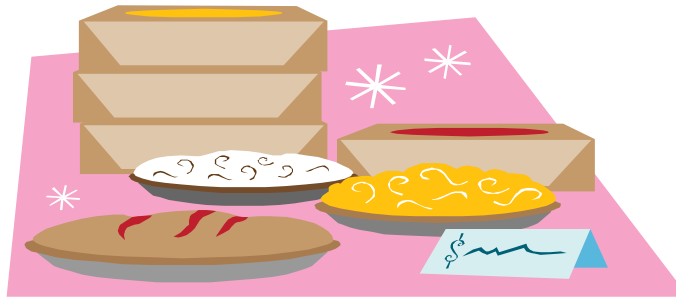


Friendship Force of Lake Hartwell January 2009 Newsletter

WWW.FFOLH.COM
NEXT MEETING 7pm
FEBRUARY 2, 2009



FOOD HOSTING....If you cannot do your food hosting it is up to you to find a substitute. The substitute's name will not be printed in the newsletter. [If you inform the newsletter who your sub is, the subs name can be entered beside yours.] It is up to you to check and make sure the substitute will be there for you. If there are extreme problems contact Judy Sanfilippo 706 376-7788

FEBRUARY FOOD HOSTS

Arminda and Chuck Thorne
(Jeanne & Dennis Andrews will sub)
Barb and Al Watson
Millie and Jerry Weber

MARCH FOOD HOSTS

Phyllis & Jack Zygmunt
Kathryn Allen
Jeanne & Dennis Andrews

APRIL FOOD HOSTS

Carol and Bob Beazley
Claire and Frank Boylan
Merilee and Richard Brister

There will be a Memorial Service for Wally on January 26th. at 11 am at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, McCormick, SC.
Also on Feb. 7th at 5 pm at Good Shepherd Catholic Church in McCormick, SC a Mass will be said for Wally at the request of Phyllis and Jack Zygmunt. Barb Zust has said that everyone is welcome to attend.

The outpouring of support from FF of Lake Hartwell has been overwhelming.

There are not enough words to describe my feeling of appreciation. Your prayers have supported both Wally and me through a very difficult time. We had no idea that he would not be coming home. We thought he would be there for 3 or 4 days. But it was not to be. I will miss him so much, but I know I will be fine. Wally was quite a planner and provider, so I know I will not have to worry financially. But he was a saver. I once told him that if anything ever happened to him, I would have to bring in a Uhaul and its close.

Little by little I'm getting through all of the paperwork from USAA. I had no idea that there could be so many forms to fill out. But they have been so kind to me whenever I call, as if I am the only customer for the day.

I have saved every card, so that the kids can read them when they come. There are 100's and 100's of them. Seems he was a pretty popular guy!! At the funeral he had best friends from grade school, high school, fraternity brothers, former managers from Blue Cross who worked under him, the former owner of the real estate company that he worked for. Our family was in awe of his list of good friends. We should be so lucky to have even half of that number.

Just now I had to retrieve a phone number from Wally's address book. Before I could even open it, a paper fell out. It was a list of all the Friendship Force people who had stayed with us or us with them. I told you he was very organized.

The kids keep telling me that Wally had told all of them that the best thing that ever happened to him was marrying me. Well, let me tell you that the second best was the day he joined Friendship Force. He loved the idea of meeting new people, planning trips, traveling to other countries, learning their ways, entertaining them when they came this way. He should have been a travel agent!! But most of all he was privileged to be a member of your group. He so liked and respected all of you. Thank you for being a part of his life that he really, really enjoyed.

In friendship,
Barb

EXCHANGE CALENDAR 2009

MARCH 6, 2009 **TO Brazil** Belo Horizonte Mar. 7-14
Curitiba Mar. 14-21 Tour Mar. 21- ? ...Pete & Paula Chambers EDs
MAY 13 - 20, 2009 **HERE** Sydney, Australia...Susan and Bill Schafer EDs
JUNE 23 - 30, 2009 **HERE** Auckland, New Zealand ...Skip and Barbara Walter EDs

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

After a flurry of activity around the holidays, and some year end/new year activities things have slowed down for most of us! This includes activities for the Friendship Force club.

At our January meeting Merilee announced that we have increased our membership, adding 14 new members since the November membership drive. At the same time we have lost 6 members: the Fords, the Fullers, and the Nevilles. This brings our 2009 paid membership to 75 people, 9 of which are singles. This is very encouraging and reflects the work Merilee and Richard Brister have done driving membership. Another encouraging note is the increase of individual members! We now have 9 single memberships and 33 couples. Jerry Weber has recently sent a check to Atlanta for our 2009 chapter renewal and membership dues, the total was \$384.

The Board of Directors will spend an afternoon this month planning 2009 activities we wish to accomplish. One is, as Dave Pursell announced, a complete review and, as necessary, revision of the club bylaws. It has been several years since the last review and update so this is timely. Of course, all club members will be voting on any recommended changes Dave's group suggests. He requested interested members to contact him if they would like to participate. Another aspect to be considered is the development of club manuals. An orientation manual for new members has been suggested recently as well as 'club specific' addendums to the Exchange Directors manuals available from Atlanta. Another area to be considered is the availability and access of public vs. private information on our web site. We want to encourage the public to know who we are but at the same time there is information available that should be available to members only.

While just the Board will participate in the meeting, please feel free to contact any Board member if you think there is something we should consider. Some of these objectives will probably require participation by club members to resolve. We will be asking for volunteers so as the plans develop please consider contributing.

In this newsletter you will find announcements of two events honoring Wally Zust. One is a memorial service scheduled for Monday, January 25, the second a Mass on February 7. Both will be held at Wally and Barbara's church in McCormick, SC. I'm sure the club will be represented at both. Please consider joining us at one or both.

I expect to receive our exchange assignments for 2010 very shortly. With luck we will receive one or more of our outbound requests. Inbound assignments are always a delightful surprise! I will inform the club what we have received as soon as I am notified. See you all on February 2nd at the regular monthly meeting.

Skip Walter e_walter@hotmail.com **864.225.0666**

VP NOTES

This promises to be another busy year for FFOLH as we will be hosting two incoming groups and sending two out-going groups, all in the first half of the year! We are also pursuing an outbound domestic exchange in the fall. The list of US clubs interested in participating in a domestic exchange will be provided by FFI the latter part of this month. Also in the fall, the annual International Conference will be held in Okinawa, Japan November 19-22. After the conference home hosting will be provided in various Japanese cities. More detailed information will be available soon at www.thefriendshipforce.org
See you in February, Bobbie Jones

MEMBERSHIP

See a special membership article at the end of the newsletter. The membership list that is included will **not** appear on the Ffolh web site.

Hey, everybody - check out all the neat stuff on the Ffolh.COM website! TRIVIA & GOOD BOOKS TO READ!

GET IN THE HABIT OF SEEING WHAT CHUCK THORNE IS UP TO NEXT!

ALSO EASY LINK TO THEFRIENDSHIPFORCEINTERNATIONAL.ORG:

Merilee & Richard Brister ml7777@yahoo.com or merilee@ffolh

SUNSHINE

I have been named the new "Sunshine Lady", so if any of you have any information about ones in the club who are ill, or need cards for any reason, please let me know - 706-377-3115. Thanks!

Sandy Martin

WAYS AND MEANS

A glass cover was left at the January meeting. It is a 10" Pyrex cover. If you are the owner see Susan Schafer.

The 50/50 raffle raised \$42 for the club and \$42 for Dennis Andrews. Thanks to all that purchased tickets.

Susan Schafer

WEB SITE

Check it out!!!! www.ffolh.com Look it over. Fill in name and email and hit subscribe to register so you can get into member information (it doesn't cost anything to subscribe).

Chuck Thorne

GOLF

2009 is our 11th year of Ffolh golf. It was started as a way for members to get to know each other and have fun in a relaxed social setting. Yes I said relaxed. We play during the third week of every month except December and January. We play a scramble, or best ball, format with mixed teams. If you can swing a club you can play with us. Some of our 41 participating members learned how to play at our outings. While we keep score for bragging rights during the social after finishing, there are no prizes or pressure. We then go to a restaurant to complete the outing. We like to play on different courses and so far we have played over 20 courses in GA and SC. Chuck Thorne has set up a section of our web site dedicated to the golf outing. It includes our Objectives, Guidelines, Members, Schedule and Courses. Check it out! If you have any questions or want to join us please call the Golf Commissioner Dave Pursell at 706-356-2632. **Dave Pursell**

MINUTES for January 5, 2009

Skip Walter called the meeting to order and thanked food hosts: Mary Lou and Dave Leverette (sub for Judy Sanfilippo), Susan & Bill Schafer, and Phyllis & Jack Zygmont (sub for the Sparlings). Jim Jones gave the blessing.

Birthdays & Anniversaries were celebrated in song.

Treasurer's Report – Bob Reynolds gave the year end report. We had a beginning balance of \$9,934.37, with income of \$1,625 and total expenses of \$1,012.05 (Christmas Party) and a balance on hand of \$10,547.32. Bob noted that the bottle auction at the Christmas Party brought in \$483. Susan Schafer's Ways & Means as made \$1,840 this year with the 50/50 raffles and bottle auctions.

Skip thanked outgoing treasurer, Bob Reynolds and secretary, Jeanne Andrews for their service to the club over the last two years.

It was decided at the Executive Board Meeting to plant a tree at the Botanical Gardens in memory of Wally Zust. The funds will be taken out of Ways & Means. Wally will be truly missed.

Membership – Merilee Brister reported that the membership meeting in November was a great success. We have 14 new members for a total of 73 club members. Mary Lou Leverette has agreed to work with Merilee on doing the new directory. Merilee is working on something so we can easily ID new members and make them feel welcome. We now have a suggestion box. You can now make suggestions either anonymously or not.

Exchanges –

Outgoing – Brazil in March – Pete Chambers gave each of the ambassadors their itinerary and tickets. Please fill out the information and return to Pete this week so our hosts can work on matching the hosts & ambassadors for the exchange. He will have the final amount due for the third week tour soon.

Inbound – Australia – Skip is looking for someone to step up and take over the ED job. Wally has already done much of the work. Gayle Reynolds will be doing Guess Who's Coming to Dinner, Barb Walter will be doing the matching of hosts & ambassadors, and Merrilee Brister will be hosting a possible day trip to the Biltmore. Along with those things, Wally Zust and the Beasley's (assistant ED's) have started plans for other activities. Along with the ambassadors from Australia, there will be six people from FFOH going to Montreal with them. There is still room for more.

New Zealand – Skip Walter has 19 confirmed ambassadors coming from Howick & Auckland North Shore clubs with another four maybes. It should be a good exchange.

Parliamentarian – Over the next month or six weeks Dave Pursell will be looking at the by-laws for a review. If you would like to be on the committee to help with this review, call Dave. This is an opportunity for new members to get their feet wet.

Golf – Dave Pursell will be the new Golf Outings Chairman

50/50 Raffle of \$42 was won by Dennis Andrews

Respectively submitted,

Jeanne Andrews, subbing for Ron Sparling, Secretary

From Phyllis Zygmont by Demand By Several Members Old Fashioned Blackberry Cobbler

Prepare filling and keep warm: 4 cups blackberries (fresh or frozen)
¾ to 1 cup of water (depending on juiciness of fruit; frozen requires less)
2 Tablespoons lemon juice
1 cup sugar (more or less depending on fruit)
1/3 cup cornstarch

Combine fruit and water, simmer, covered about 5 minutes or until tender.
Add lemon juice; strain berries and return juice to pot.

Combine sugar and cornstarch and stir into juice. Cook and stir until thickened and bubbly.
Return fruit to juice and keep warm.

For biscuit topper, stir together: 1 cup all-purpose flour

2 Tablespoons sugar

1 ½ teaspoons baking powder

¼ teaspoon salt

- Cut in ¼ cup butter or margarine until it resembles coarse crumbs
- Combine ¼ cup milk and one slightly beaten egg and add into flour crumbs all at once. Stir only until moistened.
- Turn hot filling into 1 ½ quart casserole. Immediately spoon on biscuit topping in 8 mounds.
- Bake at 400 degree oven about 20 minutes.

2009 BOARD MEMBERS

President.....Skip Walter
Vice Pres.....Bobbie Jones
Secretary.....Ron Sparling
Treasurer.....Jerry Weber
Historian.....Marti Reckdenwald
Parliamentarian...Dave Pursell
Hospitality..... Judy Sanfilippo
Membership....Merilee & Richard Brister
Newsletter.....Mary Lou Leverette
Publicity.....Jeanne Howe
Sunshine.....Sandy Martin
Ways & Means.....Susan Schafer
Web Coordinator..... Chuck Thorne

Exchange Directors

OUTGOING

Brazil

Outgoing...Pete & Paula Chambers

INCOMING

Sydney Australia

Incoming...

New Zealand

Incoming... Skip Walter

MEMBERSHIP:

Mary Lou will be designing and printing the new Ffolh Directory. Please assist her by checking your information and responding to her by email or snail mail with any additions or corrections!!!! Your input is invaluable to produce a correct directory and database on the website.

At the January meeting we provided a suggestionbox at the Membership table. Anyone may email me at ml7777@yahoo.com or merilee@ffolh.com and be assured that if you prefer to be anonymous your privacy will be honored. If;however, you prefer to place your suggestion in the box at the meeting, please feel free to do so. This is your club and the board welcomes any suggestions to improve communication as well as any other aspects you wish to address.

We now have 77 members not counting the Hart County Chamber of Commerce. Please remember to be looking at folks in your daily life and invite them to check us out. I'm very pleased to see that our "singles" are growing. We also have some members of our

couples that have traveled without their spouse and hooked up with another single to enjoy safe, economical travel.

We must continue to grow to combat attrition if we want to be the vital, exciting, sociable and friendly group we have gained a reputation for changing the world one person at a time!