviewed the changes and gave the rationale for the proposed changes. She pointed out that #5 was put in to assist members who use travel insurance offered by credit card companies, particularly as it relates to the \$300 deposit to confirm an assured space, and all other members who obtain other types of trip cancellation insurance.

There were several questions:

- The last statement in #4 seems almost impossible. It is needed to cover exceptional situations. It is very unlikely that it could happen.
- Appointment of EDs. At the closing date of the exchange, the ED will be drawn from the list of those with an assured space.
- How many over-subscribed exchanges were there in 2010? About 50% of exchanges have been over-subscribed.
- In the draw, how will couples be treated? They will be treated as occupying 2 spaces.
- What about new members? They should not be discouraged – even if they find themselves low on the standby list. They could still be accepted.
- How will space be accorded if there are drop-outs? If one person drops out, the space will go to the next single on the list. For it to go to a couple, two people - or a couple, must drop out.
- What about members applying for two exchanges? They will have to decide on which exchange they wish to have an assured space, and get request to be placed on the standby list for the other exchange.

Pierrette cautioned members that if they are on the standby list, they should stay on it if they are interested in going on the exchange; spaces often come available even up to 1-2 months prior to the exchange. She pointed out that the goal of the changes is to downgrade the

status of members who decline an offer to accept an assured space; once the yellow standby list has been depleted, then the exchange is no longer considered oversubscribed and members who hold an assured space are not required to make the \$300 deposit. It was explained that the \$300 is used for the \$125 hosting fee and to cover other potential exchange expenses; any unused monies are returned to the ambassador. The Red & Yellow standby lists correct the problem of people who request to stay on the standby list even when undecided about going on the exchange.

Following the Q&A period and the discussion, a vote was taken on the motion that opened this part of the meeting. The vote carried.

See appendix A for the Ambassador Selection Guidelines as adopted.

## 10) Other Business:

FF Worldwide On-line Auction: Andrew Stirling spoke on this initiative and distributed a document with the details. The goal is to raise money for the legacy fund which assists new clubs or clubs in difficulty. People bid on homestays or other offerings which have been placed in auction. Information is available on the website [www.friendshipforceauction.org](http://www.friendshipforceauction.org) or by calling Andrew at 613 592 8754.

Golf: Rhéo Brunet announced the July 13 Golf tournament at Irish Hills Country Club. Prizes are to be contributed.

Canadian Conference in Québec City: May 16-19, 2012. Merv reported that FFO will be offering some home stays to attendees prior to the conference. Conference planning is on the way and the FFO Board is making suggestions for workshops. More information will be provided to members as it comes from the organizing committee.

## 11) Adjournment: **MOVED** Andrew Nicholson. **SECONDED** Alain Dawson that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

The next GM will be held on Tuesday September 20 in the Tom Brown Hall. Note: The AGM for 2011 has tentatively been scheduled for Friday December 2, 2011 in the Tom Brown Hall.

### ITEMS REFERRED TO THE BOARD FROM THIS MEETING:

1. The question of the \$558 surplus was referred to the Board for a decision.
2. The FFO Board to decide by September 1, 2011 whether the Cairo exchange will take place.

**FFO** [www.friendshipforceottawa.ca](http://www.friendshipforceottawa.ca)  
**Canadian exchanges** [www.canffex.ca](http://www.canffex.ca)  
**Friendship Force International (Atlanta)** [www.thefriendshipforce.org](http://www.thefriendshipforce.org)

## Appendix A

### Ambassador Selection Guidelines

#### Proposed Changes for 2012 Over-subscribed Exchanges

The following proposed changes are being presented to the FFO membership at the June 16<sup>th</sup> General Meeting for discussion and approval. They are designed to improve and facilitate the process for 2012 exchanges that may be over-subscribed.

- 1) Registration closing date.
  - Would be used only to determine if an exchange is oversubscribed at closing date.
  - Draw held if required under current rules
- 2) Multiple Exchanges
  - A member could only hold space on *one international exchange* (outside North America) until the first day of the 7th month before an exchange (or 1 week after registration closing date if draw held less than 7 months before the exchange date).
    - This would leave space for new members and other members to join who could not do so prior to the Registration Closing Date.
    - Members not on another international exchange will be given preference on the standby list.
- 3) Deposit
  - The \$300 deposit would be required only if the exchange is oversubscribed on the first day of the 6<sup>th</sup> month before exchange. Refer to item 4 below.
  - Rules for refund remain the same (see possible consideration – Item 5 below).
- 4) Standby list as currently used is a problem.
  - Members can place their name on a standby list either with a serious interest or just in case they might be interested at a later time. This can cause an exchange to be oversubscribed and for the deposit of \$300 to be paid by others, while those on the standby list are not required to indicate any firm interest.  
Proposed Solution
    - As per the results of a draw held for an oversubscribed exchange, the list of ambassadors is established utilizing 2 categories: “assured space” and “standby yellow”
    - Should a member with an assured space subsequently withdraw from the exchange, the first person on the “standby yellow” list will be invited to accept an assured space.
      - o Should that member not accept the assured space, but still wish to stay on the standby list, their name would be relegated to a lower priority “standby red” list
      - o The next member of the “standby yellow” list is invited to accept the assured space
    - If on the first day of the 6<sup>th</sup> month prior to the exchange some members are still on the “standby yellow” list, then the exchange remains oversubscribed and members who hold an assured space must pay the \$300 deposit to retain their assured space
    - If on the first day of the 6<sup>th</sup> month before the exchange the “standby yellow” list has been depleted, then the exchange is no longer considered oversubscribed and the \$300 deposit no longer applicable
    - A member on the “standby red” list can only be offered an assured space once the “standby yellow” is depleted, and will be required to pay the \$300 deposit if the exchange is still considered oversubscribed at that time
- 5) Possible consideration for one additional refund criterion.
  - **The \$300 deposit is refundable if the member provides written proof that some part of the exchange travel costs has been refunded by an insurance company**