



friendship force

KNOXVILLE

“Gateway to Worldwide Friendship”

Volume 20, No. 2

February 2018

Report from the Membership Committee

The members of the task force are Ron Mayer (chair), Diana Lopez, Jean Mayer, Janis Robinson, Jayne Raparelli, Carolyn Dougall, Bruce Robinson, Mike McDonough, and Don Dougall.

This report was created at a meeting on January 19, 2018. It was attended by all and with input received from all

We covered all the items on an agenda which included, but not limited to, the history of FFK and the attrition that has resulted in the now critical current membership level, a strategy to increase the membership to reach a specific membership level, discussion on membership strategies used by other FF clubs (Kansas and New Mexico, and recommendations on the FF International web site such as the Taupo experience)

We concluded with a request for further input from the committee on items on January 19. agenda such as step one of

recruiting (approaching a person about Friendship Force) and specific meetings to invite prospective members.

Regardless of how long the members of our committee have been in Friendship Force, we were generally, in agreement on certain key items (i.e. experience colors our thinking to some degree).

We mostly agreed that the most important way to recruit is by **word of mouth—asking people.**

We mostly agreed that simply asking people to come to Friendship Force is not enough, that we need a **process** that only starts with the asking. Follow-up contacts and conversations are needed to continue/develop the interests of the prospective members in Friendship Force of Knoxville.

We agreed that if each of our committee couples and our single committee member, recruit a minimum of 3 to 4 couples to a membership meeting in May

that we would exceed our goal of having 24 to 32 prospective members in attendance.

Further, we felt that the membership of the Club must be encouraged to bring people who might be interested in FFK, to the meetings.

The meeting in May will be on May 15th at TVUUC, and in lieu of the usual Club meeting. While this meeting has not yet been designed, the objective will be to provide prospective members with reasons to join FFK. These include the friendliness of our members, the joys of travelling with FFK, visuals of some of our trips and other information.

Hopefully at least half of the people attending would eventually join and some would participate in the planned outbound journey to La Serena, Chile.

Tentatively the May meeting will be followed by a meeting in September or October that is geared to further inform prospective and new members on the La Serena journey. September would be better since some recruits may not have attended the May meeting.

Submitted by Ron Mayer, chairman.

Informal Gathering

The current schedule of meeting of FFK leaves a gap of 2 months between members getting together. The Board wondered about getting together for lunch sometimes.

Following this idea Sandy Kehne made a reservation at Sullivan's on Rocky Hill for February 14th at 11.30am. All who can come are welcome. If you want to join us please let Sandy know so she can tell them how many to expect. Sandy's telephone is 438-

4410 (cell) or contact her by e-mail at sbkehne@gmail.com.

Reminder of March 20th Club Meeting. Pot-Luck Dinner and Chinese Auction

When: Tuesday, March 20th. It is also the first day of spring

Where: Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church

The Chinese Auction and Pot-Luck Dinner is our one fund raiser for the year. The Pot-Luck is an opportunity to socialize and to share with other members of our club some of the new and delicious appetizers, salads vegetables, entrées and desserts you have had with your family and friends over the past year.

What is a Chinese Auction? Members are asked to bring several items each for the auction. Each item will be displayed with a paper bag in front of it.

Tickets are the same as last year, 50 cents each, 12 for \$5.00 and 25 for \$10. Place as many tickets in the bag corresponding to the item you desire. At the end of the Pot-Luck a ticket will be drawn from each bag to determine the winner of that item.

Things like the vase you got from someone that just doesn't fit in your house or a bowl you got that you just don't like are ideal for the auction. Please us your imagination when selecting items for the auction.

Our goal this year is to raise more than we have in past years. The monies raised will be used for FFK functions benefiting all who participate.

Interesting Journeys. Go to the Website
“thefriendshipforce.org/journeys” to view
some interesting travel opportunities.