

2009 Annual Report for FF-NM

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

For

The Friendship Force of New Mexico

It has been a busy year for our club. We finished our 30th year of existence in grand style. In our 30 years we have participated in 33 outbound exchanges, and we have hosted 34 inbound exchanges. We have had the good fortune to make lots of new friends through these many exchanges.

In 2009 we hosted 16 ambassadors from Big Canoe, Ga., for a week in May and had a wonderful time under the leadership of our past-president & ED (exchange director), Ed Burroughs. Our VP, Ruth O'Keefe, held the adios party at her home. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our September outbound to the Ukraine plus several days in Turkey because of lack of participation. We are sure that this reflected the current economic woes. We have been busy making plans for two inbound exchanges and two outbound exchanges in 2010. EDs are in place and plans are under way.

As of the end of 2009 we have 139 members: 51 singles and 44 families. We have 17 members who are charter members of our club. One of them is our membership chair, Evelyn Thole. We publish a membership directory each year, which is mailed to all of our members, plus a copy is given to our new members. Our treasurer, Carbon Wolfe, does this directory as well as keeping a duplicate copy of our membership records. He also furnished mailing labels as needed and he kept us up-to-date with informative monthly financial reports. We had to raise our dues for 2010 to help keep us solvent.

To help all of our members get to know each other better, we held a "Guess Who Is Coming To A Dinner Party" in September. Members volunteer to be hosts or guests. The hosts do not know who is coming to their home until the last few days and the guests do not know who will be their hosts until the last few days. Also, the guests do not know who will be their fellow dinner companions until they arrive. It is a potluck dinner with the guests bringing assigned dishes & it is always a fun time.

We held a successful new member orientation meeting in October where we presented the various aspects of the privileges of being a member of FF-NM. This was organized by charter member Peggy Birmingham & hosted by our secretary, Betty Brown.

We continue to have a well-attended monthly luncheon on the second Saturday of the months of January through November. This is a buffet lunch with an interesting speaker arranged by Carolyn Sedberry. In December we switch to a more formal sit-down dinner at noon with entertainment. David & Martha Meister do the arrangements & reservations for these meetings.

We were fortunate to have one of our long-time members, Betty Davis, arrange for a long article with photos in the 15 March 2009 Albuquerque Journal, our daily newspaper.

Nelle Conway has published our newsletter six times a year to keep all of our members well informed of our goals & activities.

We celebrated our 30th anniversary twice. In January George Brown, President of FFI in Atlanta spoke at our luncheon to help us celebrate the 30th anniversary of our being awarded a charter from FFI. We have been told that ours was the first charter issued by FFI. In June we celebrated our club's first exchange. It was 400 ambassadors from Albuquerque to South Korea in a chartered 747. The same plane brought us 400 from South Korea. We had several members & guests attend who either hosted here or went on the trip.

We have started a new website for FF-NM with John Farris as web master in training. The opening page is up, and an outline of the rest of our website has been approved by our Board. Much work remains to get this finished. Look at: .

Berta Wagstaff has started to revise our FF-NM Club Profile. A short version without photos will replace our current profile on the FFI website. A longer version with photos will be on our website.

We held our annual election and our new officers for 2010 are: President – Ruth Anne O'Keefe, VP – Grace Nelson, Secretary – Betty Brown & Treasurer – Larry Littlefield. Ruth Anne will soon announce her appointed officers. It is a good slate & our retiring officers wish them well.

My thanks go to an excellent and active board of directors who supported me in 2009. As you might expect, we also have many other loyal members who helped in various ways and we also owe them our thanks. This combination made a smooth running club in 2009.

John Farris, President of FF-NM for 2009