



friendship force

NEW MEXICO

September 2014 Newsletter

Officers & Board

Judith Mead,
President
Berta Wagstaff
Vice President
Cheryl Lehmborg,
Secretary/Website
David & Martha Meister
Treasurers
Anne & John Heard,
Past Co-Presidents
Evelyn Thole,
Membership
Carolyn Sedberry,
Program
Peggy Birmingham,
Historian
Sue Bowersock,
Newsletter

From the President, Judith Mead

Fall is right around the corner and several important things are coming up. We will have our Annual Meeting at the September Luncheon and I encourage all of you to attend. We will be voting on a Slate of Officers for 2015 and on the Resolution to form FFI New Mexico as a State Non-Profit Corporation, as recommended by The International Office of Friendship Force. The Exchange with Sarasota, Florida will be November 11 - 18 and we have 17 Ambassadors from our club going on the Exchange. Many will stay with families that they hosted when the Floridians were here earlier this year. We look forward to seeing these friends again. Vivian McNamara, the Sarasota ED, tells me that all the activities have been booked and they are excited about our visit.

Our Outbound Exchange with two clubs in New Zealand, one on the North Island and one on the South Island, is getting off the ground. Cheryl Lehmborg will be the ED for our group and she is in contact with the two clubs that will be hosting us in New Zealand. This will be a great opportunity for our club and hope we can have many Ambassadors representing New Mexico. This will probably be in March of 2015. Make your plans now.

Tom Seamon is the ED for the Inbound Exchange with the Hay River, Canada Club. They wanted to include the April "Gathering of Nations" in their visit, so that Exchange will be the third week in April, 2015. Tom will be looking for host families for this Exchange. Many thanks to both Cheryl and Tom for accepting these very important positions.

We are fortunate to have the new Southwestern Field Representative in our own Club. John Heard has accepted this position and he will be an excellent resource person for us. Congratulations to John.

UPCOMING LUNCHEON SPEAKERS

Luncheons are at 11:30 at the Hotel Elegante.

Our speaker in September (September 13) will be Norma Libman, Award Winning Journalist, who will speak to us about the "Secret Voice of Women".

In October (October 11), Dr. Richard Melzer will join us and tell us about "The Sanatoriums of New Mexico", and

Our November meeting (November 8) will feature the return of B. G. Burr, relating some "Tales of Route 66 Through New Mexico".

Thanks to Carolyn Sedberry, as always, for securing such engaging speakers.

ANNUAL MEETING

September 13 - 11:30 am - Hotel Elegante

Our September meeting will be an important one. We will be electing officers and discussing some issues which will require the approval of the membership. We hope all of you can attend.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

First, the slate of officers which we propose is:

Co-Presidents:	Ann and John Heard
Vice President:	Lenore Pardee
Secretary:	Cheryl Lehmborg
Treasurer:	Martha and David Meister

APPROVAL OF FILING FOR NOT-FOR-PROFIT STATUS

Second, Judith Mead reports that since first mentioning our tax status at the luncheon in July, she has had an opportunity to meet with a CPA and the following is the recommendation for how the New Mexico club should proceed. We will be asking for your approval at the September luncheon, so please read the following carefully.

1. FFNM has not previously filed with the State of New Mexico requesting a non-profit status. We will be filing the appropriate papers to make this happen. (FFI recommends all clubs make this filing.)

2. This incorporation will grant us the status of a 501(c)(7) organization under IRS New Mexico rules.

3. The incorporation status will be as "A formal Luncheon Club with the goal of fostering cultural exchanges."

4. The filing requires that we forward a copy of our bylaws and a signed "Statement of Appointment" for each officer and director on FF-NM's Board to the state.

5. The state also requires that we file a copy of the minutes from our annual meeting which shows that we have adopted the bylaws and elected the slate of officers for 2015. Therefore, we will be taking that action at our annual meeting in September.

6. Following the successful submission of these documents, the state will issue a tax identification number.

7. FF-NM will then be required to file a yearly form and pay a \$10 fee to the State. The form will come to the registered agent, initially Judith Mead, and can be completed online.

8. We will not be exempt from paying state sales tax, but our purchases are few and this should not be an issue.

9. With the registration with New Mexico complete, we can then file for an IRS number which we will need because of our investments. If we did not have these invested funds, we would probably not have to incorporate.

10 The CPA will file the documents and charge a nominal fee to get this squared away.

Please be sure to attend the annual meeting as we discuss and vote on adopting this procedure.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND EXCHANGES

OUTBOUND EXCHANGE TO NEW ZEALAND: *Cheryl Lehmborg* has volunteered to be the Exchange Director for this two-week exchange, one week in New Plymouth on the North Island and one week in Christchurch on the South Island, currently scheduled for early March, 2015.

INBOUND EXCHANGE FROM HAY RIVER, CANADA: *Tom Seamon* will be our Exchange Director for this Exchange. The ambassadors have requested that they be able to attend The Gathering of Nations so the Exchange should take place the third week in April, 2015.

UPCOMING DATES:

FFI World Conference, New Zealand, October 14 - 16, 2014

Outbound Exchange, Sarasota, Florida, November 11- 18, 2014

REPORT ON INBOUND EXCHANGE FROM AUSTRALIA

Exchange Director Berta Wagstaff reports that on May 25, 2014, 15 Australians set foot in the Land of Enchantment. After a good night's sleep, their visit started with a walking tour of Old Town, lunch at the Route 66 Diner and then a great guided tour of the National Museum of Nuclear Science and History by Judith Mead, Club President and docent at the Museum. We then met at Ginger Grossetete's hacienda for a great New Mexican dinner. The highlight seems to be the Margaritas made by our bartender, Don Wagstaff.

The Aussies enjoyed the tour of the Pimentel & Sons Guitarmakers shop. They were greeted by the Pimentel brothers and serenaded by Robert Pimentel as they toured the area where rustic woods are transformed into beautiful guitars!

An early morning trip to Santa Fe by Railrunner led to lots of shopping and significant contributions keeping New Mexico "green" through their purchase of turquoise jewelry, souvenirs and more!! Tours of the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, Balloon Museum and a tram trip added to their knowledge of what makes New Mexico unique.

We were welcomed to Isleta Pueblo by their Lt. Governor and our timing was perfect. Loaves of freshly baked Indian bread were just emerging from the horno at one of the homes we visited and the Aussies bought them out of Indian bread too! We next stopped at Nana's Gift Shop and that was followed by a tour of the pueblo's church, led by one of its parishioners. The trip to Isleta concluded with lunch at the Isleta Golf Course and Country Club with the Lt. Governor.

Henry Avery, Executive Director of the Albuquerque Little Theater, welcomed us to the theater for a short talk on the history of the theater and we enjoyed appetizers and refreshments prior to our attending the musical *Les Miserables*. The performance was outstanding and made for a great way to finish the evening.

The end of the Aussie adventures in the Land of Enchantment came too quickly! A Farewell Dinner was held at Dana Davis' home, featuring music and a New Mexican feast of fajitas, shrimp ceviche, guacamole, calabacitas, salsa, biscochitos and Mexican chocolate cake!

The evening was quite touching as the Aussies expressed their fondness for their home hosts. They all agreed the matching couldn't have been more perfect! The exchange ended with new found friends! For those of you that have not had the opportunity to participate in an exchange, talk to the members that have and find out how much fun it is and volunteer for the next exchange!