



# friendship force

## KNOXVILLE

## “Gateway to Worldwide Friendship”

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### From the President

July finds FFK reassessing trying to be smart as we consider activities for the next few months. I am reminded of the meaning of the word patience “Bearing trials calmly without complaint”. For all of us the importance of patience is evident every day with the shifting incidence of COVID. Because of the recent increase of COVID cases the board has decided to delay the small group gatherings we had planned. We are excited to begin to see each other personally again but it seems that it is not the right time. The board will continue to monitor the situation and move forward as guidelines direct. We are still cautiously optimistic that we will be able to host the visitors from San Antonio at the end of October. See information from Diana and Leslie our journey coordinators. Please watch for further updates. This is an important time for FFK to work on a few

items that need assistance. We really need help with the following and hope you will consider.

- Someone to set up our Facebook account for FFK
- People willing and interested in helping with the planning of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of FFK in 2021
- Anyone with interest in assisting Ray Simko and setting up the ability to renew club membership at our website.
- Someone interested in being the host coordinator for the visit from St Louis, Missouri in spring 2021.
- People willing to share photos, stories, and information about previous travels for our website.

Many worldwide FFI journeys are still being planned and you can see further details by visiting their website [www.friendshipforce.org](http://www.friendshipforce.org).

I wish all of you continued health and may we soon be together and journeying the world again.

*Kaye Bultemeier*

## Virtual Meeting August 11



August 11, 2020 at 7 PM Noel Kuck and Kaye Bultemeier will give a presentation about their trip on the Trans Siberian Railroad. Please join us. This will be held via zoom and there will be plenty of opportunity to ask questions and discuss.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85613222190?pwd=NldqRGpKekkrNDdTbzBUVmh5TVBKdz09>

Meeting ID: 856 1322 2190

Password: 802031

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Password: 802031

Find your local

number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcEojULRnh>

## Something to Look Forward

We all need something to look forward to these days. The year 2020 has been a catastrophe for a club that enjoys travel. However, we do have the future when we will be traveling again. Take a look at these opportunities and see which ones you want to join.

**2020 San Antonio Inbound** – San Antonio wants to come for 5 days beginning October 20th or 21st, however they currently have only 4 ambassadors, and have indicated they may have to partner with another Texas Club (probably Austin). The virus will need to slow down in both Texas and in Tennessee for this journey to continue. Contact Jayne Raparelli.

**2021 St Louis, MO Inbound** – A host coordinator is needed for this journey in April. No word from St. Louis about dates. Contact Kaye Bultemeier.

**2021 Romania/Azerbaijan Outbound** – Dates for Romania are June 14-21, 2021. Those interested will be deciding whether to go to Azerbaijan before or after and what other activities or locations to visit. If you have any interest, please contact Diana Lopez.

**2021 San Antonio Outbound** – No confirmed date yet for our Sept 2021 trip to them. Contact Leslie Badaines.

**2021 Napa-Sonoma Outbound** – No date set yet. Should be just before or after San Antonio. Contact Jayne Raparelli.

**2022 Des Moines Inbound** – Des Moines will visit Knoxville in April 2022. No decision yet as to go on to Big Canoe or to do two separate trips. Contact Diana Lopez.

**2022 Australia Outbound** – TBD. Australia is still very restricted, and no travelers are allowed in Queensland at this time. Contact Leslie Badaines.

To assist coordinators, three documents have been produced. Two of the documents are checklists for inbound and outbound journeys and the other one is a sample agenda for the initial meeting for an inbound journey. They are available on the FFK website along with the Journey Policies and Journey Guidelines.

The forms to request inbound and outbound journeys for 2022 will be forthcoming in August and September. Where would you like to go?  
Leslie Badaines and Diana Lopez

Here is a link to the FFI virtual experiences available to all of us.

<https://mailchi.mp/friendshipforce/virtual-experiences?e=508f0e502a>



We are pleased to introduce [Friendship Force Virtual Experiences](#), a series of opportunities to meet friends, experience other cultures, or learn something new. With new experiences added regularly and curated by members like you, FFI staff, and special guests, the series offers something for everyone. Thanks to your recent contributions, FFI is still here and able to make all of this possible. Thank you for your generosity and for continuing this journey with us!

- Allison Lindsey, VP of Member Engagement